

CLATGyan August 2015 Compendium – 1st August to 7th August

1st August

- India's first RIS (River Information System) was installed on the Farakka (West Bengal) section of National Waterway 1. The National Waterway runs from Haldia to Hooghly.
- Ranveer Singh Saini won the first gold medal for India at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. He became the first Indian Golfer to win a gold medal at the games. He had earlier become the first golfer from India to win two gold medals at the Asia Pacific World Games.
- Prabhroop Sekhon won two gold medals in the Special Olympics World Games in 30 and 500 metre Roller Skating event.
- In Kochi, Kerala, India's first IUHDDS (Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System) has been commissioned which will help in foreseeing and responding to surface and sub-surface threats. It has been designed by Israel Aerospace Industries and consists of advance sensors.
- 162 estates/chitmahals were physically exchanged between India and Bangladesh under the LBA (Land Border Agreement). Out of 162, 51 were from Bangladesh and 111 were Indian enclaves.
- Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) Paribas is all set to acquire the famous retail brokerage company, Sharekhan for an amount of 2000 crore. BNP Paribas has its presence in India since 1860 with its first branch in Kolkata. Sharekhan was founded in 1995 and offers brokerage services to non-institutional clients.
- Russian state's oil company, Rosneft to acquire 69% of Essar Oil. Essar Oil owns India's second largest site refinery.
- The Union Government approved the Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 in order to deal with the growing concern over the safety of consumer products and services, replacing the older bill of 1986. The key features of the bill are establishment of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to protect the rights of consumers, speedy disposal of court cases, stringent penalty, establishment of circuit bench, etc.
- Sania Mirza's name has been recommended by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2015. She is ranked world no. 1 in women's

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tennis doubles. She won the 2015 Wimbledon women's doubles titles. The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award is India's highest honour for performance in sports.

- Ravichandran Ashwin was conferred the Arjuna Award becoming the 48th cricketer to receive this award. He is the fastest Indian bowler to reach the 100 and 50 wicket mark in International Test cricket. Arjuna Award was instituted in the year 1961 and is given to the performer with outstanding achievement in national sports.
- Indo-UK bilateral Air Exercise Vardhanush between Indian Air Force (IAF) and British Royal Air Forces (RAF) bases. The first time this exercise was conducted was in 2007 at Waddington, UK.
- The Union Government decided to declare 7th August as National Handloom Day every year and it will be launched this year in Chennai by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

2nd August

- Wolfsburg beat Bayern Munich on penalties to win the German Super Cup. This is Wolfsburg's first Super Cup.
- South Sudan has become the 206th member of the International Olympic Committee. Kosovo was 205th member. South Sudan can send its own team in the Rio 2016 Olympics.
- Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) lifted the 5 year ban on Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan on entering the Wankhede Stadium. He had been banned from entering the MCA premises for five years after engaging in a scuffle with the officials of the cricketing body and the security staff on 16th May 2012.

3rd August

- Indian women's team won silver medal in the World archery Championship which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The team included Laxmirani Majhi, Deepika Kumari and Rimil Buriuly. Rajat Chauhan won the silver medal becoming India's first ever individual winner in the World archery Championship.
- The 2nd meeting of FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation) will be held in Jaipur. The first summit was held at Suva, Fiji.
- Pangaea Laboratories Limited (UK) bid to patent the use of pine bark, turmeric and tea for treating hair loss was foiled by TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) a unit of CSIR (Council for scientific and Industrial Research) after it succeeded in protecting India's traditional knowledge.

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- Joshna Chinappa won the women's title in WSA Victorian Open Title (Squash) held in Melbourne, Australia defeating second seed Line Hansen of Denmark.
- Pakistan was conferred Associate Membership status by European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN). It became the first Asian country to become the member of CERN, which is the world's largest particle physics laboratory, established in 1954. India currently has an observer status in CERN programmes.
- US country singer Lynn Anderson passed away and is famous for her 1971 worldwide hit 'I Never Promised You' from Rose Garden, an album for which she won a Grammy Award.
- Tiju Thomas, an Indian diplomat with the Indian consulate in Dubai spearheaded an initiative to make blood from rare blood groups accessible to those in need through a website www.blooddonors.ae and this had a soft launch on World Blood Donor Day on 14th June 2015, emerging as UAE's first and biggest donor directory.

4th August

- Astronomers discover a new planetary system with 3 super-earths. The system has been given the name of HD219134 and has constellation named Cassiopeia.
- Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar won the bronze medal at the 6th Senior ART Gymnastics Championships in Hiroshima, Japan. She had previously won a bronze medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.
- Frisbee was recently given the status of an Olympic Sport by the IOC (International Olympic Committee). This decision was taken at the 128th IOC Session held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Tourism ministry's 'Incredible India' campaign is to be advertised by McCann for a period of three years. Previously, Ogilvy India was responsible for the ad campaign.
- Bharti Airtel has acquired YTS Solutions, a mobile payments solution company.
- Delhi police launched 'Operation Shistachar' to teach lesson to eve-teasers. Under this operation, women police officers dressed in civil will be posted at busy places to keep a tab on young men.
- The World's largest radio telescope, Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) is being constructed in Guizhou province of south west China. The dish size is equivalent to 30 football fields. It's going to be the world's largest radio telescope and

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is said to cost approximately 1.2 billion Yuan. It will overtake Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory which is 300 metres in diameter.

- Hindi literary writer Kashinath Singh was chosen for Uttar Pradesh's highest literary award Bharat Bharti for the year 2014. His most famous novel is Kashi ka Assi which captures the vibrant hues of Banaras.
- The first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kerala started functioning from a temporary campus at Palakkad district.
- Operation Muskaan was an initiative launched by the railway police to trace missing and destitute children and reuniting them with their parents. They were successful in tracing 1094 children in Haryana during the month-long operation. The operation had been launched from Dindigul railway station of Tamil Nadu.
- The Haryana government decided to honour those who were oppressed and sent to jail during the Emergency between 15th June 1975 and 21st March 1977 with the 'Tamra Patra' at the Independence Day function.
- Roland S Folger appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz succeeding Eberhard Kern.
- The Union Government has extended the term of Rajan S Katoch as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.

5th August

- Reliance Mediaworks Ltd, which runs 'BIG Cinemas', has sold its multiplex business to Carnival Group. Carnival Group, which is based in Kerala, will now be India's 3rd largest multiplex operator with over 300 screens all over the country.
- The SAMANVAY is a compilation of all schemes of both Union and State governments for Gram Panchayats and was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development. Its aim is to monitor the implementation of SAGY (Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana).
- Haryana government launched 'Thari Pension, Thare Pass' project which will directly transfer the pension amount to the beneficiaries. The scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Dr. Amalendu Krishna won the 2015 Ramanujan Prize for his work in algebraic cycles, algebraic k-theory and theory of motives. He is a professor at the Tata Institute of

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Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai. The second Indian to win this award, the first being Sujatha Ramadorai who won it in 2006.

- Udaipur is now home to Asia's biggest telescope, MAST (Multi Application Solar Telescope). The lens has a diameter of 50 cm.
- Mobile payment company, Paytm is to receive 400 crores investment from e-commerce giant, Alibaba.
- Aperia Pharmaceuticals' Spritam becomes 1st anti-epilepsy pill manufactured with 3D printer to get the approval of USFDA (United States Food and Drug Administration).
- The Federal Court of Australia revoked the government's approval for Adani's Carmichael coal mine construction.
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have drafted a MoU which will impart training to the MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises). The MoU was signed under the 2nd phase of SCORE (Sustaining Competitive & Responsible Enterprises) programme.
- India's Murugappa Group and Japan's Organo Corp have entered into a JV to set up an industrial water treatment requirement company. Murugappa will hold 51% of the JV and Organo 49%.
- Russia renewed its bid for 1.2 million square kilometers of Arctic region. The bid was forwarded to UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. 4 countries (Norway, Denmark, Canada, US) bordering the region have rejected the bid. Back in 2001 UN had rejected Russia's similar bid.
- Snapdeal, an eCommerce firm launched its new service named Snapdeal Instant to enable delivery of packages to customers as early as within an hour of placing the order. Snapdeal Instant is available in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore as of now.
- Jharkhand Government empowered the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to arrest Ministers, MLA and senior civil servants without taking permission from the concerned authorities in cases of being caught on taking bribes.
- Delhi Government decided to run trams in several walled city areas including Lal Quila, Jama Masjid and Old Delhi Railway Station in order to augment transport infrastructure of the city. As of 2014, the Kolkata tram in Kolkata is the only public tram system in the country.

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- Kamayani Express and Mumbai-Jabalpur Janata Express derailed while crossing a swollen Machak River in Harda District of Madhya Pradesh. The trains derailed after base material on the tracks got washed away in the heavy rain.

6th August

- Visa to test its new mobile app called mVisa in India. mVisa will ensure in transferring money and making payments. India was chosen because Indians do the highest amount of e-commerce transactions in the world.
- The Union Govt. has now allowed non-resident single-branded retailers in India to operate their outlets only if they do it through subsidiaries or enter into a JV with a domestic firm.
- The R&D department of Snapdeal has launched its first product, findmystyle.in where the consumers using data analysis can pick their products.
- Poland's Solidarity Prize 2015 was given to Zhanna Nemstova, a Russian journalist and social activist. She is the daughter of Boris Nemstov who was shot dead by unknown assailants. This award is given promotion and protection of democratic and civil liberties
- Roscosmos (Russian federal Space Agency) and NASA enter into a \$490 million for carrying astronauts to the ISS (International Space Station). This contract will enable Rocosmos to take astronauts to the ISS till 2019.
- During 2015-16, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch 9 micro satellites for the US. This is the first time when ISRO will be launching US satellites. The PSLV (Polar Satellite Launching Vehicle) will be used for this mission. Till date, ISRO has launched 45 satellites from 19 countries.
- Retired Colonel Harwant Singh, a World War II hero passed away. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1944 which is the highest award for the British Army. He was officer-in-charge of the flag hoisting ceremony on the first Independence Day of India in 1947.
- Udaipur is now home to Asia's biggest telescope, Multi-Application Solar Telescope (MAST) which is operational at the Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO) of Physics Research Laboratory (PRL). The lens has a diameter of 50 cm. MAST has been built by Mechanical and Optical Systems (AMOS) of Belgium.

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- Forbes released the list of 2015 World's Highest Paid-Actors with Robert Downey Jr. topping the list with earnings of 80 million US dollars. Jackie Chan and Vin Diesel stood second and third respectively. Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan stood at 7th position and Akshay Kumar at 9th position.
- Bharti Airtel launched pan-India 4G high-speed data services in 296 towns across India and will be available to customers through 4G-enabled mobile phones, internet dongles and Wi-Fi routers.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2015 which increases the pecuniary jurisdiction of district courts from 20 lakh rupees to 2 crore rupees and empowers Chief Justice of Delhi High Court to transfer any pending suit to a relevant subordinate court.

7th August

- The Lok Sabha passed the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill which will amend The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The amendment will make filing of cheque bouncing cases more easy and convenient.
- Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi inaugurated the expansion of the new Suez Canal. It will boost the traffic that passes through the canal with the expansion of the Ballah Bypass from 61 metres to 312 metres. This expansion is named as the New Suez Canal. Suez Canal was opened in 1869 as an artificial waterway in Egypt that connected Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea allowing traders and ships to navigate between Europe without passing through Africa.
- August 7 declared as National Handloom Day by PM Modi. The day was selected to commemorate the 110 year old Swadeshi Movement aimed at using Indian goods over British.
- The US government appointed Indo-American Atul Keshap as US Ambassador to Maldives and Sri Lanka. He is the second Indian origin diplomat after Richard Rahul Verma to be appointed as US Ambassador to the region.
- Indian government has imposed anti-dumping duty on Vitamin-C imports from China in order to secure the interest of domestic industries
- State governments of Telangana, Karnataka, AP, Tamil Nadu and Kerala will come together to constitute 'Southern Forest Ministers' Interstate Coordination Council (ISCC). The council will ensure economic, social and ecological security of the region.

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- Delhi Government reconstituted the Urdu Academy which will comprise of renowned academicians, performers and poets. Dr. Majid Deobandi will be appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of the Academy.
- SBI Life Insurance launched Smart Humsafar, a unique plan which offers multiple benefits of savings and insurance cover for husband and wife under a single policy.
- 70th Hiroshima Day was observed on 6th August 2015. The day was marked by adding the names of the survivors of the explosion called the hibakusha on the cenotaph of the Peace Memorial Park. The day is observed to commemorate 6th August, 1945, the day when an American Boeing B-29 Superfortress Bomber, named the Enola Gay, dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The 16 kiloton atomic bomb was dropped during the final stages of World War II on the city and was nicknamed Little Boy.
- The 48th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Foreign Ministers' meet was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 4th and 6th August, 2015. It was chaired by Anifah Aman, Foreign Affairs Minister of Malaysia. The theme of the meet was "Our People, Our Community, Our Vision".