

CLATGyan August 2015 Compendium – 8th August to 15th August

8th August

- DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) has developed Lukoskin, a poly-herbal medicine that will help in treatment of Leucoderma. Can also be used as anti-septic, wound healing etc.
- The Legislative Assembly of Tripura has passed a resolution to abolish death penalty. In case of heinous crimes the punishment will be imprisonment up to death. It sought to amend the Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and replace it with life sentence unto death.
- L&T (Larsen and Turbo) received the license for technology of Lakshya, a pilotless target aircraft from the DRDO. This is the first time when technology transfer was done by the DRDO to any private company.
- Thane Creek declared as Flamingo Sanctuary by the Maharashtra Government. This is Maharashtra's second marine sanctuary after Malvan Sanctuary.
- Turkmenistan government's company, TurkmenGaz will jointly own the TAPI project along with the countries involved.
- The Indian government has decided that it will boycott the 61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which will be held at Islamabad. This decision was taken in order to protest against Pakistan's refusal to invite the Assembly Speaker of J&K.
- Now NRIs, PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin) and OCIs (Overseas Citizen of India) can be allowed Aadhaar enrollment. Rao Inderjit Singh, the Union Planning Minister, announced it.
- Acharya Dev Vrat and Ram Nath Kovind were appointed as governors of Himachal Pradesh and Bihar respectively. Mr. Acharya will succeed Kalyan Singh who is the governor of Rajasthan and was holding the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh. Mr. Kovind will succeed Keshari Nath Tripathi who is the governor of West Bengal and was holding the additional charge of Bihar.
- First stretch of the DFC (Dedicated Freight Corridor) will be commissioned in Bihar between Durgawati and Sasaram. DFC is a double broad gauge track which was conceived in the 12th % year plan (2012-2017).

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9th August

- Rekha M Menon was appointed as the chairperson of Accenture India replacing Avinash Vashista who was both Chairman and MD of Accenture India since 2011.
- Typhoon Soudelor made its landfall on the east coast of the Taiwanese city of Hualien battering Taiwan with fierce winds ranging 230 km/h leaving four people dead and total devastation.
- Frances Oldham Kelsey was a Canadian doctor who played a crucial role in preventing the drug thalidomide from being distributed in the US. She had refused to approve the drug due to her concerns about the drug's safety which later on turned out to be true. The drug is prescribed to pregnant women to ease morning sickness which caused thousands of babies being born with missing limbs and organs.
- Tendong Lho Rum Faat (Prayer of the Tendong Mountain), an ancient and natural festival of the ethnic Lepcha tribe of Sikkim was celebrated annually in the month of July-August.
- Global satellite called GlobalSat for DRR was proposed to be named after Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who died on 27th July 2015. The satellite to be used for earth observation and disaster risk reduction will be renamed as UN Kalam GlobalSat.
- Ajeet Kumar Saroj, a 23-year-old culpable homicide convict lodged in Varanasi central jail was awarded with gold medal by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) at Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He was awarded for topping in Diploma in Tourism Studies.
- Union Government and Delhi Government agreed to set-up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the cleaning-up and rejuvenation of the Yamuna River.

10th August

- August 9th marked the 70th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing in Japan. A ceremony was held at ground zero where a minute's silence was observed at 11:02 AM local time.
- According to the US DoA (Department of Agriculture), India is the world's largest exporter of beef in the world. In the data even buffalo meat was taken into consideration, as India doesn't export cow meat. India is followed by Brazil and Australia.

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- Dilip Parulekar, Goa's Tourism Minister conferred with the PATWA (Pacific Area Travel Writers Association) and Safari India South Asia travel Award 2015. The award was given in the Best Tourism Minister category.
- In order to promote digital literacy in Bihar, Telecom Minister has launched a mobile app called DISHA (Digital Saksharta Abhiyan). The app will educate people about computer and internet.
- Phicomm, a Shanghai based smartphone manufacturer will invest 6400 crore rupees in mobiles, cloud services, intelligent cities etc.
- Germany's Cross of Order of the Merit Award was given to Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar. He has been given this award for his work in strengthening Indo-German Research co-op in the fields of sociobiology and behavioral ecology.
- Taiwan based Foxconn to collaborate with Xiaomi to set up its first assembly line in the state of Andhra Pradesh. All this is under the 'Make in India' campaign.
- 10th August is observed as World Bio-Fuel Day in order to promote awareness about green fuels/ non fossil-fuels. On this day Sir Rudolph Diesel conducted a successful engine run.
- Union Government launched Suraksha Bandhan drive in a Mission Mode through participating banks and insurance companies to facilitate enrolment under social security schemes. The schemes are Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). This drive aims at taking forward the Government's objective of creating a universal social security system in the country.
- BJP leader Ram Nath Kovind was appointed as Governor of Bihar. He succeed West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi, who was holding additional charge of Bihar.
- Australian cricket captain Michael Clarke, nicknamed as "Pup", announced his decision to retire from International Cricket after playing the ongoing Ashes series.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited commissioned a 500 MW coal-based power plant unit at Vidhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (STPS) in Vindhyanagar, Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Union Government launched the School Nursey Yojana, an initiative to bring students closer to nature. It seeks to engage VI to IX in raising of saplings in nurseries created in schools.

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- Indian sociobiologist Raghavendra Gadagar was awarded with the Germany's highest civilian honour Cross of Order of the Merit at the German Consulate in Bengaluru. He was bestowed with this honour for his contribution in the field of behavioural ecology and sociobiology and for strengthening research corporation between India and Germany.

11th August

- Google Inc. has announced that it will form a new parent company called Alphabet, which will control its search engine unit and other subsidiaries. Chennai-born Sundar Pichai will be the CEO of Google. Larry Page will be the CEO of Alphabet Inc., Sergey Brin will serve as the President and Eric Schmidt will take up the post of Chairman.
- Kochi becomes the first city from India to join the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) Council. The WTCF which is headquartered at Beijing is a non-profit, non-governmental organization which aims at fostering co-operation between member countries development of tourism.
- India's first Titanium Sponge Plant was inaugurated at Chavara in Kerala. The plant was commissioned by ISRO and is the only plant in the world in which undertakes activities ranging from mining of titanium minerals to manufacturing of aerospace grade titanium sponge.
- The Saral Housing Loan scheme was launched by ICICI bank. The scheme provides loans to people of weaker sections and people from rural areas at a special interest rate.
- The Chinese currency Yuan was devalued against the US Dollar by 2% facing in the light of current economic meltdown. It is the largest devaluation of Yuan since 1994.
- Steel manufacturer POSCO will set up a steel plant at Satarda, Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra. The steel giant has entered into joint venture with Utam Steel and Power. This will be POSCO's first steel plant in India with the steel plant in Odisha facing regulatory hurdles.
- Amitabh Bachchan will be the ambassador for Maharashtra's Tiger Conservation Project. The state of Maharashtra has 6 tiger reserves- Bor, Sahadri, Pench, Tadoba, Melghat and Nagzira.
- Najma Heptulla, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched a new scheme called 'Nai Manzil'. The scheme aims at empowering the minorities by improving educational opportunities and also by providing development of trade basis skills.

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- Senior Indian hockey player Gurbaj Singh was suspended for 9 months for indulging in groupism and creating disharmony within the team. This suspension shatters the midfielder's dream of playing in 2016 Rio Olympics.
- Rajasthan High Court banned the Santhara ritual prevailing in the Jain Community. Pronouncing its judgement, the court considered the act as a criminal act amounting to suicide and directed to register cases under Section 306 of Indian Penal Code (IPC). The ritual was banned by the court on a Public Interest Litigation filed by human rights activist Nikhil Soni a decade ago, claiming that the ritual is a social evil and should be considered as a suicide.
- President Pranav Mukherjee presented the 24th Saraswati Sammaan for the year 2014 to Dr. M. Veerappa Moily, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) in New Delhi. He received the award for his epic Sri Ramayana Mahanveshanam written in Kannada. Saraswati Samman is given for the literary works of last 10 years and was established by the KK Birla Foundation. It's given in recognition of outstanding prose or poetry literary works in Indian languages that are listed in Schedule VIII of the constitution of India. Harivansh Rai Bachchan was the first recipient.
- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was observed on 9th August 2015 with the theme Post 2015 Agenda: Ensuring indigenous peoples' health and well-being. The United Nations General Assembly on 23rd December 1994 adopted resolution 49/214 and proclaimed that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People shall be observed on 9th August every year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004). In 2004, the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade from 2005-2015, with the theme of A Decade for Action and Dignity.
- The World Bio-Fuel Day was observed across the world on 10th August 2015. It is observed every year with an aim to create awareness about non fossil-fuels (Green Fuels). On 10th August 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine, for the first time successfully ran mechanical engine with Peanut Oil.
- Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a new mobile app named Disha to promote digital literacy in Bihar. The app aims to help people learn about computers and Internet through self learning modules and also aims to offer digital literacy to tribal and Dalit women in the state.

12th August

- The Indian government has entered into an agreement with the World Bank for NCRMP (National Cyclone Risk Management Project) I and II. The projects aim at installing early warning systems at the coastal areas so that the government entities can effectively reduce the damage and take proper steps accordingly.
- Sanjay Jalona, former Infosys executive vice-president has been appointed as the MD and CEO of L&T (Larsen & Turbo) Infotech.
- The establishment AIIA (All India Institute of Ayurveda) has been given a green signal by the Union Govt. The institute will be at Sarita Vihar in New Delhi. It aims at providing education in the field of Ayurveda at P.G. level and will also support research and development of drugs which come under ayurveda.
- The Australian government has announced that it will cut down its greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% by 2030. The plan will be submitted to the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) before the climate change summit which will be held in Paris later this year.
- The Sendai Nuclear Plant which was shutdown due to the Fukushima nuclear disaster started operating again after being shut for nearly two years. Only Reactor 1 was switched on, the second reactor will restart its operations in the month of October.
- The state government of Haryana will constitute a board which will primarily aim at conserving the HSA (Saraswati Heritage Area). The board, Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB) with the help of ASI (Archaeological Survey of India), UNSECO etc will promote and conserve the archaeo-cultural facets of the HSA.
- NABARD (National Bank for Agricultural Development) has been accredited by UN's Green Climate Fund as a national implementing entity, which will undertake climate and clean energy projects in India. NABARD is the sole implementing body in India which can undertake projects related to climate change.
- In the recently published Forbes' 1st ever list of '100 richest People in Technology', Wipro founder Azim Premji is at 13th position whereas HCL founder Shiv Nadar is at 14th spot. Bill Gates is ranked 1st whereas Oracle CEO Ellison is at 2nd position. The list is followed by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos at 3rd and Mark Zuckerberg at 4th.

13th August

- The Maharashtra government has commissioned a sub-committee to tackle the drought crisis in the Marathwada region of the state. Due to poor monsoon the region is facing its worst water drought.
- Jethabhai Patel was selected as the chairman of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) which markets all the dairy products of Amul brand. The GCMMF was started by Dr. Verghese Kurien who was also known as the Milk Man of India.
- The Indian government has approved a MoU between India & US to establish PACEsetter Fund which supports the PEACE (Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy) initiative. The PEACE initiative aims at checking the viability of clean energy technologies.
- Preliminary survey of the place where the mortal remains of former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam had been laid to rest at Rameswaram was started by a team of officials from the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and Tamil Nadu government.
- Sudhakar Shetty of Maharashtra was elected as President of the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) succeeding Jaspal Singh Khandhari.
- Acharya Dev Vrat was sworn in as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla replacing Kalyan Singh.
- Prime Minister of Libya Abdullah al-Thani announced his resignation during a live telecast after fraught peace talks between the country's rival factions restarted. Since the fall of Moamer Kadhafi, Libya has been plunged into chaos as two rival parliaments vying for power.
- Sania Mirza, currently ranked No. 1 in world rankings in women's doubles became only the second tennis player to be recommended for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, the first being Leander Paes who was bestowed the honour way back in 1996 after his bronze medal in the Atlanta Olympics.

14th August

- Senior Congress leader Verappa Moily was bestowed with the Saraswati Samman Award. The award was given for his kannada poem, Ramayana Mahanveshanam. The prestigious award was established by the K.K. Birla Foundation and is given for

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outstanding work in prose or poetry in any language mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

- The Indian government and the Slovakian government have signed a MoU on technical cooperation in railway sector. It includes areas such as infrastructure development and management.
- Om Prakash Rawat was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India by the President. His tenure will end in December 2018. An EC or a CEC has a tenure of six years in office or till he or she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Naseem Zaidi is the Chief Election Commissioner and Achal Kumar Joti is the other Election Commissioner.
- The PAHAL (Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh) scheme has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for being the world's largest cash transfer program (households). The scheme was formally launched as Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for LPG subsidy in 2013 in 291 districts under the aegis of Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The scheme aims at reducing eliminating duplication or bogus LPG connections and its diversion and seeks to meet substantive savings in LPG subsidy.
- Businessman, Om Prakash Munjal who founded the Hero Cycles passed away at the age of 87. It is now the world's largest bicycle manufacturing company.
- Axis Bank became the first bank to launch contactless Debit., Credit and Multi Currency Forex card.
- Tata Sons has raised its stake in AirAsia India from 30% to 41%. AirAsia India is a joint venture of AirAsia Berhad, Tata Sons and Telestra Tradeplace. Tata Sons will purchase the additional stake from Telestra Tradeplace.
- Swatantra Raj Singh (Boxing), Nihar Amin (Swimming) and Harbans Singh (Athletics) have been selected for the Dronacharya Award which is given for excellence in sports coaching.

15th August

- Maharashtra's famous Dahi Handi (Govinda) was accorded with the status of Adventure Sport through a Government Resolution (GR) 201508131458581621. It will now be played as per rules and regulations framed by a State-level association and not just limited to Janmashtami. Anyone can participate except those below 12 years of age.

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- Saina Nehwal became the first indian to enter into the World Badminton Championship finals, to face Carolina Marin. Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to win a medal in the 1983 Championships.
- The Agriculture Ministry will be renamed as Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry. This was announced by PM Modi during his Independence Day Speech.
- The State Assembly of Assam passed the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2015 seeking to eliminate the rising cases of superstition leading to murder of so called "witches".
- Indian Men's Hockey Team won three match series of their European Tour 2-1 defeating Spain at Teresa in Spain.
- 2015 US-India Cyber Dialogue was held at the US Department of State in Washington, DC and it was held with an aim to increase global cyber security and promote the digital economy.