

CLATGyan Compendium – 16th July 2015 to 31st July 2015

16th July

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay and Nehru Science Centre have launched a pilot project “Internet for All” in its Mobile Science Exhibition Bus in Mumbai. It was launched under the aegis of the Union Government’s flagship ‘Digital India’ campaign. Under this initiative, students will be provided few Aakash tablets during interaction session with volunteers to showcase the power of internet and its uses for the society. This is for the rural areas.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given nod to Chinese Telecom manufacturer Huawei to set up a manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu for its components. In 2013, Huawei had first approached government for clearance purpose to set up a unit for electronics, telecom hardware and support services at SIPCOT SEZ at Sriperumbudur. The security clearances are subject to the fact that some key positions will be held by Indian Nationals.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a committee to prepare a 5 year action plan to spread the reach of financial services across country to unbanked population. The committee will be headed by RBI executive director Deepak Mohanty and comprise total of 14 members.
- Champions League T20 of Cricket was scrapped with immediate effect. Decision in this regard was taken unanimously by Governing Council of CLT20, comprising Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Cricket South Africa and Cricket Australia. It was scrapped due to lack of interest or poor response of the fans and popularity of the tournament and difficulty in managing it. It was established in 2009 and was annual sporting event. 2014 edition of the league was won by Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

17th July

- Mid-tier IT services company Mindtree has acquired two companies - BlueFin Solutions Ltd of UK and Relational Solutions Inc. of US. Mindtree is a multinational IT and outsourcing company founded in 1999. It is headquartered in Bengaluru and New Jersey. Presently, it has more than 200 clients and offices in 14 countries and has major markets are US and Europe.

- The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is considered as gateway for India to expand trade and investment links with Central Asia and Eurasia. Its importance was highlighted in India's Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20. However, recently it gained importance in light of the evolving geopolitical developments of India after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to 5 Central Asian Countries viz Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
About International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) - It is a multi-modal trade transport network that includes strategic rail, road, and water transport connecting India with Central Asian and Eurasia Countries.
Route: It will connect Mumbai (India) via Chabahar and Bandar Abbas ports of Iran with Baku (Azerbaijan) to Moscow (Russia) and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe via the Caspian Sea.
- INS Astravahini, indigenously built torpedoes launch and recovery vessel was decommissioned after its service for almost 31 years to the nation. It was commissioned in Indian Navy in 1984, at Visakhapatnam and served for about 31 years.
- Indian-American woman Sunita Viswanath honoured with Champion of Change and was among the 12 other recipients who have been honoured with this award for their continuous efforts towards climate change. Sunita was honoured for her work with Sadhana, US based organisation's Project Prithvi which encourages Hindus to take care of the environment. She is the co-founder and board member of Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus. She is also co-founder and active board member of Women for Afghan Women (WAW), US based women's human rights organisation. In 2011, she was awarded with the Feminist Majority Foundation's Global Women's Rights Award for her work with WAW.
- Reserve Bank of India has signed a special currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBS). Under this agreement, Sri Lankan bank can draw up to 1.1 billion dollars for a maximum period of 6 months.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry has given additional charge to Prashant Pathrabe as Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). His appointment comes prior to the end of incumbent Director D J Narain's term.
- India's first defence industrial park will be set up at Ottappalam in Palakkad district of Kerala.

18th July

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Pakistan's all-rounder cricketer Mohammad Hafeez from bowling in international cricket for a period of one year. He was banned after he failed in ICC's independent assessment on his suspected bowling action which violated permitted 15-degree limit. This is the second time his bowling actions were reported and this time he has been found guilty.
- European Union (EU) has approved a short-term loan of 7.16 billion euros to Greece after it was backed by the 28 member states. This loan will allow Greece to pay its debt to European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) till new bailout plan is ratified.

19th July

- Union Home Ministry has approved to raise seventeen new police battalions in Jammu and Kashmir and the Naxal-hit states. Of these 17 police battalions, 5 battalions will be for Jammu and Kashmir and 12 for the Maoist-affected states
- Shiv Pande, an Indian origin doctor has been awarded with honorary fellowship by prestigious University of Central Lancashire of United Kingdom. He was awarded with this fellowship in recognition of his contribution to the community as a general practitioner and medical educator.

20th July

- The annual Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra, largest-ever religious congregation in Odisha has begun at Puri district on 18 July 2015. This edition of yatra is the Millennium's first Nabakalebar Rath Yatra meaning all the Lords of Puri Jagannath Temple will get new avatar after nineteen years. Thus, Nabakalebara marks the re-embodiment of deities.
- World's sixth biggest greenhouse gas polluter, Japan has pledged to cut emissions 26 per cent from 2013 levels by 2030 in a bid to fight calamitous global warming. In this regard, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led government submitted its target to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The official nationality preference survey in recently swapped 162 enclaves on India-Bangladesh border under the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) has ended. The survey

was conducted by the Enclaves Exchange Co-ordination Committee (EECC) of both countries for ascertaining the nationality preference of over 50,000 enclave-residents.

- India and Russia have signed a customs and liberalize business visas agreement to boost trade between both countries to remove the hindrances and boost commerce.
- Union Agriculture Ministry has launched 3 agricultural-portals namely Soil Health Card (SHC) portal, Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and Fertiliser Quality Control System portal (FQCS). These portals were launched as part of first phase which is only in English. While in later phase they will be made available in regional languages.
- Kerala Tourism has won 2015 Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award in the 'Heritage & Culture' category for its Muziris Heritage Project. The award bestowed in recognition project efforts which aim at restoring and conservation of historical and cultural significance of the ancient town and its uniqueness and impact on local community located in stretches from Ernakulam to Kodungalloor in Thrissur district of Kerala.

21st July

- Union Government has appointed Bhanu Pratap Sharma as Chairperson Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Presently, he is Health and Family Welfare Secretary was given additional charge of FSSAI for three months. Sharma is an IAS officer of 1981 batch from Bihar cadre.
- France`s tennis legend Amelie Mauresmo was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). She is a two-time Grand Slam winner viz. Australian Open (2006) and Wimbledon (2006). She is also former world number one and had spent a total of 39 weeks atop in the rankings in 2004 and 2006. She also had won a Silver Medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics.
- Union Government has launched National Career Counselling Portal in a bid to modernize all government-run employment exchanges. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the aegis of National Career Service (NCS) project of Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ISRO has successfully test-fired Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III project's high-thrust cryogenic rocket engine. It is India's first indigenously designed and developed high-thrust cryogenic rocket engine capable of generating a

nominal thrust of 19 tonnes. Test: It was conducted at ISRO's Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu for 800 seconds time frame which produces 25 per cent more thrust than the burn duration of the engine during flight. The test meet all its parameters.

- The New Development Bank (NDB) created by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) nations formally started its operations from its headquarters in Shanghai, China. Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei, Shanghai Mayor Yang Xiong and the bank's first President K V Kamath from India attended the opening ceremony. Agreement for establishing NDB was signed during the 6th BRICS Summit being held in Fortaleza, Brazil in April, 2014. It was formally launched at the 7th BRICS summit held in Ufa, Russia in July 2015.

22nd July

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted a resolution for endorsing the historic deal on Iran's nuclear program. It was supported by all 15 representatives of countries on the Security Council and opened path to lift nuclear-related economic sanctions on Iran. It also paved the way for establishing a monitoring system for Iran's nuclear programme.
- Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group's Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering (PDOE) inked a multi-crore agreement with Russian firm Zvyozdochka, JSC Ship Repairing Centre. With this, Reliance Group became the first private sector Indian company to refit of submarines in India.
- Noted Canadian author Naomi Klein has won the 36th edition of American Book Award 2015. She has won this award for her environmental work This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate published in 2014. Apart from her, 14 others also have won the award. Some of them are Marlon James (A Brief History of Seven Killings), Carlos Santana (The Universal Tone) etc. Poet Anne Waldman was honoured with lifetime achievement award in this edition of prize.
- Union Government has launched a national campaign Surakshit Khadya Abhiyan in a bid to create awareness and capacity building on Safe and Hygienic food for all. It was launched by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi.

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has extended the deadline for implementation of Crime and Criminals Tracking network and Systems (CCTNS) project till March 2017. Decision in this regard was taken by CCEA meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra on the proposal forwarded by Union Ministry of Home Affairs. CCEA also approved additional five years phase for operation and maintenance of the CCTNS up to March 2022.
- Union Government has announced that 14 States and Union Territories (UTs) have achieved or exceeded the literacy rate of 80 percent. It was announced by Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. 14 States and UTs are: Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, NCR of Delhi, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

23rd July

- Every year July 23 is observed as National Broadcasting day. On this day in 1927, Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) began organized radio broadcasting from Bombay station. To mark the occasion, All India Radio (AIR) had organized a symposium on the subject Creation of New India and Broadcasting Medium in New Delhi.
- Flipkart-owned online and mobile style store Myntra has selected Ananth Narayanan as its (CEO). He will succeed Flipkart's fellow benefactor Mukesh Bansal.
- Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the review pleas recorded by the Union Government and Jat associations looking for OBC status for the Jat group. Union Government and Jat associations had recorded a request documented in SC looking for restoration of the court's past decision which had proclaimed OBC status to Jat group is unconstitutional.
- Puducherry city has risen as the first nomination to be gotten by the Urban Development Ministry for a Smart City Mission. In such manner, Government of Union Territory of Puducherry has assigned its capital city for consideration in the Union Government's leader 100 Smart Cities Mission.
- Acclaimed United States novelist Edgar Lawrence Doctorow passed away in New York due to lung cancer. His works was known for historical fiction i.e. re-imagination of the American experience and placing fictional characters in recognisable historical contexts and was famous for his novels Ragtime and Billy Bathgate. His debut novel Welcome to Hard Times was published in 1960

- Nobel prize winner Peter Higgs has joined the ranks of Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein by winning the world's oldest scientific prize, the Royal Society's Copley Medal, for his pioneering work on the theory of the Higgs boson, which was discovered in 2012. 86-year-old Higgs received the Copley Medal for his fundamental contribution to particle physics with his theory explaining the origin of mass in elementary particles, confirmed by the experiments at the Large Hadron Collider. The Copley medal was first awarded by the Royal Society in 1731, 170 years before the first Nobel Prize.
- Scientists using NASA's powerful Kepler telescope have found a planet beyond the solar system that is a close match to Earth. The planet, which is about 60 per cent bigger than Earth, is located about 1,400 light years away in the constellation Cygnus, the scientists told a news conference on Thursday. While similarly sized planets have been found before, the latest one, known as Kepler-452b, is circling a star that is very similar but older than the sun at a distance about the same as Earth's orbit.
- Climate scientist R.K. Pachauri, who is facing sexual harassment allegations from a woman employee, has been removed as Director-General of TERI (Tata Energy research Institute). Ajay Mathur, Director-General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, has been appointed as the Director-General of TERI.
- Seven Indian companies, including Reliance Industries and Tata Motors, are among the world's 500 largest companies, according to a list compiled by Fortune. The Indian companies on the 2015 Fortune Global 500 list are Indian Oil ranked 119 on the list, with revenues of about USD 74 billion, Reliance Industries (158) with revenues of USD 62 billion, Tata Motors with revenues of USD 42 billion (254), State Bank of India with revenues of USD 42 billion (260), Bharat Petroleum with revenues of USD 40 billion (280), Hindustan Petroleum with revenues of USD 35 billion (327) and Oil and Natural Gas with revenues of USD 26 billion (449). The list has been topped by Walmart, which retained its top spot. It is followed by Chinese petroleum refining giant, Sinopec Group on the second spot, Netherlands-based Royal Dutch Shell (3), China National Petroleum (4) and Exxon Mobil (5).
- Indian pharmaceutical major Lupin has entered into definite agreement to acquire the U.S.-based Gavis Pharmaceuticals LLC and Novel Laboratories Inc. (Gavis), a privately held company, in cash-free and debt-free transaction for \$880 million.
- Mathematician Anand Kumar's Super 30, known for helping students from deprived sections to crack the prestigious IIT entrance examination, now features in a film made

by famous French director Pascal Plisson. The 90-minute film, *The Big Day*, is ready and is set to be released next month, a statement from Super 30 said here today.

24th July

- Qualifier Prerna Bhambri beat seventh seed Kyoka Okamura of Japan 6-1, 1-6, 10-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Tin Hau, Hong Kong, on Thursday. In the quarterfinals, Prerna will face Ji-Hee Choi of Korea who beat third seed Harriet Dart of Britain.
- Young Indian golfer Shubham Jaglan etched his name into history book by clinching his second successive title at the IJGA World Stars of Junior Golf event in Las Vegas. The 10-year-old prodigy, son of a milkman from rural Haryana, brought home a score of 106 in three rounds to win by five strokes, ahead of two Americans Justin Dang and Sihan Sandhu and Thailand's Pongsapak Laopakdee for the Boys 9-10 years category title at the Angel Park.
- In a major welfare measure for women employees in Jammu and Kashmir, the State government approved a two-year childcare leave for them. A woman employee could take up to 730 days of childcare leave during her entire service for taking care of her two eldest children, an official spokesman said.
- The Union government proposed to strip the Reserve Bank Governor's veto vote on India's monetary policy. The government also proposed to grant itself the power to appoint four of the six members of the Monetary Policy Committee, whose remit will include decisions on setting interest rates to maintain inflation at the targeted level.
- The world's first malaria vaccine got a green light from European drugs regulators who recommended it should be licensed for use in babies in Africa at risk of the mosquito-borne disease. The shot, called RTS, S or Mosquirix and developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, would be the first licensed human vaccine against a parasitic disease and could help prevent millions of cases of malaria in countries that use it.

25th July

- Slapped with charges including that of organised crime, cricketers S. Sreesanth, Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan were discharged in the sensational 2013 IPL-6 spot-fixing case by a court in Delhi which held that police has failed to make out a case against them.

- India's ODI cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named the ninth most marketable sportsperson in the world ahead of the likes of football superstar Lionel Messi in a list prepared by London School of Marketing. Swiss tennis master Roger Federer was named as the most marketable sports star in the world, followed by Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson at second and third respectively.
- Roelant Oltmans was officially named as the new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team following a series of meetings between the Dutchman, Hockey India president Narinder Batra and Sports Authority of India Director General Injeti Srinivas.
- YouTube says it is making a further push into virtual reality, promising to add 3-D support for videos that play back in its 360-degree format. This announcement comes a day after the debut of the first online 360-degree ad, a commercial for Bud Light. Right now, viewers using the mobile YouTube app or Google's Chrome browser can pan around in any direction in the 360-degree videos.

26th July

- Jain Irrigation Systems Limited (JISL) and Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. (HCCBPL) have joined hands through Project Unnati (meaning betterment) to help farmers adopt Ultra High Density Plantation (UHDP) technique to boost mango yield.
- The Central Government has accorded final approval to thirteen proposals for setting up of Mega Food Parks in various parts of the country including rural areas during the current Five Year Plan period till date. These Mega Food Parks are private sector driven projects and responsibility of execution, ownership and management of these projects vests with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which is a company incorporated under the Companies Act. State Government/ State Government entities/Cooperatives have also been allowed to set up Mega Food Parks in the country by recent amendments in the scheme guidelines.
- Anirban Lahiri repeated his 2014 performance to produce an excellent finish, a six-under 64, and finished outright fifth at the Omega European Masters on Sunday. Danny Willet of England won this tournament.

27th July

- Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany won the 2015 Hungarian Grand Prix of Formula One (F1). This was his overall second victory of the season after Malaysian Grand Prix and first of Hungarian Grand Prix.

- Tributes started pouring in on social media to mourn the death of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, who had earned the sobriquet of the 'People's President'. Incidentally, Dr. Kalam's last tweet on the microblogging site Twitter was about his visit to Shillong where he collapsed during a lecture to the students of the IIM. Mr. Kalam (83), who was President between 2002 and 2007, took the lead in the conduct of India's nuclear tests in May 1998 and was later fielded as the National Democratic Alliance candidate by then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee. He has been awarded the coveted civilian awards - Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997).
- Nestle India's MD Etienne Benet has stepped down from his post, he will be replaced by Nestle Philippines Chairman and CEO Suresh Narayanan. Etienne Benet will be relocated to Nestle's head office in Switzerland while Mr. Narayanan will take over from August 1. This was due to the Maggi controversy.
- Maharashtra government has placed a comprehensive plan to develop six solar cities in order to add solar capacity of 7,500 MW in the state. To enhance solar capacity in country Centre has planned to develop 55 solar cities across the country among them six are from Maharashtra these are – Nagpur, Thane, Aurangabad, Kalyan-Dombivli, Shirdi and Nanded.
- Infrastructure Development Financing Company (IDFC). Ltd became second lender to enter the banking sector since 2004, as the Reserve Bank of India granted Banking licence on 24 July 2015.
- On 27 July 2015, a Bengaluru based gold Jewellery manufacturing company Rajesh Exports Ltd (REL) bought the world's largest gold refining company Valcambi from US-based mining company Newmont Mining Corporation. REL had to fetch over 2560 crore rupees all in cash to buy Valcambi refinery.
- The IT Secretary Ram Sevak Sharma was appointed as the chairman of telecom regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He will take place of Rahul Khullar who had retired in May 2015. However, Sharma is also set to retire in September 2015 as secretary for department of electronics and information technology.
- Jorge Sampaio and Helena Ndume have been awarded with the inaugural Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize. The award was bestowed upon them as part of the annual commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day (observed every year on 18 July).

- Gurudaspur attacks: Four terrorists in army uniform, believed to be from Pakistan, who sneaked in to Gurudaspur district in Punjab, are currently holed up in a police station in Dinanagar. Operations are underway to neutralise them.
- In a major change, Nepal's political parties have agreed to remove the word "secularism" from the new constitution. Nepal was declared a secular country in 2007 after Nepal's hard-core Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist joined mainstream politics after a decade-long insurgency that killed over 13,000 people. The people want 'secularism' to be replaced by either 'Hindu' or 'religious freedom'.
- Benoit Paire won his first career ATP Tour title at the Bastad Open, defeating Tommy Robredo 7-6(7), 6-3 in the final.
- Chris Froome won his second Tour de France in three years, with a leisurely pedal into Paris to wrap up a spectacular three-week slog of furious racing that culminated with a thrilling late fight-back by the British rider's toughest rival, Colombian Nairo Quintana.
- Young India squash player Kush Kumar claimed his maiden PSA title, defeating top seed Jamie Haycocks of England in straight games in the summit clash of the \$5,000 Tasmanian open in Devonport in Australia.

28th July

- World Hepatitis Day is being observed every year on July 28 around the globe. Focus of the day was to: spread awareness about viral hepatitis that causes acute and chronic disease and kills around 1.4 million people every year. It also seeks to encourage diagnosis, prevention and treatment of Hepatitis. 2015 Theme- Prevent Hepatitis: It's up to you. It is being observed since 2010 and is one of the 8 official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Maharashtra government to exempt small cars from paying toll tax for all build operate transfer (BOT) road projects that worth over 200 crore rupees. Similar relief also given for road projects developed by the state Public Works Department (PWD) that cost below 200 crore rupees.
- South Korea has declared the deadly outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in the country has over. It was announced by South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn.
- Union Government has appointed former IAS officer Ashish Bahuguna as the chairman of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). He will have tenure of

three years. The position of chairman of FSSAI was lying vacant since January 2015 after the tenure of then chairman K Chandramouli ended.

- Online furniture marketplace Pepperfry.com, has raised \$100 million (around Rs. 640 crore) in a fresh round of funding led by US investment bank Goldman Sachs and Zodi Technology Fund, a partnership between Zodi and Avendus Capital, a leading India-based financial services firm.
- The Indian women's team, comprising Deepika Kumari, Rimil Buriuly and Laxmirani Majhi, qualified for the Rio Olympic Games next year by winning three quota places at the world archery championship at Copenhagen in Denmark. The team also made it to the final by defeating Germany, Colombia and Japan for a meeting in the final against Russia.
- Government of Sri Lanka inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with search engine giant Google to launch the Google Loon project in the country. As per the MoU, Google will place 13 high-altitude balloons over the island nation to provide affordable high-speed 3G (3rd Generation) internet services to the entire country. It is also expected that this project will provide free Wi-Fi connectivity across Sri Lanka. Successful implementation of this project will make Sri Lanka the first country in the world to have Internet access covering the whole country with the government support.
- The population of Royal Bengal Tiger in Sundarbans region of Bangladesh has declined sharply to 106 from 440 in 2004. It was revealed in recently released new Tiger census 2015 of Bangladesh.

29th July

- Kazakhstan, a member of the Russia-led economic blocks became 162th member of World Trade Organization (WTO). Kazakhstan's entry has ended its long wait of 20 years to become a member of WTO as its accession talks were initiated in 1996.
- Union Government has announced to roll out e-tourist visa facility to Chinese nationals from July 30, 2015. Hong Kong and Macao nationals will also be provided with e-tourist visa facility along with Chinese citizens.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed fine of 420 crore rupees on the local unit of Hyundai Motor Co. The fined was imposed after CCI investigation had found that Hyundai was engaged in anti-competitive practices.

- IndusInd Bank has acquired the diamond and jewellery (bullion) financing business and related deposit portfolio of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for 4,100 crore rupees on 28 July 2015.
- Dr Suniti Solomon, pioneer of Human immunodeficiency virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) research and treatment in India passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Her team was the first to document evidence of HIV/AIDS infection in India in 1986 and had successfully led research into the treatment of the deadly virus.
- Facebook, the social networking leader has unveiled a new compressed version of its application called 'Facebook Lite' in India to reach out its users who have slow data connections.
- Singapore Diamond Investment Exchange' (SDiX) the first ever diamond exchange is all set to function from September 2015. Till now diamonds were traded on mutual basis where the retailers or jewellers used to buy diamonds from the polishers and consumers were supposed to buy it from the retailer. Now under the SDiX customers can physically trade in diamond under one roof.
- India inked a loan agreement worth US 300 million dollar with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support the Union Government's flagship program of National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).
- US-based start-up Cohesity, a technology provider of converged secondary storage solution announced the launch of its India operations. The company also announced the appointment of Google-alum Apurv Gupta as the Head of Engineering for Cohesity India.
- Finland's Nokia, once the world's largest phone maker, has unveiled a spherical camera designed for making 3D movies and games that can be watched and played with virtual reality headsets.
- Microsoft will start rolling out its new operating system Windows 10 around the world, including India, with a host of new features as the long-time leader in PC software tries to lure back consumers who gave up on Windows for mobile devices.
- President Pranab Mukherjee rejected the mercy petition of the lone condemned man Yakub Memon in the 1993 Mumbai blasts case in quick succession on a day when the Maharashtra Governor and the Supreme Court refused to give him relief.

- The Tripura government has introduced a pension scheme for transgenders. The Council of Ministers at its weekly meeting also decided to pay a monthly pension to women domestic workers and patients suffering from leprosy and AIDS.
- Supercomputer Skyeye-1, capable of a quadrillion computing operations per second, will support space exploration by the world's largest radio telescope whose dish size will be equivalent to 30 football fields. The assembly of the telescope, located deep in the mountains of Guizhou province, has got under way, reported Xinhua citing Dawning Information Industry Co. that is taking part in its construction.
- Michel Platini has launched his campaign to succeed Sepp Blatter as FIFA president, aiming to give the scandal-hit governing body "the dignity and the position it deserves."
- With its biggest orbit manoeuvre since 2006, NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) is preparing for the arrival of NASA's next Mars lander called InSight next year. On Wednesday, the Mars orbiter will be engaged in a 77-second firing of six intermediate-size thrusters that will adjust the orbit timing of the veteran spacecraft.

30th July

- Debjani Ghosh took charge as new president of MAIT (the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology), the apex body of India's Information technology hardware industry. Ghosh is the first woman President of MAIT since its inception 32 years ago. She is vice-president sales and marketing group and managing director of Intel Corporation, South Asia and will succeed Amar Babu the chief operation officer at Lenovo for Asia Pacific and chairman of Lenovo India.
- World's second largest automaker General Motors (GM) has announced to invest USD 1 billion (6,400 crore rupees) in India by 2020 and has decided to close its loss making plant at Halol, Gujarat. This announcement was part of its prior decision to invest over USD 5 billion in global markets like China, India, Brazil and Mexico.
- Two Indians Sanjiv Chaturvedi and Anshu Gupta have been awarded prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2015. They are among the total five awardees have been conferred with this year's award which is often regarded as Asia's Nobel Prize.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) launched a mobile banking app 'Kotak Bharat' aiming to provide mobile banking services to customers in the remotest regions of India.

- Procter & Gamble (P&G) has appointed its company veteran David Taylor as the new CEO by replacing A G Lafley on 29 July 2015. However, A G Lafley the existing CEO who has led the P&G from 2000 will remain as the chairman of the company.
- In a move that will further deepen India-Israel strategic cooperation, Rafael of Israel and India's Kalyani Group are forming a manufacturing Joint Venture (JV) to produce Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) in India and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) will be the system integrator.
- Israel's Parliament passed a contentious law that would permit the force-feeding of inmates on hunger strike, eliciting harsh criticism over the practice.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has topped the list of the world's wealthiest private foundations established by living ultra-high net worth (UHNW) individuals, according to a Wealth—X report.
- The Reserve Bank announced plans to put into circulation 10 rupee coins to commemorate the International Day of Yoga. The coin bears the logo of the International Day of Yoga, with the inscription "Saamanjasya evam shanthi ke liye yog" in Devanagari script and "yoga for harmony and peace" around the logo. At the bottom of the logo the date June 21 is inscribed, according to an official statement.
- India is going to become the most populous nation in the world by surpassing China in 2022. It was revealed in recently released United Nation's report titled 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision' indicating India's population growth within next seven years.

31st July

- Forbes Asia Fabulous 50 list released on the eve of its 10th Anniversary has listed 10 Indian companies which stands second after China in terms of number of companies listed. China's Tencent continued to be at the top on chart. Indian companies that made to the list are: HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Aurobindo Pharma, Lupin, Sun Pharma Industries, Motherson Sumi Systems, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors and Titan.
- Delhi Government has notified Witness Protection Scheme 2015, a policy regarding protection of witnesses with provisions for a protection fund. With this, Delhi becomes the first state/union territory in India to notify such policy to ensure protection of witnesses in crucial cases.

- Cyclone Komen made landfall in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. The cyclone has caused heavy rains that inundated vast areas of the coastal towns of Bangladesh, West Bengal and Odisha.
- Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revised Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with an effect from 1 April, 2015. The scheme aims for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs. The development will be based on Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) Plan prepared on the basis of assessment of their requirements by the concerned State Governments.
- Every year 7th August will be celebrated as National Handloom Day. It was announced by Union Textiles Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar in both the Houses of Parliament. Observance of this day aims at development of handloom weavers in the country.
- Beijing was chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, becoming the first city to be awarded both summer and winter Games.
- France's biggest bank, BNP Paribas SA, has agreed to buy Indian brokerage Sharekhan for an undisclosed sum as it looks to beef up retail broking operations in India, taking advantage of a surge in retail investments into stocks.
- The Ebola virus is likely to be eradicated once and for all as a new vaccine developed against the disease by Public Health Agency of Canada has shown 100 % efficiency in a trial that was carried out in Guinea. The preliminary data extracted from the vaccination of 4,000 people suggest that the vaccine "works to protect" humans from the Ebola attack.
- The Union Government informed the Parliament that there is no provision for according special status to any State any more.
- In an order passed in the Sumit vs. Chief Election Officer (CEO) case, the Central Information Commission (CIC) upheld the voter's right and directed that the appellant be paid Rs.10,000 as compensation for not being informed about the deletion of his name from the voters' list and further being denied information on it under the RTI Act.
- Union Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal gave away the Arjuna Award to R. Ashwin. The off-spinner was unable to make it to the National Sports Awards function on August 29 last year as he was in England playing the One-Day International series.
- Astronomers using a NASA telescope have confirmed the discovery of the nearest rocky planet outside our solar system which is larger than Earth and a potential gold

mine of science data. Dubbed HD 219134b, the exoplanet, which orbits too close to its star to sustain life, is mere 21 light-years away. It is also the closest exoplanet to Earth to be detected transiting, or crossing in front of, its star and, therefore, perfect for extensive research.

