

CLATGyan Compendium – 1st July 2015 to 15th July 2015

1st July

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Digital India Week to spread awareness about Digital India Programme. The Department of Electronics & Information Technology is the nodal agency for implementing the Digital India Programme. The newly created week aims to encourage people to involve and create awareness among them. Several projects or products were launched such as the digital locker system, Swacch Bharat mission app, eSign framework, the Online Registration System (ORS), National Scholarships Portal, Digitize India Platform (DIP), Bharat Net, etc.
- Greece became the first developed nation to default on International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt. It defaulted on payment of 1.7 billion dollar (1.5 billion euro) to IMF. Greece is at a risk of leaving Euro and shifting back to its old currency Drachma; the replacement had taken place in the year 2001.
- Matti Makkonen who was the pioneer of SMS (short messaging service) technology died. He was a Finnish tech pioneer who had collaborated with two other colleagues in 1984 at a telecommunications conference. It was on 3rd December 1992 that the first text message was sent from a computer to a mobile device via the Vodafone network. He joined with Nokia Network in 2000, was CEO of Finnet Oy from 2003 to 2005 and was also the President of Telecom Finland in 1989.
- The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India released data on disabled population by type of disability, type of households and sex-2011.

2nd July

- The Haryana Government launched the Mhara Gaon- Jagmag Gaon scheme aimed at providing 24 hour uninterrupted power supply to rural domestic customers in a phased manner with their active participation. Haryana has thus become the first in the country to launch such an innovative voluntary scheme.
- Sanjeev Galande was selected for the GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2014. He will be the 24th recipient of the award.
- Darshna Jain, an Indian-American teacher from Illinois, US was named for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching along with 108 other Mathematics and Science teachers by President Barack Obama.

- Anisa Rasouli, the head of the Afghan Women Judges Association was nominated as the first ever female Supreme Court judge of Afghanistan. A Supreme Court judge in Afghanistan has a fixed tenure of ten years.

3rd July

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that it had successfully flight tested Prandtl-d (Preliminary Research Aerodynamic Design to Land on Mars) aircraft which is touted to be the first airplane to be launched on Mars between 2020 and 2024.
- Scientists discovered that the Interleukin-21 (IL-21) protein plays an important role in limiting replication of human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) in infected humans. Scientists discovered that this protein produced by the CD4+T cells, plays an important role by activating microRNA-29 in other CD4 T cells that specialise in killing HIV-1 virus.
- Cuba became the first country to eliminate mother-to-child (vertical) transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and syphilis in the world. Cuba was able to achieve this feat by integrating with its Public Health's HIV program with the maternal and child health program in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) of the WHO.
- National Green Tribunal imposed a complete ban on plastic bags in the pilgrimage towns of Haridwar and Rishikesh.

4th July

- The Union Cabinet approved the India's first integrated National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015. This Policy acknowledges the need for an effective roadmap for promotion of entrepreneurship as the key to a successful skills strategy.
- Sir Fazle Hasan Abed was selected for the 2015 World Food Prize as he had contributed to reduce hunger in Bangladesh and 10 other countries through his organisation Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) which was established in 1972 as a relief operation to help the country recover from its war of independence.
- State Bank of India, the country's largest public sector lender launched Project Tatkal, an initiative to provide doorstep services and expedite Home Loan Application (HLA) process.

- Operation Shiva was launched by the Indian Army to provide security to those devotees taking part in the 59 day long annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Microsoft has agreed to develop Smart MIDC (industrial colony) and support Digital Village in Maharashtra. It has agreed to provide technology support for health care services by setting up the pilot project at Melghat in Amravati district. It has also agreed to set up a cyber-security centre in Pune.

5th July

- The Backward Classes Welfare Department has taken a step forward towards m-governance by launching a mobile app for the benefit of students interested in availing themselves of government's financial assistance for pursuing higher education abroad.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as part of Digital India Project, has provided Wi-Fi hotspot service in Hampi which such benefit both domestic and global tourists.

6th July

- Lewis Hamilton of Britain who drives for Mercedes secured the 2015 Formula 1 British Grand Prix title by winning the final race held at the Silverstone Circuit in Northamptonshire, England.
- Corporation Bank launched country's first MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) card under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) in Mangalore, Karnataka. The card is based on the RuPay platform and facilitates the withdrawal and use of the working capital finance by micro entrepreneurs. The PMMY was launched by Narendra Modi to ensure that credit facility reaches the small entrepreneurs through micro-finance institutions.
- The Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars of France were granted with the World Heritage Status by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). This decision was taken during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Bonn, Germany.
- United States of America won the FIFA Women's World Cup defeating Japan at Vancouver, Canada. This is the third world cup title for the USA. The player of the match was Carli Lloyd of US.
- The Supreme Court of India ruled that an unwed mother can be the sole legal guardian of the child without the consent of the father. It also held that it was not required for the mother to disclose the identity of the father. This direction was given by Justice

Vikramjit Sen who was hearing a plea of an unwed mother who was challenging the statutory necessity of involving the father of her child in guardianship petition.

- Chile won its first Copa American Cup football tournament defeating Argentina 4-1 at the Estadio Nacional in Santiago, Chile.
- Diana Douglas, a Hollywood actress famous for her roles in television series such as Naked City, The Waltons, Ben Casey, The Streets of San Francisco and The Paper Chase.

7th July

- President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated Nakshatra Vatika at his official Rashtrapati Nilayam Garden in Bolarum, Secunderabad. The vatika has plants representing planets, zodiac signs and stars.
- The book “37 Bridges and Other Stories” authored by Pakistani Aamer Hussein was released. It highlights the matter of identity with respect to both the Hindu and Muslim.

8th July

- “Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years” was published by HarperCollins and is authored by AS Dulat and Aditya Sinha. It focuses on initiatives launched by the Vajpayee Government between 1998 and 2004 to restore India to its normalcy.
- HDFC Bank, the country’s second largest private sector bank, launched Watch Banking application for Apple Watch. It became the first bank in India to offer the service of Watch Banking. It will allow customers to make banking transactions like account information, credit cards, mobile and DTH recharge, request account statements and cheque books.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov launched the first exploratory drilling of the Satpayev oil block by ONGC Videsh Limited and KazMunaiGaz of Kazakhstan. Satpayev is an offshore field in the Northern Caspian Sea.
- The World Boxing Organisation stripped Floyd Mayweather Jr of the Welterweight title which he had won by defeating Manny Pacquiao in May 2015 after he failed to pay 200000 dollar sanctioning fee required by the WBO after he won the belt.
- Goa will host the 5th Youth Delphic Games in February 2016. The motto will be “Celebrating Arts and Cultures”. These games are held every four years with participation from the age group of 15 to 25 years for the categories that include musical

arts and sounds, performing arts, language arts, visual arts, social arts and ecological arts & architecture.

- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) launched a mobile application named Pashu Poshan that will boost the dairy farmers' income by raising milk yield and cutting the feed cost.
- Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka entered the Guinness World Records for spending most number of days in space after 804 days on the International Space Station (ISS). He surpassed the previous record held by Sergei Krikalev, another Russian whose record was of 803 days, nine hours and 41 minutes in space.

9th July

- Operation Smile, a unique initiative of Ghaziabad Police to track missing children was successful when the police under this operation was able to trace at least 44 missing children from various parts of the state in a week.
- Professor Kamlesh Patel of Bradford OBE was appointed as an independent member on the 14 member board of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). He became the first British Asian to join the management board of the ECB.
- Inderjit Singh won the gold medal at the World University Games at the men's shot put event in Gwangju, South Korea. He became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the World University Games.
- Sriram Kalyanaraman was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Housing Board (NHB) for a period of 5 years. He became to first person from the private sector to head a Public Sector Financial Institution. NHB is a wholly owned subsidiary bank of the Reserve Bank of India and its objective is to promote housing finance institutions at local and regional levels.
- Climate Change was announced as the theme of 2015 Science Express. It was announced by the Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan at the 1st meeting of Science Express Climate Change Special. Science Express has been running successfully since 2007 and has been spreading awareness.
- The Indian Army dedicated the monument named Prerna Sthal at Hussainiwala to the nation. This monument was built to honour the sacrifice of the soldiers of India. It is located at the gateway of the memorial to Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

10th July

- A typhoon named Chan-hom moved north-west between the islands of Okinawa and Miyako of Japan with recorded gusts of 234 kilometres per hour.
- India and United States signed Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) to implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) which will promote transparency on tax matters.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a 10 point initiative named as 'Dus Kadam: 10 Steps for the Future' to boost cooperation within the members of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). These steps were related to trade fair, railway research, cooperation among supreme audit institutions, etc.
- The 7th BRICS Summit was held from 8th to 9th July 2015 in Ufa, Russia in Bashkortostan. The theme for this year was BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development. Apart from the BRICS Summit level meeting, there was a summit with the members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Eurasian Economic Union.
- India's first Earthquake Warning System (EWS) was successfully installed in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in the first week of July. This system has already been installed in Japan, Italy and the US. It issues warning 1-40 seconds before the occurrence of earthquakes of 5 or more magnitude.

11th July

- India and Pakistan were accepted as full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a six-member regional grouping that includes China and Russia. India has had an observer status in the group for the past 10 years and will become a full member by 2016.
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) in New Delhi. It aims to include a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children. It is a concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched five British satellites into space from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikotta. There are three identical DMC3 optical earth observation satellites and two auxiliary satellites namely CBNT-1 and De-OrbitSail.

- The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) selected four astronauts to provide crew transportation services to and from the International Space Station. Robert Behnken, Eric Doe, Douglas Hurley and Sunita Williams will work with The Boeing Company and SpaceX to develop crew transportation systems and provide crew transportation services to and from the International Space Station (ISS).

13th July

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) constituted a special team of 40 officers to probe the multi-crore Vyapam scam of Madhya Pradesh. The team will be headed by CBI Joint Director RP Agarwal. The scam involved a collusion of undeserving candidates, who bribed politicians and MPPEB officials through middlemen, to get high ranks in the admission and recruitment entrance tests.
- Novak Djokovic won the men's singles title of Wimbledon by defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland. Serena Williams won the women's single title against Garbine Muguruza from Spain. This was Serena's sixth Wimbledon women's singles title. Leander Paes and Martina Hingis won mixed doubles title defeating Austrain-Hungarian team of Alexander Peya and Timea Babos. Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis, the top seeded Indo-Swiss pair won women's doubles title defeating the Russian duo of Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina. With this win, Sania Mirza became the first woman to win a Wimbledon title.
- The book 'Green Signal: Ecology, Growth and Democracy in India' written by Jairam Ramesh was released recently. It unveils the story of environmental policy making in India from the perspective of a pivotal decision maker.
- The Patnitop Tunnel is set to open in the year 2016. It is touted to be India's longest road tunnel and is also known as the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel. It connects Chenani in Udhampur with Nashri in Ramban district on the NH1A. The objective of this tunnel is to make the NH1A all-weather friendly by avoiding frequent disruptions to traffic caused due to snowfall and avalanche. It is 9.2 kms long and is part of the ambitious 286 km-long four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.
- The United States of America formally designated Tunisia as the 16th Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA). The MNNA status offers privileges including eligibility for training, loans of equipment for cooperative research and development. The other MNNA's are Tunisia, Australia, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

- Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju formally launched the GAGAN system (GPS AIDED GEO AUGMENTED NAVIGATION) in New Delhi. India became the fourth nation after the US, Europe and Japan to have inter-operable Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS). Also, GAGAN is the first SBAS system in the world to serve the equatorial region.

14th July

- Vivek Agnihotri's 'Buddha in a Traffic Jam' won the Best Original Screenplay award in the Foreign Language Category at the Madrid International Film Festival, Spain.
- Justice RM Lodha-headed panel on IPL Betting Scandal 2013 suspended Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Rajasthan Royals for a period of two years.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) suspended Mumbai Ranji cricketer Hiken Shah with immediate effect after he was found guilty of breaching BCCI's Anti-Corruption Code for participants.
- Lt Gen Man Mohan Singh Rai was appointed as the Vice-Chief of the Indian Army and will succeed Lt Gen Philip Campose who will superannuate the office.

15th July

- The Urban Development Ministry launched the National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) for 12 cities in the country starting with Amritsar in Punjab. This scheme will seek to preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country. The other cities are Varanasi, Warangal, Ajmer, Gaya, Mathura, Kanchipuram, Vellankini, Amaravati, Badami, Dwaraka and Puri.
- NASA's New Horizons space probe made the closest approach to Pluto when it flew 12600 km from the surface of Pluto at an average speed of 49750 kph. The purpose of this probe is to study Pluto, its moons and the Kuiper Belt.
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the #100Women Initiative in collaboration with Facebook to select 100 women achievers of India.
- Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the broad gauge railway line between Gandhidham and Tuna-Tekra Port in Gujarat by flagging off a goods train. The rail line is India's first railway-line built with private sector participation under Non-Government Railway (NGR) Policy 2012 of Indian railways.

- Kamal Bawa, a prominent Indian-origin scientist was elected, along with two other Indian-origin scientists to the Royal Society of London. The other two scientists were Ajay Sood and John Kuriayn.
- Indigenously developed helicopter-launched Nag (HeliNa) missile was fired at the Chandhan firing range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. HeliNa is a variant of Nag anti-tank guided missile (ATGM). Nag missile is a third generation fire-and-forget and can be fired during night and day.
- United States (US) Department of Defence decided to set up a working group to study the policy and readiness implications of allowing transgender persons to serve in the military of the nation.