

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

1st September

- The world- renowned auction house Sotheby's is opening its first Indian office in Mumbai. Sotheby's had held its first auction in India in October 1992, in New Delhi which was also the first time that an international house had held an auction in India.
- The Supreme Court has lifted the ban on the religious practice of Sallekhana or Santhara, a ritualistic fast unto death practice of the Jain Community.
- The Ramon Magsaysay award for 2015 from India was conferred on Anshu Gupta and Sanjiv Chaturvedi of India in a ceremony held in Manila, Philippines. Philippine President, Benigno Aquino III, presented the award to them.
- M M Kalburgi, veteran Kannada writer, was shot down dead by unidentified persons. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award (2006) for Marga, a collection of his research articles. He was a rationalist and a Communist ideologue and often had run-ins with right wing Hindutva groups over the years.
- The top states having highest social Media activity related to the terror outfit IS (Islamic State) are Jammu and Kashmir, followed by Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. The top cities are Srinagar, Guwahati, Chinchwad (Maharashtra), Howrah, Mumbai and Unnao. In Southeast Asia, the maximum traffic is from Pakistan. The age profile of those showing the most interest in IS- related social Media activity: 16-30 years.
- The first designer to 3D- print an entire fashion collection at home is Israeli Designer Danit Peleg.
- Singapore has lifted a two- decade ban on HIV- infected people from entering the country, but will limit their stay to a maximum of three months.
- Wesley Earl Craven, the man behind the 'Nightmare on Elm Street' and 'Scream' died. His most famous villain was Freddy Krueger, who became one of the top killers in horror movie history alongside Michael Myers of the 'Halloween' franchisee and Jason Voorhees of the 'Friday the 13th' films. Before his death he was nearing the completion of a five- issue comic book series about zombies, werewolves and vampires, called 'Coming of Rage', which he wrote with Steve Niles.
- Highest mountain in North America to be renamed as 'Denali', instead of its existing name of 'Mt McKinley', meeting the long pending demand of Native Americans in Alaska. The peak had been named after the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley.

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- U2 frontman Bono has become the world's richest pop star; he is worth £ 940 million. He has overtaken Beatles legend, Paul McCartney, who is estimated at £730 million. The 'Beautiful Day' hitmaker had bought a 2.3% share in the social networking website, Facebook, for £56 million in 2009 with the investment group that he co- founded, Elevation Partners. Today the share of the 55- year old is worth £940 million. Since its inception in Dublin in 1976, the U2 Band has become one of the world's biggest rock acts. The news comes after Facebook co- founder Mark Zuckerberg announced last week that over billion people used the website in a single day, which means one in seven people on Earth.
- P K Singh, Durgapur Plant's CEO, has been appointed as the new chairman of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL).
- Rajasthan is the only State which has become fully compliant with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- The test series between India and South Africa will henceforth be known as 'The Mahatma Gandhi- Nelson Mandela Series'.
- Ashes series 2015 won by Australian women cricketers. The trophy was presented during the England- Australia T20I in Cardiff, Wales.

2nd September

- The Sports Ministry of India has decided to recognize yoga as a sports discipline and put it in the 'Priority' category. It has also decided to upgrade fencing from 'others' to 'general' category and to place University Sports in the 'priority' category.
- Maruti Suzuki India has introduced India's first smart hybrid diesel car and has named it 'Ciaz SHVS'. The company claims that it is India's most fuel- efficient car at 28.09 km per litre.
- Denmark will send its first man into space and in keeping with the country's love of all things cycling, one of his jobs will be to test new equipment on Danish- made exercise bikes at the International Space Station. Andreas Mogensen will lift off at 0437 GMT accompanied by Russian Sergei Volkov and Kazakh Aidyn Aimbetov on ESA's 10- day "sprint" mission.
- Television series "Game of Thrones" has set a new record in the Guinness World Records 2016 book for largest TV simulcast. The series aired the largest simultaneous broadcast when the second episode of Season five was simulcast to 173 countries around the world on April 20.
- During December 8 to November 26, an extraordinary holy year or "Jubilee" on the theme of mercy announced by Pope Francis, all priests will be able to forgive abortions. Usually only designated clergy and missionaries can formally forgive abortions.

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- The promise made by world leaders two decades ago to have women make up at least 30% of their national legislators has only been followed by 44 out of 190 countries, according to an analysis by Inter-Parliamentary Union. They include Rwanda (64% of its lower house members are women) and Bolivia (53%). The figures for USA are- among the House of Representatives members 19% are women and in the Senate this figure is 20%. In India, the figures are 12 and 12.8% respectively in lower and upper houses. In Afghanistan, women's representation in lower house is 27%.
- A bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and N V Ramana of the Supreme Court has held that differently abled persons can claim benefit of reservation in Government- jobs only at the time of appointment and cannot get the benefit of the affirmative policy in promotions.
- According to the World Breastfeeding Trends initiative (WBTi) 2015, only about 44% of women in India are able to breastfeed their babies within one hour of delivery. India scored 78 out of 150, only marginally better than its 2012 score of 74. India ranks lowest among South Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka in breast-feeding practices. Prepared by the Breast Feeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) and the Public Health Resource Network (PHRN), the report indicates marginal improvement in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices. The assessment is done every three to five years as part of World Health Organization's (WHO) World Breastfeeding Trend Initiatives (WBTi). According to the data, out of 26 million born in India, 14.5 million children are not able to get optimal feeding practices during the first years of life. While 44.6% women initiate breastfeeding within one hour of delivery, 64.9% are breastfed upto six months and 50.5% babies receive complementary food within 6-8 months.
- The first six presidents of independent India received 263 mercy petitions from those who were on death row, of which only one was rejected and the rest commuted to life imprisonment. The only rejection was by Dr Rajendra Prasad. R Venkatramana rejected the maximum number of mercy petitions (45), followed by incumbent President Pranab Mukherjee who rejected 31 of the 33 petitions he has received so far. Since Independence, 437 mercy petitions have been filed with successive Presidents, of which 306 cases were commuted to life. All this was compiled by the Law Commission and form part of its report on death penalty.

3rd September

- India has signed an agreement with UNESCO to establish the world's first centre for the conservation of 'natural' heritage sights at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. The centre will cater to the entire Asia- Pacific region for not just conserving existing sites

but also identifying potential natural heritage sites across 50 countries. This is the first time that an existing institute (WII) has been accorded such recognition by UNESCO. It is also the first centre which will be established for the management and training in the field of natural heritage in the world. Asia- Pacific region has 227 world heritage properties out of which 59 are 'natural sites'. Among these, 32 properties are in India, including seven 'natural' heritage sites, namely- Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunderban National Park, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park, Western Ghats (39 select sites) and the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area. UNESCO has 'World Heritage Centres' in eight countries- South Africa, Spain, Italy, China, Bahrain, Brazil, Mexico and Norway- which are meant for conservation of only 'cultural' heritage.

- India is going to hold its first- ever-bilateral naval exercise with Australia, called AusIndex, off Vishakhapatnam from September 12 to 21. Also, India will attend Royal Australian Air Force exercise Pitch Black, to bolster bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.
- A building known as 20 Fenchurch Street, a 37- storey office tower in the City of London financial district and nicknamed as Walkie Talkie, has been awarded the annual Carbuncle Cup that highlights perceived architectural horrors. The building had been given a new moniker, Walkie Scorchie after it melted a Jaguar parked below, due to the concentration of sun's rays on it. The building had been developed by a joint venture between construction and property groups Land Securities and Canary Wharf Group. This award was launched in 2006 as a humorous counterpart to the prestigious Stirling Prize for good architecture.
- According to rankings released by UK- based Skytrax Consultancy Agency as part of its five star ranking system, which is widely considered the global benchmark of airline standards, North Korea's Air Koryo is the world's worst airline. The airline, the only one to receive one star, has received this distinction for four straight years.
- According to the data released by Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA), Indians have emerged as the largest ethnic group among the newly registered sperm donors in UK. During 2009 and 2013, 52 Indians registered to donate sperms, followed by 34 Irish, 26 Africans, 17 Chinese and 13 Pakistanis. In UK, around one in seven couples have difficulty conceiving- numbering to 3.5 million people across the country. Similarly 57 Indian women signed up to be egg donors and were second only to Black Africans- 74 in number. There were 26 Pakistani women, 5 Bangladeshi women and 29 Chinese women.

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Britain has recently witnessed its biggest baby boom in the last 40 years, recording 48 new births every hour. The population was found to be growing by 1,150 every day.

- The world's first supersonic car which aims to run at 1000 miles per hour (1609 km/h) will be unveiled in UK's financial hub of Canary Wharf on the 24th of September.
- The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) has named Los Angeles as its candidate for the 2024 Olympics, for a bid to stage the sporting extravaganza for a third time.
- Durban has officially been anointed host of 2022 Commonwealth Games, making it the first African city to ever stage the sporting spectacular. Durban is the third largest city in South Africa.
- Cheteshwar Pujara has jumped four places to the 20th spot in the ICC Test Rankings, making him the second Indian batsman to feature in the Top 20. However, following Virat Kohli's drop to 11th (down by one spot), the fifth ranked side has no batsmen in the Top 10. Also, Rohit Sharma has moved up two places to 48th and R R Ashwin has gained five spots and is now on the 50th spot.
- Jet Lite has merged with Jet Airways. Jet Airways had bought Air Sahara in 2007 and branded it as Jet Lite/ Jet Connect, a low cost carrier.
- According to US- based job hunting website Glassdoor.com, Chief Executives of healthcare platform Practo and India's biggest e- commerce company Flipkart have received the highest approval ratings from their employees. Practo has 100% of its reviewers approving Shashank ND as CEO, while Flipkart's Sachin Bansal has an approval rating of 94%. Snapdeal Chief Executive Kunal Bahl has the approval rating of 91% reviewers, restaurant review website Zomato's Deepinder Goyal has received 88%, Bhavish Agarwal , CEO of India's largest taxi aggregator Olacabs and Vijay Sekhar Sharma, founder of Paytm have approval ratings of 70% and 69% respectively. As for overall ratings of the companies, Flipkart scores 3.9/5, Practo 3.5, Zomato 3.3 and Snapdeal 3.3. Among major IT Companies in India, Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka has the highest approval rating of 95%, followed by Cognizant's Fransisco D'Souza with 94%, TCS's Natarajan Chandrasekharan with 87%, Wipro's CEO T K Kurien with 74% and HCL's Anant Gupta with 69%.

4th September

- According to Lloyd's, the world's oldest active insurance marketplace, Mumbai tops the global list in terms of economic output at risk (\$ 8 billion) in the event of a terrorist attack, followed by Kabul. In terms of GDP@risk due to power outage, Mumbai and Delhi rank

third and fourth respectively. However, the biggest risk to Mumbai's output is a human pandemic which has the potential to cause losses amounting to \$ 11.44 billion, followed by terrorism, market crash, flood and oil price shocks. Lloyd's City Risk Index is the first bid to measure the economic output at risk in 301 countries from 18 man-made and natural threats over a decade. In terms of events, the biggest threat to economic output is a crash in stock markets, which could collapse \$ 1 trillion, followed by human pandemic (\$ 591 billion) and windstorm (\$ 586 billion). The top three cities in terms of GDP@risk are Taipei (\$181 billion), Tokyo (\$153 billion) and Seoul (\$ 103 billion).

- The government has cancelled the registration of Greenpeace India under Section 13 of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), for engaging in activities that have hampered the country's economic growth. Due to this, the NGO will not be able to receive funds from abroad, which form upto 30% of its overall cost of operations.
- Ashwani Lohani has been appointed as the new chairman of Air India, replacing Rohit Nandan.
- Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina has resigned in the face of a corruption scandal.
- Van Hecht Nielsen, a 41-year old artist and Catholic convert, has painted the largest hand-painted mural of Francis ever done, a project commissioned by the Diocese of Brooklyn. The 180-foot tall mural, overlooking the Madison Square Gardens, is to celebrate a Mass by Pope Francis in New York.
- On 3rd September 2015, China celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II in Asia with a massive parade, where President Xi Jinping announced a cut in the size of 2.3 million strong military by 3,00,000 men, seen as a part of the country's ongoing military modernization programme meant to shift the dependence from men to computerized machines. India was represented by Union Minister Gen (retd) V K Singh, who was among the delegates from 50 countries. India, however, refrained from sending its troops to march in China's Tiananmen Square; soldiers from 17 countries including Pakistan, Russia and Central Asian Republics attended it. The event was also attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who stood next to President Xi.
- HCL Technologies, India's fourth largest IT services company, has signed a three year deal with English football club Manchester United, to help it set up a state-of-art digital infrastructure lab. The lab named United Experience Lab, will come up at Manchester United's home ground Old Trafford Stadium.
- Dennis Lillee has quit as the President of Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA).

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- Sri Lanka's coach Marvan Atapattu has quit following the team's defeat by India, who recorded their first Test series win on the island after 22 years. Atapattu, 44, was the seventh Sri Lanka head coach in the past five years.
- In the latest FIFA rankings, the Indian football team has climbed up a place to occupy the 155th spot. The first place is held by Copa America runners- up Argentina, followed by Belgium and then Germany.
- Pakistan's former hockey World Cup winning captain, Shahbaz Ahmed has been appointed as the new general- secretary of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF).

5th September

- The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to allow permanent commission for women in the navy. A bench of Justices Kailash Gambhir and Najmi Waziri also accepted the officers pleas seeking retirement benefits. Earlier, the navy, unlike the Army and the Air Force, which allow permanent commission for women, had limited women officers only to short service commission of 14 years. Women were not eligible for pension as it required 20 years of service.
- Marathwada Region had a rainfall deficit of 52% this year, the highest in the country. There is only 7.6% water left in Marathwada's dams. Also, 5 out of its 11 major dams have hit dead storage level.
- The number of forcibly displaced people has reached nearly 60 million, the highest amount since World War II. To address this alarming trend, the United Nations Secretary- General has called a 'World Humanitarian Summit' between May 23 and 24 of 2016 in Istanbul.
- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka have emerged among the top applicants for asylum to UK in 2014. Pakistan was on top, in these four countries, with 2,711 applicants, followed by 1,282 from Sri Lanka, 1,136 from Afghanistan and nearly 800 from Bangladesh. The highest though, were from Eritrea with 3,239 applications. The Home Office immigration stats revealed by the Oxford Migration Observatory shows that men made up nearly 73% main applicants for asylum in 2014. Eurostat data for top five European countries and UK in terms of 2014 showed that the highest numbers of claims were seen in Germany (202, 815), Sweden (81,325) and Italy (64,625).
- Indian- American Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri has been selected for the prestigious 2014 National Humanities Medal that would be presented to her by US President Barack Obama. She has been selected for enlarging the human story.

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- Twice Olympic Champion Shelly- Ann Fraser- Pryce won the Diamond League Women's 100 m final with a time of 10.93 seconds. She picked up \$40,000 for the event, taking place in Zurich.

6th September

- The National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal cloned the world's first buffalo in 2009 and has repeated the experiment over the years. The 11th such calf, named "Swarupa" was born month, using an advanced 'hand- guided cloning technique'. The donor cell had been taken from the ear of an adult buffalo named "Karan Kirti", who has a peak yield of 25.1 kg (the density of milk is approximately 1.03 kg per litre).
- Bollywood music composer and singer Aadesh Shrivastava passed away on 5th September, a day after he turned 51. His last movie was 'Welcome Back'
- India's African outreach in the form of 3rd Indian African Forum Summit will take place in New Delhi from October 26-30, 2015. The summit will see the largest ever gathering of leaders at this level ever in the country, with 35 heads of State and Government already confirming their participation. It will even surpass the 1983 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which was attended by 33 leaders. India had invited overall 54 countries in Africa for the summit.
- Queen Elizabeth will deliver a rare public speech on 9th September to mark 63 years and 7 months of her rule- making her UK's longest- reigning monarch. She bats the record set by her great- great- grandmother Queen Victoria- 63 years, 7 months. Queen Elizabeth II is the first UK monarch to have sent an email (1976) and tweet (2014). Her marriage has endured for almost 70 years, longer than that of any British Monarch. She will mark the historic day by inaugurating Borders Railway- the longest domestic railway line to be built in UK in over a century.
- The world's first recycled biofuel pyrotechnics show was held in Bristol, Britain, where a 50- tonne arcadia spider was constructed using repurposed military hardware and fuelled by waste oil from local fish and chips shops.
- The north-eastern town of Naraha has become the first in Japan to have the four and a half year old evacuation order lifted. It was one of the several municipalities forced to empty entirely due to radiation contamination following the massive earthquake and tsunami that send the Fukushima nuclear plant's reactors into triple meltdown in March 2011.

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- Former US- Intelligence Contractor Edward Snowden, who has been granted asylum by Russia, received the Norwegian Freedom of Expression Prize by videophone from Russia.
- Olympic medallist Gagan Narang of India has achieved the No. 1 spot in men's 50m rifle prone shooting category in Asia. He has 971 points to his credit, whereas China's Shengbo Zhao is placed second with 896 points.
- India will host "AAI Paragliding World Cup 2015" at Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh from October 23-31.
- Spanish giants Real Madrid will donate 1- million Euros to help support projects for refugees in Spain. Bayern Munich would also give a million Euros and work with Munich authorities to set up training camps for children to receive German lessons, meals and football kits.

7th September

- A 12- year old Indian- origin girl in the UK has achieved a score of 162 on a Mensa IQ test, which is the highest possible score that there is; outwitting physicists Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking who are thought to have scores of 160. Lydia Sebastian from Essex has joined the one percent of all entrants to attain the highest mark in the Cattell III B paper supervised by Mensa, the society for people with the highest IQs. Lydia has joined Nicole Barr, a 12- year old from Harlow, Essex as well as Aahil Jouher, 10 –year old from Blackburn in achieving perfect Mensa scores this year. The maximum score in the Cattell III B is 161 for adults and 162 for under- 18s. Mensa is believed to be the largest and the oldest IQ society in the world.
- The G20 Finance Ministers meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey.
- World's No. 1 women's tennis player Serena Williams has the biggest social Media following. Second to her is No. 1 doubles player Sania Mirza, who has more than 2.9 million followers on Twitter.
- England's all- rounder Shane Watson has announced his retirement from Test Cricket on Cricket Australia's official website. The last of the 34- year Old's 10- year old Test career came in the Ashes open at Cardiff which England won by 169 runs. Watson made 30 and 19 with the bat and failed to take a wicket. Watson played 59 Tests for England, scoring 3,731 runs and taking 75 wickets. His decision to retire follows that of Australian Test Captain Michael Clarke's decision to retire from all forms of cricket in the wake of Ashes series defeat in England.

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- Wayne Rooney has equaled the international record of 1966 World Cup- winner Bobby Charlton of 106 caps and 49 goals.
- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Italian Grand Prix in Monza. It was Hamilton's 40- career victory
- China beat Japan to win their fourth women's volleyball World Cup title.