INDIAN AFFAIRS

- Three-day Mayyazhi Mahotsavam celebrated in Mahe, Puducherry - Seminar on “waste is wealth” was held.
- Indian Railways inked Rs.40000cr deal of locomotive plants with America’s General Electric GE and France’s Alstom
- Maharashtra is the biggest economy within India at Rs 16.87 lakh crore in terms of gross state domestic product (GSDP) - 4th edition of report by credit rating agency Brickwork.
- HRD Minister Smriti Irani launched GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) scheme to boost the quality of the country’s higher education.
- President Pranab Mukherjee given assent to the Labour Laws Bill of Gujarat to ban strikes in public utility services for up to one year -Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime (GCTOC) Bill, 2015 - maximum of Rs.21,000
- Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das declared the state as drought-hit - Rs.1,398 crore Delhi Assembly passed three major education bills-
  - Delhi School Education Amendment Bill (DSEAA)
  - Verification of Accounts and Refund of Excess Fee Bill (5lakh – 10lakh fine)
  - Imprisonment for violators of various provisions.
- Gov gave nod to introduction of Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2015 – active at Faridabad
- Union Cabinet ratified the signing of agreement between India and Iran on visa facilitation for Diplomatic, Official/Service and Ordinary passport holders
- Union Cabinet ratified a MoU between India and Germany for Capital Goods Sector and Solar Energy
- Union Cabinet given its nod for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives in the field of sports and youth affairs.
- India and Bahrain signed agreement to provide cooperation to tackle international terrorism transnational organized crime and psychotropic substances
- Union Cabinet given its nod for signing of a MoU between India and Israel in the field of water resources management and development cooperation.
- Union Cabinet approves Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) signed between India and Japan in 1989 - to facilitate tax-related exchange of information.
- Goa Gov launched National Food Security Act, 2013
  - Aim: To benefit more than one third of the state’s population - 5 kgs of subsidized rice or wheat per person per month
- Union Cabinet gives nod to establish 6 new IITs
- Lok Sabha passed The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015 to make BIS as National Standards Body of India
  - Replace the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.
- Union Cabinet approved rehabilitation package for Bangladesh enclaves -Rs.1006 crore - Cooch Behar district
- PM Modi launches Accessible India campaign in Delhi and Arun Jaitley unveiled the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan for disability people.
- National Green Tribunal announced - Rs 5,000 fine on anyone found using or dealing with plastic in Chandigarh.
- Himachal Pradesh became first state to launch Rotavirus vaccination project - Dharamsala in district Kangra – CM Virbhadra Singh
- Union Government releases postal stamp to mark centenary year of ZSI (Zoological Survey of India)
- Arvind Subramanian Committee suggests GST (Goods and Services Tax) rate of 17-18 per cent
- Delhi Janlokpal Bill, 2015 passed by the assembly - two amendments proposed by activist Anna Hazare.
- Delhi Assembly passed MLA of NCT of Delhi (Salaries, Allowances, Pension, etc.) (Amendment) Bill, 2015 - 400 per cent hike in the salaries of MLAs
- Married daughters eligible for appointment on compassionate grounds - Allahabad High Court Justice D. Y. Chandrachud and Justice Yashwant
• AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu launched 'She Autos' scheme and distributed 49 CNG-fuelled autos to women drivers.

• Lok Sabha passes bill to enhance compensation for Air Travellers - Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju

• Uttar Pradesh Gov launched first International festival on Birds at the National Chambal Sanctuary in Agra.

• Andhra Pradesh become the first state in the country to join the Centre's scheme UDAY – Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana

• 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary year celebrations of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Babasaheb, PM Narendra Modi released two commemorative coins of Rs 125 and Rs 10 denomination.

• Railway minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the 1,000-passenger Mumbai-Margao-Mumbai double decker express train - train no 11085

• South Western Railways (SWR) Zone has introduced biodiesel for trains to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) emission and carbon footprint.

• 6th Meeting of Group on Automatic Exchange of Information held in New Delhi

• 8<sup>th</sup> edition of a bilateral exercise between the Indian and Russian navies “INDRA NAVY” started in Visakhapatnam

• India and Japan are planned to ink an agreement on ‘Bullet Trains’ during Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s visit - Mumbai and Ahmedabad - Rs 90,000 crore

• National Youth Festival in Chhattisgarh from Jan 12, 2016 - 153rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

• Delhi government to provide full proof driving on planning rule by Dec 25 - Odd-even number scheme - to curb air pollution in Delhi.

• HRD Minister Smriti Irani launched Kala Utsav to promote the culture
  - Theme – “living traditions of tribal, folk and traditional arts of different regions”

• Indialaunched the Indian Long Term Ecological Observatories (I-LTEO) programme to scientifically monitor 8 different biomes (natural landscapes).

• Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015 introduced in Lok Sabha to fast track nuclear power projects - Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) Jitendra Singh.

• Maharashtra has become first state to allow the members of state legislature to raise online questions.

• First India International Science Festival begins at IIT-Delhi - Organized by Vijana Bharati (VIBHA), an NGO

• Lok Sabha passes High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2015 - Article 175

• Rajya Sabha passed the Negotiable Instrument (Amendment) Bill 2015 - Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
  - For filing of cheque bounce cases at the place where a cheque is presented for clearance and not the place of issue.

• Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) has constituted a seven-member subcommittee to examine the issue of these sales.
  - Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

• Govt extends Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) deadline to Dec 31

• MoU signed between Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of MSME for establishing a Technology Centre at Kanpur

• MoU signed between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) with focus on capital goods and automotive sector was signed.

• Union Cabinet given its approval to carry out official amendments in The National Waterways Bill, 2015.
  - 106 additional inland waterways as the national waterways

• Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2015 consented by Cabinet

• Lok Sabha passes Indian Trusts (Amendment), Bill 2015 - Amend Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

• Supreme Court has ordered to include the names of the acid attack victims in the list of disabled people -Justice M.Y.Jeqbal and Justice C. Nagappan.

• Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved creation of buffer stock of pulses to deal
  - 50000 tonnes of pulses from the kharif crop and 1 lakh tonnes from the Rabi crop.

• Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on cooperation in the energy sector
PM Narendra Modi visit to UK, India and United Kingdom launched a joint initiative “2016: UK-INDIA Year of Education, Research and Innovation” in New Delhi to increase mobility of students and faculty.

National Textile Corporation (NTC) has started e-auction of yarn
  - First e-auction of NTC yarn launched by the Union Minister of State for Textiles (I/C) - Santosh Kumar Gangwar.


Union Cabinet approved Rs 4,000 crore budgetary supports for introducing measures to encourage shipbuilding and ship repair industry in India – 10 years.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed a complete ban on use of any king of plastic from Gomukh to Haridwar along Ganga with effect from February 1, 2016 - NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar

Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) - “Sabla” implemented by Govt - Rs 27486.79 lakhs
  - Aims at empowering Adolescent Girls (AGs) between 11-18 years through nutrition, health care and life skills education.

Centre declared the recent floods in Tamil Nadu as a “calamity of severe nature” - declared as “National Disaster” - 1 crore

“Control of Potable Alcohol” along with 3 other bills approved to bring in legislative changes in atomic energy, potable alcohol, commercial disputes and bonus payments.

Gov signed MoU and documentation for establishing 3 Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) at Ranchi, Nagpur and Pune.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered ban on registration of new diesel-run vehicles in Delhi.

Losar festival celebrated across Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir – 15 days
  - Yolmo Losar is observed on the same day as of the Chinese New Year.

Maharashtra govt has constituted a task force under Union Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha for setting up an International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in Mumbai.

US English Access programme launched in Bihar, Kolkata Craig Hall inaugurated the first ever English Access Microscholarship Programme (Access) programme

Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe 3 days visit to India - 16 agreements.
  - 3 MoU on Railway sector
  - Varanasi – Smart city

Cancellation and Refund of Railway Tickets - Railway Passengers (Cancellation of tickets and refund of fare) Rules amended - Minister of State for Railways Shri Manoj Sinham

Haryana became the 11th state to join UDAY scheme

Rajasthan becomes the first state to submit smart city plan - Udaipur, Kota and Ajmer - Rs.6,457 cr for 5 years.

Goa gov approved the Rs 981.11 crore proposal for Panaji Smart City which was submitted to the Union Urban Development Ministry – total 19 cities - Rs 304.22 crores

Smart City Proposal (SCP) for the metropolis approved by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) with worth of 32000 crore rupees.

PM Narendra Modi chaired the Combined Commanders Conference on board INS Vikramaditya at Sea, off the coast of Kochi – 1st board an aircraft carrier.

Lok Sabha passed a bill that will allow state-run NPCIL to have collaboration with other PSUs in the nuclear field - Atomic Energy Amendment Bill 2015 proposes to amend the 1962 Atomic Energy Act

GOI requested the States/UTs to start “Operation Smile-II” from 1st January, 2016 to 31st January

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) announced the launch of the Phase 2 development – 20 institutions.

Lok Sabha passed the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Bill, 2015 to improve India’s global image on ease of doing business - Kirtri Azad

Supreme Court bans registration of new diesel SUVs, luxury cars in Delhi till March 31, 2016.

Union Cabinet approved a policy framework for development of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in coal and lignite bearing areas.
• UP Governor Ram Naik gave assent to state’s Revenue Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2015 for the amendment in UP Revenue Code 2006.
• AP Shah Committee appointed to look into ONGC, RIL dispute on KG gas fields - 11.122 billion cubic meters of natural gas, worth over Rs 11,000 crore
• Union Cabinet gives nod to amend Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 -in order to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in respect of the five states— Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Odisha and West Bengal.
• Maharashtra Gov announced a 10512 crore rupees relief package for more than 15000 drought-hit villages in 14 districts.
• Lok Sabha passed the Arbitration and Reconciliation (Amendment Bill), 2015 - Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 - to make the arbitration process more investor-friendly.
• Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar cleared the purchase of five S-400 Triumph long-range air defence systems from Russia - Rs. 40,000 crore
• Union Cabinet gives nod to MoU with BRICS countries for energy conservation - cooperation in joint scientific and technological research, conferencing
• Union Gov given nod to Google’s Loon project in the country - proposed by Google’s newly-appointed chief Sundar Pichai - 20 km using LTE or 4G technology
• AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu decided to abolish VAT, CST on Sugar factories and permit foreign institutions to establish their campuses in the state.
• Greenpeace India has released a ranking of the 17 cities covered by the National Air Quality Index (NAQI)- April to Nov
• Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution to ‘impeach’ Speaker Nabam Rebia
• Uttar Pradesh approved a complete ban on the distribution, manufacture and sales of polythene carry bags.
• PM Narendra Modi formally inaugurated the All-India conference of Directors General of Police (AICDGP) at Dhordo in white Rann of Kutch region near Bhuj, Gujarat.
• West Bengal approved the proposal for introducing five new districts in the state. The total number of districts in West Bengal will increase to 25.
  ➢ Basirhat district, Kalimpong district, Burdwan (Industrial) district, Jhargram district and Sundarbans district
• Jharkhand Assembly passed Single Window Clearance Bill, 2015 along with five others bills.
• Narendra Modi hands over Shyamji’s UK Bar certificate to CM Anandiben Patel
• Union Cabinet consented a policy framework for development of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in coal and lignite bearing areas in the country,
• Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced the establishment of 42 mega food parks worth Rs 2,000 crore
• 50th edition of the All-India conference of Directors General of Police (AICDGP) inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi at Dhordo village, Gujarat.
• Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has started using PAN (Permanent account number) instead of Aadhaar for validation under the National Pension System (NPS) scheme.
• Uttar Pradesh become the twelfth State to become part of centre’s UDAY (Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) scheme
• Union Minister of Human Resource Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani launched the 6th All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) in New Delhi.
  ➢ Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) -23.6% and Target of 30% GER by 2020
  ➢ Gender Parity Index (GPI) - 0.86 to 0.93
• Gujarat become the first state in the country to take up Public-Private Partnership Projects for redevelopment of slums in urban areas - under PM Awas Yojana
• Government Launches Toll-Free ‘Eyeway National Helpdesk’ for Visually Impaired Citizens of India - 1800-300-20469
• First prototype electric bus for MPs launched in New Delhi - first retrofitted electric bus with “Go Green” message - developed by KITI, Pune, ISRO - powered by lithium battery.
• Lok Sabha passes The National Waterways Bill, 2015 - 106 additional inland waterways
• High-level committee set up to probe freight train derailment of 25 wagons of a freight train in Uttar Pradesh.
• FSSAI sets up 9 panels to strengthen food regulatory mech - 12 referral laboratories and 82 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)
• Pranab Mukherjee dedicated the Bangalore based National Institute of Mental Health and Neurological Sciences (NIMHANS) to the nation
  ➢ Mental Health Policy - (World Mental Health Day - October 10) supported by the "Mental Health Action Plan 365"
• Lok Sabha passed the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015 to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.
• Bihar CM Nitish Kumar approved Patna Metro Rail project - Rs 14,000 crore
• Union Cabinet approved the Lucknow Metro Rail Project 22 stations - Rs 6928 crore
• Union Cabinet approves to expand visa-free diplomatic travel to 69 countries - transit and stay up to 90 days
• Gov approved an integrated scheme for the development and management of fisheries sector as it seeks to bring "blue revolution" - Rs 3,000 crore
• Manohar Parrikar inaugurated first "Cable Stay Bridge" of J & K - connectivity between the three states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab - Rs 145 crore
• CCEA approved investment of 5000 crore rupees into ONGC Videsh
• Bihar Gov banned 15-year-old diesel vehicles from plying on Patna roads - PM-2.5 is between 301 and 400
• Nirmala Sitharaman has announced Policy Intiative Development of Industrial / Economic
  ➢ Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC):
  ➢ Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC):
  ➢ Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC):
  ➢ Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC):
  ➢ Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC):
• Union Ministry of Environment notified norms for Coal-based Thermal Power Plants
  ➢ zero waste water discharge - PM10 (particulate matter), Sulphur Dioxide and Oxide of Nitrogen
• Chattisgarh top performer in Digital India Week 2015 - Himachal Pradesh(2nd) and Meghalaya(3rd)
• Gov added 106 drugs including that of HIV/AIDS, Cancer and Hepatitis C to the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) - 376 drugs
• Panchayat and Rural development minister of the state Rakibul Hussain launched the Food Security Act (FSA) in Nagaon district of Assam.
• AP State ranked first in e-transactions - National e-Transaction Count - Telegana-2nd and Kerala - 3rd.
• Microsoft's Nadella inked pacts with Andhra Pradesh to set up a CoE in Varanasi
• Gujarat govt planning to launch e-voting in panchayat polls by Gujarat State Election Commission (SEC)
• Make in India Week' to start from Feb 13
• Civil Aviation Ministry gave clearance for 4 Greenfield Airports - Nellore and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh, Dholera in Gujarat.
• Union Government links LPG subsidy to income - no LPG subsidy for taxpayers who earn over Rs 10 lakh annually
• Goa Governor Mridula Sinha has written a song on 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'
• Gujarat govt is set to announce its 1st Medical Policy for providing subsidy
• Report of the Committee on Revisiting & Revitalizing the PPP model of Infrastructure Development chaired by Dr. V. Kelkar issued
• Government has approved a financial aid of Rs 6,794 crore for Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh
• Haryana Government sets educational qualification for municipal polls to amend Section 13 A of Haryana Municipal Act 1973 and Section 8 of Haryana Municipal Corporation Act 1994.
• Three day Veda Convention and Vedic Conference begin in Kerala initiated by Minister for Tourism and Culture A.P. Anilkumar
• From January 1, 2016 - No interviews for junior-level government
• MoU between India and Jordan for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics
• Gov gave approval for signing a MoU(Raptor MoU) for conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia.
• Union Cabinet gives nod for India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation deal - India will be the first country to buy Australian uranium
• Union Cabinet approves construction of 69 bridges on Trilateral Highway in Myanmar - Rs.371
croc
• MoU between SINTEF, Norway and Central Public Works Department in the field of Recycling of Construction and Demolition Waste
• MoU signed between India and Maldives for the exchange of information with respect to taxes
• Narendra Modi given its approval for renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Canada for cooperation in Higher Education.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

• India has been ranked 131 out of 167 nations on a global index - Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR).
• United Nations Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21) in Paris World leaders of 20 countries has launched the Mission Innovation for accelerating clean energy revolution across the world.
  ➢ Tagline – “Accelerating the Clean Energy Revolution”
• UN chief launched Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape Initiative to build climate resilience - 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
• China hosts the 1st media summit of countries Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS).
• German cabinet approved plans to pledge up to 1,200 soldiers to back the international coalition fighting against Islamic State(IS) in Syria - one year at a cost of €134m
• Brazil entered longest recession since 1930s - 4.5 percent year-on-year in the third quarter
• Moscow and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) signed an agreement to reform Russia’s anti-doping agency.
• World health Organisation (WHO) released its first ever report on global estimates of foodborne diseases - "Estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases"
• China’s president Xi Jinping has announced a funding support of $60 million to Africa
• Britain launches airstrikes against IS-controlled oil fields in Syria – Moscow Support
• UN Agencies released report on prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Asia-Pacific region - 98 per cent of youngsters aged 10 to 19 living with HIV
  ➢ Title : 'Adolescents: Under the Radar in the Asia-Pacific AIDS Response'.
• Australia’s parliament passed the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill to strip dual nationals of their citizenship.
• China’s first manned electric aircraft powered by rechargeable lithium batteries got a license for production - 45-60 minutes of flight time.
• National Security Advisors of India(Ajit Doval) and Pakistan(Nasir Janjua) held talks on terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir in Bangkok.
• Canada sends first consignment of uranium to India 250 tonnes
  ➢ Contract to supply 7.1 million pounds of uranium
• 2nd FOCAC (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation) Summit and 6th Ministerial Conference were held on 4 to 5 December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
  ➢ Theme – “Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development”
• IIT Delhi has scripted Guinness World Record in conducting the largest practical science lesson by assembling 2,000 school students at the sprawling lawns of Indian Institute of Technology.
• Global Financial Integrity (GFI)released its report titled “Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-2013”
  ➢ India 4th in black money outflows p/a – USD 51 million
• US House of Representatives passed the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act of 2015 - prevent any foreign national who has visited Iraq, Iran, Syria or Sudan in the past five years.
• Asian Development Bank (ADB) released a report titled “Asian Economic Integration Report 2015: How Can Special Economic Zones Catalyze Economic Development?” prepared by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (ERCI)
  ➢ India become the 3rd largest source of inward FDI for the United Kingdom (UK) after the US and France in number of projects.
• The 5th edition of “Heart of Asia” conference, an annual regional gathering of Asian and other countries commenced in Islamabad Pakistan
Theme - “Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process: Enhanced cooperation for countering security.

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) changed a rule that would block its financial aid program to Ukraine as the country defaulted on its debt owed to Russia - $3 billion loan.
  - Global trade in services grew by 5% while merchandise trade stagnates and foreign direct investment falls.
- Indo-Pak declared 10-point Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue - 10-point CBD will succeed the 8-point Composite Dialogue Process (CDP) structured dialogue aka Resumed Dialogue.
- India and South Korea have inked MoU on suspension of collection of taxes during pendency of Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) procedure.
- India as the second most ignorant nation in the world after Mexico - Ipsos MORI
  - It is based on the “Index of Ignorance”
- The United Nations Security Council adopted a historic resolution on youth, peace and security - resolution was introduced by Jordan
- India and Japan inked a protocol for amending the existing convention for double taxation avoidance that provides for effective exchange of information in tax matters.
  - Signed by Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia and Ambassador of Japan Kenji Hiramatsu.
- Myanmar launched the country’s first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Inle Lake in Shan state.
- International scientific-practical conference “The foreign policy of Turkmenistan as a factor of security and stability in the world”, devoted to the Year of Neutrality and Peace and the 20th Anniversary of Neutrality of Turkmenistan.
- US updated its policy on gas-turbine engine technology transfer to India to expand cooperation in production and design of sensitive jet engine components.
- 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP 21 was held in Paris, France
  - Proposal of achieving zero GHG emissions growth by 2060-80.
  - 189 parties had submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) on climate actions.
  - Limit the global warming by 2100,
- Turkmenistan started work on its 1,814 Km natural gas pipeline to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) project funded by Asian Development Bank - $10 bn
- Gambia’s President Yahya Jammeh declared the tiny West African country an Islamic republic.
- India up 5 spots, ranks 130th in Human Development Index: UNDP(United Nations Development Programme) report
  - Title : Rethinking Work for Human Development”.
  - Toppers – Norway topped followed by Australia and Switzerland
- Asia Index Private Ltd, a JV between S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE has launched 4 new indices
- World Bank released a report “Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty”
  - World Bank announced $16 billion in funding to help African people and countries adapt to climate change.
- FICCI and UN Women Multi Country Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka have signed a MoU in New Delhi to strengthen collaboration on advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the business sector.
- 14th Meeting of the Heads of Governments (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on Regional Economic Cooperation was held in Zhengzhou, China.
  - China’s One Belt, One Road initiative project
- Saudi Arabia launched Islamic Military Coalition, a new military alliance of 34 nations mainly Muslim nations to fight terrorism.
- Fitch retained India’s sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of “BBB-/stable” - India’s economy will grow by 5%
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ended its 12-year investigation into concerns that Iran might be developing nuclear weapons.
- India ranks 97th on Forbes’ best countries for business list - Denmark topped the list
  - US has dropped four spots to number 22
- Afghanistan has become the 164th WTO member after 11 years of negotiations.
• UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution to cut off funds for the Islamic State by US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew.
• 2nd World Internet Conference held at Wuzhen in China
  ➢ Theme : An Interconnected World Shared and Governed by All—Building a Cyberspace Community of Shared Destiny
• United Nations-brokered agreement on forming a national unity government to establish a single Government of National Accord and national institutions that will ensure broad representation.
• International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report of new global estimates on migrant workers.
  ➢ 3 million of the world’s approximately 232 million international migrants.
• UN Security Council unanimously adopted the resolution developed by the five permanent members of the council.
• US Senate passes the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reform as part of a budget bill.
  ➢ India’s voting rights will increase to 6% from the current 2.3%.
• 68th UN General Assembly officially launched the 2016 International Year of Pulses
  ➢ Slogan – “nutritious seeds for a sustainable future”
• WTO’s 10th Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya
• Miss Iraq beauty pageant held for the first time since 1972 - Shaymaa Abdelrahman.
• Cochin Shipyard becomes the first shipyard in India to receive certification to build LNG-transporting ships
• People’s Party (PP) of Spain led by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has won the 2015 general election
• Union Cabinet approves revised cost estimates of Salma Dam Project in Afghanistan - 1775.69 crore.
• Indo-Lanka ties witness bonhomie in 2015 - exchange of top-level visits and signing of a nuclear pact.
  ➢ Modi become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the country after Rajiv Gandhi in 1987.
• World Bank to give USD35m to Pakistan for Indus River Basin
• 2015 OPEC World Oil Outlook Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) - Global energy demand increase by almost 50% in the period to 2040.
• China builds 3rd largest hydropower station on Yangtze River - 100 billion yuan
• United Nations adopted resolution to observe November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day
• PM Modi visit to Russia :
  ➢ MOU on technical cooperation in the railway sector, building solar energy plants in India, investment cooperation in Russia’s Far East.
  ➢ 16th INDO-RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT - 16 pacts signed between 2 countries
  ➢ Reliance Defence signs $6 billion pact with Russian arms firm
  ➢ Putin gifts Mahatma’s notes, Indian sword to Modi
• UN approves $5.4 billion operating budget for 2016-2017 regular operation
• UNSC unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing an agreement between Libya’s rival camps on forming a unity government.
• PM Modi visit to Afghanistan & Pakistan – Modi inaugurate the newly-built Afghan parliament building in Kabul and surprise visit to Pakistan.
• Seychelles government allowed India to build its first Naval Base on the Assumption Island in the Indian Ocean region (IOR)
• China adopts “Counter-Terrorism Law” & “Law against Domestic Violence” effect in March 2016.
• India may be 3rd largest economy after 2030 - UK think tank Centre for Economics Business and Research Report.
• Dubai to host multi-event yoga initiative - February 19 to 20, 2016.
• China officially abandons its One Child Policy by passing law which has been in force since 1971.
• 18th session of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi.
• South Korea, Japan settle deal on wartime Korean sex slaves - 1 billion yen ($8.3 million) aid fund from Tokyo for the elderly former sex slaves
• China and Taiwan launched a first hotline to build mutual trust between the longtime rivals on the sidelines of meeting in Singapore between Taiwan’s President Ma Ying-jeou and Chinese President Xi Jinping.
• Guinea has been declared Ebola free after the death of more than 2,500 people from the virus
leaving Liberia
- India has ranked 3rd in the world after China and the US for issuing 12 million passports in 2015.
- WB offers $50 mn loan for minority education Nai Manzil: The Education and Skills Training for Minorities Project.

**BANKING & FINANCE**

- Reserve Bank of India’s Governor Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan has announced fifth bi-monthly monetary policy
  - Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) – 6.75%
  - Reverse repo rate under the LAF –5.75%
  - Marginal standing facility (MSF)- 7.75%
  - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4.0%
- Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) announced that subscribers can directly file the applications for their PF withdrawals without their employer’s attestation.
- RBI signed MoUs on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information with Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), United Kingdom.
- Axis Bank launches country’s first ‘display variant’ debit card
- Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) decided to tie-ups with SBI, ICICI Bank and India Post - strengthen marketing network for selling Indian Gold coins.
- RBI revised the priority sector lending guidelines for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) according to which the RRBs will have to increase 18% of their total outstanding.
- Singapore has replaced Mauritius as the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India
  - Data from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- Centre to support rural entrepreneurs under MUDRA(Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana by Enhancing Rural Entrepreneurship through Common Services Centres (CSCs).
- RBI cancelled the certificate of registration (COR) of 56 non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Federal Bank launched missed call service for account holders in Chennai to recharge their mobile
  - Maximum amount Rs.500 per day
- IDFC Bank selected TCS BaNCs for core banking - enable it to offer next generation banking services
- SEBI ordered attachment of bank and demat accounts of Sunplant Forgings, its promoters and directors, to recover dues worth over Rs 17 crore.
- Myanmar inaugurated a new stock exchange with plans for six companies - Yangon Stock Exchange
- Luxembourg became 10th country to ratify the Articles of Agreement (AoA) that will lay the legal framework for the China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- RBI issued guidelines for cross-currency futures and exchange traded cross-currency option contracts in multiple currency pairs.
- New Zealand formally become a member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB) announced by Finance Minister Bill English.
- Development Credit Bank (DCB) has announced a cut in its base rate by 15 basic points from 10.85% to 10.7%.
- World Bank Group and the FIRST Initiative announced the launch of a new tool to help Gov to implement public credit guarantee schemes (CGS).
- SEBI links commodity trade data with its surveillance systems-NCDEX and MCX
- World Bank consented $1.5 billion loan for the “clean India campaign” - to improved sanitation by 2019.
- Federal Reserve of US increased interest rate by 0.25% for the first time since 2006
- RBI liable to disclose information about banks under RTI(Right to Information 2015) Act - Supreme Court
- India Index Services & Products Ltd (IISL), an arm of National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched three indices of Tata Group, Aditya Birla Group and Mahindra Group.
  - Nifty Tata Group Index, Nifty Aditya Birla Group Index and Nifty Mahindra Group Index
RBI announced a new Marginal Cost of Funds Methodology to calculate base rate effect from April 1, 2016.
- Dena bank tied up with SBI Life Insurance Company in order to provide Group Life Insurance coverage to its housing loan borrowers under the 'Dena Grihaswami Suraksha Yojana'.
- RBI launched the quarterly 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households — Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi.
- India’s GDP to grow at 7 to 7.5 % - mid-term economic review
- RBI has announced that No deadline for resolving complaints by Banking Ombudsman under Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006.
- Reliance Life Insurance Company (RLIC) announced “Reliance Lifelong Savings Plan” - 7 years till 55 years.
  - 2 covers Standard Cover and Extended Cover – Period Of 15-30 years.
- RBI created Dedicated Helpline for guiding Start-ups in India on Forex Matters-Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
- RBI extends deadline to exchange pre-2005 notes to June 30 denominations, including Rs 500 and Rs 1,000.
- Zimbabwe’s Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa announced to adopt China’s currency the yuan.
- China-backed AIIB formally established in Beijing with India other 56 countries.
- current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to 1.6% of GDP at USD 8.2 billion in the second quarter ended September.
- RBI has invited applications for “Payment System Innovation Awards” to encourage innovative solutions in the field of Payment and Settlement System.
- 19.52 Bank accounts opened and 7 million RuPay debit cards under Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana till December.
- FCI raises Rs 30,000 crore as short-term loan from 15 consortiums of banks including SBI and PNB to meet working capital requirements.
- SIDBI cleared $140 million (Rs 930 crore) from the $302 million (Rs 2,000 crore) fund-of-funds to Support VCs in India.
- Maharashtra(1.15%) and Tamil Nadu(0.84%) retained their top two positions in terms of general insurance premium collection and penetration.
- ICICI Bank tied up with railway’s e-ticketing platform IRCTC to sell rail tickets through its website.
- Deepak Mohanty Committee(14 member) submitted the report on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion.
- Yes Bank announced mobilisation of USD 5 billion towards its commitment to climate finance in India.
- India Post payment bank to be operational by March 2017
- Cabinet approves Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme(ATUFs) for Textiles industry replacing the Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RR-TUFS).

**BUSINESS**

- Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) joined hands with Tata Group
- Tesla at 3rd position in BCG's innovation survey- Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report
  - Apple – 1st and Google – 2nd
- Wipro announced to acquire Germany based Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg (LBBW), Cellent AG for about Rs.514 crore.
- National Textile Corporation (NTC) Limited signed a MoU with Transparency International India (TII) to adopt Integrity Pact.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty of over Rs 74 crore on IPO-bound Alkem Laboratories.
- Youtube, in collaboration with Subhash Ghai-owned film school Whistling Woods International, has opened its 8th (one of a kind) Youtube Space in Mumbai's Film City.
- Gov has imposed an anti-dumping duty of $1,732.11 per tonne on import of melamine tableware and kitchenware products like dinner sets and mugs from China, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Railways undertaken PPP(Public-Private Partnership) projects worth Rs.14,000 croreduring the 12th Five year Plan.
• Tata Communications will sell the majority of its subsidiary Neotel’s fixed line assets to Vodacom South Africa - 7 billion rand (about Rs 3,200 crore)
• Indian Institute of Science bagged a US military contract for research and development on solar powered micro-grid announced at the meeting between defense minister Manohar Parrikar and US defense secretary Ashton Carter at the Pentagon - USD 52,900
• MoU signed between the Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) Society and the National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCC) - Construction of Indian Culinary Institutes (ICIs) at Tirupati and Noida was signing of a
• Karnataka delegation - “Invest Karnataka 2016 signed an Expression of Interest (EoI) agreement with Reitzel Group.
• Union Cabinet imposed an anti-dumping duty ranging from 5.39% to 57.39% on import of cold-rolled flat products of stainless steel for 5 years from 7 countries
  ➢ China, South Korea, the US, South Africa, Thailand and Taiwan and European Union.
• Gov set up a mechanism SETU(Self—Employment and Talent Utilisation) to support all aspects of start-up businesses and other self- employment activities under NITI Aayog.
• Natco Pharma Ltd received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to launch in the country the generic version of Ledipasvir + Sofosbuvir combination for treatment of chronic Hepatitis C.
• Infosys invested USD 3 million (Rs 20 crore) in U.S. based wearable device startup firm WHOOP to pick up a minority shareholding.
• Ministry of Environment and Forests given ‘green signal’ to a power project being set up by state-owned NTPC in Telangana- 2,600 MW (stage-I, II & III) - Rs 9,954.20 crore.
• Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) tied up with Paytm to offer an additional payment gateway for food ordered through its e-catering facility.
• US lifted a 40-year ban on oil exports, marking a historic shift for the booming US oil industry - first imposed in 1975.
• Top 50 league of the world’s biggest companies in terms of R&D investments.
• German automaker Volkswagen followed by Samsung, Microsoft, Intel and Novartis in the Top Five and Tata Motors in top 50 – India - 15th
• Biocon launched generic version of hepatitis-C drug Harvoni in India approved by DCGI.
• Aurobindo Pharma gets USFDA nod for acid reflux drug Famotidine tablet - 4th approval.
• Alibaba Group Holding Ltd plans to inject $1.25 billion in a Shanghai-based food delivery service, Ele.me.
• Flipkart to sell cars and motorcycles online Signed deal with Khivraj Motors for Bajaj motorcycles and Kalyani Motors for Maruti Suzuki cars
• SandharTechnologies(Automotive components firm) got SEBI’s approval to raise Rs. 300 crore from an initial public offering.
• Russia’s Rostech State Corp has tied up with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to manufacture 200 Kamov 226T helicopters - $1 billion
• Bharti Airtel launched a website www.airtel.in/leap allowing customers to know about Project.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

• Robert Lewandowski awarded with four Guinness World Record certificates for scoring five goals in nine minutes.
• Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi presented National Level Awards to Anganwadi Workers for Exceptional Achievement - 118 Anganwadi Workers.
• Hinduja Brothers received lifetime achievement award at Asian Business Leadership Forum(ABLF) 2015 in Delhi
• Colombian film Embrace of Serpent (Directed by Ciro Guerra) took the first price the Golden Peacock Award at the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
  ➢ Special Mention:Enclave(Serbian film)
  ➢ Best director:British filmmaker Peter Greenaway
  ➢ Best actor(Male):Vincent Lindonfor Stephane
  ➢ Best actor(Female):GunesSensoy, DogaDogsulu, TugbaSunguroglu, ElitIscan and IlaydaA kdogan
  ➢ Special jury award: Julia Vargas’ Bolivian film “
  ➢ UNESCO-Fellini medal: Indian filmmaker
  ➢ Lifetime achievement award:Oscar-winning Russian filmmaker Nikita Mikhalkov
Current Affairs

- Dr Abdul Kalam IGNITE award presented by President Pranab Mukherjee - 42 students
- Renowned violinist L Subramaniam to be honoured with ITC Sangeet Samman
- Delhi Development Authority (DDA) awarded with the E-India Award for adopting technology to serve the public better.
- Narendra Modi in eighth place for Time magazine’s Person of the Year Poll – 2.75%
- Adidas India head Pulin kumar conferred with the Indian National Bar Association’s (INBA) General Counsel of the year 2015 - Retail Award
- Nirma University awarded under the category of “Excellence in Technology for Education Delivery” during the FICCI Education Awards 2015.
- Union Telecom and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad presented ‘Express IT excellence award” to Hyderabad City Police.
- Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presented the certificate in recognition of PAHAL as the largest cash transfer programme in the world to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist, Frank Islam (63) bestowed with UP Ratna Award by UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav
- INS Sindhudwaj, a submarine of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) awarded with ‘The Best Innovation Trophy’ by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Navy Day celebration.
- Two Indians Kartik Sawhney (21) and Neha Swain (28) are among the 60 others who have won the Queen’s Young Leaders award in the UK.
- Tech Mahindra conferred with “Forbes Top 100 Middle East” Award
- President of India presented 21 Shilp Guru and 59 National Awards
- Time magazine named German Chancellor Angela Merkel its “Person of the Year 2015”
- National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) instituted National Awards for Innovation in Educational Administrations for District and Block Level Education Officers by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani.
- Sri Lanka Captain and country’s second highest Test run-scorer Mahela Jayawardene conferred with Honorary Life Membership of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- Veteran Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah and French actress Catherine Deneuve are honoured with the lifetime achievement award at Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF).
- India-born author Sir Ahmad Salman Rushdie (68) conferred with Mailer Center’s Annual Lifetime Achievement Prize.
- Varanasi & Jaipur become members of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network
- Wipro won 2015 Aegis Graham Bell Award for innovation in IoT
- Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) Chairman and MD Nishi Vasudeva has been chosen for CEO of the Year and Rising Star respectively.
- 2015 South East Asia Write Award has been conferred upon Indian-origin writer Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali aka J.M. Sali - 57 books, 80 plays and more than 400 short stories
- Bollywood veteran and legendary actor Dilip Kumar was presented with the Padma Vibhushan by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- Oscar-winning director Ron Howard presented with another star on Walk of Fame on account of his contribution to the TV and film industries.
- Etihad Airways wins world’s leading airline award at the annual World Travel Awards Grand Finale gala ceremony 2015.
- 16 Grammys award winner Israeli-US violinist Itzhak Perlman awarded with the 2016 Genesis prize.
- West Bengal gov honoured veteran music composer Bappi Lahiri and singer Kumar Sanu with the Lifetime Achievement awards by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- President Pranab Mukherjee received Garwood Award for Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr no</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Name of the winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Brajendra Kumar Brahma (Bodo) Dhian Singh (Dogri) Ramdarash Mishra (Hindi) K.V. Tirmalesh (Kannada) Kshetri Rajan (Manipuri) Ram Shankar Awashti (Sanskrit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Short stories</td>
<td>Kula Saikia (Assamese)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vatican to confer sainthood on Mother Teresa as Pope recognises her second miracle in September 2016.

The husband-wife duo of Claude and Norma Alvares were honoured with the 2015 Lifetime Service Award by Sanctuary Asia magazine.

University of South Florida launched APJ Abdul Kalam fellowship worth $156000 for Indian students those who wish to pursue PhD in specified fields of science and engineering.

Spanish model Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named 65th Miss World 2015 in Sanya.

Scottish professional tennis player Andrew Barron “Andy” Murray was crowned BBC Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) for the second time.

Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, Filipina-German actress, model and beauty queen crowned with Miss Universe 2015.

Indian-American bioengineering researcher C Mauli Agrawal named as a fellow in the US’ National Academy of Inventors.

**ICC Awards 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Steven Smith (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Test Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Steven Smith (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>AB de Villiers (South Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Meg Lanning (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Josh Hazlewood (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Associate and Affiliate Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Khurram Khan (UAE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Twenty20 International Performance of the Year</td>
<td>Faf du Plessis (South Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Women’s T20I Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Stafanie Taylor (West Indies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year</td>
<td>Richard Kettleborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC Spirit of Cricket Award</td>
<td>Brendon McCullum (New Zealand)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indian-origin software engineer Nandagopal Lakshminarayanan won a prestigious award in the UK for creating an innovative electronic smart key system.

Indian-American doctor Amit Majmudar named as the first Poet Laureate by the U.S. State of Ohio for showcasing a variety of styles in his poetry.

Indian American professor Dr. Rakesh K. Jain selected for 2015 National Medal of Science of the US.

Former India stumper Syed Kirmani (65) was chosen for the prestigious Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award for 2015.

Fortune 500 Indian companies 2015

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - No.1, Reliance Industries (RIL) - 2nd, Tata motor - 3rd and SBI - 4th.

Actor Johnny Depp (52) named as Hollywood’s most overpaid actor in 2015 by Forbes.

**Globe Soccer Awards 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Player of The Year</td>
<td>Lionel Messi (Argentina)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Agent of the Year</td>
<td>Jorge Mendes (Portugal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Player Career Award</td>
<td>Andrea Pirlo (Italy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Second Player Career Award | Frank Lampard (England)
Best Coach of the Year | Marc Wilmots (Belgium)
Best Media Attraction in Football | FC Barcelona (Spain)
Best Media Executive | Javier Bordas (Spain)
Best Club of the Year | FC Barcelona (Spain)
Best President of the Year | Josep Maria Bartomeu (Spain)
Best Referee of the Year | Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)
Best Club Academy | SL Benfica (Portugal)
Best Player in the GCC | Yasser Al-Shahrani (Al-Hilal) (Saudi Arabia)

- SatyavatiBerera of PwC India is the first woman to become the COO of a Big Four accounting firm in India
- Amateur Indian cricketer creates Guinness world record for longest net session – 48 hours.
- Pump manufacturing major CRI Pumpsbagged ‘Export Quality Excellence’ award for the 11th time
- Eminent Gujarati novelist, poet and critic Raghuvir Chaudhary (77) chosen for the 51st Jnanpith Award for 2015
- An Indian-origin cancer research expert Harpal Singh Kumar has been presented with a Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

- Anil Kumble resigns as chief mentor of Mumbai Indians
- Roch Marc Christian Kabore elected as president of Burkina Faso
- Vijay Kumar Choudhary elected as Bihar assembly Speaker
- Sir Venkatraman Ramakrishnan appointed as 61st Presidency of the Royal Society
- Indian-American Dr Vijay M Rao was named as the chairperson of the prestigious Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Board of Directors.
- M C Mishra appointed as a member in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- Renowned Scientist M Nair Rajeevan appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- General Motors appointed Kaher Kazemas President and Managing Director of its India operations replacing Arvind Saxena.
- Girnar Software Pvt. Ltd the operator of Cardekho.com, Gaadi.com and several other automobile websites appointed Umesh Hora as its chief financial officer.
- Latvia’s Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma announced resignation after less than two years.
- Ola appointed Flipkart executive Joy Bandekar as corporate president
- Bhaskar Rao resigned from his post of Karnataka Lokayukta.
- P K Singh took charge as the chairman of the domestic steel giant SAIL
- Freecharge online payments company appointed Anshul Kheterpal as the chief financial officer.Kheterpal was CFO and Principal Officer for Airtel Money.
- Mauricio Macri sworn in as Argentina’s first non-Peronist president in 14 Years.
- Metropolitan Stock Exchange (MCX Stock Exchange) appoint Uday Kumar as its interim Managing Director.
- ABB India Ltd appointed Sanjeev Sharma as its managing director effective.He replaces Bazmi Husain.
- Kapil Chopra, President of the The Oberoi Groupappointed as the Chairman of World Travel & Tourism Council, India Initiative (WTTCII) for 2016.
- Mumbai Police Commissioner Ahmad Javed appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Salma bint Hizab al-Oteibi was elected as first women councillors in “Conservative Kingdom”.
- Zensar Technologies announced Sandeep Kishore as company’s Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. He will succeed Ganesh Natarajan.
- Gov appointed Justice L. Narasimha Reddy,former Chief Justice of Patna High Court to head the one-man judicial committee.
- O P Longia elected as its new National President of the Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM).
- Veteran Indian-origin politician Pravin Gordhan appointed South Africa’s new Finance
Minister by President Jacob Zuma.

- Arun Kumar Jain was appointed as the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for two months (till January 2016) approved by the appointment Committee.
- Akhilesh Mishra appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives
- Tata Starbucks appointed Sumi Ghosh as its CEO, he will replace Avani Davda.
- Justice Virendra Singh appointed as Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh by Uttar Pradesh Governor, Ram Naik
- Former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi reinstated as Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) President
- Former Defence Secretary R K Mathur appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).
- Indian-origin official Sanjay Pradhan to lead Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- Jeff Williams appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Apple Inc.
- Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi appointed India’s next Ambassador to Thailand, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla.
- Sanjiv Kohli, at present Joint Secretary in MEA appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to New Zealand.
- Nengcha Lhouvum Mukhopadhaya appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia. She will succeed Gurjit Singh.
- Nengcha Lhouvum Mukhopadhaya appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Indonesia
- Sushil Kumar Singhal appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome & Principe.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank appointed Parthasarathi Mukherjee as the managing director (MD)
- FMCG firm Emami Ltd announced tennis star Sania Mirza as the brand ambassador of Kesh King brand.
- Pawan Kumar Agarwal appointed as CEO of food regulator food safety and standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Jet Airways appointed Amit Agarwal as its chief financial officer (CFO).
- Guinea’s prime minister Mohamed Said Ofana’s stepped down and President Alpha Conde was sworn in as new PM.
- Shah Rukh Khan is to be the brand ambassador for Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Jio.
- Gautam Bambawale, currently India’s envoy to Bhutan appointed as next High Commissioner to Pakistan, replace T C A Raghavan.
- Thomas Cook India re-designated its present MD Madhavan Menon as Chairman and Managing Director.
- FMCG firm Amway India announced Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar as its brand ambassador
- RP-Sanjeev Goenka Group to name Chief Executive for sports business
- Premier Badminton League announced Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador for PBL.
- Gautam Adani’s son Karan Adani takes over as CEO of APSEZ (Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone).
- Amitabh Kant appointed CEO of NITI Aayog, successor of Sindhushree Khullar.
- Giorgi Kvirkashvili elected as Prime Minister of Georgia
- Sweden’s Bjorn Isberg appointed as the tournament director of the fourth edition of the Hockey India League (HIL)
- Gyanendra D Bandagiyan appointed as Director General of National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG).

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

- Paytm acquires Near.in in a deal worth Rs 13 cr
- Tata Trusts partnered with Us based Khan Academy for free online education
- Gov proposed joint ventures between Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like the NTPC, Indian Oil and NALCO.
- DuPont and Dow Chemical Company announced to merge to form DowDuPont - 130 billion dollars.
- Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has agreed to buy the 112-year-old newspaper and other media properties of Hong Kong's South China Morning Post (SCMP) for an
undisclosed amount.
- Healthcare IT solutions and advisory services company HealthFore Technologies will merge with Oscar Investments.
- Mahindra group acquire Italian automotive and industrial design firm Pininfarina for an overall outgo of over 50 million Euros (nearly Rs 370 crore).
- Anil Ambani-led Reliance Infrastructure (R-Infra) an additional 17 per cent stake in Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering Co Ltd (PDOC) for an estimated Rs 850 crore.
- Hindustan Unilever (HUL) announced that it signed an agreement with Mosons Group to acquire its flagship brand Indulekha for 330 crore rupees.
- Online grocery delivery major PepperTap acquired Bengaluru-based hyperlocal grocery delivery start-up Jiffstore.
- Digital media company Arre acquired Apalya Technologies
- Piramal Enterprises Ltd’s (PEL) Consumer Products Division announced acquisition of five brands from Organon India Pvt Ltd and MSD BV for Rs 92 crore
- Wipro announced to acquire the US-based Viteos Group for USD 130 million (nearly Rs 861 crore).
- CCI approved the acquisition of Royal Bank of Scotland Group’s India wealth management business by Sanctum Wealth.
- Reliance Capital acquired 6.83 per cent stake in music company Saregama India for Rs 43 crore.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

- 5th Ship of Indian Navy’s LCU MK IV project was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- Mexican drug authorities have approved Sanofi Pastur’s first ever dengue vaccine Dengvaxia to reduce the disease burden by 50 percent in five years
- Durg maker Aurobindo Pharma received the approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Injection.
- Delhi govt launched a mobile-based application to rescue homeless people during winters formed by Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB)
- Orbital ATK’s CRS Orb-4 launched successfully from Space Launch Complex 41 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida , US.
- Technology varsity in Madhya Pradesh ‘discovers’ anti-cancer molecules - CTR-17 and CTR-20.
- Sanofi Pasteur(vaccines division of Sanofi) launched Shanchol, an injectable inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) by K Chandrasekhar Rao(Telangana CM).
- Cochin Shipyard Ltd has launched the 19th of the 20 Fast Patrol Vessels ICGS Atulya being built for Indian Coast Guard
- Central Research Institute in Yoga and Naturopathy to be set up in Khordha District of Odisha under the Ministry of AYUSH
- Drug maker Hetero received the approval to market generic version of Gilead’s Harvoni - Hepatitis C from USFDA(U S Food and Drug Administration).
- The researchers at Columbia Engineering created World’s first biologically powered chip
- Pakistan successfully test-fired the medium-range Shaheen-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile - 2,750 km
- Website on Netaji’s last days launched by UK-based independent journalist and Bose’s grandnephew Ashis Ray - Website : www.bosefiles.info
- Power Minister Piyush Goyal launch a mobile app on the occasion of the National Energy Conservation Day to help consumers compare and choose energy efficient appliances.
- Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear capable ballistic missile Shaheen-1A in the Arabian Sea with a range of 900 kilometres.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched six Singapore satellites and also tested the fourth stage of its PSLV rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre - carried by PSLV-C29.
- Snapdeal launched mobile website in Hindi, Telugu language
- Facebook, Google and Twitter have agreed to delete hate speech from their websites within 24 hours at pressure from Germany.
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved to purchase of five units of S-400 Triumph Air Defence Missile Systems from Russia by the Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar - Rs 25,500 crore.
- AIIMS launches online tracking system for poor patients to check the malpractice of patients.
- Manohar Parrikar launches new ‘Make in India’ website for a transparent interface www.makeinindiadefence.com
- China launched the Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) Satellite to shed light on mysterious dark matter.
- American aerospace company SpaceX achieved the historic feat of successfully launching and landing 20th launch of Falcon 9 rocket on solid ground at Cape Canaveral.
- Jaguar Land Rover India announced the launch of its innovative new smartphone integration platform InControl Apps conjunction with Bosch.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched two mobile apps - Kisan Jai Vigyan Week.
  - ‘Crop Insurance’ – Insurance cover and ‘AgriMarket’ for farmers to know the prices of crops.
- Idea became third mobile operator to launch 4G services in India.
- Tech Mahindra launched first of its kind “Tap N Pay” contactless digital payment wallet MoboMoney for the Indian masses.
- Anti-jamming capability of the air-to-air Astra missile was successfully validated in recent trials conducted by missile scientists of the DRDO.
- DCB Bank and M2P, a digital payment solutions company, have jointly launched a new platform YAP for wallet services.
- INS Viraat won the coveted Cock Trophy during the Western Fleet Whaler Pulling Regatta, Runner - INS Vikramaditya
- Reliance Jio launches 4G telecom service on 83rd birthday anniversary of Dhirubhai Ambani
- Ministry of Women and Child Development launched e-office by digitizing more than 12,000 files.
- First microprocessor chip that uses light rather than electricity to transfer data at rapid speeds by University of Colorado Boulder in US.
- China launches “most sophisticated” observation satellite - “Gaofen-4” - 222th flight of the Long March rocket series.
- Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden firing of its newly developed Long Range Barak 8 Surface-to-Air Missile (LR SAM) con the Western Seaboard by INS Kolkata.
- Philippines became the first Asian country to approve the sale of the world’s first-ever dengue vaccine “ Dengvaxia” for the prevention of disease caused by dengue.
- India’s first indigenously designed and built warship Indian Naval Ship Godavari is decommissioned.
- Pandorum Technologies become the first Indian firm to develop artificial living tissue.
- Indian scientist Dr. Pallavi Tiwari in the US developed a new MRI-based technique to predict survival of patients with aggressive brain tumours.

ENVIRONMENT

- Forest Survey of India (FSI) has released the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR 2015) - India’s total forest and tree cover has increased by 5081 sq km in the past two years.
- 2,600-year-old tombs discovered in central China’s Henan Province.
- Beijing Govt has warned that the city would be shrouded in heavy smog “red alert” for pollution for 3 days.
- Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Hunan University of Science and Technology and Mount Qomolangma Snow Leopard Conservation Centre has released a report showing Glaciers on Mount Everest have shrunk by 28% over the past 40 years.
- The new species belonging to the ceratopsia family was found in the same fossil beds in China’s Xinjiang province.
- Philippines evacuates 700,000 ahead of Typhoon “Melor” or Nona - 95 mph.
- Odisha government has engaged Wildlife Trust of India to prepare a comprehensive wildlife management plan for the state The MoU between state forest and environment department.
and WTI was signed

- Arctic Region hits record high temperature over land - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Scientists found fossils of a new species of ‘sail-backed’ dinosaur in Spain.
- Maharashtra CM, Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India’s biggest Wildlife Rescue Centre named as Gorewada Zoo and Wildlife Rescue Centre at Gorewada near Nagpur.
- Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new marine species of eel (Gymnothorax miliaris) along the coast of Digha in Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal.
- According to Prague zoo, Karlo, a Chinese giant salamander is the biggest representative of its species at 1.58 meters on Earth.
- US will place a breed of lion found in India and Africa in the endangered species list in a bid to curb the dramatic decline of their population.
- Archaeologists unearthed a record number of gold coins and plates, 378 in total from a 2,000-year-old Han dynasty tomb in east China.

**SPORTS**

- Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin rose to the second in the ICC Test rankings.
  - James Anderson and Yasir Shah - 3rd, Josh Hazlewood - 10th
  - Murali Vijay - 12th position, while his captain Virat Kohli - 16th
- ATP rank list Yuki Bhambri - 93rd, while Somdev Devvarman - 181 in the latest.
- Indian bodybuilder Thakur Anoop Singh has earned the title of 'Mr World' by winning a gold medal in a world bodybuilding meet held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Australia clinched the title of the 2nd edition of Hockey World League (HWL) Final at the Sardar Vallab Bhai Patel Stadium in Raipur, India – Belgium 2nd, India – third.
- Training-cum-competition assignment in the Chinese city of Qian’an.
- L. Sarita Devi (60kg) defeated Mongolia’s Sowoderen, Shiva Thapa (56kg) beat Thailand’s Yuttapong, Devendra Singh (49kg) against China’s Yang Yufeng, Mandep Jangra (69kg) thrashed Thailand’s Nick Fisher
- 59th National shooting championship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10m air pistol Men</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Shahzad Razvi 199.6 (577)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vijay Kumar 198.2 (577)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sib Kumar Ghosh 177.2 (580)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Achal Pratap Singh Grewal 577 (21x)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pawan Yadav 577 (16x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Arjun Das 575</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Saurabh Choudhary 573</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dhruv Pran Singh 572 (18x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shainika Nagar 572 (17x)</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men: 25m centre fire pistol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- American swim star Michael Phelps 18-time Olympic gold medalist won the 200 meter butterfly at the US Winter National Championships.
  - Second Chase Kalisz and Third Dakota Hodgson
- American professional golfer Bubba Watson clinched the title of Hero World Challenge. He is followed by Patrick Reed and Ricky Fowler.
- India moved into the second place of the ICC Test Championship table after completing a 3-0 drubbing of South Africa in the four-Test series.
- Two new teams based out of Rajkot (Intex) and Pune (Tycoon) replacing suspended Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals forthcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- China’s Chen Long and England’s Carolina Marin bestowed with the BWF Player of the Year award from BWF President Poul-Erik Hoyer in Dubai.
Most Promising Player of the Year - Zheng Si Wei
Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year - Norway’s Helle Sofie Sagoy
Male Para-Badminton Player of the Year - Korea’s Lee Sam Seop

- International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a new global partnership with OPPO for four-year deal.
- Dharamsala will host the World Twenty20 2016 match between India and Pakistan on March 19, 2016.
- World Elite UCI (International Cycling Union) ranking released by UCI - Deborah Herold, from Andaman and Nicobar moved - 4th spot
- LOGO and MASCOT of 12th South Asian Games, 2016 Launched At Guwahati

- Kolhapurs Anant Khasbadar and Abhijeet Krishna of NIFT Patna won the mascot and logo designing contests
- Badminton World Superseries Finals 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s singles</td>
<td>Kento Momota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s singles</td>
<td>Nozomi Okuhara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s doubles</td>
<td>Mohammad Ahsan &amp; Hendra Setiawan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s doubles</td>
<td>Luo Ying and Luo Yu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed doubles</td>
<td>Chris Adcock and Gabriele Adcock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Olympic champion Anthony Joshua (26) defeated former kick-boxer Dillian Whyte to win the British heavyweight title.
- Rome won the right to stage the 2022 edition of golf’s Ryder Cup for the first time.
- India’s golfer Anirban Lahiri won the Asian Tour’s Order of Merit crown
- “Tennis Queen” Serena Williams named as Sportsperson of 2015
- 9th in London Classic chess championship – Anand – 9th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Carlsen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Giri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Vachier-Lagrange</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- S.S.P. Chawrasia jumped 26 places to be 211th in the world golf rankings
  Jordan Spieth 1st, Rory McIlroy – 2nd.
- Former England coach Andy Flower has been signed as mentor of Pakistan Super League.
- ICC Test rankings : Batsman Rank - Ravichandran Ashwin - top 2nd spot, while Ravindra Jadeja - 8th spot, Brendon McCullum - 17th.
  > Rankings for Test bowlers : Australia’s Josh Hazlewood has entered the top 10, Off-spinner Nathan Lyon - 15th

- Northern Irish professional golfer Rory McIlroy from Holywood in County Down was named the European Tour Golfer of the Year.
- IOC Olympic scholarships - Shiva Thapa, Mandeep Jangra, Gaurav Bidhuri and Sumit Sangwan
- World Dubai Superseries Finals
  > Men’s Single title - Momota beat Denmark’s Viktor Axelsen
  > Women’s Single title - Okuhara overcame Yihan Wang from China
  > Women’s doubles title - Chinese twin shuttlers Luo Ying and Luo Yu beating Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl from Denmark.
  > Men’s double title - Indonesian men’s doubles pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan beat China’s Chai Biao and Hong Wei Mixed double final - Adcock couple, Chris and Gabriele defeated South Korean pair of Ko Sung Hyun and Kim Ha Na

- Cricketer, Cheteshwar Pujara named as the brand ambassador of the first Rajkot half marathon
- Chennaiyin FC has won the 2015 Indian Super League (ISL) Football tournament. The team defeated Goa FC at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa.
- Barcelona FC has won the FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2015 for third time after defeated River Plate FC at International Stadium Yokohama in Japan.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni will remain captain of the limited-overs sides till the World T20 championship in March - announced by BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur.
- Kane Williamson become the second New Zealand batsman to top the ICC Player Rankings for Test Batsmen
- FIFA court banned FIFA President Sepp Blatter and Vice-President and member of the Executive Committee of FIFA and President of UEFA Michel Platini for eight years
- Vijender Singh becomes first Indian to score Pro-Boxing hat-trick - defeat Samet Hyuseinov to
- Abhay Singh won the Under-19 title in the final of Old Chang Kee Singapore Squash Open after defeated Alwin Chai of Malaysia.
- International Premier Tennis League 2015 title clinched by Singapore Slammers after beat the Micromax Indian Aces.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Player of the Year</td>
<td>Eugenson Lyngdoh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year</td>
<td>Pyari Xaxa (Striker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award for Best Grassroots Programe</td>
<td>Football Association of Odisha (FAO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award for long time contribution to Indian Football</td>
<td>Coca Cola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award for Best Referee</td>
<td>C.R. Srikrishna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award for Best Assistant Referee</td>
<td>Sapam Kennedy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- New Zealand cricket captain Brendon McCullum announced retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- Mexico City Grand Prix 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Lee Dong-keun (South Korea)</td>
<td>Pannawit Thongnuam (Thailand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Singles</td>
<td>Sayaka Sato (Japan)</td>
<td>Bae Yeon-ju (South Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Doubles</td>
<td>Manu Attri/ B. Sumeeth Reddy (India)</td>
<td>Bodin Issara/Nipitphon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Doubles</td>
<td>Shizuka Matsuo/Mami Naito (Japan)</td>
<td>Puttita Supajirakul/Sapsiree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Doubles</td>
<td>Chan Peng Soon/Goh Liu Ying (Malaysia)</td>
<td>Choi Sol-gyu/Eom Hye-won</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Indian-origin footballer Yan Dhanda become the first player to sign a professional contract with English football powerhouse Liverpool.
- IRF 2015 World Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s World Champion</td>
<td>Novak Djokovic (Serbia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s World Champion</td>
<td>Serena Williams (USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Doubles World Champions</td>
<td>Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) &amp; Horia Tescu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Doubles World Champions</td>
<td>Martina Hingis (Switzerland) &amp; Sania Mirza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITF Junior World Champions (Male)</td>
<td>Taylor Fritz (the USA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITF Junior World Champions (Female)</td>
<td>Dalma Galfi (Hungary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITF Wheelchair World Champions (Male)</td>
<td>Shingo Kunieda (Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITF Wheelchair World Champions (Female)</td>
<td>Jiske Griffioen (Netherlands)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Sri Lankan wicketkeeper-batsman Kusal Perera banned four-year ban after the `B’ sample has tested positive for a prohibited substance.
- Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer are poised to become the first $100 million men in tennis in 2016
- Indian referee Ashok Kumar was selected for officiating in the Rio Olympics next year by the United World Wrestling (UWW) for the first time.
- Ramki Krishnan of Chennai emerged the winner of the Indian Crossword League (IXL) 2015 and lifted the National Crossword Champion Trophy
- Andhra Pradesh to host 2019 National Games
- Pakistan’s leg-spinner Yasir Shah suspended for failing a dope test by the ICC.
- Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the biggest pay cheque of her career after beating Viktoria Kamenskaya of Russia in NECC-ITF women’s tennis tournament at the Deccan Gymkhana
- Mumbai Garuda outclassed Haryana Hammers to clinch the inaugural Pro Wrestling League title at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- Former Australian Test opener Justin Langer take over temporarily as coach of Australia in the tri-nation one-day international series in the West Indies in 2016, he replace Darren Lehmann
- National Weightlifting Championships - Patiala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s Category</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Rakhi(213kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Lalchhanhimi (210kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Rajwant Kaur(201kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's category</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>V A Christopher (329kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Laljit Singh (317kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Rashpal Singh (317kg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gujarat has clinched the 14th season of Vijay Hazare 2015-16 Cricket Trophy by defeating Delhi at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
- ICC ODI ranking - Afghanistan cricket team cruised into the top 10 in the One-Day International (ODI) rankings for the first time.
- BCCI Awards 2015
  - Virat Kohli - Polly Umrigar Award for BCCI cricketer of the year
  - Mithali Raj - M.A. Chidambaram Trophy for Best Woman Cricketer of 2014-15 in the senior category while Devika Vaidya will be awarded from the junior category.
  - Syed Kirmani will be presented the CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
  - Karnataka State Cricket Association - state association of the year
  - Robin Uthappa - Madhavrao Scindia Award for highest run-scorer
  - R Vinay Kumar and Shardul Thakur shared the top wicket-taker’s award.
- China to Bid for 2023 AFC Asian Cup announced by the country’s top soccer authority.

**OBITUARY**

- Russian legendary film Director Eldar Ryazanov passes away
- Veteran industrialist, Co-Founder of Chettinad MAM Ramaswamy passed away
- Veteran Israeli dove Yossi Sarid passed away
- Former FIFA referee S K Bhattacharya(87) passed away in Chandanpur
- Veteran farmer leader and renowned agro-economist Sharad Joshi passes away
- Noted writer and theatre artiste Chatla Srimulu passes away
- British Novelist Peter Dickinson(88) passes away
- The German conductor who led the New York Philharmonic orchestra for 11 years - Kurt Masur(88) passed away
- RCTC Jockey D K Ashish died after falling from horse
- Senior Telugu actor and dialogue writer Chilukoti Kashi Viswanath(69) passed away
- Olympian cyclist Suprabhat Chakraborty (86) passed away
- Former chief justice of Karnataka and Kerala high courts and chairman of the Karnataka Border Protection Commission (KBPC) Justice V S Malimath passed away
- Veteran Hindi film actress Sadhana(74) known for popularising the fashionable Sadhana cut passed away
- Popular science-fiction writer George Clayton Johnson(86) passed away
- Oscar winner and Legendary cinematographer Haskell Wexler(93) passed away
- Iconic Marathi poet and recipient of Padma Bhushan, Mangesh Keshav Padgaonkar(86) passed away
- Veteran singer Subir Sen(81) known for his work in Chhoti Bahen passed away
- Former chief of army staff General Om Prakash Malhotra(93) passed away
- Former Czech international footballer and English club Newcastle United goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek(47) passed away

**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- Life on My Terms – From the Grassroots to the Corridors of Power” authored by Sharad Pawar released on the 75th birthday of Pawar.
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received first copies of the books ‘Selected Speeches of the President’ Volume 3 and ‘Presidential Retreats’ from the PM Shri Narendra Modi
- “The Bose Brothers and Indian Independence – An Insider’s Account” authored by Madhuri Bose
- The Presidential Retreats of India’ authored by Anuradha Naik
IMPORTANT DAYS

Dec 1: World AIDS Day
Dec 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
    World Pollution Prevention Day
    World Computer literacy day
Dec 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec 4: Indian Navy Day
Dec 5: International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
    World Soil Day
Dec 6: Orange Festival (Poland)
Dec 7: International Civil Aviation Day
    World Choral Day
    National Armed Forces Flag Day
Dec 9: International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and
    of the Prevention of this Crime
    International Anti-Corruption Day
Dec 10: Human Rights Day
Dec 11: International Mountain Day
Dec 14: National Energy Conservation Day
Dec 15: International Tea Day
Dec 17: International Day Against Violence Against Sex Workers
Dec 18: International Migrants Day, National Minority Rights Day
Dec 19: Goa’s Liberation Day
Dec 20: International Human Solidarity Day
Dec 23: Kisan Divas (Ch. Charan Singh’s Birth Anniversary) (Farmer’s Day)
Dec 29: International Bio-diversity day