



Pavitheran's MONTHLY UPDATE

For All Competitive Exams

SSC & RRB EXAM SPECIAL BANKING (SBI, RBI & IBPS) STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

'HURRY START PREPARING FROM NOW ON, BEFORE YOUR COMPETITOR DOES-ACHIEVE IT'

1-JULY:

- ◆ **National Doctors' Day was observed on July 1st.** The day is observed to honour legendary physician, **Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy whose birth and death anniversary falls on the same day. Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy** was born on **1 July 1882 in Patna and died on 1 July 1962.** He was a legendary physician who also served **West Bengal as its second Chief Minister from 1948 to 1962.** Bidhan Roy is often considered the **great architect of West Bengal, who founded five eminent cities, Durgapur, Kalyani, Bidhannagar, Ashokenagar and Habra.** The **B.C. Roy National Award** was instituted in 1976 for work in the area of medicine, politics, science, philosophy, literature and arts.
- ◆ **9th National Statistics Day was observed on 29th June around the Nation, theme was, 'Social Development'. observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Late Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.**
- ◆ **Union Railway Ministry Inaugurated Integrated Security System at 4 Railway Stations in Mumbai. { Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Dadar , Kurla , Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) }.** The system has a total of 118 CCTV cameras.
- ◆ PM Modi launched the **'Digital India Week'** aimed at promoting e-governance with eminent industrialists promising 4.5 lakh crore rupees in investments and 18 lakh jobs in the sector. Several programs like Digital Locker System, eHospital application, NationalScholarship Portal, eSign framework and others are going to be launched under this project.
- ◆ A report by National Sample Survey Office (**NSSO**) survey (2014) says **literacy rate in the 71 % in rural & 86 % in the urban.** Also says among the **age group of 7 year** and above: Male literacy rate- 83 % , female literacy rate- 67 % . **Adult literacy** (age 15 years and above) rate: It was around 71 per cent. In rural areas- 64 per cent, urban areas- 84 per cent. Education level of **graduation** and above: It was 4.5 per cent of males and 2.2 per cent of females in rural areas. While, in urban areas it was 17 per cent of males and 13 per cent of females.
- ◆ World Bank has approved an additional loan **of 650 million dollars for India's Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project.** The Eastern Corridor is **1,840 km long and extends from Ludhiana to Kolkata.**
- ◆ **Union Government has approved Shimla drinking water project for world Bank funding** Under this project, World Bank will provide a loan of 514 crore Rupees and remaining 129 crore will be provided by the state government.
- ◆ Bollywood actress and **BJP MP Hema Malini** is severely injured in a **road accident in Jaipur in Rajasthan.**
- ◆ **Anisa Rasouli Nominated as First Female Judge of Afghanistan Supreme Court.** Justice Fathima beevi was the first female judge of india's Supreme Court appointed in 1989.
- ◆ **India and Thailand signed 5 MoU's during the 1st meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission,** signed by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Deputy PMinister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Gen Tanasak Patimpragorn.
- ◆ **IDFC appointed Vinod Rai as the independent director.** He is former Comptroller and Auditor General. He also served as Financial Services Secretary. He is currently the chairman of **UN Panel of external auditors.**
- ◆ Scientist **Sanjeev Galande** has been selected for the prestigious **G D Birla** award for 2014 for his pioneering research in the field of **epigenetics and molecular cell biology.** Presently, he is a professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (**IISER**), **Pune** and also leading a team of scientists in studying various aspects of gene.
- ◆ **Madhya Pradesh government starts e-registration of property** all districts.
- ◆ The population of **elephants has increased to 1,954 in Odisha** as per revealed in 2015 Elephant Census report. The population of elephants in state has marginally increased by 24 elephants in the terms of population in 2015 compared to 2012 Elephant Census. As per 2015 Elephant Census 1450 elephants were enumerated in three elephant reserves viz. **Mayurbhanj, Mahanadi and Sambalpur.**
- ◆ **Hindi Writer Vishwanath Tripathi** won the **Moorti Devi Award for his book Vyomkesh Darvesh.** Some of his popular works are Ped ka Hath, Kuch Kahaniyan Kuch Vihar, Jaisa Kaha Saka and so on.
- ◆ Finnish telecom engineer and father of messaging service **Matti Makkonene,** the Pioneer **SMS technology passed away at the age of 63. Matti Makkonene** who won The Economist' innovation award in 2008 breathed his last. The first text message was sent from a computer to mobile phone in **3rd Dec 1992.**
- ◆ A 15-year-old boy named **Byron Wake** has become **Britain's youngest 'cyborg' i.e. part-human, part machine.** He achieved this feat after inserting xNT microchip under the skin using hypodermic syringe.
- ◆ For the first time scientists have identified two promising drug candidates for the treatment of deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (**MERS**) virus. **REGN3051 and REGN3048 are the two antibodies (drug candidates)** which have shown ability to neutralise the MERS virus. This research was done in collaboration with New York based **biopharmaceutical company Regeneron.**

- ◆ **First Ever Day-night Test to be Played in November this year at Adelaide Oval. Match will be played between Australia and New Zealand. The test will be played between November 27 and December 1. Pink balls will be used in the match.**
- ◆ **Abhijeet Gupta wins 19th Commonwealth Chess Championship.**

2-JULY:

- ◆ Union Government has notified the compliance window for black money disclosure under **the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Asset) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015**. The notified compliance window makes it mandatory for people to disclose their foreign income and assets till 30th September 2015.
- ◆ Union Cabinet has approved setting up of an **Online National Agriculture Market** that will provide more options to farmers for selling their produce.
- ◆ **Union Cabinet gives nod to Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**. PM's Agriculture Irrigation Scheme. PMKSY is central scheme that aims at providing irrigation facilities to every village in the country by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries. It will focus on 'end-to-end solution' in irrigation supply chain by implementing new programme in a "project mode" with decentralised state-level planning and execution.
- ◆ **U P Singh** who is serving as **Joint Secretary Exploration under Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry** is given new responsibility as the Interim Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited. He replaced S K Srivastava.
- ◆ **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh, Bangladesh-based poverty alleviation NGO**, social enterprise visionary and founder of **BRAC {Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (1972) } was announced** as winner of the World Food Prize, 2015 the most prominent global award for individuals.
- ◆ **Rahul Yadav the CEO and Co-founder of Housing.com** was sacked by the board in a meeting held in Delhi.
- ◆ Indian American teacher **Darshan Jain** is named for **US President award**. He is the **director of Mathematics in Adlai E Stevenson High School**. He is named for his excellence in Mathematics and science Teaching.
- ◆ **Chandrasekharan Ramakrishna Appointed CEO of Tata Motor's Group.**
- ◆ **Cuba has become the first country in the world to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.** It was announced by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Cuba was able to achieve this milestone with the help and efforts of WHO and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO). Cuba's achievement Since 2010, WHO/PAHO are working with partners in Cuba and other American countries to implement a regional initiative to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.
- ◆ **Greece has become the first developed nation to default on International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt.** It has defaulted on a 1.7 billion dollars payment to IMF. The deadline for debt payment was missed by Greece after Euro zone Finance Ministers refused to extend its bailout.
- ◆ **Iran** and P5+1 nations i.e. **six major powers have agreed to extend an interim nuclear agreement until July 7, 2015** in order to allow more time for negotiations on a final deal. This decision was taken during the talks between these nations held in the Vienna, Austria after the deadline expired on 30 June 2015. It should be noted that the so-called P5+1 (Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and United States) and Iran are negotiating to curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

3-JULY:

- ◆ Union Government has launched a **web portal for online submission of applications for environment clearance by State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA) for Category B projects**. It was launched by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on the occasion of Digital India Week.
- ◆ Union Government has **launched mobile App** to know **gram panchayats assets**. It was launched by Union **Rural Development and Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh**. It was launched on the occasion of **Digital India Week in New Delhi**. The main purpose of the app is to provide people with the information **related to assets of the gram panchayats**.
- ◆ **Haryana** Government launched '**Mhara Gaon, Jagmag Gaon**' scheme to provide 24 hour uninterrupted power supply for rural domestic consumers in a phased manner with their active participation. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar from Dyalpur village of Kurukshetra district. With this launch, Haryana became first state in the country to provide such an innovative voluntary scheme. Mhara Gaon, Jagmag Gaon scheme Aim: To provide 24-hour uninterrupted power supply to rural domestic consumers.
- ◆ **Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal launched the state Portal ePMS** (Electronic Projects Management System) to **fast track infrastructural development**. The portal was launched during the Digital India week. The project was started to enhance efficiency, bring transparency, boost the investor confidence, revive the investment cycle, eliminate the human interaction and improve the communication between industries to Government (B2G), State to Centre (G2G), or vice versa (G2B).
- ◆ The Governor **of Punjab, Haryana and Administrator of UT Chandigarh Kaptan Singh Solanki released the Industrial Policy 2015 for the Chandigarh city**. The policy is aimed at boosting employment and motivates medium and small industries in the city.

- ◆ India's seafood exports touched an all-time high at **33,441 crore rupees during the financial year 2014-15**. The data was released by Marine Products Export Development Authority (**MPEDA**).
- ◆ Indian-American professor **R Paul Singh** has been named as the 2015 **Global Confederation for Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences World Agriculture Prize laureate**. The award was announced at the annual Global Confederation for Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences (**GCHERA**) conference held at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon.
- ◆ **K P P Nambiar**, founding chairman of **Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KELTRON)** passed away at the age of 86 years.
- ◆ **Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis** moved reached the 2nd round at Wimbledon, defeating Zarina Diyas and Zhenzhen Saisai of Kazakhstan and China.
- ◆ **Ajay Ratra and Hrishikesh Kanitkar** Announce **Retirement** from All Forms of Cricket.

4-JULY:

- ◆ Madhya Pradesh government held a program on **World Hand Washing Day on 15th October** 2014 in which more than 12,76, 425 students simultaneous washed their hands. The event is now **recognized by Guinness Book**.
- ◆ **Indian Army launched Operation Shiva which is meant to provide security to Amarnath Yatra devotees in Jammu and Kashmir**. The yatra started this year on 2nd July and will continue for **59 days**.
- ◆ **Nationwide Mobile Number Portability** becomes operational. The 1st foundation stone for the Union government's ambitious **'One nation, One number' plan**. MNP within a circle or state was first launched in **Haryana** in November 2010 and later was expanded to other circles. At present India is divided into **22 telecom** service areas or circles.
- ◆ BSNL launches mobile wallet service **'Speed Pay'**. This service was launched by BSNL has launched the service in partnership with **IT company Pyro**. Features of Speed Pay Allows BSNL customer to transfer money, pay for services and withdraw cash of up to 1 lakh rupees.
- ◆ **State Bank of India, the largest public sector bank in India launched Project Tatkal**. This project is aimed at helping the home loan applicants get housing loan within 10 days from the day to submitting the application.
- ◆ **Software major Microsoft has agreed to support 'digital villages' in Maharashtra** and develop a **'Smart MIDC'** (industrial colony) apart from setting up a cyber-security centre in Pune. Under state's flagship **'Make In Maharashtra'** initiative.
- ◆ Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd, a subsidiary of **Mahindra Group & Airbus Helicopter** have inked pact to form a joint venture (JV) company to produce helicopters in India.
- ◆ **C D Balaji Commodore (Retd) took charge as the Director of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** and Programme Director of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). Four Indian-Americans Honoured with Great Immigrants Award 2015 In US. Four Indian-Americans are :-
 - * Preet Bharara – US Attorney, Southern District of New York.
 - * Rakesh Khurana – Dean of Harvard College and Marvin Bower Professor of Leadership and Development.
 - * Madhulika Sikka – Vice President and Executive Editor of .Mic.
 - * Abraham Verghese – Physician, Professor and Author
- ◆ **McCullum the New Zealand captain score 158 runs in just 64 balls** and remained not out in a country match. This is the new record in T20 matches.
- ◆ India launched emigrate System for Foreign Employers. www.emirate.gov.in is launched for foreign employers who wants to recruit Indian workers, including nurses.
- ◆ Death toll **from Ebola virus in Liberia** is on the rise once again after three new confirmed cases were reported. Earlier in May 15, the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared the West African country Ebola free after no new cases were reported. Liberia has accounted for more than 4,800 deaths since the outbreak, which began in 2014.
- ◆ **Former Chief Justice of India YK Sabharwal died** in New Delhi. He was 73. Justice Sabharwal was Chief Justice from November 1, 2005 to January 13, 2007.

5-JULY:

- ◆ **National Green Tribunal banned the use of plastic bags in Haridwar and Rishikesh**. Whoever violates this order will have to pay a penalty of Rs. 5000 rupees for degradation of environment. The Chairman of National Green Tribunal was Justice Swatanter Kumar, established in 2010.
- ◆ Indian finance minister Arun Jaitley will participate in the inaugural meet of **BRICS Bank in Moscow**. He will also meet the finance ministers of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the BRICS nations.
- ◆ 38 distinguished personalities from 30 countries are honored with the Pride of America for the year 2014. Indian Americans among those honored are **Preet Bharara, US attorney, Madhulika Sikka, Vice President** and EE of Misc, **Rakesh Khurana – the dean of Harvard College** and **Abraham Verghese, the physician** and professor and author.
- ◆ **United States won the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup**. It is overall third world cup title of US. In the World Cup final match **played at Vancouver, Canada US defeated Japan** by 5-2 goals score. **Player of the Match- Carli Lloyd** of US.
- ◆ India won the South Asian Basketball (SABA) Championship title. In the final played at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka, **India defeated Sri Lanka** 93-44.

- ◆ The national team of **Chile won its first major Copa America** trophy by defeating **Argentina**. Argentina football fans are disappointed as the team did not win the trophy since 22 years.
- ◆ Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain won 2015 British Grand Prix of Formula One (F1).

Top 5 Teams

Mercedes	-	Lewis Hamilton (Britain), Nico Rosberg (Germany)
Ferrari	-	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)
Williams	-	Felipe Massa (Brazil), Valtteri Bottas (Finland)
Red Bull	-	
Force India	-	Nico Hulkenberg (Germany), Sergio Perez (Mexico)

- ◆ **Eminent Pakistani Urdu novelist Abdullah Hussain** who authored the bestseller and critically-acclaimed 'Udas Naslain' passed away in Lahore. He was 84.

6-JULY:

- ◆ BSNL launches Wi-Fi service at **Hampi**.
- ◆ **Corporation Bank** launched **first MUDRA Card** under **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana**. The card is based on the **RUPAY platform and facilitates the withdrawal and use** of the working capital finance by micro entrepreneurs. MUDRA- **Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency**.
- ◆ President Pranab Mukherjee on 6 July inaugurated a '**Nakshatra Vatika**' at his official Rashtrapati Nilayam Gardens in Bolarum, Secunderabad. The vatika (garden) has plants representing planets, zodiac signs and stars. The layout of 'Nakshatra Vatika' has been developed in **various geometrical combinations corresponding to the Sree Chakra of Vedic astrology** on a 0.91 acre plot.
- ◆ World Bank released classification of world's economies based on Gross National Income. GNI calculations are based on world bank Atlas method. **Motto-** Working for a World Free of Poverty. **President-** Jim Yong Kim. **Head quarter-** Washington DC.
- ◆ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prohibited the foreign direct investment (FDI) in manufacturing of tobacco products.
- ◆ Adani Group inks MoU with Tamil Nadu Government to set up 650 MW solar power plant.
- ◆ India and Uzbekistan have signed three agreements during delegation level talks held between PM Modi and Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov in Tashkent. The agreements are signed in the field of tourism, culture and protocol. They also agreed to expand cooperation in the fields of defence and cyber-security.
- ◆ The world's oldest man, Japanese super centenarian **Sakari Momoi**, has died in Tokyo at the age of 112.
- ◆ Acclaimed **Pakistani Urdu novelist Abdullah Hussain** passed away in Lahore due to blood cancer. He was 84. UNESCO had published a translation of this novel called The Weary Generations.
- ◆ Renowned US actress and model **Diana Douglas passed away in Los Angeles due to cancer**. She was 92. Some of her famous movies are The Indian Fighter; Planes, Trains and Automobiles; The Days of Our Lives. Her last appearance was Runs in the Family in 2003 and retired from acting in 2008.

7-JULY:

- ◆ World Bank has ranked the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as the world's largest public works programme**. It was revealed in recently released World Bank Group's report titled 'The State of Social Safety Nets 2015'.
- ◆ Indian Railway's launches Mobile ticketing app for suburban commuters in **Mumbai**.

- ◆ **Telangana government, ICRISAT ink MoU to promote IT-based information for farmers. International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Telangana** unveiled a **new tablet for farmers**. This is going to be priced \$300 which is equal to about Rs. 18,600. Farmers can get agriculture tips based on their soil health from scientists of **ICRISAT**.
- ◆ Supreme Court issued notices to the Union Government, Election Commission of India (**ECI**) on a plea to **bring all political parties under the ambit of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**. The notice was also issued to **six National Political Parties viz. BJP, Congress, CPI, BSP, CPI (M) and NCP**. It was issued by 3 member SC bench **headed by Chief Justice HL Dattu** on the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by an NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The bench comprised of **Justice Arun Kumar Mishra and Justice Amitava Roy**. In the PIL, the NGO had sought Transparency and accountability in functioning of political parties.
- ◆ Union Government has decided to develop all villages located within **10 kilometres vicinity of the international border** on a priority basis. It was decided by the Union Home Ministry in consultation with Ministries of Rural Development, Sports, Health and Human Resources Development. These villages will be developed under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) with special emphasis on promotion of sports activities and rural tourism. Key facts the funds under BADP for this initiative will be provided to the states as a 100 per cent non-lapsable special central assistance.
- ◆ Industrial revolution **Meiji** Period Sites (1868 to 1912) of **Japan** have received the World Cultural Heritage status from the **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization). This decision has been taken in 39th World Heritage Committee session that was led by **Maria Bohmer at Bonn, Germany**.
- ◆ **Pune's prestigious Fergusson College**, founded in **1885**, has been accorded the special heritage status by the University Grants Commission (**UGC**). James Fergusson, the then Governor of Bombay Presidency from April 1880 to March 1885. Freedom fighters Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, R.G. Bhandarkar, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and M.G. Ranade were main force behind establishing this college. Fergusson College will get Rs. 20 lakh special grants for its upkeep.
- ◆ **Eminent Ecologist Kamal Bawa** has been **elected as Fellow to the London based prestigious Royal Society** which was established in **1660**. He was chosen in recognition of his **pioneering contributions in the field of conservation science**. With this, he joins former and current eminent fellows of Royal Society such as **Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawking** etc. About Dr. Kamal Bawa Bawa is **India's most prominent biologist and an evolutionary ecologist**. He is a **professor of Biology at the prestigious of Massachusetts University of Boston, US**. He is the founder **President of Bengaluru based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)**.
- ◆ **Japan's telecom company SoftBank** expressed his willingness to set up a 20 GW solar plant in Andhra Pradesh. The bank will also provide scholarships to students of solar energy engineering. This was revealed after Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu's meeting with **SoftBank Chairman Masayoshi Son** during his Japan tour.
- ◆ **India and Kazakhstan** launched the **first exploratory drilling at Satpayev oil block** owned by India's **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Kazakhstan company KazMunaiGaz**. It was jointly launched by PM **Modi and Kazakhstan** premier Karim Massimov in Astana, Kazakh capital. Key facts Satpayev oil block is an offshore field located in the Northern Caspian Sea.
- ◆ China nominated **Jin Liqun former finance minister of China** as the **President-designate** of the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**. Now the college is among the **19 institutions in the country** to get the heritage status. He is working as Secretary General of AIIB and also served in World Bank. He was also the vice president of Asian Development Bank.
- ◆ The **Film Society of Jodhpur** has been conferred with the **Pritiman Sarkar Award 2014-15** for the fourth time for being the best film society in Northern Region in raising awareness and film appreciation. The award was given in recognition of screening of a series of films by the society in 2014-15 in Jodhpur to mark **100 glorious years** of Indian cinema under the Incredible Journey of Indian Cinema.
- ◆ PM Modi visited to 5 Central Asian countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) and Russia. **India and Uzbekistan** have inked pacts to boost cooperation between their foreign offices and in the **field of culture and tourism**. Agreements were signed after PM Modi and his counterpart **Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan President** had talks on key bilateral and regional issues.
- ◆ Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) held a meeting with 6 states in New Delhi to review the progress of demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (**ESA**) along the Western Ghats region. The crucial meeting discussed the progress made by states to physically demarcate ESA in this region in order to decide the further course of action in the ambit of recommendations made by Kasturirangan Committee report (2013). The meeting was chaired by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and was attended by environment Ministers of **six States viz. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat**. Key facts of meeting No final decision was taken in this meeting as it will be taken by end of August 2015. Focus: To set policy guidelines to conserve the biodiversity of the Western Ghats region.
- ◆ World Boxing Organization (WBO) has stripped of the **Welterweight World title 2015** won by **Floyd Mayweather** in May 2015.
- ◆ **Leander Paes** of India and **Martina Hingis** of Swiss entered the quarter finals of Wimbledon 2015 in mixed doubled category. They defeated artem Sitak and Ananastasia Rodionova, the Kiwi and Aussie Team.

8-JULY:

- ◆ Four World Class Broadband products developed by C-DOT launched under Digital India. Union Minister for Communication and IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the products in New Delhi. C-DOT- Centre for Development of Telenatics.
- ◆ Railway minister Suresh Prabhu launched the **first paperless mobile ticket system in Mumbai**. Passengers can now buy railway tickets using **UTS app which is available on Android and Windows platforms**. A PDF format image will be received on the phone by the passengers.
- ◆ Senior IAS officer **Sanjeev Nandan (SN)Sahai** has been appointed as the **Home Secretary of Delhi**. **Sahai** succeeded senior IAS officer **Dharam Pal**, who was **removed as Home Secretary** in June 2015 by **the AAP government**.
- ◆ The Union home ministry has declared whole of **Nagaland as a "disturbed area"** for a further period of one year from **June 30, 2015**. The state was declared as "disturbed" area **under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958**. With this declaration the armed forces get powers to search, **raid and arrest anyone without a warrant**.
- ◆ **India and Kazakhstan** signed **five** key agreements including a **defence pact to enhance military cooperation** and a contract for supply of **uranium**. The agreements were signed in **Astana** after delegation level talks between **PM** and **Nur Sultan Nazar**.
- ◆ **Rahul Bhatnagar** was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of **Bharti Enterprises**. Bhatnagar succeeded Manoj Kohli, who has assumed the role of Executive Chairman of SBG Cleantech, a Joint Venture between SoftBank, Bharti and Foxconn for renewable energy.
- ◆ **PTC India Financial** announced the appointment of **Ashok Haldia** as the new CEO and managing director of the company.
- ◆ Captain of Indian women cricket team **Mithali Raj** **created history by becoming the first woman to score 5000 runs in one day international matches**. She scored 81 runs against New Zealand in a match played at Bangalore. five centuries and 37 half centuries in 157 matches. Her batting average is 48.82.

9-JULY:

- ◆ **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam** launched **Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan in New Delhi**. This program seeks to develop interest towards learning **science and maths in school students**. **Government schools in India will be mentored by IISERs, IIMs and IITs and other universities** to exchange students, give demonstration and student visits.
- ◆ **Sriram Kalyanaraman** became the **first private sector executive to be appointed as MD and CEO of National Housing Bank**. Kalyanaraman is presently serving as Director-Business Development, Equifax Credit Information Service. He will be the first **person from private sector to head a public sector financial institution**.
- ◆ The **first open general elections are going to be held in Myanmar in November this year**. These elections are the first in 25 years and are a step to achieve full democracy. The military rule in the country was replaced by civilian government in the country in 2010. The government now is backed by military.
- ◆ 2nd largest private banking sector in India **HDFC became the 1st bank to offer Watch Banking Service**. Application will work for Apple Watch. It works via Bluetooth on iPhone 5 and above versions.
- ◆ **eMudhra Limited**, a leading certifying firm in the country for digital signatures launched first of its kind eSign services in the country as part of the Digital India Vision. **eSign is an online electronic signature** service legally valid and secure under the Information Technology Act, 2000. It will facilitate an Aadhaar holder to digitally sign a document within seconds.
- ◆ UNESCO **names 24 new world heritage sites**. 39th session World Heritage Committee (WHC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO) has inscribed 24 new sites into the World Heritage List. Decision in this regard was taken at WHC's annual meeting held in Bonn, Germany. In this meeting total 36 sites were examined and 24 sites were granted world heritage status. With this the total number of world heritage sites has increased to **1,031**.
- ◆ **India and United States** have signed inter-governmental agreement to implement the **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)**. It was signed **by Revenue Secretary Shaktikanta Das** and **US Ambassador to India Richard Verma** in New Delhi. The agreement will promote transparency on tax matters and curb offshore tax evasion by exchange of information between the two countries.
- ◆ **Vadodara district of Gujarat and China's Xinjinag province** has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the development of twin cities. It was signed between Vadodara Municipal Corporation and Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture of Xinjinag Uygur Autonomous Region in Mumbai. The MoU aims to enhance Infrastructure growth and development between the two regions. Mutual cooperation in economic, technological, scientific and cultural strengths between both cities.
- ◆ 7th Mekong-Japan summit held in Tokyo. Mekong region countries include **Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam**.
- ◆ UN has released Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report 2015. These 8 Millennium Development Goals are produced by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**.
- ◆ Russian Cosmonaut **Gennady Padalka** entered Guinness World Records. Gennady Padalka entered Guinness World Records for spending 804 days on the ISS (**International Space Station**). With this he broke the previous record of 803 days, nine hours and 41 minutes set by Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev (now retired) across six missions from 1998 to 2005.

- ◆ Lord **Kamlesh Patel becomes first British-Asian appointee to ECB Director**. He was appointed as **Director of England** and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). He succeeds Lord Morris of Hands worth, who had stepped down after 11 years as an ECB Director. Lord Patel was born to **Indian parents in Nairobi, Kenya**. He later had moved to UK.
- ◆ Notable **Urdu** poet, critic and orator **Bashar Navaaz** passed away in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. He was 80 years old. He was known as an Indo Pak shayar as his **gazals** are popular in India as well as Pakistan. About Bashar Navaaz Born on August 18, 1935 at Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

10-JULY:

- ◆ **Uttarkhand became first Indian state to install a system to detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings**. The first system has been installed in its capital **Dehradun** which will issue warnings 1-40 seconds before earthquakes of **magnitude 5 or more occur**. The system is designed and manufactured by **Italian firm, Space Dynamics** which already has installed it in **Japan, Italy and US**. Features of earthquake early warning The system is incorporated with sensors which are capable to detect P (Primary) and S (Secondary) waves generated during an earthquake. It is capable to detect the harmless P wave, which travels faster than the S wave for advance warning. The system has the earliest detection among those currently in use worldwide. The second system will be established at Pithoragarh in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.
- ◆ **ISRO Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-28 has successfully put five satellites of United Kingdom into designated orbits**. They were successfully put designated into orbit after its lift off from first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikotta, Andhra Pradesh. These satellites are three identical DMC3 optical earth observation satellites and two auxiliary satellites, viz., CBNT-1 and De-Orbit Sail. For this mission, ISRO had used high-end XL version of PSLV as it was its biggest and heaviest commercial launch with overall lift-off mass of all 5 satellites was 1,440 kg . Five satellites are: Constellation of 3 identical DMC3 Satellites: Three satellites comprised of DMC3-1, DMC3-2 and DMC3-3, all weighing around 447-kg.
- ◆ **Healthcare firm Practo** has acquired **Mumbai based Genii**, a technology services start-up focused on product design and development. With this acquisition, **Genii's founders Varun Vohra & Aditya Anand** and their 11 member team will join **Bengaluru based Practo**. Currently, **Practo provides Practo Search, an app & web service** for scheduling appointments with doctors & **also Practo Ray, a practice management solution for doctors to manage their patients & digital healthcare** records.
- ◆ Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) and Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (**MCF**) signed MoUs to address the Industry's need of Skilled Manpower.
- ◆ Indigenously developed **supersonic surface-to-air Akash Missile** has been inducted in Indian Air Force (IAF). The Akash missile was inducted by Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at a function held at Maharajpur Airbase in Gwalior after he handed over the symbolic key of Akash defence system (ADS) to Air chief Marshal Arup Raha.
- ◆ WHO released Global Tobacco Epidemic 2015 Report. The focus of the report was on 'R' of MPOWER measure which stands for 'Raise taxes on tobacco' Headquarter- **Geneva, Switzerland. Head- Margaret Chan (Director General)**.
- ◆ **World Bank has released state of safety Nets 2015 Report**. According to the report, only 1/3rd of the World's poor are covered by safety nets program with largest gaps in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Headquarter – Washington DC. Members- 188 countries (IBRD). - 172 countries (IDA) President – Jim Yong Kim.
- ◆ **Legendary Egyptian actor Omar Sharif passed away** due to a heart attack in Cairo. He was 83. He was best known for his roles in classic films Lawrence of Arabia (1962) and Doctor Zhivago (1965). These movies had soared him international stardom.
- ◆ **Bandhan Bank, based at Kolkata** is going to begin its operation in India in **August** this year. The bank appointed chairman and other board of directors. **Ashok Kumar Lahiri, the former Chief Economic Adviser is appointed as the chairman**.
- ◆ Inderjit Singh becomes **1st Indian to win Gold medal at World University Games in Gwangju** (South Korea) and won Silver medal. Inderjit Singh associated with '**Shot Put**'.
- ◆ **Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis** entered the finals of women's doubles 2015. They defeated Raquel Kops Abigail Spears to enter the finals.
- ◆ India has been accorded full membership of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** at its **UFA** summit held in **Russia**. Technically, India will become the member of SCO by 2016 after completion of certain procedures. This membership will help India to work with the 6 members { (i) China (ii) Kyrgyzstan (iii) Russia (iv) Uzbekistan (v) Kazakhstan (vi) Tajikistan } grouping to enhance connectivity, combat terror and create an environment for boosting trade by easing barriers.
- ◆ **Typhoon Linfa hits Southern Chinese province of Guangdong**.
- ◆ **Serena Williams wins sixth Wimbledon Women's Single title**.

11-JULY:

- ◆ **World Population Day** was observed on **11 July** 2015 across the world. The **theme** for the year 2015 is '**Vulnerable Populations in Emergencies**'.
- ◆ A new species of tiny **butterfly** species called "**Banded Tit**" (**Hypolycaena Narada**) discovered in the green forests of the **Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- ◆ **NASA selected four astronauts** to provide crew **transportation** services to and from **the International Space Station**. Astronauts and test pilots **Robert Behnken, Eric Boe, Douglas Hurlley and Sunita Williams** will work with **The Boeing Company and SpaceX** to develop crew transportation systems and provide crew transportation services to and from the International Space Station (**ISS**). They will train and prepare for commercial spaceflights that will return American launches to US soil and further open up low-Earth orbit transportation to the private sector.

- ◆ **India and USA signed MoU** on Cooperation to establish **PACE Setter Fund**. The agreement was signed by Upendra Tripathy, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Richard Verma, United States Ambassador to India.
- ◆ **Serena Williams (United States) defeated Garbine Muguruza (Spain) in the final of Wimbledon Women's Single tournament to win the title**. This is her **sixth** Wimbledon title and also her **21st Grand Slam Title**.
- ◆ **Kagiso Rabada of South Africa became the second cricketer to claim hat-trick in one day international debut match**. The **first bowler to achieve this feat was Taijul Islam of Bangladesh**.
- ◆ 7th BRICS Summit held in **UFA, Russia, Theme , ' BRICS Partnership- a powerful factor of Global**, 6th BRICS summit was held in Fortaleza in Brazil in 2014 and next, 8th Summit will be held in New Delhi.
- ◆ United States has approved major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) status to Tunisia. Decision in this regard was taken by US State Department. With this Tunisia became the 16th country to become a MNNA of US.
- ◆ India has in imposed **definitive anti-dumping duty of 342.76 dollars** per tonne on all phenol imports on imports of **Phenol from South Africa**. This anti-dumping duty will be valid for a period of five years. The duty was imposed by Union Finance Ministry based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping Duty (DGAD) under the aegis of Union Commerce Ministry.
- ◆ **Prince Saud al-Faisal, World's longest serving Foreign Minister Passes** away. He was former foreign minister of **Saudi Arabia** passed away in **United States**. He was 75. He was the Saudi kingdom's foreign minister for **4 decades (from 1975 to 2015)**. He had retired in April 2015 and was succeeded by Adel al-Jubeir.

12-JULY:

- ◆ **NABARD's 34th Foundation Day Today**; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was established on 12th July 1982. 12th July, 2015 is the 34th foundation day of this apex development bank. It has its headquarters in Mumbai.
- ◆ **India and Kyrgyzstan signed four agreements**, including in defence and culture, after talks between PM Modi and Kyrgyz. President **Almazbek Atambayev**. The agreement on defence cooperation seeks to "deepen cooperation in matters relating to defence, security, military education and training, conduct of joint military exercises, exchange of experience and information, exchange of military instructors and observers. Currency - **Som**; Capital- **Bishkek**; President- **Almazbek Atambayev**.
- ◆ **India & Turkmenistan Signed Seven Agreements**. PM Modi held formal talks with **Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow** during which the two leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral & regional issues. They discussed ways to increase regional cooperation & connectivity. Capital - **Ashgabat**; Currency- **Turkmen Manat**.
- ◆ BigBazaar tied up with mobile wallet service MobiKwik to allow its customers to make purchases using mobile wallet facility. MobiKwik said in a statement that the wallet users can pay their BigBazaar purchase bills using their MobiKwik number and one time pass word.
- ◆ India and Pakistan will become a part of **Shanghai Co-operation Organization** by 2016.
- ◆ **Wimbledon Championship 2015 Winners**

	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>RUNNER</u>
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Roger Federer (Switzerland)
Women's Singles	Serena Williams (US)	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)
Women's Doubles	Sania Mirza (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland)	Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vensina
Men's Doubles	Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) and Horia Tecau (Romania)	
Mixed Doubles	Leander Paes (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland).	
Boys' Doubles	Sunil Nagal	

- ◆ Sunil Nagal became the sixth Indian to win a Grand Slam junior title after winning the boys doubles trophy at the Wimbledon championship.
- ◆ Yuki Bhambri was the last Indian to taste success at the top level in junior tennis when he won the Australian Open boys singles title in 2009.
- ◆ Ramanathan Krishnan (Wimbledon, 1954), Ramesh Krishnan (French Open and Wimbledon, 1979) and Leander Paes (Wimbledon 1990, U.S. Open 1991) are the other junior Grand Slam singles champions from India.
- ◆ Sania Mirza had won the Wimbledon girls doubles title in 2003 with Russian partner Alisa Kleybanova.
- ◆ Team India defeated Zimbabwe by 62 runs in the second one day international match in **three match cricket series**. With this win, India is leading the series by **2-0** and clinched the series.

13-JULY:

- ◆ **Longest Road Tunnel of India** is inaugurated by road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari in **Udhampur**. This new road will cut **Jammu to Srinagar distance by around 30 kms**. The road tunnel is named **Patnitop tunnel**. The tunnel will be open for traffic in this month itself. The length of the tunnel is **9.2 kilometers**.
- ◆ The youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner **Malala** celebrated her 18th Birthday in Lebanon. She was shot in head in Pakistan by Taliban militants in 2012. She was supporting the right of education for girls. She was honored with Nobel peace prize in 2014.
- ◆ The 12 day long Godavari **pushkaralu** are going to begin tomorrow. This is celebrated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Kumbh Mela is going to begin tomorrow in Nashik tomorrow. The first Shahi Snan is scheduled on August 29th in Kumbhamela. Jupiter's entry into constellation of Leo marks the beginning of Pushkaram. There was a huge stampede at Rajahmundry on the first day of the Pushkaram. Nearly 27 people died in this unfortunate incident.
- ◆ Buddha in a Traffic Jam, this is the movie directed by Vivek Agnihotri. The film is a political satire directed by filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri. It stars Arunoday Singh and Mahi Gill in a lead role along with Anupam Kher, Pallavi Joshi and introduces Anchal Dwivedi. Besides this award category, the film was also nominated in other two categories viz. the Best Foreign Language Film and Best Lead Actress in a Foreign Language Film to actress Mahi Gill in the Madrid International Film Festival.
- ◆ India and Tajikistan on 13 July signed agreements in the field of culture and human resource development after talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon in Tajikistan**. The two leaders Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon also agreed to promote the International North South transport corridor (INSTC). The INSTC is the ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia. : Capital – **Dushanbe** ; Currency – **Somoni**; President – **Emomalii Bahmon**.
- ◆ Union Civil Aviation Minister P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju on 13 July launched the GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system, which would make airline operations more efficient and reduce costs. GAGAN is a satellite-based navigation system which provides autonomous, high precision geo-spatial location information of the user in terms of latitude, longitude and height along with velocity and time. Jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI), at an investment of Rs 774 crore, GAGAN will offer seamless navigation to the aviation industry. GAGAN- **GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation**. GAGAN is **India's first SBAS system** and with this India became the fourth Nation after the US, Europe and Japan. SBAS- **Satellite Based Augmentation System**.
- ◆ Lieutenant General **Man Mohan Singh Rai** has been appointed as the **Vice-Chief of the Indian Army**. He is presently the Eastern Army Commander and will succeed Lt Gen Philip Campose who superannuates on 31 July 2015. He is from the Corps of Engineers and is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He was commissioned from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, on 15 December 1976. Lt General Manmohan Singh will succeed **Lt General Philip Campose**.
- ◆ **India and Georgia** on 13 July signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of election management and administration. The MoU was signed by Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India and Tamar Zhvania, Chairperson, Central Election Commission of Georgia in New Delhi.
- ◆ Four scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University won **William Harvey Award for 2015** in Hematology. The four scientists are Saeedul Hasan, Arif Kafeel Akhtar, Shagufta Qadri and Suhailur Rahman.

14-JULY:

- ◆ **Kumbha Mela begins** on 14th July, 2015 and the festival will end on August 11. This is a Hindu pilgrimage of faith where people take bath in sacred river. Kumbh Mela is organized at one place **every three years by rotation**. The **four places are Haridwar, Allahabad, Nashik and Ujjain**.
- ◆ Legendary music director **Manayangath Subramanian Viswanathan** (MSV) was died on 14 July in Chennai. He was 87. He had composed music for over 1700 films in Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada and worked with three Chief Ministers MG Ramachandran, M Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa. MS Viswanathan was born on 24 June 1928 in Elapulli in Palghat district of Tamil Nadu. He was the only film music composer to receive the Tamil Isai Sangam's Isai Perarignar title, usually conferred on professional classical musicians. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa has conferred the Thirai Isai Chakravarthy (in Tamil means The Emperor of Cine Music) title. He is the one who introduced Ilayaraja and AR Rahman to the film industry.
- ◆ IPL franchise **Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals** are suspended for two years by **justice RM Lodha headed panel**. The suspension comes into effect immediately. **Raj Kundra and Gurnath Meiyappan** are also suspended from cricket matches for life as they are found guilty of betting.
- ◆ Noted artist Sayed Haider Raza was conferred with highest French Civilian Award Commandeur de la Lgion dHonneur (the Legion of Honour). Raza was bestowed with this award for his peerless achievements in transcending all boundaries, forging ties between France and India and for continuing artistic quest straddling nations, religions, cultures and philosophies. He was bestowed with this award on the occasion of the French National Day (14 July) celebrations by Ambassador of France to India Francois Richier on behalf of the French President. About Sayed Haider Raza Born in 1922 in Madhya Pradesh.
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh government has appointed former Chief Secretary Rakesh Sahni as the Chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA).
- ◆ China has set up the world's largest cancer registry system in a bid to fight the cancer diseases with more-targeted and evidence-based intervention programmes.

- ◆ Union Government on 14 July approved defence proposals worth over 30000 crore rupees for buying four more P81 long-range maritime patrol aircraft for the Indian Navy and to replace Indian Army's vintage air defence guns of 60s. Decision in this regard by was taken by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar
- ◆ India and Georgia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of **election management and administration. The MoU was signed by Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India and Ms. Tamar Zhvania, Chairperson, Central Election Commission of Georgia in New Delhi.** The major aims of MoU are: To promote exchanges of experience and knowledge in electoral processes. Exchange of materials, expertise, information and training of personnel for electoral purpose. Distribution and production of materials in the field of electoral systems, voting technology, voters' education and awareness. To promote participation of women and minorities in electoral process.
- ◆ Indigenously developed Nag anti-tank guided missile was successfully tested from a helicopter platform. **Test: During the test, three-round trial of helicopter-launched Nag (HeliNa) missile were conducted at a Chandhan firing range in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.**
- ◆ **Four Indians are among 32 young leaders named by a prestigious global non-profit organization as its 2015 class of young leaders, focused on shaping a brighter future for the Asia-Pacific region** and confronting the most vexing challenges facing the region. Mishu Choudhary, Sanjay Vijayakumar, Aarti Wig and Manish Dahiya have been named the Asia 21 Young Leaders by New York-based Asia Society in its leadership program that identifies and brings together Asia-Pacific's top leaders under 40.
Four Indians were figured in the list.
 - a. **Mishu Choudhary**- Executive director of SFLC
 - b. **Manish Dahiya** – Executive Director and Global Head of Energy Complex at Noble Group Limited
 - c. **Sanjay Vijayakumar** – CEO of MobME wireless solutions
 - d. **Aarti Wig** – Co-founder of Indian Arm of Yunus Social Business (YSB)
- ◆ Pashupathinath Roy who worked in various capacities for BSFI breathed his last at the age of 76 years. He was also the president of West Bengal Badminton Association for nearly fifty years.

15-JULY:

- ◆ The World Youth Skills Day was on 15 July observed globally for the first ever time. The day was observed under the **theme "Youth skills for work and life in the post-2015 agenda"**. The theme is in line with the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The World Youth Skills Day was established by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 11 November 2014. The Assembly designated 15 July as the World Youth Skills Day in order to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.
- ◆ Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 July in New Delhi. The main objective behind the launch is to create skilled man power at grass-root level by giving them vocational, technical and skill development education.
- ◆ **RBI Constitutes Deepak Mohanty Committee** To Frame Action Plan On Financial Inclusion. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to work out a five-year action plan to spread the reach of financial services to unbanked population. The committee will be a 14-member panel which will be headed by RBI executive director Deepak Mohanty the committee will review the existing policy of financial inclusion including supportive payment system and customer protection.
- ◆ **Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh has been awarded Golden Peacock environment management award** for its achievements and initiatives in the field of environment. The award was presented during the 17th World Congress on Environment Management to C Sasidhar, Managing Director of Krishnapatnam Port by Union Minister of State for Environment Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. Green initiatives of Krishnapatnam Port Plantation of over 20 lakhs trees within the port and more than 50,000 trees in the surrounding villages. Installation of solar lights in the port and solar water heaters in the employee colony. Establishing gas connections for villagers so as to discourage them from cutting of mangroves as fuel wood. Adoption of Environment Health and Security program to encourage continuous improvement in environment protection. It includes waste management, pollution control, use of renewable resources, resource conservation etc. About Golden Peacock awards Instituted by the Institute of Directors (IoD) in 1991.
- ◆ As per recently published study in the journal Nature Communications, **Volcanic eruptions by injecting particulates into the atmosphere may have slowed down global warming.** The study was based upon research of a team of international researchers including **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) scientists.** Key facts from study During the last 10 years volcanic aerosols have acted as a natural umbrella to slow down global warming from release of anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs). The global concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere has continuously increased over the past decade but due to volcanic aerosols the mean global surface temperature has not increased indicating negative climate forcing effect.

- ◆ **Scientists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) have discovered a new class of exotic subatomic particles called the Pentaquarks.** The discovery was made by the scientist's after watching the decaying of a subatomic type particle known as the Lambda B baryon. Facts about Pentaquark Pentaquark was first predicted to exist in the 1960s and its name was coined by Israeli theoretical physicist Harry J. Lipkin. It is a particle consisting of five quarks (any of a group of subatomic particles carrying a fractional electric charge) bounded together. These quarks are elementary particles that exist in six variations known as flavors having unusual names of up, down, top, bottom, strange and charm. These elementary particles bind together in different combinations to form a range of composite particles. Most commonly known combinations are neutrons and protons, consisting of three quarks each. Applications: This discovery will allow physicists to understand the quantum chromodynamics (i.e. study of strong fundamental force describing the interactions between quarks and gluons which make up proton, neutron and pion).
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh government has appointed Rakesh Sahni as the Chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA).
- ◆ **Ajay Kumar Pandey** was appointed as new Managing Director and Group CEO of Gandhinagar based **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**. He will succeed Ramakant Jha as he was appointed as CEO of Mumbai based IL&FS's Smart City initiative. Jha was associated with GIFT City project since November 2009. Ajay Kumar Pandey has more than three decades of global and domestic experience in the field of telecommunications. He had worked in various senior management positions in Tata Telecommunications, Tata Teleservices and Neotel. About GIFT City GIFT City is a central business district in Gandhinagar, Gujarat built on 886 acres. Implemented by: Joint Venture Company of Gujarat Urban Development Company Limited (GUDCOL) and Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS). The city comprises special economic zone (SEZ), international education zone, integrated townships, international techno park, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) units, stock exchanges etc. Its main purpose is to provide high quality physical infrastructure to finance and tech firms can relocate their operations.
- ◆ **World's largest religious congregation Sinhastha Kumbh Mela has begun at Trimbakeshwar, Nashik district of Maharashtra.** The traditional religious ceremony began with flag hoisting ceremony and was followed by holy dip in Godavari River at Trimbakeshwar and Nashik by thousands of people. The ceremony was presided by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in Trimbakeshwar while Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis presided over the ceremony at Nashik. Sinhastha Kumbh Mela is once-in-a-12 year event which is marked by participation of 'sadhus' from different denominations (known as akhadas) and lakhs of devotees.
- ◆ **Income Tax Department has launched OTP based e-filing verification system for tax payers.** This facility will end the practice of sending paper acknowledgement, called ITRV
- ◆ **55th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championship concluded in Tamil Nadu.** Games were organized by the Tamil Nadu Athletics Association. Kerala topped the table with 177.5 points followed by Haryana.
- ◆ The Governing Council of the Champions League T20 (CLT20) has decided to scrap the tournament with immediate effect. CLT20 was scrapped due to lack of interest or poor response of the fans and popularity of the tournament and difficulty in managing it. **Its popularity was also poor in respect of other domestic T20 tournaments such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Big Bash League in Australia and South Africa's Ram Slam T20.**
- ◆ The **Highest French Civilian Honor, the commander de la Legion D'Honneur** is conferred on **Sayed Haider Raza**, the modern Indian artist. The award is given to those who do outstanding service to France.

16-JULY:

- ◆ **World Youth Skills Day** observed globally on 15th July 2015. . The day was observed with the theme 'Youth Skills for work and life in the post-2015 Agenda'.
Four initiatives for skill India vision.
 - i) National Policy for skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015
 - ii) National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)
 - iii) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
 - iv) Skill Loan Scheme
- ◆ Union Government has decided to cap kerosene subsidy at Rs. 12 per litre. At present kerosene is sold through **PDS**(Public Distribution System) at 14.96 rupees per litre. Actual cost of Kerosene is 33.47 rupees.
- ◆ India's **first railway line built under PPP (Public Private Partnership) model inaugurated in Gujarat.** Railway minister, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the Broad-Gauge railway line between **Gandhidham and Tuna-Tekra port** in Gujarat
- ◆ Union Government has approved the Transit Oriented Development (**TOD**) Policy for **Delhi**. TOD aims to address issues of pollution, congestion and shortage of housing for the poor and middle class. Thus it is a key policy initiative for low-carbon, high-density and compact living spaces.
- ◆ Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given nod to Chinese Telecom manufacturer **Huawei** to set up a manufacturing unit in **Tamil Nadu** for its components. Huawei had first approached government for clearance purpose to set up a unit for electronics, telecom hardware and support services at SIPCOT SEZ at Sriperumbudur.

- ◆ Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT-Bombay and Nehru Science Centre**) have launched a pilot project "**Internet for All**" in its Mobile Science Exhibition Bus in Mumbai. It was launched under the aegis of the Union Government's flagship 'Digital India' campaign. The **Mobile Science Exhibition Bus** was launched with theme "Internet for All" which aimed at creating awareness about the power of internet. It is basically science exhibitions on wheels in which 20 theme based exhibition models which are mounted on specially designed Buses.
- ◆ **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and US-based aircraft maker Boeing** have signed a strategic framework agreement for aerospace and defence manufacturing. The agreement was signed by Sukaran Singh, MD & CEO of TASL and Shelley Lavender, President of Boeing Military Aircraft in lines with Make in India in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ◆ **Rakesh Sahni** is appointed as Chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority (**NDDA**).
- ◆ **Country's first Defence Industrial Park to be set Up in Ottappalam.** Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (**DIPP**) approved the proposal to set up India's first defence industrial park in Kerala. Government of Kerala proposed to set up the park at Ottappalam which is approved. This will be brought under Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme.
- ◆ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (**CCEA**) on 16 July approved the creation of an Intra-state Transmission System (**ISTS**) in **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan** at an estimated cost of 8548 crore rupees. Of this total amount National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) will contribute 3,419 crore rupees i.e. 40 per cent for this project.
- ◆ India Ranked **33rd 'Most Reputable Nation In The World'**. India is ranked 33rd among 55 countries as far as its reputation perceived by people from across the world is concerned. China is ranked 46th while Pakistan is ranked 53rd in the world reputation rankings – two ranks higher than the two worst countries – Iran (54) and Iraq (55). Canada has been named as the most reputable nation in the world.
- ◆ Scientists in the country have found remnants of a historically important port on **Goa's Zuari river** which is expected to be amongst the **oldest signs of human trade** on the central west coast and may be contemporary to Dwarka in Gujarat. The Port is supposed to be existed between **1000 to 3500 AD** which makes it **India's oldest ports**. The researchers are also of the opinion that they may discover a dockyard similar in structure to Lothal dockyard in Gujarat which was discovered by Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1954.
- ◆ The lower house of Japan's parliament has approved two controversial bills that change the country's security laws, despite protests in Tokyo. The change paves the way for the Japanese military to potentially fight abroad for the first time since World War II.
- ◆ The White House honoured an Indian-American woman Sunita Viswanath as one of the 12 'Champions of Change' for her effort in protecting environment and communities from the effect of climate change. Viswanath was the only Indian American to figure in the list, and was selected for her work in encouraging Hindus to take care of the environment.
- ◆ Champions League T20 of cricket is scrapped. The decision was taken citing the reasons of poor response from fans and suspension **of CSK and Rajasthan Royals** teams by **Justice Lodha Committee**. The two teams are suspended for **two years**. It was established in **2009** and was annual sporting event. The League is jointly owned by **BCCI, Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa**.
- ◆ Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has constituted a **committee to prepare a 5 year action plan** to spread the reach of financial services across country to unbanked population.
- ◆ The committee will be headed by RBI executive **director Deepak Mohanty** and comprise total of **14 members**.
- ◆ **Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture Minister** launched **three web** portals.
- ◆ The three portals are **Soil Health Card Portal** that is developed for soil samples registration, test result recording and generation of soil health cards. Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and Fertilizer Quality Control System (FQCS).
- ◆ **Fertilizer quality control system portal** is also launched and this portal is developed for processing sample collection and for analysis report generation. **Participatory Guarantee System**, one among the three web portals launched. The three web portals are launched under **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana Scheme**.
- ◆ These portals were launched as part of first phase which is only in **English**. While in later phase they will be made available in regional languages.
- ◆ **Objective:** These portals seek to make the process of fertilisers' quality checking, organic farming certification and issuance of soil health cards more transparent and accountable.

Soil Health Card (SHC) portal

www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in is developed for recording test results of soil samples and generation of SHC along with registration of soil samples. It will provide crop wise fertiliser recommendations to farmers.

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

www.pgsindia-ncof.gov.in is web based platform to simplify the process of certifying organic products in accordance with the standards laid down for organic products for export purpose. Thus it seeks to curb third party certification.

Implemented: by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under the aegis of Union Ministry of Agriculture.

Fertilizer Quality Control System (FOCS)

www.fqcs.dac.gov.in is a web-based and configurable workflow platform for processing of sample collection, testing and generation of analysis reports. It is developed by National Information Centre.

- ◆ Veteran playback singer of Telugu cinema, V Ramakrishna passed away in Hyderabad.
- ◆ International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). It is a multi-modal trade transport network that includes strategic rail, road, and water transport connecting India with Central Asian and Eurasia Countries.
- ◆ Route: It will connect Mumbai (India) via Chabahar and Bandar Abbas ports of Iran with Baku (Azerbaijan) to Moscow (Russia) and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe via the Caspian Sea.

17-JULY:

- ◆ Bollywood actress **Parineeti Chopra** is named the brand ambassador for girl child campaign of Haryana government. The campaign named 'Beti bachao-Beti Padhao' is to promote the cause of girl child.
- ◆ **Neeraj Kumar** is the new Chief Security Advisor for World T20.
- ◆ **Eric Lange is the New Vice President of Product Management, Flipkart.**
- ◆ **Railway Tatkal Tickets Can Be Booked Without Identify Proof from Sept 1.**
- ◆ The government has appointed Sahitya Akademi Award-winning writer **Rita Chowdhury** as the **Director of National Book Trust (NBT)**. The post had fallen vacant after MA Sikandar retired in August last year.
- ◆ **INS Astravahini** decommissioned after 31 years of service. INS Astravahini is indigenously built Torpedo launch and Recovery Vessel (**TLRV**).
- ◆ Mid-tier IT services company **Mindtree** has acquired two companies from United States and United Kingdom. Acquired companies are in **BlueFin Solutions Ltd of UK and Relational Solutions Inc of US.**
- ◆ Union Cabinet has given nod to introduce composite foreign investment cap in a bid to streamline the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) structure.
- ◆ Union Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the redevelopment of **400** major railway stations. This approval will enable the Union Ministry of Railways to accelerate the redevelopment of '**A-1**' and '**A**' category railway stations across the country. These stations generally are located in major cities, metros, pilgrimage centres and important tourist destinations. These major railway stations will be redeveloped under a new a unique method which is form of public procurement of ideas called the **Swiss Challenge**. **Swiss Challenge:** *In this method, government agencies are required to invite bids for a public project such as a port or railways. Under this method the bid is invited from third parties to match or exceed or improve the existing bid. Finally, the original bidder gets to lower the bid or accept the new bid.*
- ◆ **India has inked a financing agreement with World Bank (WB) to raise US 250 million dollars financial assistance for Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project (APDRP).** Beneficiaries: *It includes approximately 3 million populations in 4 heavily impacted districts of state viz. Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and East Godavari.*
- ◆ **Union government has brought 39 more Pharmaceutical drugs under price control as part of its efforts to make medicines affordable in the country. In this regard, nodal drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has issued the notification. It has mentioned that the prices of drug formulations which have fixed include Hydrochloride, Ciprofloxacin, Paracetamol, Cefotaxime, Domperidone and Metformin+ Glimperide.**
- ◆ **Reserve Bank of India has signed a special currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBS).** *Under this agreement, Sri Lankan bank can draw up to 1.1 billion dollars for a maximum period of 6 months. It was signed with an intention to mitigate the possible currency volatility in the spirit of strengthening bilateral relations and economic ties of India with Sri Lanka.*
- ◆ **Information and Broadcasting Ministry has given additional charge to Prashant Pathrabe as Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).** *He is Maharashtra-based senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer of 1992 batch who is currently the Director of Press Information Bureau (PIB) unit in Pune. His appointment comes prior to end of incumbent Director D J Narain term which ends in 4th of July 2015.*

18-JULY:

- ◆ **International Nelson Mandela day** is observed in honor of Nelson Mandela which is the birthday of the departed leader. For the first time the day was celebrated on **18th July 2010** as per a UN General Assembly resolution of November **2009**. **The objective** of the Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better.

- ◆ The **first private air freight station is going to open in India in Chennai**. The station is set up by **Indev Logistics**. Advantages of this freight station are the minimized transaction logistics cost, evacuation of cargo quickly from gateway airports and so on
- ◆ The official **National Crime Records Bureau's** new data showed that the roads of **Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** are the most **unsafe roads in the country**. The accidental deaths and suicides in India report 2014 released showed that more than 1.4 lakh people die in road accidents every year.
- ◆ **White-fi technology of Microsoft** is set to boost Digital India Initiative. White-fi technology of TV White Space Technology uses unspent spectrum on TV for internet usage.
- ◆ The biggest **Rath Yatra, Jagannath Rath Yatra began in Puri, Odissa**. This the century's biggest event that coincides with the Navakalevar of temple deities. Navakalevar is the re-birth ceremony of the Jagannath temple deities. Lakhs of devotees thronged the town to have the darshan of deities on chariots.
- ◆ **Shiv Pande**, an Indian origin doctor has received the honorary fellowship by one of the leading British Universities for his contribution to the community as a general practitioner and medical educator. Shiv Pande has been awarded an honorary fellowship of the **University of Central Lancashire**.
- ◆ India and Myanmar have announced plans to strengthen their defence cooperation during a joint consultative commission (JCC) meeting held in New Delhi.
- ◆ Two new plant species were discovered in **Edmalayalar, Pooyamkutty-Adamalayar and Neriamangalam forest regions of Western Ghats in Ernakulam district of Kerala**. The discovered species have been christened as **Vellithumpa (Anisochilus shoolamudianus) and Eriocaulon manoharanii**. They were discovered by a team of researchers led by **Professor C.N. Sunil** during investigations conducted as part of a UGC-sponsored project on the flowering plants.
- ◆ **France's Amelie Mauresmo**, a two-time Grand Slam winner and former world number one, was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on 18 July.
- ◆ International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned **Pakistan's all-rounder cricketer Mohammad Hafeez** from bowling in international cricket for a period of one year. He was banned after he failed in ICC's independent assessment on his suspected bowling action which violated permitted **15-degree limit**. He will be able to reassess his bowling action only after the completion of this 1 year period.
- ◆ European Union (EU) has approved a short-term loan of 7.16 billion euros to Greece after it was backed by the 28 member states. This loan will allow Greece to pay its debt to European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) till new bailout plan is ratified.
- ◆ **Prashant Pathrabe** will be succeeding D J Narain as the **Director of Film and Television Institute of India**.
- ◆ Veteran Telugu playback singer Vissamraju Ramakrishna passed away due to cancer. He was 68.
- ◆ Uruguayan soccer legend Alcides Ghiggia has passed away due to heart attack in Montevideo, Uruguay. He was 88.

19-JULY:

- ◆ PM, Narendra Modi inaugurated the **46th Indian Labour Conference ILS on 19th July in New Delhi**. He also launched the **Employees State Insurance Corporation of India initiatives**.
- ◆ **Indian Town Varanasi was chosen as the global bandwagon of UNESCO "Cities of Music"** under the Creative Cities Network by UNESCO. It was chosen in the music category under UNESCO's "field of excellence" plan. The fields of excellence are classified into categories of literature, film, music, craft and folk art, design, media arts and gastronomy. Nine cities – Glasgow in the UK, Hanover and Mannheim in Germany, Ghent in Belgium, Hamamatsu in Japan, Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo, Bogota in Columbia, Seville in Spain and Bologna in Italy – are already part of UNESCO "Cities of Music".
- ◆ **Navy Chief Admiral R K Dhowan is going on a five day visit to Singapore and Thailand**. He will meet the defence minister, chief of navy and chief of defence forces during his visit.
- ◆ **V Surendra Mohan is a CBI prosecutor** and is going to become a judicial magistrate soon. He is suffering from 70% blindness. The Tamil Nadu government is asked by the Supreme Court to keep one Civil Judge post vacant for him.
- ◆ India is going to take part in Cup of the President of Republic of Kazakhstan which is going to begin on 23rd July. The 15 member Indian team will be led by **Amit Kuma**.
- ◆ **Soorajath Boominathan** is among the three students who are going to represent **United States in annual International Chemistry Olympiad**. The Olympiad is going to begin in Azerbaijan on 20th July. Soorajath is an Indian born and is presently residing in **Oklahoma state**. He finished his graduation from Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics.
- ◆ India qualified for **World group play off in Davis cup**. Indian players Somdev and Yuki won easily in reverse singles. Somdev won the first reverse singles match and equaled to score with 2-2. He defeated Daniel 6-4, 6-4 and 6-4. Yuki defeated Michael in the second reverse single by 6-2, 6-2 and 6-3.
- ◆ According to the "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2014", a report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of **5,650 farmers committed suicide in the year 2014**, with the maximum deaths being reported from Maharashtra, Telangana and Chhattisgarh. The highest incidents of suicides were in **Maharashtra** (45.5 per cent - 2,568 farmers), followed by Telangana (15.9 per cent - 898) and Madhya Pradesh (14.6 per cent - 826).
- ◆ The annual Lord **Jagannath Rath Yatra**, largest-ever religious congregation in **Odisha has begun at Puri district on 18 July 2015**. This edition of yatra is the Millennium's first Nabakalebar Rath Yatra meaning all the Lords of Puri Jagannath Temple will get new avatar after nineteen years.

20-JULY:

- ◆ PM Modi unveiled the government's job board called **National Career Service (NCS) portal** on 20 July. The web portal will be a one-stop platform for both job providers and job seekers where registration can be done online. It will provide basic platform for searching and applying for jobs on the portal. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the aegis of National Career Service (NCS) project of Union **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- ◆ Health and Family Welfare Secretary **Bhanu Pratap Sharma** was given additional charge of **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**. Headquarters: **New Delhi**. It also **has 8 regional offices located** in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Cochin and Chennai. It has 4 referral laboratories and 72 local laboratories located across India.
- ◆ **Muziris Heritage Project** of Kerala Tourism won **the Pacific Asia Travel association Award (PATA)** in heritage and culture category. The award is sponsored by Macau Government Tourism Office. Muziris Heritage project is one of the biggest heritage conservation projects and is the flagship project of Kerala government. The PATA awards are sponsored by Macau Government Tourism Office.
- ◆ **World's sixth biggest greenhouse gas polluter, Japan has pledged to cut emissions 26 per cent** from 2013 levels by 2030 in a bid to fight calamitous global warming. In this regard, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led government submitted its target to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**).
- ◆ **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Swati Maliwal** took over as the **new Chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW)**. She succeeds Barkha Shukla.
- ◆ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 19th July, 2015 inaugurated the **first 'Aam Aadmi Clinic' at Peeragarhi Relief Camp**. The Clinic is aimed at providing better medical facility to the weaker section.
- ◆ The **UN Security Council unanimously** adopted a resolution endorsing the **Iran nuclear deal** and paving the way to lifting longstanding sanctions on the Islamic Republic.
- ◆ **BRICS bank starts its operations from Shanghai, China. President: Eminent banker Kundapur Vaman Kamath from India** is President of Bank for the first five years i.e. till 2020.
- ◆ **Pankaj Munjal** is elevated as the Chairman and managing director of **Hero Motors Group**.
- ◆ Alex rocco, the actor who is popular for his role in the movie The Godfather died at the age of 79.
- ◆ Noted Urdu writer Dr Bisheshar Pradeep passed away at the age of 80 years.
- ◆ An Indian-origin doctor **Shiv Pande** is chosen for honorary fellowship for his contribution to the community. The fellow ship is given by University of Central Lancashire, a leading British University. Shiv Pandey studies MBBS and MS in India and moved to united Kingdom in the year 1971. Other awards he received include Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from the Queen.
- ◆ Union Home Ministry has approved to **raise seventeen new police battalions in Jammu and Kashmir and the Naxal-hit states**. Of these 17 police battalions, 5 battalions will be for Jammu and Kashmir and 12 for the Maoist-affected states.
- ◆ **India and Russia have signed a customs and liberalize business visas agreement to boost trade between both** countries to remove the hindrances and boost commerce.
- ◆ The official nationality preference survey in recently **swapped 162 enclaves on India- Bangladesh border under the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)** has ended. The **survey was conducted by the Enclaves Exchange Co-ordination Committee (EECC) of both countries for ascertaining the nationality preference of over 50,000 enclave-residents**. On Bangladesh's side it is found that 1,027 out of around 37,369 had opted for Indian nationality from the recently swapped 111 Indian enclaves now located in Bangladesh. In case of India's side, over 14,000 residents in 51 Bangladeshi enclaves transferred to India have opted to relocate to Bangladesh

21-JULY:

- ◆ **White House economic adviser Maurice Obstfeld** was appointed as **Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. Obstfeld succeeds Olivier Blanchard whose retirement was announced previously.
- ◆ **China** has begun building **the world's largest amphibious aircraft. The AG AG-600's** maximum takeoff weight and flight range are better than other amphibious planes in the world. The amphibious aircraft, developed for sea rescue and fire fighting missions, can takeoff from land or water and has a maximum takeoff weight of over 50 tons.
- ◆ A new species of **cyprinid freshwater fish named Puntius Dolichopterus** has been **discovered in Kerala's Kayamkulam city**. It was discovered by **Mathews Plamoottil**, head of the department of **zoology in Baby John Memorial Government College of Kollam district**. Habitat: found in small and shallow water channels. It is edible and can be utilised as ornamental fish.
- ◆ ISRO successfully test-**fires GSLV-Mark III rocket** engine. It is India's first indigenously designed and developed high-thrust cryogenic rocket engine capable of generating a nominal thrust of 19 tonnes.
- ◆ **Benoy Behl** is the winner of best documentary producer award at **Madrid International Film Festival**. The film is titled Indian roots of Tibetan Buddhism and was released of Ministry of external affairs in 2014.

- ◆ Supreme Court of India refused to entertain the plea of **Yakub Menon**, the convict in **Mumbai serial blasts case**. He was given death penalty and with the supreme court rejecting his appeal he is going to be hanged on July 30.
- ◆ **Parmarthy Shankar** is a cartoonist in Telugu daily Sakshi and he won the **Grand Prix world Press Cartoon** 2014 award 2014, the award was given to Shankar at Cassias, Portugal by World Press Cartoon Director Antonio Antunes. He drew a caricature of Nelson Mandela in December, 2013 and for which he won the award and the caricature was displayed at World Press Cartoon Exhibition.
- ◆ The 50 year old Duleep Trophy is scrapped by **BCCI due to packed schedule**. **Duleep trophy was started by BCCI in 1961-62** seasons. The first tournament was won by **West Zone by defeating South Zone**. Five teams participate in Duleep trophy regularly- The north zone, south zone, east zone, west zone and the central zone.

22-JULY:

- ◆ Indian hockey **legend Major Dhyan Chand** will be conferred with the **'Bharat Gaurav' Lifetime Achievement Award by NRI** organisation Sanskriti Yuva Sangstha at the House of Commons inside the **British Parliament** of July 25. On behalf of Dhyan Chand, his son and former Indian hockey player Ashok Kumar will receive the award. Dhyan Chand had helped India win three successive gold medals in Olympics.
- ◆ **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved a Home Ministry proposal to extend the deadline for implementation of Crime and Criminals Tracking network and Systems (CCTNS) project till March 2017. CCEA also approved additional five years phase for operation and maintenance of the CCTNS up to March 2022.
- ◆ **BRICS bank began its operation** formally from **Shanghai, China** which is its headquarters. BRICS nations can get help from this bank for infrastructure projects. The opening ceremony of the bank is attended by Finance minister of China and Shanghai Mayor. K V Kamath from India is the first president of the bank and he was also present at the launching ceremony.
- ◆ **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan** has launched the a countrywide campaign **"Surakshit Khadya Abhiyan"**, a countrywide campaign, to create mass awareness and capacity building for safe and hygienic food. The objective of this Initiative is to Create countrywide awareness on the subject of **'Food, Safety and Quality for All'**.
- ◆ The Union Territory of **Puducherry** has emerged as the first nomination to be received by the Urban Development Ministry for a Smart City Mission.
- ◆ **Tom Moore**, an illustrious cartoonist who was known for his work on the beloved Archie comics, has died in Texas at the age of 86
- ◆ The fashion store **Myntra owned by Flipkart appointed Ananth Narayanan as the new CEO**. He will succeed Mukesh Bansal who is the co founder of Myntra.
- ◆ Board for control of cricket in India announced the venues for ICC T20 World Cup that India is going to host in 2016. The venues of the matches will be **Kolkata, New Delhi, Nagpur, Mumbai, Mohali, Dharamsala, Chennai and Bengaluru**. Final match will be played at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. Semifinal match venues are Mumbai and probably Delhi.
- ◆ **Sangram Singh created history by winning the world wrestling professional commonwealth** wrestling heavyweight championship. He defeated Joe Legend of Canada. He is the **first Indian to win this championship**.
- ◆ **KFC and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** have entered into partnership to launch a delivery system for commuters on trains. Under e-catering service initiatives commuters now can place order for KFC meal while booking tickets through IRCTC website. This service is presently available only on 12 trains passing through New Delhi railway station and will later expand to Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam and Bengaluru stations. KFC initially will provide meal to the limited trains which do not have pantry cars. Consumers can place the order through IRCTC website or through toll free number over phone.
- ◆ **DRISHTI, installed at IGI Airport**: Indigenous visibility Measuring System, DRISHTI, installed at IGI Airport. The CAT III B IGI Airport, New Delhi, is now the first airport in the country to have 10 indigenous systems operating in all its three runways. Drishti System is very cost effective and is a Mandatory System required at all airports as per International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- ◆ An MoU is signed between **Indian Railways and Odisha Government for Dasapla-Balangir Railway line**. The agreement was signed by **Ved Parkash Dudija ,Executive Director (works) Ministry of Railways and Sanjay Rastogi, commissioner-cum-secretary, Commerce and Transport Department, Odisha Government**
- ◆ Noted Canadian author Naomi Klein has won the 36TH edition of American Book Award 2015. She has won this award for her environmental work This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate published in 2014.
- ◆ **Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group's Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering (PDOE) inked a multi-crore agreement with Russian firm Zvyozdochka, JSC Ship Repairing Centre**. The agreement was signed in lines with Make in India initiative for the Medium Refits and Life Certification of 877 EKM Submarines in India. With this, Reliance Group became the first private sector Indian company to refit of submarines in India.
- ◆ Union Government has announced that **14 States and Union Territories (UTs)** have achieved or exceeded the literacy rate of 80 percent. It was announced by **Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani** in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. 14 States and UTs are: **Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, NCR of Delhi, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu**. Union

Government's flagship scheme of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** has helped to improve literacy rate. For implementing the scheme, Centre has helped the States and UTs. The literacy of adults has been covered under the **Saakshar Bharat Programme**. It was also announced that 10 States and UTs have also been able to reduce gender gap to 10 per cent or less. These states are Punjab, Chandigarh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Goa, Lakshadweep, Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

23-JULY:

- ◆ **National Broadcasting Day** was observed on **23rd** across the country. To mark the occasion, All India Radio (AIR) had organized a symposium on the subject Creation of New India and Broadcasting Medium in New Delhi. On this day in **1927**, Indian Broadcasting Company (**IBC**) began organized radio broadcasting from Bombay station. Radio Broadcasting in India began during the British rule in 1923 under the imitative of the Radio Club of Bombay. Later in 1927, IBC which was a private entity was granted permission by British Government to operate two radio stations in Mumbai and Kolkata. In 1930, British Government took over radio broadcasting and started the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS). Later it was changed to All India Radio (**AIR**) in **1936** and **Akashvani** in **1957**. AIR service now comprises around 414 stations located across the country with reach to the 99.19 per cent of the total population and 92 per cent of the country's area in 23 languages and 146 dialects.
- ◆ **Professor Higgs** has won the world's oldest scientific prize – **the Royal society's Copley Media** – for his work on the theory of the Higgs boson.
- ◆ Seven Indian companies have found their place in 2015 Fortune 500 Global Companies list compiled by Fortune Magazine.
They are
 - **Indian Oil** : ranked 119th with revenues of 74 billion dollars.
 - Reliance Industries : ranked 158th with revenues of 62 billion dollars.
 - Tata Motors : ranked 254th with revenues of 42 billion dollars.
 - State Bank of India (SBI) : ranked 260th with revenues of 42 billion dollars.
 - Bharat Petroleum : ranked 280th with revenues of 40 billion dollars.
 - Hindustan Petroleum : ranked 327th with revenues of 35 billion dollars.
 - Oil and Natural Gas : ranked 449th with revenues of 26 billion dollars.
- ◆ **Top 5: Walmart (1st) of US, Sinopec Group (2nd) of China, Royal Dutch Shell (3rd) of Netherlands, China National Petroleum (4th) and Exxon Mobil (5th) of US.**
- ◆ United States: US alone has 128 companies in this edition of list of the 500 global companies. Some of companies are Exxon Mobil (5th), Apple (15th), JP Morgan Chase (61st), IBM (82nd), Microsoft (95th), Google (124th), Pepsi (141st), Intel (182nd) and Goldman Sachs (278th).
- ◆ China: It has around 100 companies on the list. Some of them are Sinopec Group (2nd), China National Petroleum (4th), Bank of China (45th), China Railway Engineering (71st) and China Development Bank (87th).
- ◆ As per the Forbes magazine, these Fortune Global 500 companies have generated total of 31.2 trillion dollars in revenues and 1.7 trillion dollars in profits in 2014 and have employed around 65 million people worldwide, represented by 36 countries.
- ◆ **World Book Capital is organised by United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO).** The designation runs for 1 year starting from UNESCO's World Book and Copyright Day (April 23) till April 22 of the following year.
Madrid, capital of Spain in 2001 was the first city to be recognised as World Book Capital.
World Book Capital for 2017- Conakry, the capital of the Republic of Guinea (17th City).
World Book Capital for 2016- Wroclaw city of Poland.
World Book Capital for 2015- Incheon city of South Korea.
World Book Capital for 2013- New Delhi
- ◆ **Nestle appointed Suresh Narayanan as the new managing director** of the company after the **Maggi scare**. Its earlier MD Etienne Benet will move to head office in Switzerland. Suresh Narayan who is the chief executive of the company in Philippines will take over on August 1.
- ◆ **IJGA World Stars of Junior Golf is won by Shubham Jaglan, the son of a milkman from Haryana. Shubham is only ten years old. He also won the Junior World Golf Championships in California recently.**
- ◆ **The first all women Trans continental road expedition is flagged off in Delhi. The expedition will be from Delhi to London. The expedition started from Dhyanchand Stadium of New Delhi. Nidhi Tiwari, Rashmi Koppa and Soumaya Goel are the participants. The expedition covers 15000 kms and will reach London via Myanmar, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium and France.**
- ◆ **Indian drug company Lupin took over GAVIS pharma and Novel Laboratories of US.**
- ◆ **Forbes Asia's fabulous 50 list 2015 is released. The company that topped the list is Tencent which is worth 176.5 billion US dollars. The biggest company is Lenovo with 46.3 US dollars revenue in 2014. The Indian companies listed are Aurobindo Pharma, HCL.HDFC, Sun Pharma and Tata Consultancy.**

- ◆ **India and Singapore** have signed an agreement to enhance maritime cooperation. The technical agreement on sharing white-shipping information between the two Navies. The Singapore Navy and the Indian Navy conduct the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (**SINBEX**) together annually.
- ◆ Ananth Narayanan is appointed as **Chief Executive Officer of Myntra**.
- ◆ Supreme Court (SC) has **rejected** the review pleas **filed by the Union Government and JAT organisations seeking OBC status to the JAT community**. Union Government and JAT organisations had filed a plea in SC seeking revival of apex court's previous verdict which had declared OBC status to JAT community is unconstitutional. Prior to granting reservation status, National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) in its report had advised the government to grant OBC status to JATS. In its report, NCBC had clearly mentioned that community is not socially and educationally backward, but it is entitled to a share in 27% OBC quota in jobs and admission to educational institutions.
- ◆ India has earned about **US 100 million dollars** by launching **45 commercial foreign satellites from 19 countries**. The revenue was earned by **Antrix**, the **commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. This information was given by Union Science and Technology Minister **Jitendra Singh** in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. It was also announced this revenue from the commercial space missions will further grow with launch of 28 foreign satellites between 2015 and 2017. In this regard Antrix has signed agreements with six countries viz. **Algeria, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore and US**.
- ◆ As per recently published data, India has been placed at **12th position among the 31 countries** in the world in terms of power (electricity) generation from nuclear source. The data was published by the Power Reactor Information System (**PRIS**) of International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**). However, India was placed **at 6th position** in terms of **number of reactors** in operation country-wise. India's total power generation from nuclear reactor is **5308 MW**. **USA topped the list followed by France and Japan**. Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) Units I and II with capacity of 2X700 MW and Kudankulam Units III and IV with capacity of 2X1000 MW are expected to be launched by end of 2015. Thus, they will add additional 3400 MW capacity. In order to meet, nuclear fuel demand India has signed nuclear agreements with number of countries including **US, Canada, Kazakhstan, Russia, France, Australia, Namibia, Mongolia, South Korea, Argentina, United Kingdom and Sri Lanka**.

24-JULY:

- ◆ **The world's first malaria vaccine called "Mosquirix" on 24 July got approval from European Medicines Agency (EMA)**. *The vaccine has been developed by British drug-maker GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative. According to EMA's regulations, this vaccine is licenced for use in 6-week-old to 17-month-old babies.*
- ◆ **Maharashtra** Cabinet has approved **Shyama prasad Mukherjee Jan Van Vikas Scheme** for development of villages around **tiger reserves**. The scheme will be launched on project basis from 2015-16 to 2019-2020 and has been proposed by State Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar. Facts: Melghat, Tadoba, Pench, Sahyadri, Nawegaon-Nagzira and Bor are 6 Tiger Reserves located in Maharashtra. Except Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, remaining are located in Vidarbha region of state.
- ◆ Ajay Mathur has been appointed as Director-General (DG) of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Established: in 1974 as Tata Energy Research Institute and was renamed The Energy and Resources Institute in 2003.

25-JULY:

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 July inaugurated the **new IIT campus at Patna, Bihar**. He launched **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Gramin Joyti Yojna** aimed at **power sector reforms** in the **rural areas**. **This scheme is aimed to give electrification to villages which will help increase in agriculture yield**. He also inaugurated **Daniyawan-Biharsharif new rail line and construction work of phase-1 of Jagdishpur-Haldia Natural Gas Pipeline**. Besides, Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for an **incubation centre for medical electronics at IIT-Patna**.
- ◆ **George Baker and Prof Richard Hay is the two-Anglo Indian nominated to Lok Sabha by president of India**. George Baker is an Assamese and Bengali actor and is aged 69. Baker is a BJP leader who contested from Howrah in last Lok Sabha elections but lost. The strength of Lok Sabha members after these nominations is 545.
- ◆ **Jammu and Kashmir India's longest road tunnel is ready to open in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir**. The tunnel will cut the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 30 kilometers. The tunnel is 9.2- kilometer-long and is part of the ambitious 286 km-long four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. The road is likely to be opened to traffic in July 2016.
- ◆ **Earth-like exoplanet Kepler 452b was discovered by Kepler Mission**. It resides in a year-long orbit in the habitable zone of a Sun-like star in the constellation of Cygnus some 1400 light-years away. The planet is a near-twin of Earth orbiting Sunlike Star and is estimated to 1.6 times (60 percent) larger than Earth.
- ◆ **T K Chand has been appointed as the new Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company (NALCO)**. Before that he was a Director (Commercial) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).
- ◆ The first known fossil of a four-legged snake dating back 110 million years has been discovered in Brazil, which shows that the serpents evolved from burrowing lizards and not from marine creatures. The snake, named Tetrapodophis amplectus by the team, is a juvenile and very small, measuring just 20 cm from head to toe, although it may have grown much larger.

- ◆ **First ever Nelson Mandela prize is awarded to Helene Ndume of Namibia and Jorge Sampaio of Portugal.** The prize was awarded at **UN headquarters in New York.** Ndume is an **ophthalmologist** and **she** is chosen for this honor for treating eye problems and blindness in Namibia. George Sampaio is the former mayor of Lisbon and his struggle for restoration of democracy in Portugal won him the Mandela prize.
- ◆ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni is named the ninth most marketable sportsperson in the world.** The list is released by London School of Marketing. The list was prepared depending on the brand value of the individuals and their income from sponsorships. Roger Federer of Swiss tops the list followed by Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.
- ◆ S Sreesanth who was slapped with IPL spot fixing charges is discharged along with other two cricketers Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan. The cricketers are banned for life two years ago. The Delhi police found no evidence to frame charges. **Patiala House Courts in New Delhi** has acquitted all **36 accused persons** in the Indian Premier League (IPL) season **6 spot fixing case** including former cricketer S Sreesanth.
- ◆ Entertainment Network India (**ENIL**) operated by The Times Group has got approval from Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry to acquire India Today Groups four FM radio station. Thus it will acquire the Oye radio stations business own by India Today Group in Jodhpur, Amritsar, Shimla and Patiala.
- ◆ **R S Gavai**, the former governor of Kerala and Bihar states died at the age of 86.
- ◆ **Mashable, a New York-based news and blogging portal has joined hands with India.com**, a Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (**ZEEL**) sponsored website for the launching of its Indian version in India. As per the agreement India.com will provide editorial and advertising support to Mashable so that it will generate content for the Indian market. Mashable will be helped by india.com, through its experts and its market reach to penetrate in Indian market. Mashable has to steer with top blog portals like Huffington Post and Business Insider that has already entered in India's blogging space. These websites were brought in India by Times Internet a digital platform of Bennett Coleman & Company (BCCL). It runs portals specialising in entertainment, Sports, Education, Health, Trade and Business, Travel, Real Estate and many more. Its famous portals are www.zeenews.com, www.BGR.in, www.careerfundas.com, www.cricketcountry.com, www.thehealthsite.com, www.OnCars.in, www.Bollywoodlife.com.
- ◆ **India's largest commodities exchange platform, Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) has signed a MoU with the US based CME group to set its operations in GIFT City in Gujarat.** Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) the world's largest US futures exchange company and MCX will initially conduct a joint viability study of setting up operations in an International Finance Service Center (IFSC) in India. India's big exchange platforms like National stock Exchange (NSE), Bombay stock Exchange (BSE) and commodity exchange NCDEX had already announced it plans for operations in GIFT, the first IFSC in India and now MCX has also joined them.
- ◆ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) have constituted three committees for review of regulations in insurance sector. These three committees are formulated to regulate Insurance sector in areas of life insurance, general insurance and re-insurance that also includes registration of foreign offices of reinsurers. **Function:** The life insurance committee will specifically work for the regulations in areas like liabilities, assets and solvency margin and appointed actuary. The general insurance committee will specifically work for the regulations in areas like claim reserving and appointed actuary. Reinsurance committee will specifically work for the regulations on the issues relating to registration of branches of foreign reinsurers among others. These committees mandatorily have to submit report within one month to the Member-Actuary of IRDAI.
- ◆ **M Damodaran, the former chair of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), launched a trust that aims to address challenges faced by non-executive especially independent directors on companies' board directors on 22nd July.** The idea behind Non-Executive Directors in Conversation (NEDICT) is to promote discussions among non-executive directors and to give viable solution to the concerns faced by them. The main issues faced by them are; Lack of role clarity, absence of domain knowledge and increasing liabilities under the new companies Act. This trust will prepare them to do justice to their role in their respective institutions who has larger diverse responsibilities. Other members of the trust include; Idea Cellular's former MD Sanjeev Aga, Infosys' former global head of human resources Hema Ravichander, Pradeep Dinodia, TN Manoharan and Mukund Chitale.
- ◆ **Union Government has constituted All India Council of Sports (AICS), as an advisory body to deliberate on matters relating to the development and promotion of sports in the country.** Government will duly consider the advice rendered by this Council, but it will not be binding and obligatory on the government.
- ◆ **Tunisia's Parliament has adopted a new anti-terror law**, which seeks to counter the threat posed by militants especially jihadist threat. The law was adopted overwhelmingly by 174 members of parliament with ten abstentions and no votes against the bill.
- ◆ **China has successfully tested the power system of Long March-5, a fifth generation of carrier rocket belonging to China's Long March family of rockets.** This announcement was after Long March-5 rocket carrier, entered a runoff phase. China's first satellite, Dong Fang Hong (the East is Red)-1 was successfully put into Earth orbit by Long March-1 on 24 April 1970 (after one failed attempt in November 1969).
- ◆ **China launched two new navigational satellites into space as part of its domestic navigation system BeiDou (meaning Compass). The 18th and 19th satellites** (of total constellation of 35 satellites) were successfully launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwestern Sichuan province.

- ◆ **World Trade Organisation (WTO) members reached a landmark Information Technology (IT) trade deal** in order to add more than 200 products to the list dealing with zero-tariff and duty-free trade. In this agreement, products covered will include new-generation semi-conductors, medical products which include magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, GPS navigation systems, machine tools for manufacturing printed circuits, touch screens and telecommunications satellites.
- ◆ **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** along with the 3 state governments will soon start an artificial breeding programme of **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**. Scientific name: **Ardeotis Nigriceps**. Under this integrated collaborative effort, 3 states viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra will take part to boost the population of GIB, one of the critically endangered flying bird species in the world. The artificially breeding operations of GIBs will begin in 2016 across these 3 states and they will be later released from captivity to semi-captivity after some time of initial operations.

26-JULY:

- ◆ **Catholic Syrian Bank directors appointed Anand Krishnamurthy** as the new Chief executive Officer and Managing Director. He will be replacing Rakesh Bhatia who quit the bank for personal reasons.
- ◆ **Arunma Oteh is appointed as the new Vice President and Treasurer of World Bank**. This was announced by Jim Yong Kim, the president of World Bank. Arunma Oteh is from Nigeria and prior to this appointment she was the Director General of Securities and Exchange Commission of Nigeria.
- ◆ Union government of India sectioned Rs. 1000 core for **India and Bangladesh railway project**. The officials informed to the Tripura government they sanctioned Rs. 580 core to lay rail tracks and also to acquire the land. Rs. 400 core were agreed to be provided to lay tracks and for lands in Bangladesh territory.
- ◆ The nation paid homage **to Martyrs who fought in the Kargil war in 1999**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that each of our soldiers proved 100 times more than our enemy. He said this in Mann ki Baat radio program. The 16th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Divas is celebrated on 26th July. Manohar Parrikar, the defense minister, Dalbir Singh Suhar, the Army Chief General and other also paid tributes to Martyrs at Amar Jawan Jyoti. Around 490 jawans and officers were dead in the Kargil war.
- ◆ **Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel** (Germany) won the Hungarian Grand Prix on 26 July. This was his overall second victory of the season after Malaysian Grand Prix and first of Hungarian Grand Prix.

The drivers ranking after Hungarian Grand Prix 2015

- Sebastian Vettel (Germany) of Ferrari.
- Daniil Kvyat (Russia) of Red Bull.
- Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) of Red Bull.
- Max Verstappen (Netherlander) of Toro Rosso.
- Fernando Alonso (Spain) of McLaren.
- Lewis Hamilton (Britain) of Mercedes.
- Romain Grosjean (Switzerland) of Lotus.
- Nico Rosberg (Germany) of Mercedes.
- Jenson Button (Britain) of McLaren.
- Marcus Ericsson (Sweden) of Sauber.
- Force India: Sergio Perez (Mexico) and Nico Hulkenberg (Germany) were placed at placed at 19th position and 20th position respectively.

Top 5 Teams: Ferrari (1st), Red Bull (2nd), Toro Rosso (3rd), McLaren (4th) and Mercedes (5th).

- ◆ **Tilakaratne Dilshan completed 10,000 one day international runs and became the 4th Sri Lankan batsman to** achieve this feat. He is the 11th batsman in this club. The 38 year old achieved this in his 319th match against Pakistan.
- ◆ Bijoy Krishna Handique, a former union minister and a Congress leader from Assam, died on 26 July in Jorhat, Assam. He was 80.

27-JULY:

- ◆ **IT Secretary Ram Sevak Sharma** has been appointed as the **chairman of telecom regulator Telecom Regulator Authority of India (TRAI)** on 27 July. He will take place of Rahul Khullar who had retired in May 2015.
- ◆ **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India and a pioneer of the country's space and missile programmes, passed away on 27 July in Shillong (Meghalaya).** **Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (A.P.J) Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931** in Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. In 1960, he had joined Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a scientist and started his career by designing a small helicopter for the Indian Army. In 1969, he had joined India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the project director for India's first indigenous satellite launch vehicle programme. In 1980, he was appointed Chairman of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (**IGMDP**) and was brain behind developing Agni and Prithvi missiles. Thus he came to be known as the '**Missile Man of India**' for his work on the development of ballistic missile. He was Chief Project Coordinator of Pokhran II Nuclear Test i.e. **Operation Shakti** which was conducted on 11 May **1998**. He was Chief

Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister and Secretary of the DRDO between 1992 and 1999. He served as the 11th President of India from **2002 to 2007** and was awarded the nation's top civilian awards, including Padma Vibhushan(1990), Padma Bhushan (1981) and Bharat Ratna(1997). He also wrote **14 books** on various topics including India 2020 and Wings of Fire and Ignited Minds.

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (A.P.J) Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 in Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu.

DRDO career: In 1960, he had joined Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a scientist and started his career by designing a small helicopter for the Indian Army.

ISRO career: In 1969, he had joined India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the project director for India's first indigenous satellite launch vehicle programme.

Under his leadership and vision, India entered into the elite space club after Rohini satellite was placed into the orbit in 1980.

He was a pioneer and instrumental in development of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), India's space workhorse.

Missile Man: In 1980, he was appointed Chairman of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) and was brain behind developing Agni and Prithvi missiles.

Thus he came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile

Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA): He was appointed CSA to Prime Minister and Secretary of DRDO in 1992 and remained till 1998.

Pokhran II Nuclear Test: He was Chief Project Coordinator of Pokhran II Nuclear Test i.e. Operation Shakti which was conducted on 11 May 1998.

President: He was the 11th President of India and was in office from 2002 to 2007. He was India's most popular President and famously known as People's President.

Awards and Honours: Bharat Ratna (1997), Padma Vibhushan (1990), Padma Bhushan (1981).

He has unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions. United Nations had recognised his 79th birthday as World Student Day.

Switzerland has declared 26 May as 'Science Day' to commemorate visit of A P J Abdul Kalam to the country in 2005.

His famous books: India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium (1998), Wings of Fire: An Autobiography by A P J Abdul Kalam (1999), Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power Within India (2002), The Luminous Sparks (2004), Mission India (2005), Reignited: Scientific Pathways to a Brighter Future (2015) etc

- ◆ **Chris Froome, a cyclist** from Team Sky of Britain, has won the 102nd edition Tour de France, an annual three-week multiple stage bicycle race at Champs Elysees in Paris.
- ◆ **Indian women's wrestling team has won the silver medal after finishing second in the fifth Senior International Wrestling Tournament** (also known as Cup of the President of Republic of Kazakhstan). The eight-member team bagged a silver medal at the July 23-26 event held in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. Team members who won the match are Vinesh (48kg), Lalita Sehrawat (55kg) and Anita (63kg) in their respective weight categories. Sakshi Malik lost just one fight in 58kg division which resulted with silver medal for Indian team.
- ◆ Three armed terrorist attacked a moving bus in Punjab and also a police station in **Dina Nagar**. The terrorists were in army uniforms and they killed an SP and left few other persons injured in Gurdaspur. Police killed all the three terrorists in the operation.
- ◆ The Hyderabad based Cyient Ltd has acquired Singapore based Global Services Engineering Asia from Pratt & Whitney Services Pte Ltd. Through this deal Cyient is envisaging to expand its aerospace service in Asia-Pacific region. Cyient is a leader in aerospace engineering and has built a strong presence over the years in mechanical and manufacturing engineering, electronics, software and in aftermarket services.
- ◆ **Nestle India's MD Etienne Benet** has step down from his post, he will be replaced by Nestle Philippines Chairman and CEO **Suresh Narayanan**. Etienne Benet will be relocated to Nestle's head office in Switzerland while Mr. Narayanan will take over from August 1.
- ◆ **Infrastructure Development Financing Company (IDFC). Ltd became second lender to enter the banking sector since 2004**, as the Reserve Bank of India granted Banking licence on 24 July 2015.
- ◆ **European Union (EU) has banned the marketing of around 700 generic medicines among its member countries.**
- ◆ **The Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) became the front runner in the Dun & Bradstreet's 'India's Top PSUs Awards 2015** in the category of electrical and electronic equipment sector. The award was received by Chairman and Managing Director of BEL Mr. S K Sharma along with Anandi Ramalingam the General Manager-National Marketing for BEL.
- ◆ **Delhi Lt Governor Najeeb Jung approved appointment of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Swati Maliwal as Chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW).** It was approved after he had rejected appointment of Maliwal earlier over the issue of proper clearance of file in this regard. Swati Maliwal was appointed to this post by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after constituting new DCW under Section 4 of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Act, 1994. Other members appointed include Farheen Malik, Promila Gupta and Sarika Chaudhary. They will have tenure of three years. Prior to this appointment, Swati Maliwal was working as an advisor to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on issues related to public grievances which are handled under Janta Samwad initiative of Delhi Government.

- ◆ **Maharashtra government has placed a comprehensive plan to develop six solar cities in order to add solar capacity of 7,500 MW in the state.** To enhance solar capacity in country Centre has planned to develop 55 solar cities across the country among them six are from Maharashtra these are – Nagpur, Thane, Aurangabad, Kalyan-Dombivli, Shirdi and Nanded. The selection of these cities was done on basis of the population and other criteria and would be developed through the joint funding from Centre and State Government.

28-JULY:

- ◆ **World Hepatitis Day** is being observed every year on July 28 around the globe. Focus of the day: To spread awareness about viral hepatitis, that causes acute and chronic disease and kills around 1.4 million people every year. It also seeks to encourage diagnosis, prevention and treatment of Hepatitis. 2015 **Theme- Prevent Hepatitis: It's up to You.** It is being observed since 2010. 28 July was chosen to mark the birthday of **Professor Baruch Blumberg**. He had discovered **hepatitis B virus** and was awarded with the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1976) for this discovery. Hepatitis name has derived from Greek word 'Hepar' meaning liver and 'itis' meaning inflammation. Thus, it is a medical condition in which there occurs inflammation of liver cells and its complications vary with the type of infection. There are 5 types of hepatitis viz. A, B, C, D and E. Each type is caused by a different hepatitis virus.
- ◆ **U.N.O Declares Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's Birthday as the "World Students Day"**. United Nations Organisation(U.N.O) announced, Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's Birthday on 15th October as the "World Student's Day". Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 in Rameshwaram, Madras Presidency, British India.
- ◆ **Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan To Be renamed as APJ Abdul Kalam Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan.** Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan is a unique concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development that aims to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children.Under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, the government schools will be mentored by Institutes like IITs/ IIMs/ IISERs and other Central Universities and reputed organisations through innovative programmes, student exchanges, demonstrations, student visits, etc to develop a natural sense of passion towards learning of Science and Maths.
- ◆ Computer Science corporation and Hindustan Computer limited inked an agreement to form a joint venture company to provide technology services and solution to Banking Industry. This agreement will advance digital Banking in India.
- ◆ Eminent Indian physicist Dr Parameswaran Hariharan passed away in California, United States. He was 89. Hariharan had contributed in various researches including in the design of a new 3-beam interferometer, first practical radial-shear interferometer and double passed Fabry-Perot interferometer.
- ◆ Maharashtra government to exempt small cars from paying toll tax for all build operate transfer (BOT) road projects that worth over 200 crore rupees. Similar relief also given for road projects developed by the state Public Works Department (PWD) that cost below 200 crore rupees.
- ◆ Israel's largest drug maker Teva Pharmaceutical agreed to buy generic drugs business of Allergan Plc for USD 40.5 billion. According to the agreement Teva will make cash payment of USD 33.75 billion and USD 6.75 billion of its stock for Allergan.
- ◆ **South Korea has declared the deadly outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)** outbreak in the country has over. It was announced by South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn. Severity of outbreak: It was the worst medical outbreak faced by South Korea originated from the alien virus from Saudi Arabia. It had killed 36 people and infected around 186. The MERS outbreak was the biggest outbreak of the deadly virus outside Saudi Arabia. It had taken a toll on South Korean economy which is Asia's fourth largest economy by stifling consumer spending. MERS is a **beta corona virus** derived from **bats. Camels** have shown to have antibodies to MERS, but the exact source of infection in camels has not been identified. **Symptoms:** fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure.
- ◆ Union Government has appointed former IAS officer **Ashish Bahuguna** as the **chairman** of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**).
- ◆ Veteran Sri Lankan historian **Santasilan Kadirgamar** passed away in Colombo after a brief illness. He was 81.
- ◆ **Government of Sri Lanka inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with search engine giant Google to launch the Google Loon project in the country.** As per the MoU, Google will place 13 high-altitude balloons over the island nation to provide affordable high-speed 3G (3rd Generation) internet services to the entire country. It is also expected that this project will provide free Wi-Fi connectivity across Sri Lanka. Successful implementation of this project will make Sri Lanka the first country in the world to have Internet access covering the whole country with the government support. Google Loon project: It is Google's ambitious research and development project with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas. Under this project, Google will install high altitude 'floating telecom tower' balloons in the sky which will provide full broadband internet coverage.
- ◆ The population of Royal Bengal Tiger in **Sundarbans region of Bangladesh has declined sharply to 106 from 440 in 2004.** It was revealed in recently released new Tiger census 2015 of Bangladesh. The Tiger Census was conducted by Bangladesh-India Joint Tiger Census Project. It was carried under the initiative of Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia Project. Financial support to this initiative was provided by the World Bank.
- ◆ Dr **Suniti Solomon**, pioneer of Human immunodeficiency virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) research and treatment in India passed away on 28 July in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Her team was the first to document evidence of HIV/AIDS infection in India in 1986 and had successfully led research into the treatment of the deadly virus.

- ◆ **Clive Rice**, South Africa's 1st post-apartheid international cricket captain was died in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was 66.

29-JULY:

- ◆ **International Tiger Day 2015 Observed Across The World:** The goal of the Tiger Day is to promote protection and expansion of the wild tiger habitats and also to gain support awareness for tiger conservation. India tops the list of tiger range countries with 2226 tigers followed by Malaysia with 500 tigers and Bangladesh with 440 tigers. International Tiger Day was founded in 2010 Russia during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.
 - ◆ **Kazakhstan, a member of the Russia-led economic blocks became 162nd** member of World Trade Organization (WTO). Kazakhstan's entry has ended its long wait of 20 years to become a member of WTO as its accession talks were initiated in 1996.
 - ◆ **'Singapore Diamond Investment Exchange' (SDiX) the first ever diamond exchange** is all set to function from September 2015. Till now diamonds were traded on mutual basis where the retailers or jewellers used to buy diamonds from the polishers and consumers were supposed to buy it from the retailer. Now under the SDiX customers can physically trade in diamond under one roof. This will be the first-of-its-kind business-to-consumer (B2C) platform for electronic diamond exchange where customers can also avail diamonds physically.
 - ◆ Union Sports Ministry constituted a 9 member Working Group to prepare a revised draft of the National Sports Development Code (NSDC). The Working Group will be headed by Retired Delhi High Court Judge CK Mahajan and submit its recommendations within three months. Terms of Reference: The Working Group will examine the existing NSDC from both legal and sports governance angles. It will provide recommendations to fine-tune NSDC with the purpose of making it more precise and succinct. Other members: Former national Table Tennis champion Indu Puri and former hockey skipper Ajitpal Singh are its prominent members.
 - ◆ Union Government has announced to roll out e-tourist visa facility to Chinese nationals from July 30, 2015. Hong Kong and Macao nationals will also be provided with e-tourist visa facility along with Chinese citizens.
 - ◆ **Sanjeev Chaturvedi and Anshu Gupta** from India were among the 5 winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2015 as announced by the Board of Trustees of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) on 29 July. Chaturvedi is a whistleblower bureaucrat who is currently embattled in a protracted battle with the Centre over alleged harassment for his tough stance on graft. He is a 2002-batch Indian Forest Service officer and is posted at the AIIMS in New Delhi as its Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO). Anshu Gupta is the founder of NGO named "Goonj", and has shown his creative vision in transforming the culture of giving in India.
 - ◆ US Software giant Microsoft has launched globally its first new operating system in almost three years which is designed to work across laptops, desktop and smartphones. Windows 10 is basically an amalgamation of the goodness of Windows 7 and Windows 8 because it retains the desktop of Windows 7 and fuses the live tiles of Windows 10 onto the Start Screen.
 - ◆ **US Software giant Microsoft launched its new operating system Windows-10** with a host of new features. It was launched by Microsoft's India-born CEO Satya Nadella at a global launch event held in Kenya. Windows 10 includes features such as
 - Cortana: Microsoft's voice-based smart assistant similar to Apple's Siri and Google's Iris.
 - Xbox app: for gaming
 - Microsoft Edge: new web browser which has replaced Microsoft's Internet Explorer.
 - Windows Hello: It will offer a fast, password-free, secured way to log in with face recognition.
 - Enhanced Windows Defender and SmartScreen: It will help to safeguard against viruses, malware and phishing.
- Windows-10 will be available in 190 countries as a free upgrade or with new PCs and tablets. . Microsoft has mentioned that the Windows 10 is the most secure Windows ever
- ◆ India signed loan agreement of \$ 300 million with **ADB Asian development bank** for **national urban health mission** (NUHM).
 - ◆ The Indian women's resurvey archery team qualified for **2016 Rio Olympics** by reaching the final of the World **Archery championship at Copenhagen in Denmark**. The women's trio comprising Laxmi Rani, Rimil Buriuly and Deepika Kumari qualified for 2016 Summer Olympics. 2016 summer Olympics at Rio de Janeiro , Brazil. Motto: Live your Passion, Mascot: Vinicius and Tom.
 - ◆ SEBI cancels license of SAHARA mutual funds.
 - ◆ The long range surface to air missile LR-SAM developed with the help of Israel is to be tested in Israel. The missile can reach targets upto 70 km is developed by DRDO and Israel Aero Space industry.
 - ◆ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed fine of 420 crore rupees on the local unit of Hyundai Motor Co. The fine was imposed after CCI investigation had found that Hyundai was engaged in anti-competitive practices. The fine imposed on Hyundai is 2 per cent of its annual turnover in India in past 2 year viz. 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. CCI also had found other carmakers like Mahindra Reva Electric Car Company and Premier Ltd in violation of competitive practices but did not impose fine on them.

- ◆ IndusInd Bank has acquired the diamond and jewellery (bullion) financing business and related deposit portfolio of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for 4,100 crore rupees. Britain's largest public bank Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) was in talks with IndusInd Bank to sell off its bullion financing business and had signed a non-binding agreement in April 2015.
- ◆ India's largest two-wheeler manufacturer Hero Motocorp's wholly owned subsidiaries in U.S is to buy certain tangible and intangible assets worth of USD 2.8 million of U.S based Erik Buell Racing (EBR). This purchase is a part of the settlement deal with court-appointed receiver in the bankruptcy matter. The two subsidiaries Hero Moto Corp Ltd (HMCL) Americas, Inc. and HMCL (NA), Inc. have entered into a "Settlement Agreement" in the bankruptcy matter filed by Erik Buell Racing (EBR) and Erik Buell LLC.
- ◆ Facebook, the social networking leader has unveiled a new compressed version of its application called 'Facebook Lite' in India to reach out its users who have slow data connections. The motive for launching this version in India is to expand the reach of Facebook to a much wider user who do not necessarily use high-end smart phones. Further it will be roll out across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe; till date Facebook has 1.4 bn people on its network globally. The application size of Facebook Lite is 430 KB as against the full version which is of 30 MB. It performs faster even in 2G network and consumes less data. Most of the core features are present in this app as of regular application such as News Feed, photos, notifications and status updates.
- ◆ Titagarh Wagons buys Italy-based Firema Trasporti. The Kolkata-based private sector wagon manufacturer Titagarh Wagons Ltd (TWL) has acquired Italian coach manufacturing company Firema Trasporti for 25 million Euros. This purchase will help out TWL to venture into the metro coach and high-speed train manufacturing business.

30-JULY:

- ◆ **Pakistan received 336 million dollars fund from the United States for its on-going role in combating a Taliban insurgency in its neighbouring country Afghanistan.** The fund is provided by US under the Coalition Support Fund (CSF) programme which was started in 2001 after Pakistan became frontline ally of US-led coalition in Afghanistan. This financial injection to Pakistan comes after Taliban militants had step up its annual summer offensive which was launched in late April, 2015.
- ◆ **India's Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael have partnered to produce Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) in India.** In this regard both the entities have formed a manufacturing Joint Venture (JV) and this move is considered to deepen India-Israel strategic cooperation. The manufacturing JV will be as per the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) guidelines which means that the 51% ownership stake in JV will hold by the Kalyani Group. The FDI proposal in this regard was cleared by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in October 2014 which was chaired by then Defence Minister Arun Jaitley. The FDI deal was worth 3,200 crore rupees and comprises order of 300 plus launchers and 8,000 plus Spike ATGM missiles. **Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM):** It is a 3rd generation, man-portable, fire-and-forget, anti-tank missile. Designed and developed by Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. In case of India's requirement, there is need of about 40,000 missiles to equip the Indian Army's 382 infantry battalions and 44 mechanised regiments.
- ◆ Debjani Ghosh took charge as new president of MAIT (the Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology), the apex body of India's Information technology hardware industry. **Ghosh is the first woman President of MAIT since its inception 32 years ago.** She is vice-president sales and marketing group and managing director of Intel Corporation, South Asia and will succeed Amar Babu the chief operation officer at Lenovo for Asia Pacific and chairman of Lenovo India.
- ◆ On 29 July, the **Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has decided to sell its private banking business in India to Sanctum Wealth Management**, in line of its prior decision to exit the Indian market. **Britain's largest public bank Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)** has signed a non-binding framework agreement with Sanctum Wealth Management, which is a start up firm set by Shiv Gupta. He is also the present managing director of RBS' private banking operations in India. RBS has four private banking offices in India located in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.
- ◆ **Punjab government** has announced to release 15 **Gharials Gavialis gangeticus in the Beas belt, near Harike Patan in order boost tourism.** The Gharials species will be released as part of state government's plan to make Beas belt, a **natural habitat of the fish-eating crocodile species.** The release of Gharials has been planned in February-March 2015 near Karmowal village (near Harike Patan water bodies) by the Experts from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWFN). Karmowal village has ample water bodies with sand banks making it suitable site for developing as habitat for the species. Gharials will be released depending upon the success of the initial phase of making natural habitat and after the release they will be kept under close watch.
- ◆ Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) launched a mobile banking app '**Kotak Bharat**' aiming to provide mobile banking services to customers in the remotest regions of India.
- ◆ Procter & Gamble (P&G) has appointed its company veteran **David Taylor as the new CEO by replacing A G Lafley** on 29 July 2015. However, A G Lafley the existing CEO who has led the P&G from 2000 will remain as the chairman of the company.
- ◆ World's second largest automaker **General Motors (GM) has announced to invest USD 1 billion (6, 400 crore rupees) in India by 2020 and has decided to close its loss making plant at Halol, Gujarat.** This announcement was part of its prior decision to invest over USD 5 billion in global markets like China, India, Brazil and Mexico.

- ◆ App based Cab service provider Ola has made entry into on-demand grocery delivery service by launching a new app named 'Ola Store'. Ola initially started as cab service provider mobile app launched in 2010 by Bhavish Aggarwal (currently CEO) and Ankit Bhati. Today it runs total 2 lakhs cabs in over 200 cities in India. Daily more than 150,000 bookings are placed and commands 60 percent of the market share in India.
- ◆ India is going to become the most populous nation in the world by surpassing China in 2022. It was revealed in recently released United Nation's report titled 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision' indicating India's population growth within next seven years. **World Population forecast:** Half of the world's population growth is expected to be concentrated in 9 countries during 2015-2050. They are India, Pakistan, US, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Congo, Indonesia and Uganda.
- ◆ Union Government extended Interest subvention scheme to banks. The scheme is extended to ensure availability of **crop loans of up to 3 lakh to farmers at 7 % per annual**. Additional interest subvention of 3% per annum for those farmers who repay on time.

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- ◆ Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited (BHEL) has signed three strategic agreements with Kazakhstan companies in order to deepen its roots in Central Asia.
- ◆ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has given nod to Asian Development Bank's (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their conceptual development plan (CDP) report on Vizag Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) and Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) respectively.
- ◆ The two leading financial news operations from Europe and Asia are now together, as Nikkei Japanese media group is going to buy the Financial Times from Britain's Pearson in a \$1.3 billion. Financial Times acquisition is a triumph for Nikkei as this is the biggest acquisition ever by any Japanese media organization. This acquisition has brought an opportunity to Nikkei newspaper to expand its readers outside its home market. Pearson a 171-year-old international media company sold FT as it wanted to expand its education business. Pearson owned FT for nearly 60 years. It should be noted that the FT's acquisition does not include its 50 percent stakes in The Economist magazine and nor its headquarters at London.

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