



AffairsCloud

Current Affairs For Readers & Aspirants

Current Affairs PDF Capsule December 2014

Published By www.AffairsCloud.com

Follow Us On



Current Affairs Inside Highlights



INDIAN AFFAIRS

Bollywood Actor Deven Verma Passed Away

Bollywood film and television actor Deven Verma, aged 77 has passed away in the city of Pune on Dec 2, 2014. Deven Verma has acted in around 80 bollywood films and was honoured with prestigious Filmfare Best Comedian award thrice.

New CBI Director

Anil Kumar Sinha has been named the new **CBI Director**. Anil Sinha, a **1979 batch IPS officer of Bihar cadre**, will succeed the outgoing Bihar cadre CBI director Ranjit Sinha.



RBI Says No Rate Cut On Interest Rates

RBI, the central bank led by Governor Raghuram Rajan has said that there are **no rate cut on interest rates**. He cited that it is premature to slash rates but hinted that it would cut in the coming year 2015. Both the policy rates and CRR, Cash reserve Ratio has been left unchanged, according to the review meeting of RBI on Dec 2, 2014.

RBI Doubles Pre-paid Card Limit

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed the norms for prepaid instruments (PPIs) to boost the growth of the industry. RBI has now allowed PPIs to issue cards with balance of up to Rs 1 lakh. Earlier, the limit was Rs 50,000.

RBI has also introduced a new category of open system PPIs. With this, a card can now be issued to the dependant or family member only if the account is fully Know Your Customer compliant (KYC). And only one card per beneficiary can be introduced.

Now, banks can also issue rupee denominated cards to foreign travellers and to NRIs by overseas branches of banks in India directly or by co-branding with the exchange houses/money transmitters.

New Norms for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Trading Platform

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for setting up and operating the **trade receivables discounting system in the country, called TReDS**, to facilitate financing of bills raised by such small entities to corporate and other buyers, including government departments and PSUs.

As per the guidelines TReDS should have a minimum paid up equity capital of Rs 25 crore and non-promoters would not hold over 10 per cent of the equity capital of TReDS.

Former Supreme Court Justice VR Krishna Iyer Expired

Former Supreme Court Justice VR Krishna Iyer, who celebrated his **100th birthday** this year 2014 **was summoned to appear before his Judge, the God**. He was treated in a Kochi hospital for pneumonia, but it went out of doctor's hands in-due course of time. Justice VR Krishna Iyer expired at 3.30 pm on Dec 4, 2014.



He was the minister of law in the first communist government led by EMS Nampoothiripad in 1957 and was also the member of the second Kerala legislative assembly. He became a *judge of the Kerala high court in 1968 and occupied the post till 1971 and also held post as member of the Law Commission for two years. He was honoured as a judge in the Supreme Court in 1973 and got retired in 1980.*

US firm Sikorsky bags contract for Navy's 16 Multi-role Choppers

The United States' Sikorsky has bagged the contract for Indian Navy's Rs 6,000 crore proposal for acquisition of **16 multi-role helicopters** for its warships.

Commercial bids were opened and as **Sikorsky's Seahawk-70B helicopter** was the sole bid left in the fray after "partial ban" on the European company **Finmeccanica**, it was declared the winner.

Seahawk S-70B can be used for advanced **anti-submarine** and **anti-surface warfare** to take on underwater and over water threats.

New FDI Policy for Railway Infrastructure and Defence

The **Reserve Bank of India** notified the government's decision to increase foreign direct investment ceiling in defence sector and permitting **100 per cent FDI in railways infrastructure**.

In the **defence sector**, foreign investment up to **49 per cent** has been permitted under government route in the defence sector. The earlier cap was **26 per cent**.

In the **railway segment**, FDI will be allowed in construction, operation and maintenance of suburban corridor projects through PPP, MRTS (Mass Rapid Transport Systems), high speed train projects and dedicated freight lines.

Andhra Pradesh Govt signed MoU with Singapore

Andhra Pradesh Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Singapore** for the development of a **world-class capital city** of Andhra Pradesh.

The MoU was signed by **D. Sambasiva Rao**, Chairman of Infrastructure Corporation of Andhra Pradesh and **Teo Eng Cheong**, Chief Executive Officer of International Enterprise Singapore in the presence of Second Minister for Trade and Industry in Singapore Government, S. Iswaran and Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu**.

NDA Government Decriminalized Attempt to Commit Suicide

The government of India has decided to remove the law that criminalized attempts to suicide. The Home Ministry has decided to delete **Section 309** (attempt to commit suicide) of the Indian Penal Code after 18 states and four union territories have supported the move. Till now, if a person survives an attempted suicide, he or she can be prosecuted under the law by the police and even sent behind bars for one year.

SBI launches composite index to track economic trends

India's largest bank, **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched its **SBI Composite Index** which will predict the direction of **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** at least two months in advance based on the growth of bank's loan book along with other indicators like *exchange rates, financial markets, commodity prices, exports and imports and inflation*, among others.

The Composite Index will capture two components of the manufacturing cycle namely month-on-month and year-on-year growth. Accordingly, two separate indices have been constructed and both the indices are on a scale of 0 to 100. Index above 50 implies growth.

Cabinet Approves Bill to Raise FDI in Insurance Sector to 49%

The Cabinet cleared a **parliamentary committee's** recommendations for a **composite cap of 49 per cent** on foreign investment in **insurance** in a report tabled in the Rajya Sabha. The foreign investment in insurance includes foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investments.

The 49 per cent FDI that the Indian government proposes will be a composite cap - which means that **foreign capital** can flow in either as **direct investment** or via the **portfolio route**, or as a **combination** of both. So foreign investors can either directly buy equity from the company or can buy shares on the stock market.

Barring public sector insurance companies, all other insurance companies will potentially benefit from a higher FDI cap.

Delhi HC Bans Import and Sale of Xiaomi Devices

In an interim order, the Delhi High Court has restrained **Xiaomi** as well as online e-commerce site **Flipkart** from selling in India due to the infringement of technology patented by Ericsson.

The court has also restrained Xiaomi or its agents from making, assembling, importing or offering for sale its devices. The patents in question are standards-essential patents, meaning Ericsson has committed to grant license to use its technology on a FRAND (free, reasonable and non-discriminatory) basis.

India - Russia Summit 2014

India and **Russia** re-affirmed to carry forward the strategic partnership between the two countries and decided to expand cooperation in sectors such as **energy, defence, health and mining**.

Russia promised to build 12 nuclear reactors and contribute in the '**Make in India**' programme by manufacturing advanced helicopters.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi Ji** and **Russian President Vladimir Putin** unveiled the "**Druzhba-Dosti**" vision to strengthen the bilateral partnership over the next decade at the end of the 15th annual Summit that discussed broad spectrum of the relationship. 'Druzhba' in Russian language means friendship just as 'Dosti' in Hindi.



On defence, the two sides will swiftly move ahead to develop a **joint 5th-generation fighter** and a multi-role transport aircraft, in addition to the chopper deal. Both sides agreed to enhance the trade from current \$10 billion to \$30 billion by 2025. **Russian oil major Rosneft** has signed a 10-year crude supply deal with **Essar Oil**.

Intelligence Bureau chief

The Government of India has appointed **Dineshwar Sharma**, special director in the Intelligence Bureau, as the agency's new chief. He will replace **Syed Asif Ibrahim**, whose tenure ends on the last day of this year. He is an IPS officer from 1979 batch from Kerala cadre. Sharma has been working with the agency for the past 23 years and he is having two-year tenure.

The **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** is India's internal intelligence agency and reputedly the world's oldest intelligence agency. It was recast as the Central Intelligence Bureau in 1947 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

INS Arihant Flagged Off for Trial

India's first indigenous nuclear submarine **INS Arihant** had finally made its maiden foray into the wide-open sea in Bay of Bengal. The indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine **Arihant** completed its all of its harbour trials and entered the sea.

The 6,000-tonne vessel commenced its sea trials off Visakhapatnam coast in the presence of defence minister **Manohar Parrikar**.

India bans Islamic State

India declared a ban on **Islamic State**, days after having detained an engineer for running a popular **Twitter account** extolling the militant group's military campaign.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament the government aimed to limit the activities of the Middle Eastern group which has carved out swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria.

HDFC Bank Launched Aap Ki Muththi Mein

HDFC Bank launched '**Bank Aap Ki Muththi Mein**', an offering that literally turns a mobile phone into a bank branch. The facility will offer over 75 transactions. These are both financial and non-financial transactions that one needs in their daily life.

With '*Bank Aap Ki Muththi Mein*', it is possible to do everything other than accessing locker, and deposit or withdraw cash. '*Bank Aap Ki Muththi Mein*' works on both a smartphone as well as a basic phone that supports internet browsing.

DGCA Granted Flying Permit to Vistara

The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation** (DGCA) has granted the **air operator permit** (AOP) to the **Vistara Airlines**, a joint venture of *Singapore Airlines and TATA sons*.

The new full-service carrier would "shortly" announce its flight schedules and open ticket bookings. Vistara currently has two leased Airbus A-320s in its fleet and plans to induct three more by March next year.

RBI increased RTGS business hours

The **Reserve Bank of India** has increased **RTGS** (real time gross settlement) business hours to 12 hours from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays to promote electronic payments. On Saturdays, the RTGS system of online fund transfer will be open from 8 am to 3.30 pm. The existing business hours are 9 am to 4.30 pm on weekdays and till 2 pm on Saturdays.

Kapus Kondyachi Goshta nominated for Oscar Award

Dr Mrunalini Bhosale's 'Kapus Kondyachi Goshta' is one among the 10 Indian films which have made their way into the eligibility list to contend for the **Best Picture category** at the *87th Academy Awards in February, 2015*. The recently released list by *The Academy of Motion Picture, Arts and Sciences* has 323 films.

It is a film by a Pune-based director on the quotidian struggles of four sisters set against the unforgiving backdrop of farmer suicides in *Maharashtra's rain-shadow region of Vidarbha*. The film, which derives from a real-life story, charts the travails and triumphs of the sisters cruelly orphaned by the suicide of their parents, both cotton farmers steeped in debt.

Cabinet approves Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill

The Union Cabinet approved the **Constitutional amendment Bill** for the roll out of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, a crucial step before its likely introduction in the current session of Parliament. The government hopes to roll out GST on April 1, 2016, replacing a range of indirect taxes levied by the centre, states and local bodies with one unifying levy.

States, which earn over 50 per cent of their revenues from taxes on petrol and other fuel products, wanted it to be out of GST so they could continue levying different tax rates on these products.

The Constitution amendment Bill for GST was originally introduced in the Lok Sabha in **March 2011** by the **UPA government** and was also examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

5 year visa to minorities from neighbouring countries

Members of the minority communities from **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh** will be given five years visa instead of one-year as part of government's effort to address their grievances and according citizenship in future.

Powers have been delegated to the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) and Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) to extend a short-term visa for this category of foreign nationals for a period of six months.

MCGS Barracuda

India manufactured first warship named **MCGS Barracuda** was exported to Mauritius in December 2014. The off-shore patrol vessel was developed by the **State-owned, Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE)**. GRSE is a **mini-ratna PSU** functioning under the Ministry of Defence.



MCGS Barracuda (First India's warship export to Mauritius) has been valued at a cost of \$58.5 million. *The 1,350-tonne offshore patrol vessel (OPV) is under sea trials currently. The offshore patrol vessel measures 74.10 m in length and 11.40 m in breadth and which has the capacity to move at a maximum speed of 22 knots.* GRSE had signed the contract for the supply of offshore patrol vessel to Mauritius in 2011.

Dehradun Twin Sisters create History by Climbing Highest Peaks of 7 Continents

Tashi Malik and Nungshi Malik of **Dehradun** created history by becoming the first ever siblings to scale seven tallest peaks in seven continents. They achieved this distinction by successfully climbing Mt Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica.

IRDA imposed monetary penalty on Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance

The [Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority](#) (IRDA) imposed a penalty of Rs.31 Lakhs on **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Ltd** and 5 lakhs on **Anand Rathi Insurance Brokers** for violating regulatory norms. The company was penalized for setting policies in favour of master policy holders under non-employee/employer groups.

The penalty amount has to be remitted within 15 days from the date of receipt of the order. The company was penalised on charges of *delay in payment of claims, non-adherence to product specification and violating licensing of corporate agents norms*.

Forbes' List of Best Nations for Business

In the Forbes' list of the '**Best Countries for Business 2014**', India ranks **93 out of 146** nations. The report cited that challenges like *violence and discrimination against women and girls, poverty, corruption, and inefficient power generation and distribution system* need to be addressed.

Denmark topped the Forbes' ranking of the Best Countries for Business, followed by **Hong Kong, New Zealand, Ireland and Sweden**. The US ranks 18th in the Forbes list, down four spots from last year.

New Chiefs for RAW and CRPF

The **Government of India** has appointed new Chiefs for **Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)** (India's external intelligence agency) and **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. **Rajinder Khanna** will be the new chief of the RAW and he will succeed *Alok Joshi*, who is getting retired on December 31.

The government also appointed **Prakash Mishra**, Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry, the new Director-General of the CRPF.

Jyotsna Suri appointed as New FICCI President

Jyotsna Suri, chairperson of **Bharat Hotels Ltd** took over as the president of the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** at the industry chamber's 87th annual general meeting. Suri succeeded *Sidharth Birla*, Chairman of Xpro India Limited and Digjam Limited.

Jyotsana Suri has been the Chairperson of the FICCI tourism committee since last five years and is the only Indian member on the International Executive Committee of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

Clean India, Green India

Union Government has released a **Calendar for the year 2015** with the theme **Clean India Green India**. The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister **Arun Jaitley** launched the calendar and its mobile app.

Home Ministry Issues Safety Measure Guidelines to Schools

The **Union Home Ministry** issued guidelines to schools across the country on safety measures in wake of terror attacks in a **Peshawar school**. Home Ministry has written to the schools in the country about building concrete boundary wall, multiple gates with three security guards for each of them. Other priorities the school includes

- *Telephone connectivity*
- *CCTVs with recording facilities*
- *Proper lighting*
- *Walkie talkie communication among guards*
- *Alarm system*
- *centralized public announcement system.*

India unlikely to meet the IMR Target of 2015

According to a senior UNICEF official, **India** is not going to meet the **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** target of 2015 due to the slow pace of the decline.

The current IMR of India, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2013, is **40 per 1,000** live births while the Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) (in 2012) is **52 per 1,000 live births**. At this current rate of decline it seems it will be difficult for India to reach the target of less than **39 per 1,000 live births** by the end of 2015.

HRIDAY - National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana

The government of India is planning to launch a scheme (*HRIDAY*) for conservation of heritage and development of 12 cities across the country. The government has allocated Rs. 500 crore in the Union Budget 2014 and it will be rolled out in January 2015.

Under this scheme, 12 cities will be covered under the **National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)**. The 12 cities are Amritsar, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Ajmer, Mathura, Dwarka, Badami, Velankanni, Kanchipuram, Warangal, and Amaravati.

Director K Balachander Passed Away

Legendary Director **K Balachander** has died due to prolonged illness on Tuesday while undergoing treatment at Kauvery Hospital in Chennai. He was 84 and had undergone a surgery to remove a brain tumour only a month prior. A week later, his condition quickly deteriorated and he slipped into a coma.

He directed 101 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Hindi. He was a recipient of 9 National awards and was conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award in the year 2011. *Padma Shri, Kalaimamani and ANR National Award* are the other prestigious awards that came by his way. He is a mentor to Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan and Prakash Raj.



Deadline for withdrawal of pre-2005 currency notes extended

The deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes of various denominations, including Rs 500 and Rs 1,000, has been extended by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for another six months till **June, 30, 2015**. The RBI has urged public to deposit the old design notes in their bank accounts or exchange them at a bank branch convenient to them.

Post-2005 notes have added security features and help in curbing the menace of fake currency. The Reserve Bank has so far shredded **144.66 crore** such notes valued at **Rs 52,855 crore** since the launch of the drive to take out the pre-2005 notes from the circulation.

Jharkhand and Jammu Kashmir Elections

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made big electoral gains in the disputed region of *Jammu and Kashmir* and captured power in *Jharkhand*. The BJP has won *25 of 87* seats in Kashmir, its best showing ever in the Muslim-majority state, but still way short of a simple majority that it wanted to seize power. BJP will remain a key player in the state where no single party attained a majority, raising the prospect of a coalition government led by the regional People's Democratic Party (PDP) which won 28 seats.

Voters in the mineral-rich Jharkhand gave the BJP a clear majority with *42 of the state's 81 seats*, potentially making it easier for Modi's government to kick start mining projects urgently needed to reduce energy shortages.

Ordinance makes way for Insurance FDI hike and Coal Auction

The union cabinet approved two key ordinances *to hike foreign equity cap in the insurance sector and to hold the auctions for cancelled coal blocks.*

The Insurance Bill has been pending since 2008 in the **Rajya Sabha**. The foreign firms can increase their participation in insurance joint ventures from **26% to 49%** and this cap would include both FDI and foreign portfolio investments and the move could possibly attract up to Rs. *50,000 crore from overseas investors.*

The ordinance on coal is necessary for the government to hold auctions for the 214 blocks that were ordered cancelled by the Supreme Court in September.

Bhattacharya S appointed Coal India Chairman & MD

A 1985 batch IAS officer **S. Bhattacharya** has been appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director** of *Coal India Ltd.* (CIL). Mr. Bhattacharya takes over the charge from Additional Secretary (Coal) *A. K. Dubey*, who was given the additional charge as CMD of CIL from June 26. Mr. Bhattacharya, is currently the CMD of Singareni Collieries Company.

DBTL - World's Largest Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme

Government of India's **Direct Benefit Transfer on LPG (DBTL)** has become the world's largest direct benefit transfer scheme. The scheme has covered 2.5 crore households and 550 crore rupees has been distributed since 15th November 2014. The DBTL scheme has already surpassed Brazil's famous *Bolsa Familia programme* and a similar project in China in terms of the number of beneficiaries.

Under the DBTL scheme, cash subsidy is paid to the consumers so that they can buy *cooking gas at market price.* The scheme was rolled out in 54 districts and will be extended all over the country from January 1, 2015.

Raghubar Das to become the CM of Jharkhand

Senior BJP leader **Raghubar Das** is going to sworn in as the 10th **CM of Jharkhand** on December 28, 2014. He will be the first *non-tribal CM of the state* since the formation of the state.

Das was born and brought up in Jamshedpur. He is the four-time BJP MLA from Jamshedpur East since 1995 and also the *Urban Development Minister* during the NDA government in the state.

Mission Indradhanush Launched

The Government of India launched a *Health Mission* called *Mission Indradhanush* to achieve full immunization coverage for all children by **2020**. This mission will cover all un-vaccinated or

partially vaccinated children in India against seven vaccine preventable diseases including *diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B*. The mission was launched by the Health and Family Welfare Minister *Jagat Prakash Nadda* at New Delhi.

Reliance Industries Signed an Agreement with Mitsui OSK Lines

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has signed agreements with **Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd (MOL)** to handle transportation of **liquefied ethane** from *North America to India*. MOL will supervise the construction of six very large ethane carriers (VLECs), which are being built by **Samsung Heavy Industries Co Ltd** and are expected to be delivered in the last quarter of 2016. MOL is one of the world's largest and reputed shipping companies.

E-ticketing launched for Taj Mahal and Humayun's tomb

Union minister of tourism and culture, Mahesh Sharma launched **e-ticketing facility** for the **Taj Mahal and Humayun's tomb** to ensure safety of domestic and international tourists. Tickets for the Taj Mahal and Humayun's Tomb can now also be booked 90 days in advance. Payment can be made via debit card, credit card or through net banking and there are three categories of tickets for visitors viz *foreign visitor, SAARC visitor and domestic visitor*.

Jor Mela - Three day Festival of Punjab

The three day annual **Jor Mela** held in the sacred memory of **Guru Gobind Singh's** two younger sons- **Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh** began on 26th of December with the commencement of an **Akhand Path**. This year marks the **310th year of martyrdom of the brothers**.

India's first Global Artist village

Kerala Chief Minister **Oommen Chandy** laid the foundation stone for **India's first Global Artist Village** at **Kakkananpara** in **Kannur** district of **Kerala**. The village has been named as "**Kalagramam**" and this project is planned by the **Kerala Lalithakala Akademi**.

DeitY sets up joint task force to boost mobile manufacturing

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) announced to set up a **Fast Track Task Force** to re-establish a significant growth in mobile handset and component manufacturing eco-system in India. The *joint task force* will include industry representatives from Samsung, Microsoft Devices, and Lava. The task force aims to achieve production of 500 million units of mobile handsets by 2019.

Journalist BG Verghese Passes away

One of the most widely respected editors and an inspirational figure to several generations of journalists, *Boobli George Verghese* died at his Gurgaon house. He was the editor of Hindustan Times from 1969 to 1975 and that of The Indian Express from 1982 to 1986.

In 1975, Verghese was given the Ramon Magsaysay award for his contribution to journalism. He served as the *Information Advisor to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi* between 1966 and 1969.



SEBI frames new Rules for Municipal Bonds

Market regulator **Security and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI)** framed a new set of rules for listing and trading of *municipal bonds on stock exchanges*. It will boost the centre's '**smart cities**' initiative and also helps to channel the household investments into urban infrastructure development.

Issuing draft regulations for such municipal bonds, also known as '*muni bonds*', SEBI said that issuing authorities would need to contribute at least 20 per cent of the total project cost for which they wish to raise funds.

The *Bangalore Municipal Corporation* was the first municipal corporation to issue a municipal bond of Rs.125 crore with a State guarantee in 1997.

Commercial power generation begins at Kudankulam Nuclear power plant

India's largest nuclear reactor at Kudankulam has started generating electricity on a commercial basis after it received green signal from Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC). The reactor made at a cost of over Rs. 8000 crores has been much delayed and activists have called it 'unsafe'. The second 1000 MW unit at Kudankulam is likely to come online in 2015.

National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill gets President's assent

President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill, 2014 that seeks to scrap the collegium system of appointing judges to higher judiciary.

This assent comes after 121st Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2014 was ratified by 16 state legislatures out of the 29.

NATGRID

Union Government has set up a high-level committee to allay apprehension of data and intelligence sharing by various government agencies with the proposed real-time intelligence sharing set up National Intelligence grid (NATGRID). It will be headed by the Union Home Secretary. While the chiefs of all intelligence agencies and investigating units will be the members.

MD and CEO of four Nationalised Banks

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has appointed the Managing Directors (MD) and Chief Executive Officers (CEO) of four Nationalised Banks.

- 1) Bank of India Executive Director R Koteeswaran was appointed as MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
- 2) Bank of India Executive Director Animesh Chauhan was appointed as MD and CEO of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC).
- 3) Punjab & Sind Bank Executive Director Kishore Kumar Sansi was appointed as MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank.
- 4) Bank of Baroda Executive Director P. Srinivas was appointed as the MD and CEO of United Bank of India.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia Warns of 2015 Recession

Russia warns of 2015 recession, as the Russian economy is *tumbling with oil prices* and *Western imposed sanctions due to Crimea annexation*. Rouble suffered its worst one-day fall since 1998, as oil prices continued its fall from Dec 1, 2014.

Global Corruption Index 2014

The Global Corruption Index 2014 has been released, *in which India ranks 85th position among 175 countries in comparison to 94th position last year*. According to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) report “*the CPI score for India increased by 2 points in 2014 from last year (2013) score, helping India’s rank move up to 85 in 2014 from 94 in 2013*”. India’s scored 38 as compared to the score of 36 last year.

Denmark occupies its position as the least corrupt country in 2014 with a score of 92 while North Korea and Somalia shared the last place, scoring just 8.

World’s Largest Cruise Ship Terminal Inaugurated in Dubai

DP World’s third cruise terminal in Dubai has been inaugurated by **Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, Crown Prince of **Dubai**. The **Hamdan bin Mohammed** Cruise Terminal is set to be the world’s largest covered cruise facility capable of welcoming 14,000 cruise passengers a day.

Shinzo Abe's coalition wins in Japan election

Shinzo Abe won the election and his ruling **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** and coalition partner maintained a super majority. The leading LDP party along with its coalition partner, **New Komeito**, won at least 317 seats in Japan's 475-seats.



Denmark challenges Russia and Canada over North Pole

Denmark has presented a claim to the **UN**, arguing that the area surrounding the **North Pole** is connected to the continental shelf of Greenland, a Danish autonomous territory.

Canada and Russia have already asserted their own sovereignty over the energy-rich Arctic territory. Arctic nations have agreed that a UN panel will settle the dispute.

UNGA pushes North Korea referral to International Criminal Court

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** called for **North Korea** to be referred to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** over its human right abuses and for charges of crimes against humanity. The UN report revealed that civilians of North Korea faced worst atrocities. It also detailed wide-ranging abuses in North Korea which includes *deliberate starvation, forced labour, executions, torture, rape and the denial of reproductive rights enforced through punishment, forced abortion and infanticide.*



Indian-Origin Anerood Jugnauth Named Mauritius Prime Minister

Former president and leader of the *Alliance Lepep party*, **Anerood Jugnauth** has been officially appointed Mauritius' new prime minister. The appointment came one day after the resignation of former Prime Minister **Navin Ramgoolam** who lost in the polls. Ramgoolam was serving his third term as the prime minister since 2005.

Indian American Dr.Vivek Murthy appointed as US Surgeon General

The Indian-American physician **Dr. Vivek Murthy** has been appointed as the **US Surgeon General** by the **US Senate**, which voted in favour of him by 51 votes to 43. Dr.Murthy is the youngest person and first person of Indian-origin to hold this post. The U.S. surgeon general does not set any government policy but is an advocate for the people's health.

Richard Rahul Verma - US Ambassador to India

Indian American **Richard Rahul Verma** sworn-in as the US Ambassador to India. Verma is the first ever Indian-American to be the top US diplomat in New Delhi. He was confirmed by the US Senate by a voice vote last week. Last week he met Obama at the White House.

UNGA asks Israel to pay Lebanon over \$850 million for the environmental disaster

The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** approved a resolution asking **Israel** to pay **Lebanon** over *\$850 million* for the *oil spill* caused by an Israeli air force attack on oil storage tanks during its war with **Hezbollah** in July 2006. The assembly voted 170-6 in favor of the resolution, with three abstentions. *Israel, the United States, Canada, Australia, Micronesia and Marshall Islands* voted "no."

Essebsi claims historic victory in Tunisian Election

Veteran politician **Beji Caid Essebsi** declared victory in presidential run-off vote, seen as the last step in Tunisia's shift to full democracy four years after an uprising ousted autocrat **Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali**.

Tunisia was the first country to depose its leader in the **Arab Spring** and inspired other uprisings in the region. Mr Essebsi held office under both deposed President *Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali* and Tunisia's first post-independence leader, *Habib Bourguiba*.

Obama signed NDA Act 2015

The Government of **United States of America** has passed the **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2015** that provides funding to the military. The 2015 NDAA provides **\$521.3 billion** in base military spending, which includes nearly \$18 billion for nuclear weapons. In addition, it also provides \$63.7 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations, or war, budget, including \$5.1 billion for U.S. operations against ISIS.

Pakistan and Russia signed \$1.7 Billion Energy Deal

Pakistan and Russia have signed an energy deal worth **\$1.7 billion** for laying a **liquefied natural gas (LNG)** pipeline from **Karachi to Lahore**. It is for the first time Islamabad and Moscow have signed an energy pact decades after their defence deal. The energy agreement was signed during the visit of the Russian defence minister **Sergei Shoigu**. Islamabad and Moscow also have also signed a defence and military cooperation deal.

Currency Swap Deal signed between Nepal and China

People's Bank of China (PBoC) and **Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)** have signed a **currency swap deal** enabling the settlement of both cross-border and ordinary trade. The two countries will use local currencies (*Yuan and Nepal rupee*) for the settlement. Trade between the two countries has expanded in recent years with the northern neighbour becoming *Nepal's second largest trade partner*. The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism cooperation.

Global Arms Trade Treaty enters Force

Global arms trade treaty to regulate the industry and keep weapons out of the hands of criminals has come into effect. The treaty lays down the international rules for the 85 billion US dollars global arms trade and is considered as anew chapter in collective efforts to bring *responsibility, accountability, and transparency to the global arms trade*.

Of the 130 signatories of the treaty, 60 have ratified it. A total of 50 ratifications were necessary for the pact's entry into force. *The 193-nation UN General Assembly* overwhelmingly approved the treaty in April 2013. The treaty covers heavy weapons – such as battle tanks, combat aircraft, warships, attack helicopters and missiles – but also the trade in small arms and light weapons.

The *US* signed the *Arms Trade Treaty* in September 2013, but the Senate has *not yet ratified* it. Major weapons producers like *Russia, China, India and Pakistan* have not signed the treaty. Top arms exporters that have signed and ratified it include the *UK, France and Germany*.

Tuo Chiang - Taiwan's Indigenous Stealth Missile Corvette

Taiwan launched its indigenously developed missile ship to modernize its armed forces in response to a perceived threat from China. The 500-tonne corvette named '**Tuo Chiang**' - '**Tuo River**' - is the first of its kind ever produced by Taiwan. The defence minister of Taiwan, Yen Ming called Tuo Chiang as '*the fastest and most powerful*' in Asia.

The Tuo River-class corvette costs *US\$70 million*, measures *60.4 metres long and 14 metres wide* and carries 41 crew members. It has a maximum speed of *38 knots and a range of 2000 nautical miles (3,704 km)* and will be used to patrol the waters between Taiwan and Taiping Island in the South China Sea.

NATO ends its Combat in Afghanistan

After a long period of 13 years, **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has formally ended its war in Afghanistan. Now the under-trained Afghan national security force is going to fight the deadly Taliban insurgency largely on its own.

A special ceremony was organized at the Kabul headquarters to mark the conclusion of operations by the **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)** leaded by the United States.

From 1st January 2015, the ISAF combat mission will be replaced by a **NATO Training and Support mission**, which consists of 13000 troops. These troops will stay in Afghanistan and assist the Afghan army and police forces in their battle against the Taliban. These troops will not directly involve in any combat mission.



Municipal Elections held in Myanmar after 60 years

Municipal Elections were held in **Myanmar** after 60 years for electing the **Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)**. This election is considered as a test for Myanmar as it is undergoing transition from military rule to democracy.

Yangon city also known as **Rangoon** and was previous capital of Myanmar. Now Naypyidaw city is capital of Myanmar. Yangon is the Myanmar's largest city in terms of population and is the most important commercial centre.

Air Asia Flight Incident

AirAsia flight QZ8501 had disappeared from air traffic control (ATC) screens over the Java Sea coast off Indonesia on 28 December, as it flew from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore with 162 people on board.

This flight lost its contact with ATC after the pilot of plane had requested a change of flight plan due to bad weather, but were not allowed to alter course by authorities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mars Ship Orion Launch Rescheduled

US space agency NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Exploration) has unveiled a Mars ship or Mars craft named as Orion. The craft is designed to explore deep space making it a landmark project after shuttle program ended in 2011. The launch of the craft on a Delta Rocket from Cape Canaveral today (Dec 4, 2014) was *rescheduled due to issues like wind gusts, valve failure and a boat nearing the launch pad area.* Its maiden flight is to be tried on Dec 5, 2014.

ISRO's Communication Satellite GSAT-16 Launched Successfully

Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) communications satellite GSAT-16 was launched successfully and put on a **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** by the **European launcher Ariane 5 VA221**, from the Kourou space port in **French Guiana**.

GSAT-16's 48 transponders - 12 in the C band, 12 in the extended C and 24 in the Ku band - cover the entire country and the Andaman & Nicobar islands.

With a lift-off mass of 3,181kg, GSAT-16 carries a total of 48 communication transponders, the largest by a communication satellite developed by the Isro so far. GSAT-16 was delivered on an Ariane 5 rocket along with US broadcast satellite **DIRECTV-14**.



India successfully launched 630-tonne GSLV Mk III

India successfully launched its latest generation vehicle **GSLV Mk III**, also carrying the '**Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE)**' from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** at **Sriharikota**.

The two-stage rocket is designed to place around 10 tonnes of payload into low earth orbit or four tonnes to a geosynchronous transfer orbit.

GSLV Mk III is conceived and designed to make ISRO fully self-reliant in launching heavier communication satellites of **INSAT-4 class**, which weigh 4,500 to 5,000 kg. It would also enhance India's capability to be a competitive player in the multi-million dollar commercial launch market.

DRDO Successfully tested one Ton Glide Bomb

India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully tested a One ton (1000 kg) indigenously-developed **glide bomb**, which successfully hit a target 100 kms away, in the Bay of Bengal off the *Odisha coast* dropped by a **Indian Airforce Aircraft**. This test makes the country self-reliant in guided precision bombs.

DRDO Successfully tested the UAV Panchi

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out a maiden flight testing of **Panchi**, the wheeled version of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) **Nishant**, capable of taking-off and landing by using small airstrips.

Panchi was designed and developed by the *Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)*, a DRDO facility at Bengaluru. Panchi UAV has *autonomous flight capabilities* and is controlled from a user friendly *Ground Control Station (GCS)*. Travelling at a maximum speed of 185 km/hour, it can cruise at a speed of 125 km/hour to 150 km/hour with a service ceiling of 3,600 meter.



"GreenPhablet" - Launched by ICRISAT

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has launched a customized low-cost combination of phone and tablet computer called '**GreenPHABLET powered by the GreenSIM**'. It is developed by the ICRISAT Centre of Excellence in ICT Innovations for Agriculture in collaboration with NUNC Systems, a company based in Hyderabad.

The *GreenPHABLET* will allow information to be precisely targeted to individual smallholder farmers. This will help farmers purchase inputs at lower price, get a better price for their produce, and link them to markets, thus putting them on the path to prosperity.

World's smallest hearing aid named Nanoplug developed

The world's smallest hearing aid named Nanoplug was developed by an international team of researchers. The Nanoplug is so tiny that it is almost undetectable. The designing of this hearing aid was funded through Indiegogo, a crowdfunding platform.

European space mission Rosetta named as Breakthrough of the Year 2014 by Science journal

The European space mission Rosetta was named as the most important scientific Breakthrough of the Year 2014 by Science journal. Rosetta landed its three-legged Philae module on the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko on 12 November 2014, 10 years after the spacecraft was launched. Rosetta has detected water, methane, and hydrogen as well as some rarer molecules, including formaldehyde and hydrogen cyanide in the comet 67P's halo.

SPORTS

PV Sindhu Defends Macau Open Title

The Indian star Badminton player and two-time World Championship bronze-medalist **PV Sindhu** successfully defended the USD 120,000 Macau Grand Prix Gold trophy after seeing off Kim Hyo Min of Korea in the women's singles finals in Macau.

Germany Beat Pakistan in Hockey Champions Trophy Finals

Germany defeated **Pakistan** in the **Hockey Champions Trophy** final match 2-0. Christopher Wesley (18th minute) and Florian Fuchs (56th) scored for Germany. Germany had won the title for the last time in 2007. **India** ended up **fourth** in the Hockey Champions Trophy, going down 1-2 to Australia in the bronze medal match.

Sarita Devi gets her Asian Games Bronze Medal

Boxer Sarita Devi finally received her **Asian Games bronze medal** which she had refused at the victory ceremony in Asian Games held at Incheon, South Korea under controversial circumstances. The medal was presented to her by **Indian Olympic Association Secretary General Rajeev Mehta**.

London Classic Chess Title

Five-time chess world champion **Viswanathan Anand** won his maiden **London Classic title** after defeating British Grandmaster **Michael Adams** in the fifth and final round.

Dubai Open Title

Arjun Singh Atwal end a four-year title drought as he won the **inaugural \$500,000 Dubai Open** at the Els Golf Club. Atwal won his first and only title on the **PGA Tour in 2010**, and his last success on the Asian Tour came in **2008**.

Hero Indian Super League Titles

Atlético de Kolkata defeated Kerala Blasters FC 1-0 in the final match of First [Hero Indian Super League](#). Mohammed Rafique's headed goal from a corner kick in the fourth minute of added time sealed the historical win for the Kolkata.

Kabaddi World Cup 2014

India Men and Women retain their Kabaddi World Cup titles. The overall 7th Kabaddi World Cup or the 5th edition of the circle style Kabaddi World Cup was held in India from Dec 7, 2014 to Dec 20, 2014. The grand finale took place at the *Guru Gobind Singh Stadium, Jalandhar (Punjab)*.

Indian National Men's team had won all the Kabaddi world cups played till now (2004, 2007 and the circle style World cups - 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014). India won the Kabaddi World cup 2014 match against Pakistan with 45-42.

Indian Women's team also remain unbeaten from the First Women's Kabaddi World cup (2012-2014) till now. They won the final match against New Zealand with 36-27 on the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2014.

South Asian Volleyball Championship

India clinched the first **South Asian Women's Volleyball Championship** title. **India** topped the table with 12 points from four consecutive victories, while **Nepal**, with nine points from three wins, took the second place above **Sri Lanka**, who lost two of their four matches. The Indian team bagged a cash prize of \$2,000. The Nepali team received \$1,000 while Sri Lanka got \$500.

Ankita Raina wins ITF Singles Title

India's **Ankita Raina** defeated **Katy Dunne** of UK in straight sets in a one-sided final to lift her maiden USD 25,000 **ITF singles** title at the Deccan Gymkhana. The 21-year-old girl from Ahmedabad easily defeated her rival in straight sets 6-2 and 6-2.

Ankita become the first Indian to clinch the title in the tournament after 14 years. *Radhika Tulpule*, the then national women's champion, had won it in the inaugural year of the tournament by beating compatriot *Archana Venkatraman* in the final.



Sachin Tendulkar Named As 2015 Cricket World Cup Ambassador

The Little Master, Sachin Tendulkar has been named 2015 Cricket World Cup Ambassador by the ICC (International Cricket Council). It is the second time, Sachin was named as the ambassador of the World cup event after he already held it in **2011 (consecutive terms)**. He is considered the **all-time runs scorer in the world cup history**.



As an ambassador of the 2015 World Cup event, *he would promote and provide various support to the ICC in promoting the tournament*. The **ICC's 2015 Cricket World Cup** is considered the 3rd biggest sporting contest in the world that is taking place at **Australia and New Zealand from 14 February to 29 March 2015**.

MS Dhoni Retires From International Test Cricket

"Captain Cool" Mahendra Singh Dhoni has decided to retire from Test cricket citing the strain of playing all three formats. He is one of the India's greatest Test captains under whose leadership India became the No. 1 team in the Test rankings.

Dhoni played 90 Tests in which he scored 4876 runs at an average of 38.09, with six hundreds and 33 fifties. He captained India in 60 of those Tests, winning a record 27 matches while losing 18 and drawing 15. Dhoni's overseas record had been a source of criticism as he led India to six wins and 15 losses in 30 Tests.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

International Film Festival

The 45th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held at Goa. The important highlights of the event are,

Life Time Achievement Award - Mr. Wong Kar Wai

Indian Centenary Personality of the Year - Rajinikanth

Centenary Award - Ek Hazarachi Note

International Competition Awards

(i) Best Film – Leviathan Directed by Andrey Zvyagintsev

(ii) Best Director - Nadav Lapid for his movie The Kindergarten Teacher

(iii) Best Actor (Male) - Alexei Serebriakov and Dulal Sarkar

(iv) Best Actor (Female) - Alina Rodriguez and Sarit Larry

(v) Special Jury Award - Shrihari Sathe for Ek Hazarachi Note

Asian Football Federation Hall of Fame Award

Indian Football Player [Baichung Bhutia](#) has conferred with Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Hall of Fame Award. He is the first Indian Football Player to receive this award. Baichung has played 107 matches for India and he scored 42 goals.



Bhutia's Previous Awards

- Arjuna Award for football in 1998
- Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India, in 2008
- Banga Bhushan award in 2014

Asian of the Year

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been named '[Asian of the Year](#)' by a leading Singaporean press group called The Straits Times. Modi was bestowed the title for being focused on India's development and getting the world 'excited' about the prospects of the country again.

Last year the award was shared by *Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe*.

Most Promising Brand of the Year

Frontline magazine of *The Hindu* Group has been selected as the '[Most Promising Brand of the Year](#)' in the **Media & Entertainment** (English Magazines, India) category by the World Brands Review Corporation, a Noida-based branding organisation.

The brands were evaluated on parameters such as brand culture, identity, equity and performance.

Swiss Ambassador's Award

Wipro's Chairman and business tycoon **Azim Premji** was awarded [Swiss Ambassador's Award](#) for his inspirational and socially responsible leadership. Premji is the fifth Indian to be conferred with the Swiss Ambassador's Award, joining the likes of *Yash Chopra, Ratan Tata, Glenn Saldanha and RV Kanoria*.

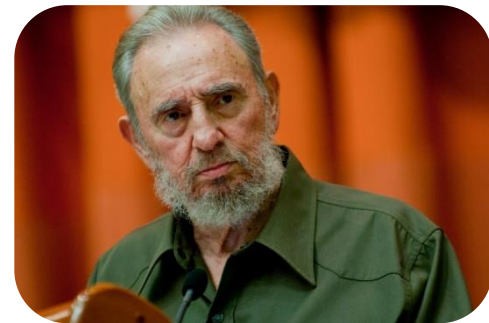
Readers' poll for *TIME* 'Person of the Year'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been named winner of this year's Readers' poll for *TIME* '[Person of the Year](#)', securing more than 16 per cent of the almost five million votes cast. Modi finished first with 16.2 percent of the vote.

Confucius Peace Prize

Former Cuban leader **Fidel Castro** has been conferred with the [Confucius Peace Prize](#), China's version of the Nobel Prize.

The Confucius Prize was established in 2010 after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo. The past winners include former **Taiwanese Prime Minister Lien Chan** and **Russian President Vladimir Putin**.



Lifetime Achievement Award 2014

Indian playback singer **Asha Bhosle** has been conferred with the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) at the **11th Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF)**.

Asha Bhosle has won seven Filmfare Best Female Playback Awards of 18 nominations. She was awarded with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

TIME's Person of the Year 2014

Time Magazine's "[Person of the Year](#)" for 2014 is the **workers** who have risked their lives this year to treat the largest **Ebola outbreak** in history and they would be honored on its annual marquee cover. In 2014, Ebola has claimed the lives of more than 6,000 people in West Africa.

According to the **World Health Organization**, 622 health care workers are known to have been infected with Ebola through the end of November; 346 of them have died.

Miss Universal Peace & Humanity 2014

Ruhi Singh of India won [Miss Universal Peace & Humanity 2014](#) at Beirut, Lebanon. She is the first person to win this pageant from India and she won the pageant among the 145 other countries. She was **Femina Miss India East** first runner-up in 2011.

Miss Universal Peace & Humanity 2014 Pageant promotes, inspires, and empowers all women to develop and utilize their strengths and inner qualities to positively impact all people throughout the world.

Guinness World Records

Rajya Sabha MP and Cricket Legend [Sachin Tendulkar](#) was honoured by **Guinness World Records** for his commendable contribution to the sport. He was felicitated by Guinness World Records on its 60th anniversary, marking the celebration of Cricket Legend's extraordinary achievement.

He was named to be among the best outstanding athletes from across the sporting world.

Miss World 2014

The Miss World 2014 was crowned to [Rolene Strauss](#), **Miss South Africa**. The Miss World 2014 event was held at the ExCeL Exhibition Centre in London. She was awarded with the crown by the outgoing Miss World 2013, **Megan Young of the Philippines**.



Miss World 2014 is considered to be the 64th edition of the Miss World pageant.

Miss India USA 2014

Pranathy Gangaraju of Georgia has been crowned as [Miss India USA 2014](#). The Indian USA Pageant has been organized annually from 1980 by the *Indian Festival Committee (IFC)* based in *New York, USA*. It is conducted for Indian origin girls who are residents of the United States of America. This contest is considered the **oldest running Indian pageant away from India**.

Riya Kaur of New Jersey was crowned **Miss Teen India USA** and **Namita Dodwadkar** of Massachusetts was also crowned the First Ever **Mrs India USA** in the same contest.

Swedish Human rights prize

Chinese pro-democracy activist **Xu Youyu** has been conferred with the prestigious [Sweden's Olof Palme Human Rights prize](#). Xu is recognized for his continuous work on the democratization of Chinese society, while condemning any form of violence as apolitical method.

Xu was born in 1947 at *Beijing* and currently he is a *Professor of Philosophy* at the **Chinese Academy of Social Science**.

SASTRA Ramanujam Award 2014

The [SASTRA-Ramanujam Award 2014](#) was conferred on **Professor James Maynard** of **Oxford University**. He solved the famous problem of **Paul Erdos on large gaps between primes**.

Bharat Ratna

The Government of India has decided to confer [Bharat Ratna](#) for freedom fighter **Madan Mohan Malviya** and former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. Bharat Ratna is considered as the *highest civilian award of the country*.

Last year the award was conferred to Rajya Sabha MP and Cricketer *Sachin Tendulkar* and Scientist *CNR Rao*. Till now 43 people have been honored with this award.

Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Bollywood Super Star **Amitabh Bachchan** has been conferred with the [Yash Chopra Memorial Award](#) by the Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao honoured. Amitabh Bachchan is the second recipient of the award. The award was first conferred to melody queen **Lata Mangeshkar** in 2013.

Hottest Vegetarian Celebrity

PM Narendra Modi and Actor **Rekha** have been crowned '[Hottest vegetarian celebrities](#)' by animal rights organisation *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)* India for making plant-based foods more popular than ever in 2014.

The winners beat out a strong group of competitors, including actors *Amitabh Bachchan, Kangana Ranaut, Hema Malini, Shahid Kapoor, Vidya Balan, R Madhavan and Vidyut Jammwal*.

OBSERVED DAYS

December 01

Remembered Day: World AIDS Day

Organized: World Health Organization

Purpose: Dedicated to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and mourning those who have died of the disease

2014 Theme: Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free generation

December 02

Remembered Day: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Organized: United Nations

Purpose: The day is observed to focus on the elimination of human trafficking, child labour and other forms of modern-day slavery.

2014 Theme: Victory over Slavery: Haiti and Beyond.

Remembered Day: World Computer Literacy Day

Purpose: Aim to increase of divide and increase to information technology for disadvantaged communities.

December 03

Remembered Day: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Organized: United Nations General Assembly

Purpose: The day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

2014 Theme: Sustainable Development: The Promise of Technology

Remembered Day: World Conservation Day

Purpose: To protect environment, wildlife & limited natural resources.

December 04

Remembered Day: Navy Day

Organized: Indian Navy

Purpose: To recognize Indian navy.

2014 Theme: Indian Navy : Ensuring Seas for a Resurgent Nation

December 05

Remembered Day: World Soil Day

Organized: United Nations

Purpose: The World Soil Day campaign aims to connect people with soils and raise awareness on their critical importance in our lives.

2014 Theme: Soils, foundation for family farming.

Remembered Day: International Volunteer Day (IVD)

Organized: United Nations

Purpose: It offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international level.

2014 Theme: People's Participation. Make change happen, volunteer!

December 06

Remembered Day: Mahaparinirwan Diwas

Organized: India

Purpose: To mark the death anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar.

December 07

Remembered Day: Armed Forces Flag Day (Flag Day of India)

Organized: India

Purpose: Donations are collected by distributing token and car flags in return of donation for the welfare and rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen, war widows or disabled and their dependents.

Remembered Day: International Civil Aviation Day

Organized: UN and ICAO

Purpose: To raise awareness of the importance of international civil aviation.

2014 Theme: Promoting global friendship and Understanding

December 09

Remembered Day: International Anti-Corruption Day

Organized: United Nations

Purpose: To generate and reinforce global awareness of the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development.

2014 Theme: Break the Corruption Chain.

December 10

Remembered Day: Human Rights Day

Organized: United Nations

Purpose: To bring to the attention of the people of the world the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

2014 Theme: Human Rights 365

Remembered Day: International Animal Rights Day

Organized: United Nations & Uncaged Campaigns

Purpose: To remember the animal victims of human tyranny and call for the recognition of our Universal Declaration of Animal Rights

2014 Theme: Caring for Your Pet

Remembered Day: International Day of Broadcasting

Purpose: Aimed at a foreign, rather than a domestic audience.

December 11**Remembered Day:** International Mountain Day**Organized:** United Nations**Purpose:** To encourage the international community to organize events at all levels on that day to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development**2014 Theme:** Mountain Farming**December 14****Remembered Day:** National Energy Conservation Day**Organized:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**Purpose:** To Keep in mind the importance of conservation of energy**2014 Theme:** Catch them young**December 16****Remembered Day:** Vijay Diwas Day**Organized:** India**Purpose:** To pay tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation**December 18****Remembered Day:** Minorities Rights Day**Organized:** United Nations**Purpose:** To create awareness on true rights of minorities**Remembered Day:** International Migrants Day**Organized:** United Nations**Purpose:** The protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families**2014 Theme:** Saving Migrants Lives**December 19****Remembered Day:** Goa Liberation Day**Organized:** India**December 20****Remembered Day:** International Human Solidarity Day,**Organized:** United Nations**Purpose:** To celebrate our unity in diversity & raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity.**2014 Theme:** Moving together as one**December 22****Remembered Day:** National Mathematics Day**Organized:** India**Purpose:** To mark birthday of great Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan

December 23

Remembered Day: Kisan Divas or Farmers Day

Organized: India

Purpose: To commemorate the memory of Chaudhary Singh, the ex-Prime Minister of India,

December 24

Remembered Day: National Consumers Right Day

Organized: India

Purpose: To make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

December 25

Remembered Day: Good Governance Day

Organized: India

Purpose: To celebrate the 90th birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

December 26

Remembered Day: Tsunami Day

Organized: India

Purpose: Memorial ceremonies for who died in Tsunami disaster

Good Luck with Your Exams!!!

Suggestions are welcomed; Contact us any time at arunsathyan.r@affairscloud.com and praveen@affairscloud.com