

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (November 1 – November 30)

Awards/Honours

- On November 3, 2014 Japan announced '**The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers**' for former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for his contribution to India-Japan ties.
 - Dr. Singh has become the first Indian to receive the rare honour.
- On November 5, 2014 **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** *made his debut among the world's most powerful people*, ranked 15th, on the **Forbes list** topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin who piped his US counterpart Barack Obama for a second year in a row.
 - Alibiba founder and richest man of China, Jack Ma, made first appearance on the list as does terror group Islamic States Chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. **Sonia Gandhi, ranked 21 last year, missed the list.**
- On November 9, 2014 Prime Minister Modi inaugurated ceremony of the **Mananeeya Eknath Ranade Janm Shati Parva** which inspired us to make life not just successful (*Safal*), but also meaningful (*Saarthak*).
- On November 5, 2014 **Westminster City Council** granted planning permission for the sculpture commemorating the Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square, to be placed close to the statue of Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid revolutionary.
- On November 5, 2014 President Pranab Mukherjee presented the **Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) Meritorious Awards** to SAIL, BPCL, Indian Oil, HAL, BEL, PFC, NSKFDC.
- On November 10, 2014 President Pranab Mukherjee conferred **Jnanpith Award on eminent Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh** for his outstanding contribution towards Indian literature.

- On November 11, 2014 India celebrated the **National Education Day** (the birth anniversary of freedom movement leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad).
- On November 13, 2014 Indian-origin Singaporean playwright Haresh Sharma was announced winner of the **South East Asia (SEA) Write Award**.
- On November 13, 2014 Delhi Metro and Yamuna Expressway got among the *six Indian infrastructure ventures* that have figured in the list of **world's most innovative, impactful infrastructure projects**. It was prepared by international accounting firm KPMG.
- On November 13, 2014 Bollywood actor-director Farhan Akhtar became the *first man in UN Women history* to be appointed as its **Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia**.
- On November 14, 2014 Indian Army Chief **General Dalbir Singh Suhag** was conferred the title of *honorary rank of General of Nepal Army* by President Ram Baran Yadav in Kathmandu.
- On November 14, 2014 President **Barack Obama** lauded the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in finding a path forward on the *WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement* reached between the US and India.
- On November 14, 2014 in response to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate an **International Day of Yoga**, the *EU and 130 countries joined as co-sponsors* to an India led resolution.
- On November 14, 2014 Australia fast bowler *Mitchell Johnson* matched feat of compatriot *Ricky Ponting* of winning **ICC Cricketer of the Year** award twice.

- On November 17, 2014 **Church of England** broke with a centuries old tradition by **paving the way for the appointment of female bishops**.
- On November 18, 2014 Wong Kar-Wai, one of the most celebrated filmmakers of Hong Kong was named for **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 45th, edition of IFFI.
- On November 19, 2014 **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development** for 2014 was announced for ISRO in recognition of its contribution in strengthening international cooperation in peaceful use of outer space.
- On November 20, 2014 Davinder Singh, a 57 year old Indian origin attorney in Singapore was conferred with '**Disputes Lawyer of the Year**' award for South-East Asia and India.
- On November 21, 2014 **Mangalyaan** was named among the **best inventions of 2014** by *Time magazine* which described it as a technological feat that will allow India to flex its 'interplanetary muscles'.
- On November 23, 2014 Pope Francis II conferred **Sainthood** on Father Kuriakose Elias Chavara (b.Feb 10, 1805), popularly known as *Chavara Achen*, and Sister *Euphrasia* (b. Oct 7, 1877), popularly known as Evuprasiamma.

Appointments

- On November 2, 2014 Alok Kumar, IAS took over as the **Secretary of the Central Vigilance Commission**.
- On November 4, 2014 Gurdial Singh Sandhu was appointed **Chairman of the National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention**.

- On November 4, 2014 in Ukraine rebel leader *Alexander Zakharchenko* took oath in the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk.
- On November 5, 2014 senior IRS Officer Anita Kapur was appointed the **Chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, the apex authority of the Income Tax Department.
- On November 8, 2014 **Laxmikant Parsekar** was appointed as the *new Chief Minister of Goa*.
- On November 8, 2014 *Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar* took over as the **head of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI)**, succeeding Lt. Gen. Zaheerul Islam (Retd).
- On November 17, 2014 Veteran diplomat *Michel Kafando* was chosen as Burkina Faso **interim President**.
- On November 24, 2014 Modi Govt. appointed National Security Adviser Ajit Doval as the **Special Representative for the ongoing boundary talks with China**, keeping with tradition, a signal that the dialogue can restart.
- On November 26, 2014 Speaker Sumitra Mahajan appointed former UP Chief Secretary Anoop Mishra as the new Secretary General of the Lok Sabha.

Sports

Cricket

India-Sri Lanka Series

- On November 2, 2014 at Cuttack, centuries by openers Ajinkya Rahane (111) and Shikhar Dhawan (113) helped India (363/5) register a 169 run win in the **first of the five ODI Series** against Sri Lanka at the Barabati Stadium.

- Raina, who was playing his 200th ODI, hit his 32nd fifty in 34 balls.
- On November 9, 2014 at Hyderabad, India defeated Sri Lanka (242) by six wickets and clinch the five-match series in the third ODI. Shikhar Dhawan hit 91 off 79 balls.
- On November 13, 2014 at Kolkata, Rohit Sharma set world record individual score of 264 as India (404/5) defeated Sri Lanka to register 153-run win in the fourth ODI.
- **Eden Gardens celebrated its 150th anniversary.**
- Rohit Sharma became the **first man ever to hit two ODIs double centuries.**
- On November 16, 2014 at Ranchi, skipper Virat Kohli scored 139 (126b) as India defeated Sri Lanka (286 - skipper Angelo Mathews hit 116-ball 139no) by 3 wickets and registered a 5-0 **win over Sri Lanka after 32 years.**

W.R.T. Pakistan

- On November 2, 2014 at Abu Dhabi, playing against Australia, Pakistani skipper Misbah-ul-Haq **equalled the record for the fastest Test century** with that of Viv Richards (Viv scored 100 in 56 balls in 1986).
- On November 3, 2014 **Pakistan defeated Australia** by 356 runs in the 2nd and final Test to complete a 2-0 series victory in Abu Dhabi... first Test series win for Pakistan against Australia in 20 yrs.

Philip Hughes

- On November 27, 2014 **Australian batsman Philip Hughes died of a head injury**, head by a bouncer from Sean Abbot, sustained two days ago during a domestic match.

Tennis

- On November 2, 2014 Novak Djokovic with Paris Masters had his **600th career win**. He extended his unbeaten 'indoors run' to 27 and won his 20th Masters title.
- On November 2, 2014 twin brothers *Mike* and *Bob Bryan* **won their fourth doubles title in Paris** and *32nd Masters Trophy* as they defeated Polish Marcin Matkowski and Austrian Juergen Melzer.
- On November 10, 2014 Rodger Federer was presented with the **Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award** and the ATP World Tour Fans Favorite Award.
- On November 14, 2014 at London, Novak Djokovic added another processional victory to the lengthening list at the ATP World Tour Finals with a 6-2 6-2 win over Tomas Berdych.

Carlsen–Anand

- On November 8, 2014 at Sochi, Anand draws first game against Carlsen in World Championship Indian ace Viswanathan Anand played out a fighting draw with defending champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway.
- On November 23, 2014 Carlsen asserting his supremacy over Anand for the second year in running as the Norwegian retained his **World Championship Title** after defeating the Indian challenger in the 11th game.

Badminton

- On November 8, 2014 Badminton World No. 1 Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia) failed a doping test. And on November 11, 2014 Wei was provisionally suspended for an apparent anti-doping violation.

China Open Super Series

- On November 16, 2014 at Fuzhou, Saina Nehwal won Women Singles Crown in the China Open Super Series. Kidambi Srikanth defeated two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan to win the men singles title.

Football

- On November 8, 2014 Salgaocar FC scored a **solitary goal win** over Pune FC to emerge **Durand Cup champions for the third time**.
- On November 22, 2014 Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice as Real Madrid defeated Eibar 4-0 while Lionel Messi set a La Liga record of 253 goals with a hat-trick in second-placed Barcelonas 5-1 rout of Sevilla.

Hockey India

- On November 7, 2014 Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, defeated Haryana XI in the penalty shootout (3-2) of the **Women 31st Surjit Hockey Tournament** at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium.
- On November 10, 2014 in a first for Indian hockey, the national federation decided to have the **Hockey India Annual Awards** wherein the top players in the men and women's categories will walk away with prize money of Rs. 25 lakh each.
- On November 18, 2014 in a major blow to Indian hockey, Terry Walsh *relinquished the post of the Head Coach* of the national team after Hockey India (HI) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) failed to convince him to take his resignation back.

Athletics

National Open

- On November 2, 2014 Asian Games bronze medallist *OP Jaisha* won the women 5000m race on the opening day of National Open Athletics Championships.
- On November 4, 2014 *VS Surekha* bettered her eight-year-old pole vault national record at National Open Athletics Championships on the penultimate day.

2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships

- On November 18, 2014 **Doha was announced as host city for the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships**. Qatari capital was selected ahead of rival bids from 1992 Olympic hosts Barcelona.

Davis Cup

- On November 23, 2014 Roger Federer, **17-times Grand Slam Champion**, defeated Richard Gasquet and seal maiden Davis Cup title for Switzerland with a 3-1 win over hosts France.

Miscellaneous

- On November 22, 2014 United Singh defeated Khalsa Warriors 58-55 in the final of the **World Kabaddi League** at the International Hockey Stadium, Mohali.
- On November 9, 2014 Golfer Shiv Shankar Prasad Chowrasia clinched his **third Asian Tour title** at the Panasonic Open, he defeated compatriot Rahil Gangjee and Sri Lankan Mithun Perera on the first extra hole in what turned out to be an exciting end

Courts

- On November 3, 2014 Supreme Court termed as **illegal and unconstitutional** the *film industry bias against female make-up artists*.
- On November 7, 2014 Supreme Court *set aside* a Madras High Court judgment directing the Government in 2010 to **include caste details of the population in the Census**.
- On November 10, 2014 Supreme Court ruled that **none of the employees associations of the film industry could refuse to enrol female make-up artists as members and thereby deny them their right to pursue their profession**.
- On November 11, 2014 Supreme Court slammed the Centre for the delay in putting in place *a deterrent law to check adulteration of milk and milk products with harmful chemical substances*.
- On November 13, 2014 Supreme Court directed the Centre *to lay down a standard operating procedure for the states for tracing thousands of missing children and initiating pro-active steps to crack down on organised gangs involved in trafficking them*.
- On November 27, 2014 Centre submitted before the Supreme Court that **Sanskrit will be the third language in Classes VI to VIII in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)**.

Defence Scenario

- On November 5, 2014 General Dalbir Singh, the Chief of Army Staff, on behalf of President Pranab Mukherjee, presented the **Presidents Standards** to 50 Armoured Regiment and 84 Armoured Regiment.

- On November 7, 2014 *Army took responsibility* for the killing of two youths in firing in Budgam district. The November 3 incident had sparked widespread outrage and protests across the Valley.
- On November 7, 2014 Defence Minister shared that India was way behind schedule on making roads along the **3,488 km-long India-China frontier**. Only 17% roads along China border ready.
- On November 8, 2014 after a 15 month upgrade at the Cochin Shipyard, INS Cheetah returned to the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- On November 8, 2014 **final version of the two-seater trainer Jet Tejas (PV-6) made its maiden flight**.
- On November 9, 2014 **India successfully test-fired** its medium-range nuclear-capable **Agni-II missile** with a strike range of more than 2,000 km from the Wheeler Island off Odisha coast.
- On November 10, 2014 **India successful tested Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM)** against a flying target in a range in Israel. *LRSAM system is jointly developed by DRDO and IAI Israel.*
- On November 14, 2014 **Sukhoi-30MKI fighter** jet get back in action again with frontline fighter jets carrying out sorties from IAF bases at Pune and Jodhpur *ending a month-long no-flying embargo* ordered on October 14 following a crash near Pune.
- On November 14, 2014 **India successfully test-fired** its nuclear-capable **Dhanush surface-to-surface ballistic missile** from a naval ship off the Odisha coast.
- On November 16, 2014 India and China started the *fourth edition* of their *joint military training exercise* named '**Hand-in-Hand**' in Pune.

- On November 22, 2014 Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in his maiden meeting of the **Defence Acquisition Council** (DAC) *cleared the proposal to acquire 814 truck-mounted 155mm/52 calibre artillery guns* for Rs 15,750 crore.

Changzheng-2 and Chang Xing Dao

- On November 3, 2014 Sri Lanka allowed a Chinese submarine and a warship (Changzheng-2 and Chang Xing Dao) to dock at its port in Colombo.
- India had expressed serious concerns about Chinese warming relations with the Indian Ocean island nation.

Lawmakers

- On November 5, 2014 President Pranab Mukherjee **dissolved the Delhi State Legislative Assembly** paving way for fresh elections in the state.
- On November 5, 2014 Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the *government will remove all bottlenecks in the land acquisition process to set up smart cities* and is open to selling loss-making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- On November 8, 2014 Union Minister for Agriculture Radhamohan Singh said that government is all set to launch the **blue revolution** on the lines of the white revolution.
- On November 9, 2014 addressing the Golden Jubilee celebrations of National Dairy Development Board, Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said we are the biggest producer of the milk in the world and even export skimmed milk powder.

- On November 9, 2014 Finance Minister said that government was looking at bringing down its equity in banks to about 52% so that a large amount of capital, almost close to Rs 3 lakh crore, could be introduced into banks itself.
- On November 9, 2014 Prime Minister Modi added 21 more ministers, four Cabinet and 17 Ministers of State, including three with Independent charge, to his Council of Ministers increasing its strength from 45 to 66.
- Forty three year old singer-turned-politician *Babul Supriyo* became the youngest of the 21 faces who were inducted in the first expansion of Council of Ministers of PM Modi.
- On November 12, 2014 Tamil Nadu Government said in a notification that AIADMK Chief *Jayalalithaa stands disqualified* from contesting elections for 10 years.
- On November 19, 2014 Law Minister Sadananda Gowda shared that Modi Govt. was working on a **new National Litigation Policy** for speedy disposal of cases in order to reduce the number of pending cases placed at over 30 million.
- On November 20, 2014 Union Cabinet gave its approval to launch **‘Integrated Power Development Scheme’** (IPDS) which would help in strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network in the urban areas.
- On November 23, 2014 Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani had defended the decision **to replace German with Sanskrit as the third language**, saying the existing arrangement was in violation of the Constitution.
- On November 25, 2014 renaming of the domestic airport at Hyderabad by removing name of late Rajiv Gandhi drew protests in both Houses of Parliament.

- On November 25, 2014 Health Minister J.P. Nadda told the Rajya Sabha that Modi led government had accepted the recommendations of an expert committee formed earlier to **review anti-tobacco laws**.
- On November 26, 2014 Lok Sabha was informed that all Central Government employees have **to file the details of their assets and liabilities along with that of their spouses and dependent children** *as mandated under the Lokpal Act by December 31*.
- On November 26, 2014 Lok Sabha passed a related Bill for the appointment of **CBI Director** without the stamp of all three members in the selection committee (comprising PM, CJI and leader of single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha).
- On November 26, 2014 Minister Jitendra Singh informed Lok Sabha that *humiliating treatment of women that is likely to affect their health and promise of preferential or detrimental treatment can now amount to sexual harassment*.
- On November 26, 2014 Finance Minister Arun Jaitley informed Parliament that *identity of 427 Indians holding bank accounts overseas has been established* and 250 of them have admitted to having accounts.

Economic Scene

- On November 5, 2014 **Sensex** crossed the **28,000 mark** for the **first time**. Gold prices plunged by Rs 450 to trade at a three year low of Rs 25,900 per 10 gram.
- On November 7, 2014 gold prices hit their lowest level in almost four-and-a-half years at Rs 25,800 per 10 gram.

- On November 5, 2014 Bharti Airtel called off its plans to acquire business and assets of Mumbai based Loop Mobile, for about Rs 700 crore, as the Department of Telecom is yet to clear the deal.
- On November 7, 2014 Bharti Airtel launched **One Touch Internet**, a *first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at simplifying internet services* for millions of first-time users in India.
- On November 10, 2014 **Govt of India and World Bank signed a Loan Agreement for World Bank** (IBRD) financing of US\$ 200 million for Technology Centre System Programme (TCSP).
- On November 11, 2014 President Mukherjee shared that in recent times, our **expenditure on education has risen** from 2.9 per cent of the GDP in 2008-09 to 3.3 per cent in 2013-14
- On November 12, 2014 Global regulators, **Britain Financial Conduct Authority and the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission** announced **\$3.2 billion in fines** against *five major US and European banks* for **attempting to manipulate foreign exchange markets**.
- On November 13, 2014 at Chandigarh, youngest of current US Governors, Nikki Haley (42), promised support of South Carolina to Punjab in setting up aerospace, pharma, tourism and agro-processing industries.
- On November 13, 2014 in a major breakthrough over the stalemate in WTO, India and US announced they have resolved differences on public stockholding for food security through a peace clause.
- On November 17, 2014 extending their record-breaking run, the **Sensex** surged 131.22 points to end at a new peak of **28,177.88** and the **Nifty** rose 40.85 points to fresh closing high of **8,430.75**.

- On November 18, 2014 **UK marked the issuance of Masala Bond**, the *largest-ever Indian bond* of Rs 10 billion on the London Stock Exchange aimed at increasing foreign investment in India.
- On November 18, 2014 at the **re-launch of the Kisan Vikas Patra**, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called for increasing savings and using small savings schemes like KVPs instead of privately run risky ponzi schemes.
- On November 20, 2014 **Kotak Mahindra Bank decided to acquire mid-sized lender ING Vysya Bank** in an all-share transaction to strengthen its position ahead of entry of new players.
- On November 21, 2014 **Future Consumer Enterprise Ltd**, the food and FMCG arm of Kishore Biyani led Future Group, *acquired south India based convenience store chain Nilgiris* for nearly Rs 300 cr.
- On November 22, 2014 in a first, the Delhi Metro inducted into its fleet a train (Dwarka Vaishali route) with *advertisements wrapped on its exterior*, a move aimed at augmenting its non-operational revenues.
- On November 26, 2014 to reduce the trade deficit, **India asked Chinese companies to invest in India and set up manufacturing facilities**.
- On November 27, 2014 **introducing a new concept of niche banking in India**, RBI issued final norms for payment banks and small finance banks that would allow mobile firms and supermarket chains, among others, to enter the banking arena.
- On November 27, 2014 Finance Minister Arun Jaitley **revised the target for opening of accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** from *7.5 crore to 10 crore accounts by January 26, 2015*.
- On November 27, 2014 ending the months long deadlock, **the WTO approved a framework for implementation of a global pact for easing**

customs norms after acceding to *India's demand to remove constraints on food stockpiling.*

Schemes

- On November 7, 2014 **PM Modi adopted Jayapur**, a village (headed by Durga Devi) in his Varanasi parliamentary constituency under *Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana* and exhorted its residents to combine their collective strength to educate children and ensure hygiene.
- On November 7, 2014 in Varanasi, PM Modi laid the foundation stone of a **Trade Facilitation Centre and Crafts Museum** and inaugurated a power loom service centre.
- On November 10, 2014 PM Modi launched '**Jeevan Pramaan**' scheme, an *Aadhar based Digital Life Certificate for pensioners.*
- On November 12, 2014 Union Govt launched, a pilot project launched by the **Maulana Azad National Academy of Skills (MANAS)**, a skill training programme for *unemployed youths of minority communities.*
- On November 16, 2014 Sachin Tendulkar adopted a remote coastal village Puttamraju Kandriga, a village of 400 people, in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh under *Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana* and agreed to spend Rs 2.97 crore from the MPLAD funds.
- On November 27, 2014 **India launched electronic visa facility for tourists from 43 countries**, including US, Israel, Palestine and Japan, to boost tourism and offer hassle free travel to foreign visitors.

India-International

- On November 14, 2014 PM Modi reached Brisbane on a five day trip to Australia on the second leg of his 10-day three-nation tour. **PM Modi**

became first Indian PM to visit Australia in 28 years since Rajiv Gandhi in 1986.

- On November 18, 2014 at Canberra, India and Australia agreed on a **landmark framework for security cooperation across the spectrum** in defence, cyber and maritime security and combating terrorism.
- On November 19, 2014 *five Indian fishermen sentenced to death in Sri Lanka* for alleged drug trafficking were *released* after President Mahinda Rajapaksa *commuted their death penalty*.
- On November 19, 2014 PM Modi reached **Suva**.
- **PM Modi became first Indian PM to visit Fiji in 33 years**. He announced a *slew of Lines of Credit and development assistance totalling \$80 million* for Fiji and a *visa on arrival* for all the 14 island countries in the region.
- PM Modi, after talks with Fijian PM Frank Bainimarama, also announced a *\$1 million special adaptation fund for Pacific nations* and a proposal to develop **Pan Pacific Islands Project** for tele-medicine and tele-education.
- On November 20, 2014 *Brad Wall, PM of Canadian province Saskatchewan*, expressed that genetically modified (GM) crops offers immense possibilities, enhancing quality and quantity of food, holds key to problem of feeding the hungry.
- On November 21, 2014 engaged in capacity building in Afghanistan, India added another chapter with OP Jindal Global University, a private university in the country *bagging an internationally competed contract to train Afghan civil servants*.
- On November 21, 2014 *US President Barack Obama* accepted invitation of PM Modi to be the **Chief Guest at Republic Day celebrations** on January 26 in New Delhi.

- On November 25, 2014 **second international bus service** between *Delhi and Kathmandu* was flagged off by Nitin Gadkari from Ambedkar bus terminal in Delhi, place where *Delhi Lahore bus service* was started in 1999 by then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Summits

- On November 5, 2014 Vice President M. Hamid Ansari inaugurated the **7th, South Asia Economic Summit** organised by Research and Information System for Developing Countries.
- On November 8, 2014 at the **9th meeting of the Advisory Board of UN Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT)**, *India asserted that there can be no justification for terror acts* and said it was fully committed to the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

India-ASEAN Summit

- On November 12, 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, PM Modi in his address at the **12th, India ASEAN Summit** said a new era of economic development, industrialization and trade has begun in India. Externally, India's '**Look East Policy**' has become '**Act East Policy**'.
 - PM Modi said *for peace and stability in South China Sea, everyone should follow international norms and law*. This includes the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We also hope that you will be able to successfully implement the Guidelines to the 2002 Declaration on Conduct and that the Code of Conduct on South China Sea can be concluded soon on the basis of consensus.
- On November 12, 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw, PM Modi had six meetings, in addition to the India-ASEAN Summit. He met:
 - Prime Minister of Malaysia Mr. Najib Razak;
 - Prime Minister of Thailand Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha;
 - Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong;

Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah; and
President of the Republic of Korea Ms Park Geun-hye Daw
Aung San Suu Kyi.

G20

- On November 16, 2014 at Brisbane, Leaders from the G-20 group of nations agreed to boost **flagging global growth, tackle climate change and crack down on tax avoidance** but ties between the West and Russia plummeted to a new low over crisis in Ukraine.
- On November 16, 2014 at Brisbane, leaders at the G20 Summit **endorsed India's concerns over black money and tax avoidance** as they promised to *modernise global tax rules and begin automatic exchange of tax information* by 2018 end.
- On November 16, 2014 Australian PM Tony Abbott named **China to host world leaders for the G20 summit in 2016**. *Turkey took over the presidency from Australia to host the event in Antalya next year.*
- On November 21, 2014 PM Modi underscored attempt to focus on the urgent need to tackle the menace of black money found resonance across the influential G-20 group of countries with the issue finding a place in the collective resolve to deal with it.

SAARC

- On November 26, 2014 at Kathmandu, PM Modi announced that India would give a **business visa for three to five years for SAARC**, suggesting a SAARC Business Traveller Card by all member-states.
- PM Modi called upon the leaders to be '**saath saath**' besides being '**paas pass**'.

- On November 27, 2014 at Kathmadu, after two days of despondency, clouds of uncertainty hovering over the *18th, Summit of SAARC* lifted with the eight members grouping inking a **framework agreement facilitating trade in electricity in the region.**
- The *36 point Kathmandu Declaration* talked about engaging the **9 SAARC Observers into productive, demand-driven and objective project based cooperation in priority areas identified by the member-states.**

Committees/Commissions

- On November 18, 2014 **Justice Nanavati Commission submitted its final report on the 2002 Gujarat riots** to state CM Anandiben Patel.
- On November 18, 2014 high-level committee headed by T.S.R. Subramaniam set up by PM Modi government **to review five key laws governing environment, forest, wildlife, water and air** in India has *submitted its report.*

World Scene

- On November 4, 2014 **British lawmakers voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion declaring sex-selection abortion illegal**, ending uncertainty over whether doctors can be prosecuted for the practice.
- On November 5, 2014 *Republicans rode a wave of anger against US President Barack Obamas policies* to win control of the US Senate for the first time in eight years and strengthened their majority in US House of Representatives in midterm elections.
- On November 5, 2014 **Russia told USA that it will not attend a 2016 Nuclear Security Summit.**

- On November 5, 2014 **Mongolian lawmakers voted to dismiss PM Altankhuyag Norov** *for incompetence, cronyism and corruption.*
- On November 5, 2014 Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda called on President Pranab Mukherjee. *India appreciated the important role of Rwanda in maintaining peace and security in Central Africa and Horn of Africa.*
- On November 8, 2014 President Barack Obama approved sending up to 1,500 more troops to Iraq, *roughly doubling the number of US forces on the ground helping Iraqi and Kurdish forces battle the militant group Islamic State.*
- On November 8, 2014 **China and Pakistan inked 20 agreements amounting to Chinese investment reportedly worth about \$46 billion**, as PM Nawaz Sharif held wide-ranging talks with the leadership at Beijing.
- On November 9, 2014 in Spain, *Catalonia region voted in a symbolic ballot on whether to break away as an independent state*, defying fierce challenges by the Spanish government.
- On November 9, 2014 Chancellor Angela Merkel said fall of the **Berlin Wall** 25 years ago, heralding the end to the Cold War between East and West, showed the world '*dreams can come true*' and should inspire people trapped in tyranny everywhere.
- On November 10, 2014 in a diplomatic breakthrough, *Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe held their maiden talks*, marking the first step towards mending ties between the two Asian rivals after years of territorial disputes.
- On November 12, 2014 **top carbon emitters of world, the US and China**, *reached a groundbreaking deal on climate change calling for ambitious action to limit greenhouse gases.*

- On November 13, 2014 *in Mexico, demonstrators set fire to the local legislature building* in the capital of the south-western state of Guerrero in protests over the apparent massacre of 43 students by corrupt police and thugs from drug gangs.
- On November 18, 2014 in Japan, PM Shinzo Abe called a *snap election* for December and put off a sales tax hike planned for next year until 2017 as the country struggles to fend off recession.
- On November 17, 2014 Czechs in central Prague celebrated the 25th anniversary of the launch of the **Velvet Revolution** that toppled communism but festivities turned into an appeal for President Milos Zeman to resign.
- On November 20, 2014 Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, 69, called for *snap polls*, **seeking a record third six-year term** amid a drop in popularity and demands for his powers to be curbed.
- On November 20, 2014 Amiresh Ami Bera, *the lone Indian American lawmaker in the US House of Representatives*, repeated history as he edged out his Republican opponent in a California race.
- On November 21, 2014 US President Barack Obama *unveiled sweeping immigration reforms* that will shield almost five million illegal immigrants from deportation.
- On November 23, 2014 **Council on Foreign Relations** top American think tank shared that *Pakistan has the fastest growing nuclear weapons programme in the world and by 2020 it could have enough fissile material to produce more than 200 nuclear devices*.
- On November 24, 2014 *Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel resigned*, ending nearly two years in the Pentagon's top job.

- On November 24, 2014 *UK govt. unveiled tough new measures*, including a **ban on insurance companies covering the cost of terrorist ransoms and stripping teenage jihadists of their passport, to counter the growing threat of terrorism.**
- On November 26, 2014 in US, *some 2,000 National Guard troops dispatched to St. Louis* helped police stave off second night of rioting and arson after grand jury declined to indict a *white policeman* in fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager.
- On November 27, 2014 Britain agreed to further dismantle its highly centralised system of government, striking a political deal to grant Scotland new tax-raising powers in a move critic's fear could trigger the beginning of the end of UK.

Book/Reports

- On November 11, 2014 Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari was presented with a book entitled '*Empire to Independence*' authored by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Jai Krishan Kaushik.
- On November 16, 2014 former Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh urged GoI to de-classify the controversial *Henderson Brooks report* which went into the reasons for Indians defeat in the 1962 war with the Chinese.

Press in India

- On November 5, 2014 latest edition of Press in India, print media in India continues to grow with the government recording an overall increase of nearly 6% and close to 1 lakh publications registering with the Centre.

GLASS Report

- On November 20, 2014 *UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS)* 2014 report, “Investing in Water and Sanitation: Increasing Access, Reducing Inequalities”, put that **globally, 2.5 billion lack access to sanitation.**

WHO

- On November 21, 2014 WHO report revealed that *1 in 3 women as victim of domestic abuse. Between 100 and 140 million women are victims of genital mutilation* and around **70 million girls are married before 18**, often against their will.

Walk Free Foundation

- On November 17, 2014 Walk Free Foundation, an Australian-based human rights group, in its report estimated in its **inaugural slavery index** last year that **29.8 million people were born into servitude, trafficked for sex work, trapped in debt bondage.**
- On Slavery index, Walk Free Foundation has put that of **167 countries**, India had by far the greatest number of slaves. *Upto 14.3 million people in India were victims of slavery, ranging from prostitution to bonded labour.*

New Words

- In November 2014 two words got into prominence for making into Oxford Dictionaries **Selfie** and **Vape**.
- **Selfie has recently made its way into the dictionary**, but the world’s first known self-portrait was taken *175 years ago (1839)* by an American chemist and photographer Robert Cornelius.

- **Vape** is the act of smoking from an electronic cigarette - got selected by Oxford Dictionaries as its international word of the year for 2014 after use of the term more than doubled over the last year.

Jawaharlal Nehru

- On November 14, 2014 PM Modi paid tributes to the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his *125th birth anniversary*.
- “Today we mark the 125th birth anniversary of our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. My tributes to him. We remember Pandit Nehru’s efforts during the freedom struggle and his role as the first Prime Minister of India”
- On November 17, 2014 Congress President Sonia Gandhi opened two-day global conference to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Afghanistan former President Karzai, Ghana ex-President John Kuorof, Bhutan Queen Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Nepal former PM Madhav Nepal, attended inaugural ceremony.

Militancy

- On November 2, 2014 at least 55 persons, including three Pakistan Rangers personnel and a child, were killed and 200 others injured when a *suicide bomber blew himself up near Wagah in Lahore*.
- On November 10, 2014 a *suicide bomber dressed as a student* killed at least 48 people, most of them students, and injured 79 others at a school assembly in the north-eastern *Nigerian town of Potiskum*.

- On November 15, 2014 **UAE came out with a list of 86 banned terror outfits** that has five Pakistan based groups, including the dreaded *Haqqani network and the LeT*.
- On November 3, 2014 *Canadian warplanes involved in the US-led bombing campaign against militants in Iraq launched their first airstrikes since deploying to the region.*

Space

- On November 10, 2014 seeking to catch up with Mangalyaan mission, **China unveiled its Mars rover** being developed *to scurry the surface of Red Planet for signs of water & life* and plans to test it in the rugged terrain of Tibet.
- On November 12, 2014 **European Space Agency (ESA)** *landed a Philae probe on a comet*, a first in space exploration and the climax of a decade long mission to get samples from what are the remnants of the birth of solar system.
- On November 13, 2014 ESA published the *first image taken from the surface of a comet* and said that its Philae lander is still stable despite a failure to latch on properly to the rocky terrain.

World Trade Centre

- On November 3, 2014 **thirteen years after the 9/11 terrorist attack**, the **resurrected World Trade Centre was again opened for business**, marking *an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation.*

Meghalaya on Track

- On November 29, 2014 PM Modi put **Meghalaya on the railway map** by flagging off the first train connecting the hill state digitally from Guwahati, linking Mendipathar in Garo Hills of Meghalaya to the rest of the country.

Kaziranga National Park

- On November 1, 2014 *the picturesque rhino abode* at Kaziranga National Park in Assam when it was thrown open to tourists for the season.
- **The season will last till April 2015.**

Miscellaneous

- On November 20, 2014 at Panjim, **45th edition of International Film Festival of India**, *the premier film festival of India*, organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting began.
- On November 25, 2014 *legendary Kathak danseuse Sitara Devi*, 94, passed away.
- On November 25, 2014 voters across **J&K** *competed with themselves in the first phase of polling* for the 15 of the 87 Assembly seats **beating all previous records of the voter turnout at 70%**, with Sonawari recording over 80% turnout.
- On November 25, 2014 voting took place in 13 of the **81 Assembly seats in Jharkhand**, voters defied a poll boycott call by Maoists and turned up in large numbers (62%) to cast their ballot in the first of the five phase Assembly elections.
- On November 22, 2014 Shaban (19), son of Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari was *anointed as Deputy Imam* (Naib Imam) of Shahi Jama Masjid, Delhi to be the **14th Imam of largest mosque of India**.

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