

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (February 1 – February 15)

- **Andhra Pradesh** Government approves reformed **Solar, Wind Energy Policy**
- **Nandita Chatterjee** takes over as **Secretary** in the **Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation**
- **Pakistan** successfully test-fires **Air Launched Cruise Missile Ra'ad (ALCM)**
 - It has a range of 350 kms and it can carry 10-15 nuclear war head.
- **Madhya Pradesh** wins the **10th, National Award** for excellent work in **MGNREGA**
- **Saloni Dalal (12)** becomes the youngest medal winner in **National Games 2015**
- **NASA** launches its **first earth satellite Soil Moisture Active Passive** from **Vandenberg Air Force Base**
- **Bihar** government announces to provide **free education to SC, ST and girl students** till post-graduation

- **Mayuresh Pawar**, the Maharashtra's netball player dies during the **35th, National Games 2015**
- **Madhusudhan Prasad** takes over as **Secretary** in the **Union Ministry of Urban Development**
- **Vijay Kumar** wins **Gold medal** with a score of 576 of 25 metre Centre Fire Pistol event at the **35th, National Games 2015**
- **British House of Commons votes to allow world's first 'three-parent' babies**
 - Britain became the first country to allow a 'three-parent' IVF technique which doctors' say *will prevent some inherited incurable diseases.*
 - *The treatment is known as 'three-parent' in vitro fertilisation (IVF) because the babies, born from genetically modified embryos, would have DNA from a mother, a father and from a female donor.*
 - It is designed to help families with *mitochondrial diseases, incurable conditions* passed down the maternal line that affect around one in 6,500 children worldwide.
- **Four courts of Punjab & Haryana High Court goes paperless**
 - To begin with, from February 4, four courts of Punjab & Haryana High Court go paperless as the Courtrooms will be equipped with *digital screens and evidence in the form of photos, CCTV footage and audio clips will be accepted.*
 - The petitions will be filed in the *pdf format*, along with hard copies.

- **L.C. Goyal** takes over as the new **Union Home Secretary**
- **NASA** launches **first satellite to collect global soil moisture – Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP)**
- Union Government constitutes **Anil Bajjal Committee** to suggest a *framework to assess corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities*
- **World Cancer Day** observed on February 4
- **Justice M.M. Das** appointed as **Chairman of Commission of Inquiry** *probing Chit Fund Scam*
- India mobile brand **Micromax** becomes **India's biggest** and **World's third largest smartphone vendor**
- **Visitor's Awards 2015** for Best University, Innovation and Research presented by the President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Zakir Naik** wins **King Faisal International Prize 2015**
- **Dr. M.O. Garg** assumes the charge of **Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research of India**
 - Before taking over, Dr. Garg was Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun.

- **Madras High Court bans beauty contests** in Tamil Nadu
 - The Court has directed the state government to issue a circular banning such events in colleges and universities.
- On February 5, **Tata Communications Ltd** signs **20 million USD deal** with KION Group
- Marathi writer **Bhalchandra Nemade** chosen for **Jnanpith Award 2014**
- On February 8, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** forms **three sub-groups of Chief Ministers under NITI Aayog**
 - **First sub-group of group of CM's with NITI Aayog** will study the 66 centrally-sponsored schemes and recommend which schemes should continue, which should be transferred to states, and which to discontinue.
 - **Second sub-group of group of CM's with NITI Aayog** will focus on skill development and creation of skilled manpower within States.
 - **Third sub-group of group of CM's with NITI Aayog** will decide on the institutional mechanisms to be evolved for Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, so that cleanliness becomes a part of life in perpetuity.
- **First Robot-staffed Hotel of the World** to open in Japan
- **57th Annual Grammy Awards 2015** presented at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, USA

- **First World Ocean Science Congress 2015 held in Kerala**
 - The First World Ocean Science Congress was held in Kochi, Kerala from *February 5 to 8, 2015*.
 - The focal theme of the Congress was *Protect Oceans for Posterity and Blue Economy*.
- **68th British Academy Film Awards 2015** announced
 - Academy film awards 2015 will be presented to honor the best British and international performance to film in the year 2014.
- **Vinod Mehta** awarded with **Yash Bharti Samman 2015** by Uttar Pradesh Government for his outstanding work in folk, classical music, literature, fine arts and sports
- Union Government declares February 10 as **National Deworming Day**
 - Union Ministry for Health & Family Welfare of India launches **National Deworming Initiative** to protect children under age of 1-19 years from intestinal worms.
 - National Deworming Day is an initiative which is focused on reducing the threat of parasitic worm infections, a widespread health issue affecting over 24 crore children in India alone according to WHO estimates.
- ICICI Bank launches **India's first digital bank on Mobile Phone – Pockets**
 - By using this user can perform any transaction on any website and mobile application.

- Amartya Sen wins **Charleston-EFG John Maynard Keynes Prize 2015**
- **West Bengal Government** launches **Micro Business Credit Card**
 - On February 11, West Bengal Chief Minister launched the Micro Business Credit Card in association with the State Bank of India to boost the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in the state.
 - The Micro Business Credit Card is the first of its kind in India. These Business credit cards will even help the farmers to start businesses.
- **National Games mascot *Ammu the Great Hornbill* finds place in Limca Book of records**
- Union Government constitutes **Special Investigation Team (SIT) to re-investigate 1984 anti-Sikh riot cases**
 - More than 30 years after the anti-Sikh riots, a Special Investigation Team was set up by the government for conducting a fresh probe into all cases.
 - Senior IPS officer **Pramode Asthana will head the three member SIT** which will also have Rakesh Kapur, a retired District and Sessions Judge, and Kumar Gyanesh, Additional DCP with the Delhi Police.
 - The SIT will submit its report within six months.
 - **Justice G.P. Mathur** panel has recommended fresh probe into the anti-Sikh riots cases through a Special Investigation Team.
- SpaceX successfully launches **Falcon 9 rocket** from Florida, USA

- Indian origin, Gurpreet Singh gets **National Science Foundation Career Award 2015**
- **ICICI Bank Limited** ties-up with **UAE Exchange** to offer instant bank transfer service
- **Vinod Mehta's** book titled, '*Editor Unplugged: Media, Magnates, Netas and Me*' hits market
 - Vinod Mehta's new book takes forward the story of Lucknow Boy, recounting his experiences in the corridors of power in Delhi. His views on Narendra Modi, Arvind Kejriwal and the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and his decoding of coalition politics and the significant changes ushered in by the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, are expressed with his characteristic sharp insights, wit and wisdom.
- **World Radio Day observed on February 13**
- **Reporters Without Borders (RWB)** releases the **World Press Freedom Index 2015**
 - India ranked at 136th, position.
- Chhetri and Devi gets with **2014 AIFF Player of the Year Award**
- Union Government approves revised Guidelines for **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**

- **Tintu Luka wins gold** in 800m in 35th, National Games 2015
- **BrahMos missile successfully test-fired** from INS Kolkata
- **Reserve Bank of India decides to bring back one rupee notes**
- Virat Kohli becomes **first Indian cricketer to score century against Pakistan** in World Cup
- **Vanaj 2015: the first National Tribal Festival concludes**
 - The first National Tribal Festival Vanaj 2015 concluded on February 18. The festival was held from February 13 to 18.
- Dr. Tessy Thomas, Geeta Varadan jointly named for **Nayudamma Award 2014**
- Nagesh Kukunoor's film **Dhanak** wins two awards at **65th, Berlin International Film Festival 2015**
- **Indian-origin Scientist, Prof. Srikanth Jagabathula wins the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award 2015**
 - An IIT Bombay alumnus, Jagabathula will receive a total of \$500,000 over the next five years to further his research in developing data-driven modelling and learning techniques with the goal of improving the accuracy of operational decision making.

- **Chhattisgarh gets award for Renewable Power Development**

- Chhattisgarh has won award for being one of the best performing states in the renewable energy segment in India.
 - Currently, solar power is powering 600 primary health centre, 100 community health centre, 350 police stations, 1800 tribal hostels, 27 collectorates and 1,700 villages of the state.
 - In addition, various villages in Chhattisgarh are using 3,000 solar power pumps for drinking water and 1,500 for irrigation purpose.
 - State is generating 45 MW off grid solar power and 200 MW through rice husk.

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