

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

- **Mufti Mohammad Sayeed takes over as CM of J&K with BJP's support**
  - On March 1, Peoples Democratic Party leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed took oath as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bharatiya Janata Party leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Amit Shah.
  - Nirmal Singh of BJP took over as Deputy Chief Minister of J& K.
    - *With this BJP became part of the government in J&K for the first time.*
  - Sayeed became the CM of J&K for the second time. In 2002, he led a PDP-Congress alliance and was CM for three years.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses NASSCOM's foundation day**
  - PM Narendra Modi emphasized the need for finding innovative solution to tackle cyber threat.
    - Speaking at the silver jubilee celebration of NASSCOM, he said, cyber security is the current challenge faced by the world and asked Indian IT giants to develop technology to deal with the challenge.
  - Highlighting importance of IT, the Prime Minister said, IT changed the way the world looked at India.
    - NASSCOM stands for *National Association of Software and Services Companies*.
- **Chelsea wins Tottenham to win League Cup**

- **March 1: Zero Discrimination Day**

- March 1 was observed as Zero Discrimination Day *to create awareness to people from all corners of the world, about the evil consequences of discrimination, to celebrate diversity, and to reject discrimination.* The theme for 2015 day was ***Open Up, Reach Out.***

- **Jagmohan Dalmiya becomes new President of the BCCI**

- **Ola acquires India's second-largest cab aggregator TaxiForSure for \$ 200 mn**

- **Bill Gates becomes world's richest person again**

- **Lok Sabha passes the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015**

- The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 which regulates the acquisition and determination of citizenship and details registration of Overseas Citizens of India and their rights.

- **World's largest & tallest Indian tricolour unfurls in Haryana**

- On March 3, the world's largest and tallest Indian tricolour was unfurled at Town Park in Faridabad.
  - BJP President Amit Shah, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor were present on the occasion.
- The flag weighs **48 kilograms** and has **96 feet by 64 feet** dimension. It was hoisted at a height of **250 feet (75 meters)**, making it the largest and the highest hoisted Indian flag in the world.

- **Mary Kom to quit boxing after Rio Olympics**
  
- **ECI launches National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme**
  - On March 3, Election Commission of India (ECI) launched National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP) throughout India *with the prime objective to bring a total error-free and authenticated electoral roll.*
    - Under the nationwide drive, ECI will link electoral photo identity card with Aadhaar number to ensure there is no duplication.
    - *The NERPAP is aimed at eliminating duplication of voters in electoral rolls by verifying multiple, bogus and ineligible voters.*
  
- **‘Bharat-Nepal Maitri Bus Seva’ starts between Varanasi and Kathmandu**
  - The bus service was launched under the ambit of **Motor Vehicle Agreement signed between India and Nepal during the 18th SAARC Summit.**
    - This is the **second direct bus service** between India and Nepal.
  - Earlier in **November 2014, during the 18th SAARC Summit**, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal’s Prime Minister Sushil Koirala jointly launched the direct bus service between **Kathmandu and New Delhi.**
  
- **RBI cuts repo rate by 25 bps to 7.5%; keeps CRR unchanged**

- **Government to set up National Marine Police Academy in Gujarat**
- **Launch of PSLV-C27 with IRNSS-1D postponed**
- **National Institute of Gender Justice awards Rani Mukerji for highlighting women's safety**
- **Union Minister Dadarao Danve resigns**
  - Danve has resigned on being tipped as Maharashtra BJP President.
    - He was Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in Narendra Modi's cabinet.
- **PM Modi inaugurates two units of Shri Singaji Thermal Power Plant**
  - On March 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated two units each of 600 MW of Shree Singaji Thermal Power Plant in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Maharashtra government scraps Muslim quota for education**
- **BCCI warns Virat Kohli for abusive behaviour**
- **Barack Obama re-nominates Indian-American investor Sunil Sabharwal to key administration post**

- **India's Daughter:** A documentary film made by **British Director Leslee Udwin** about the fatal **gang rape of the 23 years old paramedic woman** in **New Delhi in 2012** banned in the country
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** named among the **30 most influential people on the internet** by **Time magazine** in a list which also features US President Barack Obama
- **RBI eases norms for home loans for up to Rs 10 lakh**
- **15 crore bank accounts with Aadhaar number: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**
- **UST Global launches mobile app 'iSafe' for women's safety**
- **NASA's Dawn Spacecraft completes its Orbit around Dwarf Planet Ceres**
- **Flipkart acquires mobile ad network AdIQity**
- **8 March: International Women's Day**
  - The theme as declared by United Nations for the year 2015 was **Make it Happen.**
- **Haryana Government** launches '**Aapki Beti Humari Beti**' scheme with an aim to combat the problem of *declining child sex ratio* in the state.
  - The scheme is implemented in **rural areas** as well as **urban areas**

- **Maharashtra Government** launches **Bhagyashree scheme** for girl child which aims at providing one lakh rupee after the girl completes 18 years of age.
- Solar power plane '**Solar Impulse-2**' takes off to round-the-world odyssey from Abu Dhabi
- First Indo – Nepal **Friendship Motor Rally** concludes at India Gate
- **Kerala Tourism** wins the silver prize of '**Golden Gate**' award for promoting the **backwaters of Kerala**
- Sri Lankan cricketer **Kumar Sangakkara** announces **retirement from test cricket**
- Union Government releases '**Digital Gender Atlas**' for Advancing Girls Education
- **PM Modi** launches India's first indigenously developed rotavirus vaccine '**Rotavac**'
- **Simone Gbagbo**, the former first lady of Ivory Coast, **jailed for 20 years** for her role in violence and undermining state security that followed the Presidential elections in 2010

- **North-East's first Kisan Call Centre** opened in Agartala, Tripura
- Lok Sabha passes **the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2015**
- **British Irish Visa Scheme comes into force in India**
  - The scheme allows Indian nationals to travel to the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland on a single-visit visa from either country, on the same trip.
    - Applicant can apply at one of the existing Visa Application Centres in India of Ireland & the UK.
  - This scheme allows the holder of short-stay visa issued by the country of first arrival to travel freely between Ireland and the UK including Northern Ireland, for the duration of that visa.
- **Maharashtra Government** starts helpline **18002332688** to address the social, physical and psychological issues faced by **adolescents**
- **Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs releases the data of top ten Corporate of 2014**
  - The pack of top ten corporate comprises of eight public sector undertakings and two private sector undertakings.
- 1998 Asian Games gold-medallist **Dingko Singh included in National Boxing Selection panel**
- **US President Barack Obama nominates David Hale as Ambassador to Pakistan**

- Sri Lanka's **Kumar Sangakkara** creates history by scoring four successive centuries in a Cricket World Cup
- Union Government appoints nine Executive Directors in Public Sector Banks
- Indian Railways signs MoU with LIC for implementing Railway projects
- India and Seychelles signs four agreements to boost security cooperation
- India and Mauritius inks five MoUs to give impetus to bilateral relations
- Karnataka clinches eighth Ranji title of cricket
- 12 March: World Kidney Day
  - The theme for the year 2015 is **Kidney Health for All**.
    - The World Kidney Day started in 2006.
- Iceland withdraws its application to join the EU
  - The North Atlantic island of Iceland has withdrawn its bid to join the European Union, with the government saying that its interests are best served outside the 28-nation EU.
  - Iceland started its membership negotiations in 2010 looking to better anchor itself to Europe two years after its economy imploded amid a banking collapse.



- **Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers launches Pharma Jan Samadhan scheme**
  - It is a web enabled system for redressal of consumer's grievances relating to pricing and availability of medicines created by *National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority* (NPPA).
  - The scheme will put in place a ***speedy and effective complaint redressal system*** with respect to availability and pricing of medicines.
  - It will serve as a *robust e-governance tool for protection of consumers' interests* through effective implementation of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013.
  - *It will provide consumers with an on-line facility to redress their complaints relating to over-pricing of medicines, non-availability or shortage of medicines, sale of new medicines without prior price approval of NPPA, and refusal of supply for sale of any medicine without good and sufficient reason.*
    - Once the complaint is redressed, NPPA will initiate action on the complaint within 48 hours of its receipt.
- **Mumbai HC directs Maharashtra Government to set up a redressal mechanism against noise pollution**
- **RBI, Sri Lankan central bank agrees on currency swap deal**
  - Reserve Bank of India has agreed for a \$1.5-billion currency swap agreement with the Sri Lankan central bank to help the island nation keep its currency stable. At the current valuation, one Indian rupee is equivalent to 2.12 Sri Lankan rupees.
    - It has lost almost three per cent value in comparison to the Indian rupee so far in 2015.

- **Modi becomes first Indian PM to visit Sri Lanka in 28 years**
- **UAE to host Asian Cup Football in 2019**
- **Pakistan tests first indigenous armed drone Burraq and laser guided missile Barq**
- **Former Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed gets 13 year imprisonment** under the anti-terrorism laws
  - He was charged under the island nation's Anti-Terrorism Act, 1990 for his order to arrest a Criminal Court judge Abdulla Mohamed in 2012.
- **Alka Beotra** nominated to the executive board of **World Association of Anti Doping Scientists (WAADS)**
  - Dr. Alka is Scientific Director, National Dope Testing Laboratory, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
    - Her tenure on the Executive Board of WAADS will be for a period of three years from March 2015.
  - The WAADS is an organization comprising anti doping scientists from all the WADA accredited labs across the world.
- **UK to join China backed Asian Development Bank**
  - Britain has sought to become a founding member of the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, making it the first Western nation to embrace the China-backed institution.
  - The AIIB was launched in Beijing last year to spur *transportation, energy, telecommunication* and *other investment*.

- **Union Home Ministry** directs all State Government and Union Territories **not to use National Flag made of plastic** for any function as these are not bio-degradable
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visits Sri Lanka's Jaffna District to hand over **27,000 homes to Tamil survivors** of the Sri Lankan Civil War.
- **Pi Day: March 14**
  - Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi).
  - Pi Day is observed on March 14 (3/14 in the month/day date format) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant digits of  $\pi$ .
    - Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (or 22/7 in the day/month date format).
- **Statue of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled in Parliament Square** in London, standing adjacent to iconic leaders like Britain's war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill and anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela
- **Haryana Government to impose complete ban on Beef**
- **March 15: World Consumer Rights Day**

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