




## GK Power Capsule – ‘July’ 2015 (The Hindu Review)

This GK Capsule has been prepared by **Career Power Institute Delhi** (Formerly Known as Bank Power). This has been prepared on the basis of news and events appeared in The Hindu Newspaper in the month of **July 2015**.

1. Ajay Mathur was appointed as the Director-General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). He succeeded RK Pachauri.
2. White House economic adviser Maurice Obstfeld was appointed as Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund.
3. Bhanu Pratap Sharma was appointed as Chairperson of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
4. Pankaj Munjal was appointed as CMD of Hero Motors Group.
5. Rakesh Sahni was appointed as the Chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority.
6. Lieutenant General Man Mohan Singh Rai was appointed as the Vice-Chief of the Indian Army.
7. Senior IAS officer Sanjeev Nandan Sahai was appointed as the Home Secretary of Delhi.
8. Sriram Kalyanaraman was appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Housing Bank. He became the first person from the Private Sector to head a Public Sector Financial Institution.
9. U P Singh was appointed as the Interim CMD of Oil India Limited.
10. Helena Ndume of Namibia and Jorge Sampaio of Portugal were awarded with the first-ever Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize by the United Nations.
11. Historian Ramachandra Guha was chosen for the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize 2015 in the Academic Category.
12. Film-maker Benoy Behl won the Best Documentary Producer award at Madrid International Film Festival.
13. Kerala Tourism's Muziris Heritage Project bagged the 2015 Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award in the 'Heritage & Culture' category.
14. Indian American woman Sunita Viswanath was honoured as Champions of Change by the White House of United States.
15. Modern Indian artist Sayed Haider Raza was conferred with the highest French civilian honour, the Commandeur de la Legion d' Honneur (the Legion of Honour).





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16. Indian American Professor Emeritus R. Paul Singh was named for the GCHERA World Agriculture Prize 2015. GCHERA stands for Global Confederation for Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences.
17. The World Food Prize Foundation announced to confer the 2015 World Food Prize on Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh.
18. Darshan Jain, an Indian-American teacher from Illinois, US in July 2015 was named for prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching by President Barack Obama.
19. Veteran Writer Vishwanath Tripathi was selected for the 28th Moorti Devi Award for the year 2014 for his book Vyomkesh Darvesh. Vyomkesh Darvesh is a lifetime story of Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi.
20. Prominent Indian-origin scientist Professor Kamal Bawa was elected, along with other two Indian-origin scientists, to the Royal Society of London. Other two scientists were- Ajay Sood and John Kuriayn.
21. Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka entered Guinness World Records for spending most number of days in the space. He achieved the feat by spending 804 days on the International Space Station (ISS).
22. Former Finance Minister of China Jin Liqun was nominated by China to be the first president of the Beijing-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India after his six-nation tour of Russia and five Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. During his tour, he met the leaders of the five nations namely President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Almazbek Atambaev, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, and President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. During this visit, Modi also visited Russia and attended the 7th BRICS summit and 2015 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held in Ufa. He flew back to India from Dushanbe the capital city of Tajikistan, which was the last stop of his visit.
24. Cartoonist Tom Moore, who gave life to the cartoon character Archie, died.
25. Famous Hollywood actor Olaf Pooley passed away.
26. American actor best known for his role as Moe Greene in crime drama The Godfather, Alex Rocco died.
27. Noted Urdu fiction writer Dr Bisheshar Pradeep died in Lucknow.
28. Veteran Telugu playback singer V Ramakrishna passed.
29. Iconic Mexican musician Joan Sebastian passed away.
30. Renowned Urdu novelist from Pakistan Abdullah Hussain died.
31. Hollywood actress Diana Douglas died.
32. Former Chief Justice of India Y K Sabharwal passed away.
33. Matti Makkonen, the man responsible for conceiving the idea of short messaging service (SMS) technology, died.
34. Patrick Macnee, star of the legendary Avengers TV series, died.
35. Rajahmundry was in news as the Andhra Pradesh Government formed a one-member committee to probe stampede incident that killed 27 people on the first day of Godavari Maha Pushkaram celebrations.
36. The Great Wall of China, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was in news as Beijing Times published a survey report stating that around 30 percent of the Wall disappeared overtime and around 1185 km of the fortification are in poor condition.
37. India stood second among 40 countries in terms of Confidence in National Government in 2014 as per the Government at a Glance 2015 report that placed Switzerland at the top with Norway coming in third. The report was released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
38. Two Indian organizations Indian Army and Indian Railways are among the world's biggest employers,

- together employing around 2.7 million people, as per a research published by the World Economic Forum. Indian Railways was ranked at the eighth place in the list of world's biggest employers with 1.4 million staff. Immediately after Indian Railways is the Indian Armed Forces with 1.3 million people.
39. An unmanned American SpaceX rocket dubbed Falcon-9 broke apart in flames minutes after lifting off from Cape Canaveral in Florida on 28 June 2015.
  40. The seventh BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit was held from 8 to 9 July 2015 in the Russian city of Ufa. It was held under the theme BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development. Besides the BRICS summit level meeting, the leaders held a summit with the members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). While the 6th BRICS summit was held at Fortaleza in Brazil in 2014, New Delhi will be hosting the 8th summit in 2016.
  41. Former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) in New Delhi. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan is a concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
  42. India and Myanmar issued a joint statement on bilateral cooperation after the conclusion of the first meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Consultative Commission in New Delhi. The JCC meeting was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and the Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin.
  43. Parliament of Greece gave its nod to the European Union mandated austerity related legislative measures, thus, paving the way for Greece to tap into EU bailout funds. The EU Summit on 12 July 2015 gave in principle approval to a bailout package worth between 82- 86 billion euro to Greece subject to approval of following legislative measures by the Greece Parliament.
  44. Iran and P5+1 countries comprising of the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Russia, China, France and Germany reached an agreement on the Iran nuclear programme. The agreement called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA) or Vienna agreement was reached after 17 days of almost uninterrupted negotiations in Vienna. Now, the Vienna agreement needs to be ratified by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and will come into force 90 days later.
  45. The European Union Summit gave in principle approval to a bailout package worth between 82-86 billion euro to Greece. The Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium. A final Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to the bailout package will be reached between the creditors and Greece only after Greece undertakes certain reforms specified under the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) programme.
  46. The United States of America formally designated Tunisia as the 16th Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA).
  47. India and Pakistan were accepted as the full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India that has had on the observer status of the group for past 10 years will become a full member of SCO by 2016. Now the full membership status of SCO will require approval by the six existing members (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan).
  48. India and Pakistan issued a Joint Statement in the Russian city of Ufa after a bilateral meeting between the Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Nawaz Sharif.


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49. Russian Direct Investment Fund signed framework agreements for equity investments in infrastructure projects in BRICS countries. The agreement was signed at the BRICS summit in Ufa.
50. The central banks of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) signed Mutual Assistance Agreement (MAA) aimed at operationalising the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) of 100 billion US dollars.
51. India and Kazakhstan signed five agreements during the two-day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kazakhstan.
52. Cuba became the first country to eliminate mother-to-child (vertical) transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and syphilis in the World. A validation in this regard was issued on 30 June by the WHO.
53. Super 30 initiative of mathematician Anand Kumar was in news as it will now feature in a 90-minute film The Big Day made by famous French director Pascal Plisson.
54. White-Fi technology or TV White Space Technology was in news as Microsoft announced plans to introduce this technology in India to provide last mile connectivity and give a boost to the Digital India initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to Microsoft, its technology can provide free Wi-Fi connectivity to the roughly one-billion Indians who don't have any net access and it plans to start with International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Bangalore campus.
55. Vyapam (Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal/Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board) scam was in news as Central Bureau of Investigation constituted a special team of 40 officers, to probe the multi-crore Vyapam scam of Madhya Pradesh. The team will be headed by CBI Joint Director RP Agarwal. The CBI constituted the team following the direction of Supreme Court of India.
56. Operation Smile, a unique initiative of Ghaziabad Police to track missing children.
57. To provide security to those devotees taking part in the 59-day-long annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army in first week of July 2015 launched Operation Shiva.
58. Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri's 'Buddha in a Traffic Jam' won the Best Original Screenplay award in the Foreign Language Category at the Madrid International Film Festival, Spain.
59. Indigenously developed helicopter-launched Nag (HeliNa) missile was test fired at the Chandhan firing range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. HeliNa is a variant of Nag anti-tank guided missile.
60. The book Green Signals: Ecology, Growth, and Democracy in India was written by former Union Environment and Forest Minister (Independent Charge) Jairam Ramesh.
61. Book titled Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji authored by former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Arun Tiwari was released.
62. The Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) in Patna.
63. The Supreme Court of India quashed pleas of Union Government and Jat organizations asking the court to reconsider its verdict that had scrapped the March 2014 notification to include Jats in the central list of the Other Background Classes (OBC) category in nine states.
64. Union Government launched National Career Counselling Portal to modernize all government-run employment exchanges.
65. Union Ministry of Urban Development launched the National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) for 12 cities in the country from Amritsar in Punjab.
66. Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to give more than Rs 50,000 crore special package to Bihar.
67. Food safety regulator FSSAI has come out with quality and safety norms to regulate food or health

supplements, nutraceuticals, functional and dietary foods and has sought public comments on the same.

68. A P Shah Committee submitted report to the government on applicability of minimum alternate tax (MAT) on FIIs.
69. The government will be setting up a Rs 500 crore fund for small and medium players in the pharmaceutical sector for upgradation of their manufacturing facilities to boost drug production in the country.
70. NITI Aayog has constituted an expert panel to suggest ways to promote innovation and entrepreneur friendly ecosystem for pushing job growth. Expert Committee is under the Chairmanship of Prof Tarun Khanna and Jorge Paulo Lemann.
71. Indian Railways assured that the ambitious Rs 81,459 cr worth 'Dedicated Freight Corridor' (DFC) project, meant for faster goods movement, will be completed by 2019. Railways is constructing Eastern Corridor from Ludhiana to Dankuni (1840 kms) and the Western Corridor from Dadri to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (1502 kms).
72. Bibek Debroy committee on railways had recently recommended private sector participation in the railways.

74. Government has finalised a proposal to cap premature withdrawals from the Employees' Provident Fund at 75 per cent of the total accumulation in case of loss of employment. At present, EPF subscribers can withdraw their entire savings by showing that they have not been employed for two months and can open a new account on moving to a new job. The EPFO also plans to raise the age for withdrawal of up to 90 per cent of the accumulation from the current limit of 54 years to 57 years. Additionally, members would be allowed to retain a part of the EPF and the related Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) until the age of 58 years from the current provision of 55 years.
75. A Rajya Sabha select committee on GST (Goods and services tax) retained the 1% origin-based tax on inter-state trade. Panel suggested that the overall GST rate should not go beyond 20% while maximum rate for merit goods could be 14%. The panel also proposed 5-year full compensation to states for any revenue loss arising from GST adoption.
76. The government extended the interest subvention scheme to banks to ensure availability of crop loans of up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers at 7 per cent per annum. Cabinet has approved an additional interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum for those farmers who repay on time.
77. Ministry of Railways has decided to grant automatic refund of Confirmed/RAC e-tickets on cancellation of Indian Railways trains similar to wait-listed e-tickets.
78. The Income Tax department has launched e-filing link on its official website for declaring illegal foreign assets and black money using the one-time compliance window notified recently by government. The department has provided this facility as the compliance window is valid only till September 30. The tax and penalty on such declared assets or funds can be paid till December 31. They would be required to pay a tax of 30 per cent and a penalty of a similar amount. Those holding illegal foreign assets abroad and not


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73. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Smart City initiative got its first nomination from Puducherry, which was awarded 75 out of a potential 100 points by the High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC).

- disclosing it by September 30 will have to liable for tax and penalty totalling 120 per cent of the value of undisclosed asset, rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years and action under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
79. Government has retained the sub-limits for foreign portfolio investments in defence and private-sector banking at 24% and 49%, respectively.
  80. China, the world's second largest defence spender after the US, will allow more private enterprises to take part in its arms sector for development and production of weapons.
  81. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the first 'Aam Aadmi Clinic' at Peeragarhi Relief Camp in West Delhi, and said that his government would set up 1,000 such facilities within a year.
  82. A New Jersey-based construction management firm has been charged with bribing Indian officials several crores of rupees to win two major water developmental projects in Goa and in Guwahati.
  83. The government has brought 39 more drugs under the price control regime as a part of its efforts to make medicines affordable in the country.
  84. Railways have launched a programme to call travelling passengers randomly on their mobile phone to collect feedback to improve services. The feedback is being collected about the cleanliness of stations, platforms, trains, quality of catering, level of cooling of AC, quality of food, punctuality of trains and quality of bedrolls.
  85. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the National Skill Development Mission, 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana' and the Skill Loan Scheme are determined efforts to create a Skilled India.
  86. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the signing and ratification of an inter-governmental agreement between India and Armenia, on cooperation in the field of agriculture.
  87. Cabinet approved setting up of an expert group headed by Niti Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya to classify the data released by Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011.
  88. Centre announced the redevelopment of 400 stations across the country through a new PPP route called 'Swiss Challenge', a bidding model under which the first bidder is given a chance to match the best bid.
  89. The Cabinet gave its approval for the second phase of E-Courts Mission Mode Project at an estimated cost of Rs.1670 crore.
  90. The government of Nagaland has prohibited permanently the manufacture, storage, sale and distribution of all forms of processed sweet flavored/scented/chewable tobacco.
  91. The government clarified that "service charge" collected by certain restaurants and hotels is not "service tax", which is levied at a rate of 5.6 per cent on the total bill.
  92. The top acquisition committee of the Defence Ministry cleared proposals worth over Rs 30,000 crore.
  93. India received the largest amount of economic aid from the United States between 1946 and 2012, while Israel got the greatest quantity of military assistance from the country, according to data compiled by USAID.
  94. U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma and Indian Revenue Secretary Shaktikanta Das signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) to promote transparency between the two nations on tax matters.
  95. India will be the world's fastest growing economy for the second consecutive year in 2016 at 7.5 per cent, IMF said. The Finance Ministry expects GDP growth to be 8-8.5 per cent in 2015-16, while the Reserve Bank of India has estimated it at 7.6 per cent.
  96. Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the BRICS nations host an annual trade fair, adding that India would be happy to host the first such event of the five-nation bloc.
  97. In view of the summer rush, Indian Railways has decided to press Suvidha trains where the minimum fare shall be tatkal fare, into service for various busy routes.

- 98.** The government has decided to fix the kerosene subsidy that the Union Budget would provide for in the current fiscal at Rs 12 a litre.
- 99.** Government hiked the minimum wage for workers from the existing Rs 137 to Rs 160 per day. The increased wages will be applicable from July 1.
- 100.** India's rural employment guarantee programme MNREGA has been ranked as the world's largest public works programme, providing social security net to almost 15 per cent of the country's population, World Bank has said.
- 101.** India has overtaken the US to become the world's third largest steel producer only after China and Japan.
- 102.** The government said it is committed to accomplishing the target of 1,75,000 MW renewable energy including 1,00,000 MW solar energy by 2022.
- 103.** Telephone connections in the country have crossed the 1 billion mark, with mobile phones accounting for around 978 million, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.
- 104.** Tax-free bonds worth Rs 40,000 crore are returning to the market after a gap of one year. These bonds will have tenures of 10, 15 and 20 years. National Highways Authority of India will make the largest offering (Rs 24,000 crore). The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (Rs 6,000 crore), the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Rs 5,000 crore) and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (Rs 2,000 crore), NTPC (Rs 1,000 crore), Rural Electrification Corporation (Rs 1,000 crore) and Power Finance Corporation (Rs 1,000 crore) are the other firms to raise funds through this route in the current year.
- 105.** Bangalore has been ranked 12th in the list of top 20 technology-rich cities in the world, according to a survey conducted by global property consultant Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL). London, San Jose and Beijing are top three cities on the list.
- 106.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the date for the public to exchange their pre-2005 banknotes till December 31, 2015.
- 107.** More than 6.5 lakh people nationwide have surrendered their subsidy for gas cylinders after the Union government launched its "Give it Up" campaign.
- 108.** The Reserve Bank of India had decided to allow banks to borrow from global multilateral financial institutions for general banking business. They can do so without seeking the central bank's approval.
- 109.** New Development Bank headed by K.V. Kamath is expected commence operations and start financing projects by April 2016.
- 110.** RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has asked central banks from across the world to define "new rules of the game" as he warned that the global economy may be slipping into problems similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s. He was addressing a London Business School (LBS) conference.
- 111.** Germany's oldest remaining nuclear reactor has been shut down, part of a move initiated four years ago to switch off all its nuclear plants by 2022.
- 112.** The seventh Parliament of Sri Lanka has been dissolved with immediate effect. The country will go to the polls on August 17.
- 113.** The district Magistrate of Nadia along with chief of Nadia Zilla Parishad in West Bengal was presented the United Nations Public Services Award 2015 for eliminating open defecation in the district.
- 114.** India and Thailand will sign a double taxation treaty and MoU for setting up an Ayurveda Chair in one of the Thai Universities during the three-day visit of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- 115.** Foreign exchange reserves jumped \$1.17 billion to touch a new high at \$355.46 billion in the week ended June 19, driven by a sharp rise in foreign currency assets, according to RBI data.
- 116.** During his "Mann ki Baat" radio address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent a good amount of

time speaking on the welfare of girls and women. He mentioned that a Sarpanch of Bibipur village in Haryana, Sunil Jaglan, had started a “Selfie with daughter” competition.

- 117.** India and 49 other founding members (Total 57 prospective founding members) of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed articles that determine each country’s share and the lender’s initial capital. The remaining seven founding members can sign the agreement before December 2015. Bank will be headquartered in Beijing, and will have an initial authorised capital stock of \$100 billion.
- 118.** India is the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank’s second largest shareholder with a stake of 8.52 per cent and a voting share of 7.5 per cent. The voting shares are based on the size of each member country’s economy and not contribution to the bank’s authorised capital. China’s shareholding is 30.34 per cent and it has retained 26.06 per cent of the voting rights with veto powers for certain key decisions. Apart from China and India, some of the countries which signed the agreement are Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Israel and , Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, the U.A.E and the U.K.
- 119.** The Ministry of Environment and Forests has started 24x7 real-time monitoring of polluting agencies in order to crack down on industries violating environmental norms.
- 120.** Top corporates pledged investments of Rs. 4.5 lakh crore for initiatives to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pet project ‘Digital India’, while also promising to create about 18 lakh jobs in the country.

- 121.** The United States and Cuba have agreed to open embassies in each other’s capitals after more than a half-century of hostilities.
- 122.** The World Bank has approved an additional loan of \$650 million for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- 123.** India’s GDP crossed the \$2-trillion mark in 2014, according to data released by the World Bank in Washington.
- 124.** Veteran actress and Mathura BJP MP Hema Malini was injured in a road accident in Dausa while on her way to Jaipur.
- 125.** The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament, headed by BJP MP Yogi Adityanath, has sought doubling of the salary of MPs from the existing Rs. 50,000 per month, increasing the pension of ex-MPs from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 35,000, and doubling the daily allowance of members when Parliament is in session, from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000.
- 126.** The Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) released has found that 36 per cent of the 884 million people in rural India are illiterate.
- 127.** State-run operator BSNL launched a pre-paid card linked mobile wallet service speed pay which would allow its customers to transfer money, pay for services as well as withdraw cash of up to Rs. 1 lakh.
- 128.** HDFC Bank has become the first bank in India to launch Watch Banking for Apple Watch.
- 129.** Union Public Service Commission declared results of the prestigious Civil Services examination. All the four top ranks have gone to women candidates. Ira Singhal from Delhi who topped the examination this year became the first physically challenged woman to top the Civil Services examination in the general category.
- 130.** The MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) card under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) scheme was launched by the Corporation Bank.
- 131.** Supreme Court asked six national parties, including the BJP and the Congress, to come clean and explain their hesitation in disclosing complete



details of their income, expenditure, donations and funding, including donor details, to the public under the Right to Information Act.

- 132.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi “strongly” and “clearly” conveyed India’s concern to President Xi Jinping over China blocking a proposal for action by the U.N. against Pakistan on the release of jailed Mumbai attack mastermind Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.
- 133.** For the first time in India, a system to detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings has been installed in Uttarakhand, where researchers have predicted an earthquake of magnitude 5 or greater. It will issue warnings 1-40 seconds before earthquakes of magnitude 5 occur.
- 134.** To encourage retail participation in government bonds, top stock exchange BSE said that a mechanism would be in place in the next 6-9 months for a ‘public offer’ of such debt instrument. The government can raise funds by initial public offer (IPO) of the government bonds through the e-IPO system.
- 135.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) placed on its website the final guidelines on Pre-paid Payment Instruments for Mass Transit System (PPI-MTS) enabling the issuance of a separate category of semi-closed pre-paid payment instruments for mass transit systems. The PPI-MTS would have a minimum validity of six months and an outstanding limit of Rs.2,000 at any point of time.


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- 136.** In the heaviest commercial launch, the Indian Space Research Organisation’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-28) launched five satellites,

weighing 1,440 kg for a United Kingdom-based company. PSLV C-28 launched three identical mini satellites of the Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC), besides two technology demonstrators — CBNT-1 and De-OrbitSail— for Surrey Space Technology Limited.

- 137.** On the World Population Day, India recorded a population of 127,42,39,769, which is growing at a rate of 1.6 per cent a year, and could make the country the most populous in the world by 2050.
- 138.** The SAARC satellite mooted by India to provide communication and meteorological services to SAARC member-countries is likely to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in December 2016.
- 139.** Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju launched the GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system, which will offer seamless navigation to the aviation industry. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) developed the system, at a cost of Rs. 774 crore.
- 140.** Consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose in June 2015 to 5.4 per cent from 5.01 per cent in May.
- 141.** Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation dipped marginally in June 2015 to -2.4 per cent from -2.36 per cent in May.
- 142.** Centre agreed to consider a demand from the States that they be allowed the flexibility to frame their own laws for land acquisitions or continue to look for a consensus on The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2015.
- 143.** A special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act court has issued the death warrant against Yakub Memon, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blast case.
- 144.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to come out with a medium term five-year “measurable action plan” for financial inclusion in the country. The central bank has also set up a committee to work out this plan under the chairmanship of Deepak Mohanty, Executive Director of RBI.

- 145.** The government panel chaired by A.K. Bhargava, on Net neutrality has recommended that apps offering domestic calling be brought under the regulatory framework prescribed for telecom operators, but those providing messaging and international calling services over the Internet be kept free from licensing requirements.
- 146.** Competition Commission of India (CCI) has fined four public sector insurance firms to the tune of Rs.671 crore, finding them guilty of involving in anti-competitive practices in bidding for Kerala government's Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY), an insurance scheme for people below poverty line.
- 147.** The Reserve Bank of India directed banks to ensure that their overall direct lending to farmers should not fall below the average of last three years.
- 148.** The Railway Ministry has done away with the need for providing photocopy of identity card or indicating its number at the time of booking Tatkal tickets from September 1.

- 149.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Under this agreement, Sri Lanka can draw a maximum of \$1.1 billion for a period of up to six months.
- 150.** China has confirmed its participation in the Indian International Fleet Review (IFR) in Visakhapatnam in February 2016. This is the first time the Chinese Navy will take part in the event. 90 nations have been invited in this fleet.
- 151.** British cosmologist Steven Hawking launched the biggest-ever search for intelligent life in the universe in a 10-year, \$100-million (143-million-euro) project to scan the heavens. The Breakthrough Listen project, backed by Russian Silicon Valley entrepreneur Yuri Milner, will be the most powerful, comprehensive and intensive scientific search.
- 152.** The U.N. Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted a resolution that endorses the historic deal on Iran's nuclear programme and clears a path for international sanctions crippling its economy to be lifted.
- 153.** Greece's government hiked taxes and began paying billions of dollars to its creditors on 21 July, as banks reopened following a three-week shutdown imposed to prevent a disastrous run on cash machines.
- 154.** The audit, done by an independent agency in the two metros, on behalf of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, found that Tata (CDMA) in Delhi and Bharti Airtel in Mumbai are the only service providers meeting the benchmark of less than 2 per cent call drops. In Delhi, the highest call drop rate was that of Reliance (17.29 per cent), followed by Airtel (8.04 per cent), Aircel (5.18 per cent), Vodafone (4.28 per cent) and Idea (2.84 per cent). The call drop rate for Tata (CDMA) stood at 0.84 per cent. The situation is no better in Mumbai with Idea registering the highest call drop rate of 5.56 per cent, followed by Tata (GSM) (5.51 per cent), Vodafone (4.83 per cent), Aircel (3.19 per cent) and Reliance (2.29 per cent). For Airtel, this was 0.97 per cent.



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**155.** Nuclear power generation in India which is currently at 5,780 MW from 21 operational reactors is expected to increase to 10,080 MW on progressive completion of projects under commissioning/ construction by 2019.

**156.** Non-resident Indians (NRIs) can invest in National Pension System (NPS) to get a social security cover, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Chairman Hemant Contractor said.



**157.** The Union government proposed to strip the Reserve Bank Governor's veto vote on India's monetary policy. The government also proposed to grant itself the power to appoint four of the six members of the Monetary Policy Committee, whose remit will include decisions on setting interest rates to maintain inflation at the targeted level. The revised draft of the Indian Financial Code, put out by the Union Finance Ministry for comments, proposes that the Reserve Bank "Chairperson" shall head the committee, with no reference to the Governor. The Reserve Bank's Board will nominate one of its executives as the fifth member of the committee. The "Chairperson" will nominate one of its employees as the sixth member.

**158.** IDFC Bank plans to start operation from October 1.

**159.** Fullerton India, a non-banking finance company, plans to enter mortgage business. National Housing Bank has accorded permission to Fullerton India to set up a fully-owned subsidiary as Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited (FIHFC).

**160.** The government has decided to infuse capital to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks, Financial Services Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said. 50% or Rs 10,000 crore of this money will find its way to "weak" banks. This money is likely to strengthen balance sheets of banks reeling with high non-performing assets and bad loans. In his

union budget for the fiscal presented in February, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said that the government has earmarked slightly under Rs 8000 crore for capital infusion purposes for the current year.

**161.** Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited (BHEL) has signed three strategic agreements with Kazakhstan companies in order to deepen its roots in Central Asia.

**162.** The two leading financial news operations from Europe and Asia are now together, as Nikkei Japanese media group is going to buy the Financial Times from Britain's Pearson in a \$1.3 billion.

**163.** India is going to become the most populous nation in the world by surpassing China in 2022. It was revealed in recently released United Nation's report titled 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision' indicating India's population growth within next seven years.

**164.** Indian writer Anuradha Roy's latest work on the malaise of sexual abuse in India has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2015.

**165.** Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) launched a mobile banking app 'Kotak Bharat' aiming to provide mobile banking services to customers in the remotest regions of India. The Android-based app is specifically designed to provide banking service to customers in the under-banked and un-banked regions with provision to use service in their preferred language.

**166.** Mobile marketplace and payments site Paytm has bagged the title sponsorship rights of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) for Rs. 203 crore. Shankar Nath, Senior Vice-President, Paytm told Business Line that the sponsorship rights were acquired for all the 84 series India will play till 2019. Paytm will pay Rs. 2.42 crore for every international match hosted by BCCI. The first home series will be against South Africa starting September.

**167.** Whistleblower bureaucrat Sanjeev Chaturvedi and human rights activist Anshu Gupta are among five persons from India, Laos, Myanmar, and the Philippines who will receive Asia's coveted Ramon Magsaysay Award. The 2002-batch Indian Forest Service officer, who is currently embattled in a protracted battle with the Centre over alleged harassment for his tough stance on graft, was the former Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) at the AIIMS in New Delhi.

**168.** Gujarat became the first state to have a provision for compulsory voting with the state government on Monday putting out a notification in this regard. Besides making voting mandatory in the local body polls, the communiqué, dated July 17, announced the reservation of 50 per cent seats for women in municipal corporations, municipalities, and village panchayats.

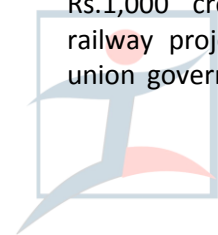
**169.** Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, widely acclaimed as the “people’s President”, passed away after collapsing during a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management in Shillong. Mr. Kalam (83), who was President between 2002 and 2007, took the lead in the conduct of India’s nuclear tests in May 1998 and was later fielded as the National Democratic Alliance candidate by then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee. Mr. Kalam, the country’s 11th President, was one of India’s most eminent scientists, and had the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions.

**170.** The Indian government has sanctioned around Rs.1,000 crore for a 15-km India-Bangladesh railway project, an official said on Sunday. The union government on Saturday communicated to

Tripura that it had sanctioned Rs.580 crores to lay the rail tracks and acquire required land in Tripura, Transport Secretary Samarjit Bhowmik said.

**171.** Information Technology Secretary Ram Sevak Sharma on Monday was appointed chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). Sharma was set to retire in September as secretary of department of electronics and information technology. A 1978-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, he was a probable choice because of his familiarity with the telecom and IT sector.

**172.** German driver Sebastian Vettel delivered an emotional high-speed tribute to his late colleague Jules Bianchi on Sunday when he stormed to victory for Ferrari in a dramatic and incident-filled Hungarian Grand Prix. The four-time world champion claimed his second victory of the season and 41st of his career -- drawing him level with the late Brazilian legend Ayrton Senna in equal third on the all-time list -- after leading from the start to dominate a thrilling and unpredictable contest. The Red Bull pair of Russian Daniil Kvyat and Australian Daniel Ricciardo finished in second and third respectively.



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