# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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#### **Current Affairs April 2016**

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and big collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **April 2016**. This guide helps you in preparation for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

#### **Audience**

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but you are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in precise and interesting way.

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### **APPOINTMENTS**

News 1: Congress MLA Geeta Reddy joins as the PAC Chairperson of

Telangana

The Congress MLA J Geeta Reddy has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Telangana.

She will be the first woman legislator to be appointed for the post in India replacing Mr. Venkat Reddy who passed away on 4 March 2016 due to illness.



Generally, there is a convention in Legislature that a senior MLA from the main Opposition party is appointed as the chairman of the Committee.

#### News 2: Jitendra Jagota joins as the Chairman of IDSA

Indian Direct Selling Association announced Jitendra Jagota, Director Legal & Government Affairs at Avon Beauty Products, as its Chairman, replacing Rajat Banerji, who serves as National Head, Corporate Affairs at Amway India.

The elected members of the IDSA will each serve one-year term for the financial year 2016-17. The new executive committee comprises of Vice Chairman, Vivek Katoch, Director Corporate Affairs, Oriflame, Treasurer, Rajat Banerji, National Head Corporate Affairs, Amway India Enterprises and



Secretary Rini Sanyal, Head, Worldwide Regulatory, Govt. and Industry Affairs, India, Herbalife, along with Jitendra as the new Chairman.

News 3: Rajiv Gauba takes charge as the Secretary of Urban Development Ministry

Mr. Rajiv Gauba took over charge as the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Urban Development. An IAS officer of the 1982 batch from the Jharkhand cadre, Gauba joins the Ministry on superannuation of Mr. Madhusudhan Prasad.

He has served in the International Monetary Fund representing the Country for four years on the Board of IMF. He has also acted as the Collector and District Magistrate for 7 years in the districts of Gaya, Nalanda and Muzaffarpur as well.





# News 4: Kallol Roy appointed as the new CMD of Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam

The Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI) appointed Mr. Kallol Roy as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) on the superannuation of P Chellapandi. He has a Ph.D. in fault diagnostics-systems and control from IIT-B and a post doctorate degree in computer process control from the University of Alberta, Canada. Before joining BHAVINI, Roy was heading the research reactor maintenance division at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai.



BHAVINI is responsible for the construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the 500-MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam.

### News 5: Wolfgang Prock-Schauer elevated as the Managing Director of GoAir

The Wadia group's budget airline, Go Airlines (India) Ltd. promoted its present CEO Wolfgang Prock-Schauer as the Managing Director. He joined the company in June 2015. He will hold the Managing Director's post along with the promoter of GoAir, Mr. Jeh Wadia.

Presently, the low cost budget airline company, GoAir has 72 Airbus A320neo on order.

Prior to GoAir, he headed different airlines like Jet Airways (2003-2009), British Midland Airways and Air Berlin.



# News 6: Panasonic appointed Manish Sharma on its Global Executive Council

Japanese electronics giant, Panasonic has appointed senior executive Manish Sharma to its global executive council. Sharma is the first Indian and fourth non-Japanese member of the 50-member Council. His induction into the global role comes along with an elevation in his role at the Indian subsidiary too.

Sharma has been elevated as the President and

CEO of Panasonic's India and South Asia operations. He was earlier the MD of its Indian operations.





#### News 7: NASSCOM appointed CP Gurnani as the Chairman for 2016-2017

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) appointed CP Gurnani as its Chairman for the period of 2016-2017. He succeeds Mr. BVR Mohan Reddy.

Gurnani is a part of NASSCOM's Executive Council and is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra as well. The Executive Council also announced the appointment of Mr. Raman Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of



Quatrro Global Services, as the Vice Chairman of NASSCOM for the period of 2016-17.

#### News 8: S Balaji Arunkumar appointed as the new KoPT deputy chairman

Mr. S Balaji Arunkumar has been appointed as the deputy chairman of Kolkata Dock System under Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT). M.r Arunkumar is an IRTS officer of 1997 batch. Before joining KopT, he was working with Container Corporation of India, Chennai as a Senior General Manager.

M T Krishna Babu, the chairman of Visakhapatnam Port Trust, has taken over as the new chairman of KoPT as an additional charge. R P S Kahlon lost his job as chairman of KoPT. Mr. Kahlon was arrested after he allegedly received bribe from a



private firm that handles containers at Kolkata Dock System (KDS).

### News 9: Lamborghini India Pvt. Ltd appointed Sharad Agarwal as its Country Head

Lamborghini India Pvt. Ltd has appointed Sharad Agarwal as its country head. Mr. Agarwal has been given the responsibility to oversee the functions of sales, marketing, after sales and network development of the company.

Before joining Lamborghini India Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Agarwal was the head of Field Force for Audi India. He had been working for Audi India since May 2012. He has a vast experience of 15 years in the automotive industry.



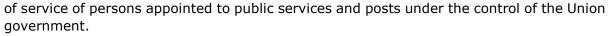


### News 10: Permod Kohli takes over charge as the Chairman of Central

**Administrative Tribunal** 

Retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court, Permod Kohli has been appointed as the Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) succeeding Justice Syed Rafat Alam and will be in the office for a period of 5 years or till attaining the age of 68 years, whichever is earlier.

The CAT has been established for adjudication of disputes with respect to recruitment and conditions





The former executive of FMCG firm ITC Ltd, Amitabh Coomar has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoJavas' replacing Vijay Ghadge. GoJavas' counts online retailers such as Jabong, Fabfurnish, Lenskart and Healthkart as clients.

Prior to this, Amitabh Coomar has served as the Divisional Manager, Brand Marketing, at ITC,



Kolkata. He also served the Indian Army for almost 12 years before joining the corporate world. Coomar has a post graduate diploma in business management from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

#### News 12: Debraj Pradhan joins as the new Ambassador of India to Norway

The present Ambassador of India to Chile, Debraj Pradhan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Norway. He is to visit the Chilean bases in the Ice Continent ANTARCTICA. The visit was arranged by the Chilean Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. The visit ended with a Toast with Antarctica Ice.

Prior to this, he was appointed as the Ambassador of India to Angola in October 2011 and continued



as Ambassador of India in Luanda till February 2014. Mr. Debraj Pradhan was born on 27 June 1958. He holds a Masters degree in Political Science.



#### News 13: Hemant Kumar Ruia appointed as the CFO of Indus Towers

Indus Towers appointed Hemant Kumar Ruia as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He has over 23 years of experience in various finance functions across diverse industries.

He was earlier working as the CFO at the Reliance Retail Ltd. He started his career with Larsen & Toubro and worked with various firms such as Reckitt Benckiser India and Agro Tech Food Limited.

Indus Towers is a telecom infrastructure company and maintains 118,687 mobile towers in India.



# News 14: Meeran Borwankar appointed to head the Bureau of Police Research & Development

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Ms. Meeran C. Borwankar, a senior Maharashtra cadre IPS officer, as the Director General in the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D). She will hold the post till the date of her superannuation i.e. 30.9.2017, from the date of assumption of the charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

She was the first woman police commissioner in Maharashtra. She was also the first woman to be the Joint

Commissioner of Police, heading the sensitive Crime Branch in its 150-year history.



### News 15: Union Government appointed Ram Bahadur Rai as the President of the reconstituted IGNCA Trust

The Union Government reconstituted the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Trust with immediate effect and appointed Senior Journalist Ram Bahadur Rai as the new President of IGNCA. Ram Bahadur Rai will replace Chinmaya Gharekhan, a former diplomat. Rai is a former news editor of Hindi daily, Jansatta.

The Board comprises 19 other members including

classical dancers and other known personalities The reconstituted trust of IGNCA, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, will be functional with immediate effect.





News 16: Susmita Pande appointed as the Chairperson of National Monument Authority

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Susmita Pande as the new chairperson of the National Monument Authority (NMA) a three-year term. The position was lying vacant since the last five months after the term of Himanshu Prabha Ray, professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, ended. She is currently a professor at Ujjain's Vikram University.



NMA works under the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for the protection and preservation of centrally protected monuments and sites.

#### News 17: Geeta Johri appointed as the first woman DGP of Gujarat

A 1982-batch IPS officer, Geeta Johri, was promoted as the Director General of Police (DGP) by the state government of Gujarat. She was the first woman IPS officer of Gujarat and now became the first female DGP of the state. She was promoted to the post after the State DGP PC Thakur was transferred to the centre as the Director General of Civil Defence and Home Guards on deputation.



Ms. Johri presently serves as the Managing Director of the Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation in Gandhinagar.

#### News 18: Shri Deepak Mishra appointed as the Addl. DG in CRPF

The Competent Authority of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the appointment of Shri Deepak Mishra, Senior IPS, as the Additional Director General in CRPF from the date of assumption of charge of the post and up to 30.11.2018 (i.e. date of his retirement on superannuation) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Mr. Deepak Mishra is an IPS officer of the 1984 batch

of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.



### News 19: Indian-American Geeta Pasi nominated as the US envoy to Chad by the US President

The US President Barack Obama nominated Indian-American Geeta Pasi as the country's next envoy to Chad. Currently, she is the Director of the Office of Career Development and Assignments in the Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of State. She has served at a number of diplomatic positions in Cameroon, Ghana, India and Romania. She served as



the United States Ambassador to Djibouti from the year 2011 to 2014.

#### News 20: BCCI appoints Rahul Johri as its CEO

The BCCI has appointed Rahul Johri as its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. The creation of this post of the CEO was a change recommended by the three-member Lodha panel in its report in January this year. Mr. Johri will report to the BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur.

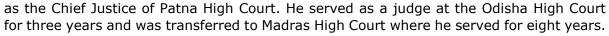
Before joining BCCI, Mr. Rahul Johri, was working with Discovery Networks as their Asia Pacific Executive Vice President and General Manager for the South Asia region.



### News 21: Justice PK Mishra to be appointed as the Lokayukta by the Goa Government

The Goa Government has decided to appoint Justice P. K. Mishra as the Lokayukta of the state. The post has been lying vacant after Justice (Retd.) Sudarshan Reddy, Goa's first Lokayukta, had resigned within seven months of his appointment.

Justice Mishra had worked as the Chairman of the Goa State Human Rights Commission. He has also served





#### News 22: Centre appoints A Ajith Kumar as the Rubber Board Chief

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Senior IAS Officer A. Ajith Kumar as the Chairman of the Kerala based Rubber Board, Kottayam. The post has been lying vacant since August 2014.

He has been appointed for a period up to May 31, 2018, which is the date of his superannuation. The vacancy has been a political issue in the state.



Congress had late last month criticized the Union government for not appointing a full-time Board chairman.



#### News 23: Bhupendra Kainthola appointed as the new FTII director

Mr. Bhupendra Kainthola has been appointed as the new Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). He is an Indian Information Service (IIS) officer of 1989 batch. The post was lying vacant after D J Narain, former institute dire ctor, completed his term in July 2015. Prashant Pathrabe, a director with the Press Information Bureau was taking care of the role for last nine months as a part-timer. Bhupendra is presently serving as Director (newsroom) with Doordarshan since January 2015. He holds a Masters in International Relations from the University of Mumbai.



In the past, he has worked with PIB, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Film Festival (as Director, National Film Awards and Indian Panorama) and Lok Sabha Television.

### News 24: IPS Officer Surender Kumar Bhagat assumed charge as the DG in-charge of Railways Protection Force

A 1982 batch IPS Officer of Uttarakhand cadre Mr. Surender Bhagat has been selected as the Director General (DG) of Railways Protection Force (RPF), for protecting the railway property and passengers. He will serve the Railway Board till 30th June 2017. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

He is presently working as Special Director General in Central Reserve Police Force, Jammu & Kashmir Sector.





### **AWARDS**

### News 1: Jailed Egyptian author-journalist Ahmed Naji to receive the PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award

Imprisoned Egyptian author and journalist, Ahmed Naji, is being awarded the PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, presented by PEN America at Pen America's annual Literary Gala on 16 May 2016 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Harry Potter creator, J.K. Rowling will be honoured with the 2016 PEN/Allen Foundation Literary Service Award for engendering a love of literature among children worldwide.



Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and LeeAnne Walters will accept the 2016 PEN/Toni and James C. Goodale Freedom of Expression Courage Award for their brave efforts to expose the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Additionally, the gala will applaud its Publisher Honoree, Hachette Book Group CEO Michael Pietsch, for his leadership in the fight against censorship.

#### News 2: Ranveer Singh honoured as 'Maharashtrian of The Year'

Actor Ranveer Singh will be honoured as 'Maharashtrian of The Year' for his role of Maratha warrior Peshwa Bajirao II in "Bajirao Mastani".

The award is given to those individuals who have positively influenced the Brand Maharashtra. The jury members to choose the awardee for this year included former Union



Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, Former Union Minister Praful Patel, eminent lawyer Ujjwal Nikam, social activist Medha Patkar, businessman Harsh Goenka, veteran journalist Ayaz Memon, filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar and others.



#### News 3: PM Modi conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the King Abdulaziz Sash honor – the highest civilian honor of Saudi Arabia by King Salman bin Abdulaziz at the Royal Court, Riyadh. The prestigious award is awarded to citizens of Saudi Arabia and foreigners for meritorious service to the Kingdom.

The other prominent recipients of this award in the past include Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo



Abe, British Prime Minister David Cameron, US President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

#### News 4: President Pranab Mukherjee presented the National Geoscience Awards 2014

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Geoscience Awards 2014 (NGA2014) at the Cultural Centre, Rashtrapati Bhavan. The award carries a cash prize and a certificate.

Prof. A. K. Singhvi, Honorary Professor, PRL Ahmadabad received the Award for Excellence for his outstanding contributions in the field of Quaternary Geology and Dr. Indra Kumar Sen, Assistant professor, IIT, Kanpur received the Young Scientist Award for his contributions in the field of geochemical evolution of earth. Besides them, thirty-one geoscientists received the



award, as individuals or team, for their meritorious contributions in twelve fields of geosciences.

#### News 5: Mother Teresa conferred with the Founders Award in UK

Mother Teresa was posthumously conferred with the UK's prestigious Founders Award 2016.

The Founders Award at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Awards takes place in the UK to recognize and reward exemplary achievement within the global Asian community across 14 categories that include business, philanthropy, entertainment, culture and sport. The Asian awards was launched in 2010



by Paul Sagoo, entrepreneur and founder of the Lemon group.



### News 6: Azerbaijani journalist, Khadija Ismayilova awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016

Khadija Ismayilova, an investigative journalist from Azerbaijan, has been chosen to receive the 2016 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize in recognition of her outstanding contribution to press freedom in difficult circumstances. The \$25,000 Prize will be awarded during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, hosted by Finland this year.

The award is named in the honor of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist and honors a



person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world.

### News 7: Priyanka Chopra to be awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award 2016

Priyanka Chopra will be awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation's best actress of the year award for the second time for her performance in "Bajirao Mastani". She had earlier received it for 'Most Memorable Performance' for the 2011 film Saath Khoon Maaf. The Dadasaheb Film Foundation will honor the actress on the occasion of 147<sup>th</sup> Dadasaheb Phalke Jayanti in Mumbai on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016.



She has also received the Padma Shri in 2016. She also became the first South Asian actor to win People's Choice Awards (Favourite actress) for her role as FBI agent in American TV show Quantico.

#### News 8: IIT- Kharagpur wins the National IP Award

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur has won the National Intellectual Property (IP) Award in the academic institutes category for its '100 patents drive' initiative. The IP Portal simplifies the process of patent filing by students as well as professors who have done some extensive research within the institute. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1,00,000, a citation and a memento.



The Indian Intellectual Property Office (IIPO) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry bestows National Intellectual Property Awards annually to outstanding innovators, organizations and companies in the fields of patents, designs, and trademarks on the occasion of World IP Day.



#### News 9: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won the Global Indian of the Year award

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won the Global Indian of the Year 2016 award. She was honoured at the NRI of the Year award function held in Mumbai. The actress dedicated the award to her daughter Aaradhya. This NRI of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievements of the Indian diaspora globally.

Sania Mirza was also honoured at the NRI of the Year Award 2016. Altogether 17 individuals were awarded under different categories like entrepreneur, professional, academics, arts & culture, philanthropy, special jury award,

global icon of the year and India's global icon award.



#### News 10: President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Padma Awards 2016

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred 5 Padma Vibhushan, 11 Padma Bhushan and 40 Padma Shri awards from the remaining of the Padma Awards on 12 April 2016 at a Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Padma Bhushan	Padma Vibhushan
Ravindra Chandra	Dr Vasudeva
Bhargava	Kalkunte Aatre
Robert Dean Blackwill	Dr Girija Devi
Indu Jain	Rajanikanth
Udit Narayan Jha	Ramoji Rao
Heinam Kanhailal	Dr V Shanta
Sania Mirza	
Yarlagadda Lakshmi	
Prasad	Padma Shri
Dayanada Saraswati (Posthumus)	Priyanka Chopra
Ram Vanji Sutar	Salman Khan
NS Ramanuja	SS Rajamouli
Tatacharya	-
Swami Tejomayananda	Veena Tandon





### News 11: Ex-Army Chief JJ Singh received the highest French civilian honor

Former army chief Gen. (Retd) JJ Singh was conferred with the highest French civilian distinction, Officer of the Legion of Honor (Officier de I Ordre national de la Legion d Honneur) in recognition of his "stellar role" in modernizing the Indian Army and initiating robust exchanges between the Indian and French armies leading to "unprecedented" levels of cooperation and interoperability and creation of enduring ties and promotion of mutual understanding between the two countries.



It is the highest civilian award given by the French
Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.

### News 12: Viswanathan Anand receives the Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award 2016

Viswanathan Anand was conferred with the Hridaynath Award by the Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao for his contributions to the game of Chess in India by becoming five-time world chess champion. The honor comprises a cash award of Rs. 2 lakhs and a memento. He joined the elite list in the likes of Lata Mangeshkar, Babasaheb Purandare, Asha Bhosle, Amitabh Bachchan, Hariprasad Chaurasia and AR Rahman to have received this award.



Anand became India's first grandmaster in 1988. He held the FIDE World Chess Championship title from 2000 to 2002 and became the undisputed world champion in 2007.

#### News 13: Padma Sachdev gets the Saraswati Samman 2015

Author and poet Padma Sachdev was chosen for the prestigious Saraswati Samman for 2015 for her autobiography titled Chitt-Chete, written in Dogri language and published in 2007 from among five works that were shortlisted from 22 works in as many languages published between the years 2005-2014. The award carries an award money of Rs. 15 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

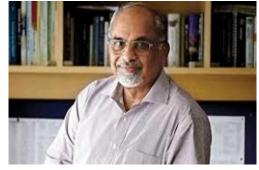


She has 60 books to her credit. She has been a recipient of Sahitya Akademi in 1971 for her book of poetry 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet'. She has also received the Padma Shri, the Indian fourth highest civilian award in 2001, and the Kabir Samman for poetry for the year 2007-2008, given by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.



#### News 14: Lifetime Achievement Award for T. N. Ninan

The Mumbai Press Club has bestowed the Redink Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism on T. N. Ninan, Chairman & Editorial Director of Business Standard. The award is a part of the RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes Mr. Ninan's extensive contribution to business journalism through good editorial leadership he provided over the years to a host of publications.



RedInk 'Journalist of the Year' Award has been given to TV anchor and NDTV India's senior Executive Editor, Ravish Kumar, for his consistent and down to earth reporting on politics and issues that concern the common man.

#### News 15: President of India presents Hindi Sevi Samman Awards

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Hindi Sevi Samman Awards for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 today (April 19, 2016) at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Human Resource Development and other dignitaries.

These Awards were instituted by Central Hindi Institute, Agra in 1989. 14 scholars receive this award in seven different categories every



year for their contribution in the field of Hindi language and literature.

# News 16: President honors Chinese Professor Ge Fuping with the George Grierson prize for promoting Hindi

President Pranab Mukherjee honoured the Chinese professor Ge Fuping with the George Grierson prize for the efforts made by him towards promotion of Hindi language abroad. Apart from him, Alka Dunputh (from Mauritius) and Shichiro Soma (from Japan) were also given the George Grierson award by the President.



These awards were instituted by Central Hindi Institute, Agra in 1989. 14 scholars receive this award in seven different categories every year for their contribution in the field of Hindi language and literature.



#### News 17: 2016 Pulitzer Prizes Announced

The winners of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize, which also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> awarding of the Pulitzer Prizes, were announced on 18th April.

The Associated Press won the gold medal in public service for its investigation series entitled "Seafood from Slaves" about the Southeast Asian fishing industry. The series helped secure the freedom for more than 2,000 slaves. It is the 52nd Pulitzer won by the AP.



#### News 18: Cyprus honors Indian diplomat Amitav Banerji

Amitav Banerji, 63, an Indian diplomat in the UK, has been conferred with Commander of the Order of Merit, one of the highest awards of Cyprus, for his work in a number of senior roles within the Commonwealth Secretariat for over two decades. The award was presented to him at a ceremony at the Cyprus High Commission.

He joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1975 and served in different capacities for 15 years. From August 1990 to May 2015, he



served in a series of roles at the Commonwealth Secretariat including Head of the Secretary General's Office. During the last six years, he served as a Political Director.

### News 19: Radhika Apte won the best actress award at Tribeca Film Fest 2016

Bollywood actress Radhika Apte won the best actress award in an international narrative feature at the Tribeca Film Festival 2016. She won the award for her role in Clean Shaven, a part of Madly, directed by Anurag Kashyap. Madly is a mixture of six short stories, directed by different directors. The movie also stars Satyadeep Misra.



"This award goes to an actress who has conveyed bravery and emotional depth in different relationships around her." said the jury on her selection. The award was given by Jean Reno.



# News 20: Manoj Bajpayee to be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 'Aligarh'

Actor Manoj Bajpayee will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in the Best Actor category (Critics' Choice) for his performance in the movie "Aligarh". This award is scheduled to be presented to him on the 1st of May, 2016.

Manoj Bajpayee had played the role of a Professor 'Ramchandra Siras' in this movie. On the work front, the actor will next be seen as a traffic constable in the upcoming film "Traffic".



### News 21: IIT scholar, K Ashok Kumar, won the International Award on Plant Nutrition

Mr. K Ashok Kumar, a food engineering research scholar from IIT Kharagpur, won the prestigious International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award given by the US-based International Plant Nutrition Institute. The award carries a cash prize of USD 2,000 and a recognition certificate.

The research will help application of organic fertilizer such as vermicompost in the right amount and time, to the rice crop. It will help the yield of rice-chickpea cropping system to increase by 10 per cent.



# News 22: Sudarsan Pattnaik won the gold medal at Sculpture Championship in Moscow

Sand Artist, Sudarsan Pattnaik won the gold medal at 9th Moscow Sand Sculpture Championship, "The magical world of sand" 2016, in Russia. He won the championship for best composition 'Mahatma Gandhi – World Peace', a 15ft high sand sculpture.

Around 20 sand artists from different countries participated at the championship. Mr. Pattnaik has

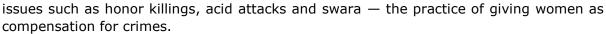
participated in more than 50 international sand sculpture championships.



### News 23: Pakistan's Swat activist Tabassum Adnan wins Nelson Mandela Award 2016

Ms. Tabassum Adnan, a women's rights activist from Swat valley received the Nelson Mandela – Graça Machel Innovation Award 2016 in Bogota, Colombia for the individual activist category on the concluding day of the International Civil Society Week (ICSW) held from April 25-28.

Ms. Tabassum Adnan, a victim of child marriage, launched her NGO, Khwendo Jirga, or Sister's Council, a women-only Jirga where women meet weekly to discuss





# News 24: Highest civilian honor to two Indians by Mongolia at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indo-Mongolian diplomatic relations

Mongolia conferred its highest civilian award, 'the North Star', on two Indian scholars Lokesh Chandra, president of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Mansura Haider, former academic adviser at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), who are experts on that country.

It was presented by the Mongolian Foreign Minister Lundeg Purevsuren. This year is being



the 60th Anniversary of Indo-Mongolian diplomatic relations and India is Mongolia's spiritual neighbor.



### **DEATHS**

#### News 1: Veteran journalist Babu Bharadwaj died

Renowned journalist and writer Babu Bharadwaj passed away at the age of 68. He died of a massive cardiac arrest on 30th April 2016 in Kozhikode.

He was a recipient of Kerala Sahitya Akademi award novel, Kalapangalkkoru 2006 for his Grihapadam. He had also produced a Malayalam movie named Iniyum Marichittillatha Nammal in year 1980. He was an integral part of print and media in the state of Kerala.



#### News 2: Oscar winning actress Patty Duke passed away

Oscar winning actress Patty Duke passed away at the age of 69. She was suffering with mental illness for quite some time after having been diagnosed with bipolar disorder in year 1982. She won an Oscar for playing Helen Keller in The Miracle Worker in 1963.

She was popular for her roles in Valley of the Dolls, My Sweet Charlie and Me, Natalie, and for TV's The Patty Duke Show, which was aired between the period of 1963 to 1966.



#### News 3: One of Britain's best-loved entertainers Ronnie Corbett passed away

One of Britain's best-loved entertainers Ronnie Corbett, passed away at the age of 85. Some of his best known works are BBC comedy sketch show, The Two Ronnie's, The Frost Report. He subsequently starred in sitcoms such as No - That's Me Over Here! Now Look Here and Sorry!



Tributes were paid by prominent figures from across the comedy world.



#### News 4: Iraqi-British Architect Zaha Hadid expired

The Iraqi-born British architect, Dame Zaha Hadid, died on 31 March 2016 due to a heart attack in Miami at the age of 65. Her designs included the London Aquatics Centre which was used during the 2012 London Olympics as well as the Al Wakrah Stadium, which is under construction for the 2022 Qatar World Cup.



In 2004, Hadid became the first woman recipient to win the Pritzker Prize, known as the Nobel for architecture.

#### News 5: Former Italy coach and AC Milan defender Cesare Maldini died

Former Italy coach and A.C. Milan defender, Cesare Maldini passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 in Milan, Italy at the age of 84.

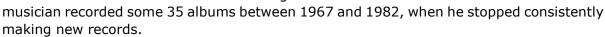
Maldini won four Serie A titles with Milan, as well as their first European Cup in 1963. He then became the manager of the AC Milan side from the year 1972 to 1974. In 1996, he became the coach of the national football team of Italy.



# News 6: Grammy Winning Latin jazz saxophonist Gato Barbieri passed away

Latin Jazz saxophonist and composer of the Grammy-winning music for the steamy Marlon Brando film "Last Tango in Paris", Leandro "Gato" Barbieri, passed away at the age of 83. He died in a New York hospital due to pneumonia.

He recorded dozens of albums over a career spanning more than seven decades. The Argentine-born





Barbara Turner, an actress, screenwriter and producer died at the age of 79. She was best known for her script of "Georgia". She was nominated for two Emmys for her work on the 1977 NBC film "The War Between the Tates," and the 2012 HBO movie "Hemingway & Gellhorn".

She is survived by her three daughters — Leigh, Carrie Ann Morrow and Mina Badiyi Chassler — plus five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.





### News 8: Madras Atomic Power Station "Architect", Myneni Hari Prasad Rao, passed away

Myneni Hari Prasad Rao, the first project director of the Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), passed away in Chennai at the age of 88 years. He is considered as the Father or Architect of the MAPS.

A recipient of Padma Shri, Rao later served as the executive director of Nuclear Power Board, now Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for three years. He was also awarded the Sanjay Gandhi Award for contribution in Science and Technology.



#### News 9: American music legend Merle Haggard passed away

The 79-year-old music legend Merle Haggard died of pneumonia. He recorded about three dozen number one country hits in a musical career that spanned six decades, from the 1960s into the 2010s. His top hits include Mama Tried, The Fugitive, If We Make It Through December, Okie from Muskogee and Fightin' Side of Me.

Haggard recorded more than three dozen No. 1 country hits in a musical career that spanned six decades, from

the 1960s into the 2010s. He overcame an early life of petty crime and a prison term in San Quentin to develop a rugged, outlaw image that helped sell millions of records.



#### News 10: Famous Journalist and Author Yogendra Bali Passed Away

The 85-year-old famous Journalist Yogendra Bali passed away due to a heart attack. He was the author of many books which include The Communal Bogey' with foreword by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, 'Chandra Shekhar: A Political Biography,' 'Pawan Chamling: Daring To Be Different,' and 'Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji and Freedom Movement of India'.



He was also associated with a number of leading newspapers and publications like The Tribune, Current Weekly, Probe, Sunday Mail, etc.

#### News 11: Former Member of Parliament, C Silvera passed away

The Former Union Minister C Silvera passed away at the age of 81 in Tuikhuahtlang, Aizawl district of Mizoram due to heart failure.

He was a retired medical doctor and a Congress politician. He was the longest serving member of Parliament of India from Mizoram. He was elected in the  $9^{\rm th}$ ,  $10^{\rm th}$  and the  $11^{\rm th}$  Lok Sabha sessions. He was the first and so far the only Mizo to be in the union council of the ministers.





#### News 12: Prominent woman biker Veenu Paliwal died in a road mishap

One of the top Indian woman bikers, Veenu Paliwal, passed away in a tragic road accident in the Vidisha district, which is in the state of Madhya Pradesh at the age of 44 years.

Paliwal was on a nationwide tour with her friend and fellow biker Deepesh Tanwar. She was recently conferred the Lady of Harley honor (LoH). The LoH is elected by members of the Harley Owners' Group (HOG).



#### News 13: British playwright Arnold Wesker passed away

Prolific British playwright, Sir Arnold Wesker, passed away on 14th April 2016 at the age of 83. He first gained prominence with a trilogy about the lives of Jewish socialist intellectuals: Chicken Soup with Barley (1958), Roots (1959) and I'm Talking about Jerusalem (1960).

He wrote more than 40 plays, as well as short stories, essays and poetry over five decades.



Critics grouped him with other working class writers sometimes referred to as the "angry young men" generation. He received a knighthood in 2006.

#### News 14: Pioneer photographer Malick Sidibe died

Pioneer photographer Malick Sidibe of Mali passed away on  $14^{th}$  April 2016 at the age of 80 years. He died in Bomako, Mali due to complications of diabetes.

Sidibe is popular for his black and white studio portraits and was the first African to receive the Hasselblad Award, in 2003. In 2007, he became the first photographer – and the first African – to



be awarded the Golden Lion lifetime achievement award at the Venice Biennale.

#### News 15: Co-founder of Hero Cycles, Satyanand Munjal, died

Patriarch of the Hero Cycles group, Satyanand Munjal, passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at his residence in Model Town, Ludhiana at the age of 99 years. He was a devoted Arya Samajist and popularly known as Mahatma Satyanand Munjal.

He had co-founded Hero Group with his three brothers - Om Prakash Munjal, Brijmohan Lall Munjal and Dayanand Munjal. He was also a



philanthropist. His philanthropic acts included Bahadur Chand Munjal (BCM) Arya schools, Hero DMC Heart Institute, Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).



# News 16: "Everybody Loves Raymond" actress Doris Roberts passed away

Five times Emmy winning Hollywood actress, Doris Roberts, passed away of natural causes

on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in Los Angeles at the age of 90 years. She was popular for her role as Marie Barone in the US sitcom Everybody Loves Raymond.

She won five Emmy Awards – four times in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005 for her role in Everybody Loves Raymond and an Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series in 1983 for her role in St. Elsewhere. Roberts accrued over 100 television and film credits over a career that spanned 65 years. She was part of films like The Heartbreak Kid, The Taking of



Pelham One Two Three, the cult classic The Honeymoon Killers, The Rose and National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

# News 17: Silicon Valley coach and mentor, William Bill Campbell, passed away

Silicon Valley coach and mentor William Bill Campbell passed away on 18th April 2016 at the age of 75. He had been suffering from cancer. He served as a president, chief executive and the chairman of a financial software maker, Intuit Inc. He is widely known as "The Coach" as he mentored some of Silicon Valley's most important entrepreneurs and executives



including Steve Jobs and Larry Page. His advice on leadership and management nurtured a range of Silicon Valley luminaries.

#### **News 18: Comedian Victoria Wood Passed Away**

The five-time Bafta-winning actress and comedian Victoria Wood passed away at London after a short illness with cancer at the age of 62 years. She was awarded a CBE in 2008.

She started her career by appearing on the New Faces talent show in 1974. She became popular with the BBC sketch show, Victoria Wood as Seen on TV. She then wrote, produced and starred in Dinner Ladies in 1998.



produced and starred in Dinner Ladies in 1998, a BBC sitcom.



#### News 19: Hollywood movie director Guy Hamilton passed away

Legendary Hollywood movie director Guy Hamilton passed away at the age of 93. He directed four James Bond movies which included "Goldfinger", "Diamonds Are Forever", "Live And Let Die" and "The Man With The Golden Gun."

Guy Hamilton was born in Paris in September 1922. He was married twice, first to Naomi Chance and then to the actress Kerima. He had also worked in the film library at Paramount News before joining the Royal Navy.



#### News 20: Pop Music Superstar Prince Rogers Nelson died

Music legend Prince Rogers Nelson who was popularly known as Prince passed away on 21 April 2016 at the age of 57 years. His body was found unresponsive at the estate where he lived and worked in a recording studio.

Prince sold over 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time with countless hits including Purple Rain, When Doves Cry and Kiss. He won seven Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award. He was inducted



into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, the first year of his eligibility. Rolling Stone ranked Prince at number 27 on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

#### News 21: Former Prime Minister of Thailand, Banharn Silpa-archa, died

Banharn Silpa-archa, the former prime minister of Thailand, passed away at the age of 83 years from an asthma attack in Bangkok.

Mr Banharn Silpa-archa was elected 11 times to Parliament and served as the Prime Minster during 1995-1996. His government was marked by allegations of corruption and economic mismanagement which led to an economic collapse in the country.



Banharn was considered a master of pork barrel politics, making his home province of Suphanburi, in Thailand's central rice-growing region, one of the country's most developed and prosperous-looking region.



#### News 22: Harry Wu, Chinese human rights activist, passed away

A prominent human rights activist in China, Harry Wu, passed away in Honduras at the age of 79 years. He was sentenced to 19 years of imprisonment at the age of 23 years after he had been vocal in criticizing the Soviet Union, the then ally of China.

He was released in 1979 and then moved to US in 1985 where he founded the Washington, D.C. based Laogai Research Foundation.



#### News 23: Popular cartoonist V T Thomas died

One of the renowned cartoonist from Kerala, V T Thomas passed away at the age of 86 years. He was also known as Toms. He was the creator of the legendary cartoon characters Boban and Molly (Bobanum Moliyum).

Toms began his career as a cartoonist with Malayala Manorama in 1961 and continued till his retirement in 1987. He has also served in the British Army during the initial phase of his life.





### **DEFENCE**

### News 1: India's first indigenous composites sonar dome flagged off at Goa

India's first indigenous composites sonar dome, a ship's underwater eyes and ears, was

today flagged off by the Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar during the DefExpo 2016 in Goa.

The sonar dome is a first of its kind in the country and has been manufactured by a composites manufacturing company, designed by DRDO. All anti-submarine warfare ships have a sonar array fitted to the ship structure below the waterline. The sonar functions as the ship's underwater eyes and ears.

The success in manufacturing the sonar done will now pave the way for realizing more

ambitious naval structures such as entire ship hulls as well as land based and aerospace applications.



#### News 2: India becomes the fourth largest spender on defence expenditure

According to IHS analysis, short-term pressures, caused by increases to military pay and

the introduction of one rank, one pension (OROP) are the main reasons for the higher rate of growth in budget allocation to defence. As a result, spending on the acquisition of military equipment remained largely static in real terms and remains lower than its 2013-14 peak, despite an increase in the overall budget.

"Growth in the Indian budget is expected to outpace that of all other major defence spenders over the next five years. This position



is only likely to strengthen further," said Craig Caffrey, principal analyst at IHS.



#### News 3: Indian Air Force to participate in the Red Flag exercise in US

The IAF will take part in the Air Exercise, "Ex-Red Flag-16-1" along with the US, NATO and allied Air Forces which is scheduled from April 28 to May 13, 2016 at the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.

Four Sukhoi-30MKIs, four Jaguars, two C-17 Globemaster III transport planes and two mid-air refuellers Ilyushin-78 will go to the US for air combat exercise. It will cost India over



Rs.100 crores and it will also see over 150 IAF personnel in action.

### News 4: A 'K-4' Submarine-launched ballistic missile successfully test fired from INS Arihant

The Submarine-launched undersea ballistic missile, code called K-4, was successfully test

fired on 31st March 2016 from an untold location in the Bay of Bengal with the aim to test the capability of this newly built underwater warship to fire long range nuclear capable missiles and the killing efficiency of the most advanced state-of-the-art weapon system.

The test was conducted nearly 45 nautical miles away from Vishakhapatnam coast in Andhra Pradesh with the support of personnel of Strategic Forces Command (SEC) while



of Strategic Forces Command (SFC) while the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) provided all the logistics.

#### News 5: Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) successfully test fired

Surface-to-air supersonic Akash missile System was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipuri in Odisha. It is a multi-target, multi-directional, all weather air-defence system consisting of surveillance and tracking radars with the capability to carry a warhead of 60 kgs and with speeds ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5. It is powered by a Ramjet-rocket propulsion system which renders thrust for the missile to intercept the target at supersonic speed without any retardation.



This nuclear capable supersonic missile is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Program (IGMDP).



#### News 6: Indian Army conducts "Shatrujeet" exercise in Rajasthan

The Indian Army conducted a major Exercise 'Shatrujeet' by the elite STRIKE 1 in deserts of Rajasthan, wherein the capability to strike deep in the enemy territory in an integrated Air-Land battle environment is being tested.

It is an operationally oriented exercise. The focus of the exercise is on validating integrated theater battle fighting concept incorporating new age technologies, weapon platforms and systems. About 30,000 soldiers were in action in the exercise.



#### News 7: India to Purchase 145 M777 Howitzers for US\$ 750 Million

The Ministry of Defence is planning to buy 145 M777 ultra-light Howitzers produced by BAE Systems. The matter is being finalized as India and the US are in agreement on its "Make in India" component. The gun will come with laser inertial artillery pointing systems (LINAPS), maintenance, personnel training and training equipment, technical assistance, engineering and logistics support services.

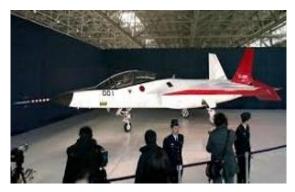


In India, the BAE Systems had tied up with Mahindra as its business partner for its proposed in-country assembly, integration and test (AIT) facility for the M777 Howitzer.

#### News 8: Japan successfully tested its first X-2 jet stealth fighter

Japan has successfully tested a prototype of their first stealth fighter jet, X-2 Jet. It now joins the league of a select group of world military powers wielding the radar-dodging technology.

This twin-engine jet, manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, took off from Japan's Nagoya airport and completed various test maneuvers including climbing, descent and circling before finally landing at Gifu



airbase. Japan began the project in 2009 and spent 39.4 billion yen (\$332 million).



#### **News 9: Veer and Nipat Decommissioned at Mumbai**

Missile boats INS Veer and Nipat of the Indian Navy were decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, after completing 29 and 28 years of service respectively. Both are 1241 RE class missile vessels.

INS Veer is presently led by Commander B Charish K Pal and INS Nipat is managed by CDR D Chakrapani. The decommissioning ceremony was held in the presence of Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, Flag Officer



Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command. These have been put in action off Gujarat coast and International Maritime Borderline to ensure security of important assets.



### **ECONOMIC**

#### News 1: Safeguard duty extended on steel imports in India

The Central Board of Excise and Customs in its notification said that the duty will apply to hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy and other alloy steel in coils of 600mm width. The safeguard duty will not be imposed on goods that are imported at minimum import price. The safeguard duty is tariff barrier imposed by government on the commodities to ensure that imports in excessive quantities do not harm the domestic industry.



The safeguard duty will be 20% minus any existing dumping duty till September 2016, following which it will be reduced to 18% till March 2017, then brought down to 15% till September 2017 and eventually to 10% by March 2018. The duty was imposed to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap Chinese imports.

### News 2: EIB agreed to Ioan out 33 Billion Rupees for the Lucknow Metro Line

The European Investment Bank (EIB) announced to invest 33 billion rupees for the first

Metro Line in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This investment will be EIB's largest ever financing in India.

The first Metro Line in Lucknow is a flagship project not only for Uttar Pradesh and India, but also for the EU Bank's strengthened global commitment to support transformational investment for both constructions of the 23 kms long new metro line and a fleet of metro trains. Once operational, this new metro



is expected to increase the use of public transport from 10% to an estimated 27% in this city of 3 million people.



#### News 3: Russia's nod to OVL deal to acquire 15% stake in Vankor oilfield

#### for \$1.3 billion

Russia has approved ONGC's deal to pick up 15% stake in Russia's second biggest oil field, Vankor from Rosneft. A deal that will cost \$1.3 billion will give India access to Russia's oil supply, and will give Russian company Rosneft access to the Indian market.

The Vankor oil field, set up in 2004, is the largest oil field that has been discovered and

brought to production in Russia in the last 25 years, ONGC said in a statement.



#### News 4: Tata Steel plans to restructure its UK business

The Tata Steel Board announced plans to explore options to restructure its UK business – Tata Steel UK. As per the announcement, the Tata Steel Board advised the Board of Tata Steel Europe to explore all options for portfolio restructuring including the potential divestment of Tata Steel UK, in whole or in parts.

The potential sale of the UK operations is credit positive for Tata Steel and TSUK Holdings,



because it would dispose of loss-making assets, against the backdrop of a challenging operating environment; namely depressed steel prices and a situation where global steel supply continues to exceed demand.

### News 5: Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech Cement buys Jaypee Cement

units

The Jaiprakash Associates, which was reeling under heavy debt burden, has announced the part sale of its cement business to Aditya Birla group's UltraTech for Rs. 15,900 crores in a deal monitored by banks led by ICICI Bank. The deal will take UltraTech's cement capacity to over 91 Mtpa from the present 68 Mtpa, it will help Jaypee group to reduce its debt.



The lenders, led by ICICI Bank, had asked the company to sell assets so that it could repay its loans. After the latest sale, Jaiprakash will retain cement plants with a total capacity of 10.6 MT.



#### News 6: MoU Inked to improve business ties between FICCI and AIBC

In a move to promote business ties with Australia, FICCI inked MoU with Australia India Business Council (AIBC). The MoU adds into the partnership for the upcoming "Engaging with India" conference being held on 16 and 17 May, for which AFR is also a partner.



The MoU will be of great importance in bilateral relations between the two organizations. The

agreement was signed in the presence of the visiting Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the Invest in India Round Table Conference.

#### News 7: New Index Nifty MidSmallcap 400 launched by Nifty

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched a new index Nifty MidSmallcap 400 which will represent the mid and small market capitalization segments of the stock market.

The new index has around 400 companies which are the constituents of Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty Smallcap 250 indices. IISL will initially publish value of the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 at end of the



day's trade and subsequently disseminate it online along with existing indices.

#### News 8: Germany's KfW to give 500 Million Euros loan to Nagpur Metro

The German Government's Development Bank KfW will provide a loan assistance of EUR 500 Million (about Rs. 3,750 crores) for the modern and sustainable metro system for Nagpur City being executed by the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited (NMRCL).

The loan period is 20 years with a moratorium of five years and disbursal will be based on the progress of the project over three years. Costing Rs. 8,680 crores (EUR 1,240 million), Nagpur



Metro is the first metro to be financed under the Indo-German partnership. The project envisages two corridors i.e. 19.70 kms North-South section from Automotive Square to Khapri and 18.60 kms long line between Prajapati Nagar and Lokmanya Nagar. Physical works commenced in May, 2015 and the whole Metro would be operational by March, 2019.



#### News 9: Individuals earning Rs 50 lakh a year must declare assets

Those individuals with an annual income of more than Rs 50 lakh will now have to declare their assets and liabilities while filing their ITR. They need to provide a break-up of their net worth.

A new set of ITR forms were launched on the 31st March. The CBDT has added a new schedule schedule AL to all ITR forms (including ITR 1) which is applicable to such individuals and they



need to declare all their assets and liabilities, as on end of financial year 2015-16.

#### News 10: World's largest oil firm Aramco of Saudi Arabia to invest in India

One of the World's largest oil firm, Aramco of Saudi Arabia plans to make major investment in India's petroleum sector. Aramco Head Khalid A. Al Falih conveyed this to PM Modi that the company considers India as the most preferred destination to invest.

The Saudi giant has crude reserves of about 265 billion barrels. Saudi Arabia is India's largest crude

oil supplier, accounting for about one-fifth of the total imports done by the country.



#### News 11: Blackstone India to Acquire Hewlett Packard's 60% Stake in **Mphasis**

Blackstone India, the Indian arm of global private equity fund Blackstone Group L.P., will buy 60.5% stake in Mphasis Ltd, a Bengaluru-based information technology services provider.

Blackstone will buy the shares from Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) at Rs. 430 per share followed by a mandatory open offer for 26% more shares of Mphasis. Blackstone will spend



anywhere between Rs. 5,466 crores and Rs. 7,071 crores (approximately \$825 Million -\$1.1 Billion) for the acquisition.

#### News 12: Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17 released

The Reserve Bank of India slashes Repo rate to 6.5% and reverse repo rate to 6%, bringing the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate to 7.0% in its first bi-monthly monetary policy review for the 2016-17 and kept the Cash Reserve Rate (CRR) unchanged at 4%.

RBI projected the GDP growth around 7.6% for FY 2017. One of the key announcements under the



policy was reduction in the repo rate at which RBI lends to the financial system.



#### News 13: India's first Cash Giving App launched

TSLC Pte Ltd launches India's first cash giving app in Mumbai to be popularly known as CASHe. This App will provide users to enjoy simplified facility of borrowing cash anytime, anywhere within minutes for their needs. This borrowed cash will be disbursed by One Capitall Ltd (an RBI – registered NBFC only) as a 15-day loan with a one-time processing fee.

This will ease the burden of hidden costs, painful paper work and human interaction for the loan



applications of up to 40% of their monthly income instantaneously at a rate of interest on par with credit cards.

News 14: India signed a \$100 million draft export pact with the Islamic Development Bank

India has signed an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for a possible \$100 million line of credit to enable exports to IDB's member countries. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by the IDB's private sector arm, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank).

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Kuwait and Qatar are among the 56 members of the IDB.

# News 15: BHEL commissions tilt-able canal top solar plant in Andhra Pradesh

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned a season wise tilt-able first canal top solar PV plant at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh. Its power generation is about 10% more than a fixed Module Mounting Arrangement (MMA).

The project is developed by NREDCAP (New and

Renewable Energy Development Corporation of AP Ltd). This is the first canal top project executed by the company, the state-run power equipment maker said in a release.





# News 16: CCEA approved Andrew Yule to convert its Rs. 29.91 Cr loan into equity

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) allowed public sector enterprise Andrew Yule & Co. to issue its equity shares to Bank of Baroda against its working capital loan worth Rs.29.91 crore borrowed from the bank by issuing requisite number of equity shares as preferential issues to BoB as qualified institutional buyer. The price will be based on market price.



Conversion of WCTL into equity will bring down the cost of debt servicing by AYCL by Rs. 2.86 crore per annum.

#### News 17: Oil PSUs can choose companies for crude buy

The Government has given its nod to public sector oil firms to have their own independent crude import policy based on their commercial requirements.

This will increase operational and commercial flexibility of oil companies. An official statement said, "Oil PSUs shall be empowered to evolve their own policies for import of crude oil, consistent with



CVC guidelines and get them approved by the respective boards".

# News 18: Pfizer announced termination of proposed combination with Allergan

Pfizer Inc. announced that the merger agreement between Pfizer and Allergan plc has been terminated by mutual agreement of the companies. The decision was driven by the actions announced by the U.S. Department of Treasury on April 4, 2016, which the companies concluded qualified as an "Adverse Tax Law Change" under the merger agreement.

Pfizer

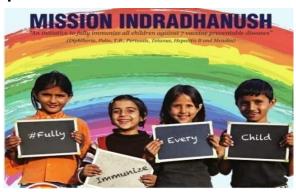
In connection with the termination of the merger agreement, Pfizer has agreed to pay Allergan \$150 million for reimbursement of expenses associated with the transaction.



#### News 19: Commencement of the third phase of Mission Indradhanush

The universal vaccination program Mission Indradhanush's third phase flagged off to cover 216 Districts across several States including Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Children will be vaccinated against seven vaccine preventable diseases including diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B free of cost to cover all those children by 2020, who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against these seven vaccine preventable diseases.



#### News 20: East Coast Railway becomes the largest freight loading railway zone

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has emerged as the largest freight loading railway zone of Indian Railways for the period of 2015-16. ECoR loaded a whopping 173.49 million tonnes of freight compared to the 161.91 million tonnes achieved the in corresponding period last year and registered an increment of 7.1% with a total earning of about Rs. 15,978.28 crores.



ECoR carried coal loading of 79.4 rakes per day from its jurisdiction against 72.7 rakes per day in the last fiscal and it loaded iron of 14 rakes per day in 2015-16.

#### News 21: Online furniture retailer FabFurnish taken over by Future Group

The Future Group is set for its first acquisition of an internet store. The Kishore Biyani - led group will take over online furniture retailer FabFurnish in an all cash deal expected to be in the range between Rs.15 Crores to Rs. 20 Crores. Fabfurnish is promoted by Berlin-based investor, Rocket Internet. Future Group will retain FabFurnish's brand and will use the online platform to take HomeTown, Future Group's home and furnishing business, online.



The management team and 100 odd employees of FabFurnish are likely to join Future Group. FabFurnish (Alix Retail Pvt. Ltd) faced tough competition from companies such as Pepperfry (run by Trendsutra Platform Services Pvt. Ltd) and Urban Ladder (Urban Ladder Home Décor Solutions Pvt. Ltd).



#### News 22: Airtel Acquires Aircel's 4G Spectrum for Rs. 3,500 crores

Bharti Airtel will acquire spectrum or radiowaves of Aircel in the 2,300 MHz band across the states of Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, North East, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha for Rs. 3500 crores. This acquisition empowers the company to become a Pan-India 4G operator.

Telecom operators are consolidating their positions by loading-up on spectrum ahead



of Reliance Industries' much talked about fourth-generation wireless services to be launched this year. The transfer of the right to use for the circles of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha is subject to the revision of spectrum caps with the upcoming auction to be conducted by the Department of Telecommunication.

#### News 23: MOU Inked for TAPI Project of worth \$200 million

The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline Company Limited signed an agreement to invest \$200 million in studies and engineering for the \$10 billion project to transport natural gas to India. The agreement would pave the way for delivery of long-term natural gas supplies to Pakistan by addressing its energy shortages.

The TAPI pipeline will have a capacity to carry 90 million standard cubic meters a day (mmscmd) gas for 30 years and is planned to



become operational in 2018. India and Pakistan were originally to get 38 mmscmd each, while the remaining 14 mmscmd was to be supplied to Afghanistan. The pipeline will travel 773 kms in Afghanistan and 827 km in Pakistan before ending at Fazilka (Punjab) in India.

## News 24: Kansai Nerolac Paints Sponsors Intex owned 'Gujarat Lions' for IPL

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd has signed up with the Gujarat Lions franchise as associate sponsor for the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League. Intex had recently bought one of the two new IPL teams that the Indian cricket board had auctioned. These two new teams will play in the IPL for the next two years till Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals remain suspended.



The union between the two follows some aggressive advertising by the brand during the recently concluded ICC World 20-20 Championship.



#### News 25: WTO slashes 2016 global trade forecast from 3.9% to 2.8%

The WTO in September estimated that global trade would rise by 3.9% this year, but lowered that projection to 2.8%, in an updated forecast, due to slowdown in China, broad market volatility that continues to threaten growth and declining commodities prices.

The rout on commodities prices has shown few signs of reversing, while the full extent of



the slowdown in China. But, the 2.8% growth forecast could prove to be an underestimate if efforts by the European Central Bank to stimulate Eurozone growth are successful, Geneva based WTO said.

#### News 26: Tata Steel initiates the process to sale Scunthorpe plant in UK

Tata Steel inked an agreement to sell the loss-making Scunthorpe steel plant in Britain to UK-based investment firm Greybull Capital. Greybull Capital will take the assets and relevant liabilities. KPMG LLC has been appointed as process advisor for the sale process.

The steel industry in the U.K. and Europe has had an impact due to the global oversupply of steel, high production costs and cheap imports. Greybull Capital will rename the acquisition, which it says is expected in eight weeks.



Scunthorpe Steelworks, part of Tata's Long Products Europe, as British Steel after the

#### News 27: Fairfax India to invest \$300 million in Sanmar Chemicals

Fairfax India Holdings will acquire a 30% stake in Sanmar Chemicals through an equity and fixed income investment worth Rs. 1,996 crores. Sanmar Chemicals is a privately owned petrochemical company in India owned by Mr. N Sundar. Fairfax India belongs to Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa. Fairfax also bought a 33 percent stake in the Bangalore International airport from GVK power and Infrastructure Ltd for a whopping \$321 million.





#### News 28: IMF predicts India's GDP growth at 7.5 % in 2016–17

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India's GDP growth to be at 7.5% for 2016-17, overtaking China's GDP by more than 1% driven by private consumption and increased industrial activity. In 2015, India's growth was 7.3 per cent, which would increase to 7.5 per cent in the next two years of 2016 and 2017.

The IMF also asked the government to cut down subsidies, initiate Labour reforms and



dismantle infrastructure bottlenecks to sustain strong growth.

## News 29: ONGC takes over Tapti gas field to enhance Daman gas Production

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited took over the infrastructure of Tapti Gas Field from its joint venture partners Reliance Industries and BG. The merger was decided to abandon the fields in 2015 after the end of their life. Normally the infrastructure is dismantled and removed after a field is abandoned. But in this case, ONGC requested the government to transfer the infrastructure. This transfer of assets in India is first of its kind.



This consortium would not only save time for the company and an investment worth up to 4000 crores to bring the neighboring Daman block into production before the schedule but also advance gas producing to the August-September period with the infrastructure in place.

### News 30: World Bank and AIIB Sign First Co-Financing Framework

Agreement

The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President Jin Liqun signed the first cofinancing framework agreement between the two institutions.

The agreement outlines the co-financing parameters of World Bank-AIIB investment projects, and paves the way for the two institutions to jointly develop projects this



year. In 2016, the AIIB expects to approve about \$1.2 billion in financing, with World Bank joint projects anticipated to account for a sizable share.



#### News 31: Inflation negative for 17th month; at — 0.85% in March

For the 17<sup>th</sup> straight month since November 2014, WPI inflation remained negative at (-) 0.85 per cent in March. The March wholesale price index-based inflation was higher than (-) 0.91 per cent in February. In March last year, it was (-) 2.33 per cent. Food inflation stood at 3.73 per cent in March compared with 3.35 per cent in February. Inflation rate for vegetables came in at (-) 2.26 per cent in March, while for cereals and pulses it was at 2.47 per cent and 34.45 per cent respectively.



Retail inflation in March fell to a six-month low of 4.83 per cent. RBI has projected retail inflation to be around 5 per cent this fiscal.

# News 32: FICCI Ladies Org plans to set up two Centers in Gujarat to support businesswomen

The FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) has planned to set up two Mahila Huts, at Vadodara and Ahmedabad, in Gujarat. These centers will help in the upliftment of women belonging to all sections of the society through education and training. The center (Mahila Hut) is a place where women belonging to all sections of the society, particularly the weaker ones, can display products made by them to earn a livelihood.

## FLO (FICCI Ladies organization)

 The FLO organizes meetings, seminars and discussions on various aspects of business fields for women and prepares then for the challenge which they may have to face in the operation and growth of their enterprises



FLO is the women wing of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). It encourages and facilitates women to showcase their talents, skills, experiences and energies across sectors. The Gujarat unit of FLO will also construct women's toilets in primary schools in rural areas of state.

# News 33: JK Tyres completes acquisition of Cavendish Industries for Rs. 2,195 crores

The JK Tyre Industries Ltd completed the acquisition of Cavendish Industries, a unit of Kesoram Industries Ltd, for a mind boggling Rs. 2195 crores. Their plants are located at Laksar (Haridwar), which manufactures a range of tyres, tubes and flaps. The acquisition has been funded through a combination of internal accruals and debt. JK Tyre will hold a 64% stake in Cavendish, while the rest will be held by Bengal & Assam and Valiant.



After the acquisition, JK's total manufacturing capacity in India will increase to 26 million units a year and reach annual revenue of Rs. 10000 crores in the domestic market.



# News 34: Panasonic India and AES India to construct a 10-MW energy storage system in Haryana

Panasonic India and AES India announced an agreement to construct a 10 MW energy storage system at Panasonic's Technopark manufacturing facility in Jhajjar, Haryana. It is the first large-scale battery-based energy storage project in India.

AES claims its designs for energy storage solutions can be used for both utility scale and behind-the-meter applications and allows for configurations from 100 KW to over 1,000 MW.



#### News 35: Vistara & TCS in a Strategic Partnership

Vistara, India's fastest growing full service carrier and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced a long term strategic partnership. As per the agreement TCS will provide a broad range of IT services in the area of IT Management, application maintenance and application development to help Vistara achieve its goal in customer experience, operational excellence as well as cost leadership.



Vistara is a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines. According to the agreement, TCS would manage the operational aspects of the airline's IT, including application maintenance services, network maintenance, end-user computing and airport infrastructure support.

#### News 36: India Replaces China as the Top FDI Destination in 2015

India was the highest ranked country by capital investment in 2015, with \$63 billion-worth of FDI projects announced. India has thus replaced China as top destination for foreign direct investment says a report from fDi Intelligence — a division of Financial Times. India's project numbers increased by 8% to 697.



The report also published top 10 destination states for FDI in 2015. India claims five places,

with the top place going to Gujarat, which attracted \$12.4 billion. China's Shanghai Municipality — which attracted \$10.57 billion in FDI in 2015 came second while Maharashtra with \$8.3 billion was third in the list.

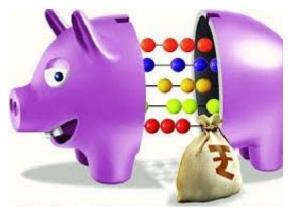


#### News 37: P-Notes investment climbs to Rs. 2.23 lakh crore

Investments through participatory notes, P-Notes, into the country's capital markets increased to Rs. 2.23 lakh crore in March, after having hit an 18-month low in February. This also marks the first increase in investments via P-Notes in four months. But the percentage of FII investments via P-Notes fell to 10 per cent in March, from 10.7 per cent in February.

P-Notes are used mostly by overseas High Networth Individuals, hedge funds, and other foreign institutions to invest in the Indian

capital markets through registered foreign portfolio investors.



# News 38: IMF expects USD 500 billion revenue loss for Mideast oil exporters

The International Monetary Fund has said that oil exporting countries in West Asia lost a staggering 390 billion dollars in revenue due to lower oil prices last year. The IMF added that these countries should brace for even steeper losses of over 500 billion dollars this year. These losses translate into budget deficits and slower economic growth, particularly for countries like Saudi Arabia that are still heavily dependent on oil to finance their spending.

The IMF said economic growth in the six Gulf

Cooperation Council countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates will slow from 3.3 percent in 2015, to 1.8 per cent this year. With oil prices weak, most GCC countries have raised fuel, water, and electricity prices.



#### News 39: FinMin approves 8.7% interest on EPF for 2015-16

The Finance Ministry has approved 8.7% interest on Provident Fund deposits for over five crore subscribers of Employee Provident Fund Organization, EPFO for 2015-16. The EPFO pays rate of return to its subscribers on the basis of returns it generates from its investments.

This is probably the first time that the Finance Ministry has not given concurrence to the rate



of interest on EPF as decided by CBT, which is headed by the Labour minister. EPFO had provided 8.75% rate of interest in 2013-14 and 2014-15, which was higher than 8.5% in 2012-13 and 8.25% in 2011-12.



#### News 40: Videocon D2H ties up with Vodafone m-pesa

Videocon D2H has tied up with Vodafone mpesa. Going forward, customers of Videocon D2H can recharge their D2H service using Vodafone mpesa. In addition, the 1,20,000+ Vodafone mpesa CashIn points will also accept recharge for Videocon D2H, thus providing additional convenience to customers.



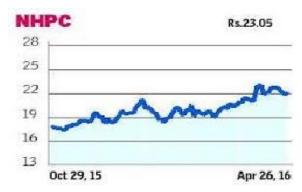
Videocon D2H has prided itself in presenting

its subscribers with a robust line-up of 550 channels and services, including a host of regional channels. It offers a wide range of active services like smart services including Smart English, Smart Games.

#### News 41: Government to sell its 11.36% stake in NHPC

As a part of disinvestment process, the Government of India is planning to sell its 11.36% equity shares in the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at Rs. 21.75 per share to raise about Rs. 2,700 crores.

Currently, the Government holds 85.96 % in NHPC. A minimum of 20% of the shares on offer have been reserved for allocation to retail investors. Similarly, a minimum of 25



% of the offer size has been reserved for mutual funds and insurance companies. NHPC will be the first share sale of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

#### News 42: Patanjali to invest Rs. 1,150 crores in FY 2017

Patanjali Ayurved will invest over Rs. 1,150 crores in the FY2017 to set up six processing units and one R&D center. The company has set a turnover of Rs. 10,000 crores this year.

These 6 units will be set up in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. The company is also eyeing the highly



competitive dairy segment as well as working towards increasing its exports and enhance online presence.



#### News 43: BSE signed an MoU with Korea Exchange to list Sensex-based

#### derivatives

The BSE has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with the Korea Exchange (KRX) to extend their cooperation by listing S&P BSE Sensex based derivatives contracts. The agreement will further the development of derivatives markets in India and South Korea. It will encourage the sharing of information, and foster new opportunities for the exchanges and their respective issuers.



The two have also agreed to conduct joint research in the area of derivatives markets and to support the development of new products, experience sharing and cooperation on IT system. Mr. Ashishkumar Chauhan is MD&CEO of BSE. Mr. Kyungsoo Choi is Chairman and CEO of Korea Exchange.

#### News 44: SIDBI inked MoU with SAARC Development Fund

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and SAARC Development Fund (SDF) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for mutual cooperation and collaboration which envisages the two organizations to work together in co-funding of projects in Indian MSMEs on risk sharing basis in identified sectors, development of suitable financial products for SME financing for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of other SAARC states.



The MoU was also signed for technology transfer and making available software to MFIs regarding loan tracking systems in other SAARC states and capacity development of SDF/SIDBI and SME funding institutions in SAARC countries.



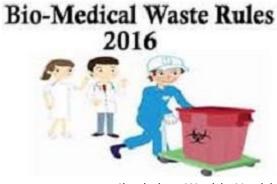
### **ENVIRONMENT**

## News 1: Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the Center

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change notified the Bio-Medical Waste

Management Rules, 2016. The new set of Rules will replace the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

The aim of the new set of rules is to properly manage the 484 tonnes per day bio-medical waste from 168869 healthcare facilities (HCFs) across the country and to include vaccination camps, blood donation camps, surgical camps or any other healthcare activity. Pre-treatment of the laboratory waste, microbiological waste, blood samples and blood bags through



disinfection or sterilization on-site in the manner as prescribed by World Health Organization (WHO) or The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

## News 2: Union Government issued Hazardous Waste Management Rules, 2016

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar released the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

Hazardous waste includes material like lead acid battery scrap, used oil, waste oil and

spent catalysts. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, total hazardous waste generation in India in 2015 was 7.46 million metric tonnes from about 44,000 industries.



The world's first 'White Tiger Safari' was thrown open for public at Mukundpur in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated it.

It was built at a cost of Rs. 50 crores and is spread over an area of 25 hectares. The safari houses three white tigers, one male named Raghu and two females, Vindhya and Radha.

The government is planning to establish a breeding centre for the white tigers in the nearby place called Govindgarh.



### News 4: World Bank Group begins Paris COP21 pledges by Adopting

**Climate Change Action Plan** 

In an effort to help countries meet their Paris COP21 pledges and manage increasing climate impacts, World Bank Group adopted the Climate Change Action Plan. It sets targets for 2020 in high-impact areas, including clean energy, green transport, climate-smart agriculture, and urban resilience. By 2020, it will have to mobilize at least \$13 billion per year in external private sector investments through its operations.



The WB will aim to mobilize 25 billion US dollars of commercial funding for clean energy over the next five years. Climate-smart agriculture profiles and investment plans will be developed by 2020 for at least 40 countries.

#### News 5: Central Information Commission Directed to publicize Genetically

**Modified Organisms Information** 

The Central Information Commission (CIC) directed the GEAC to make public the non-confidential bio-safety information on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in the public domain by 30 April 2016. The direction is aimed at enhancing transparency in the regulatory approval.

As per the direction, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex regulatory body for GMOs, has to keep all the relevant data in the public domain by 30 April



2016. However, the disclosure of intellectual property data was exempted.

### News 6: Eco-friendly 'Namma Model Toilets' Inaugurated under Swachh

**Bharat Mission** 

The Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 'Namma Toilet' in Delhi to ensure hygiene and cleanliness. NAMMA toilets are easy to construct and are developed in such a way that natural light can be used to maximum extent. The word NAMMA means 'our toilet'. It is a part of the mission's target to establish over 2.5 lakh public toilets by 2nd October 2017.



These NAMMA model toilets are developed by National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) Ltd. NAMMA toilets were inaugurated at 19 other places by the local municipal councils.



#### News 7: Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister sets up 36 new CNG stations

In a move to make Delhi a pollution free city, Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has set up 36 new CNG stations located in the Delhi and NCR region for the public. About 30 of these stations have been installed by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) at the retail outlets of Oil Marketing Companies like Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL. There are 3 stations of Haryana City gas in Gurgaon, 1 station by GAIL Gas in Sonepat and 2 stations by Adani gas – one each in Faridabad and Khurja



(Bulandshahar) have been set up by Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas.

# News 8: For the first time in 100 years, global Tiger population grew by 22%

The number of wild tigers have been revised to 3,890, based on the best available data. The number was estimated to be 3200 in 2010. The increase can be attributed to multiple factors including increases in tiger populations in India, Russia, Nepal and Bhutan, improved surveys and enhanced protection.

Governments at the 2010 Tiger Summit in

Russia agreed to the Tx2 goal to double wild tiger numbers by 2022. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation took off on 12 April 2016 in New Delhi.

## News 9: PM inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three day 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on the Tiger Conservation in New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> April and will continue till 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2016 where more than 700 dignitaries from different domains, viz. experts, scientists, managers, donors and other stakeholders have gathered to discuss issues related to tiger conservation.



This conference is being co-organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum, Global Tiger Initiative Council, Wildlife Institute of India, WWF and Wildlife Conservation Trust.



# News 10: Mahindra & Mahindra, the first Indian company to join EP100 campaign

Indian automobile major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has become the first Indian company to sign up for EP100 and has committed to double its energy productivity by 2030 and lessen the carbon footprints, which is a core requirement for any business signing on to the campaign. EP100 is a global energy productivity campaign.



EP 100 is a brainchild of the Climate Group — an international non-profit organization. More details on EP100 will be released at the Energy Efficiency Global Forum in Washington D.C. between May 11-12, where the campaign will be fully launched.

# News 11: BPCL gets environmental clearance for 694 crore rupees LPG project in West Bengal

The Union Environment Ministry has given environmental clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance to the BPCL's project` of developing LPG import terminal as well as storage, bottling and bulk distribution facilities at Haldia Dock Complex in West Bengal.

The estimated cost of this proposed project is Rs. 694 crores, which is to be completed in a year from the date of award of the environment clearance. This proposed project



aims to boost the supply and help achieve the government's target of making LPG available to each household by 2018.



### **BANKING**

#### News 1: Banks adopt new MCLR formula to lend loans

Beginning April 1, RBI directed banks to price fixed rate loans of up to three years based on Marginal Cost of Funds. The Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) is lower than base rate in some cases resulting in lower EMIs for borrowers. Most of the banks were deciding lending rates based on their average cost of funds.



Banks will set their lending rates under the marginal cost of funds (deposits) every month, which will be based on the rate offered on new deposits, which would reflect the market rates.

#### News 2: DCB launched India's first Aadhaar enabled ATM facility

The Development Credit Bank launched an Aadhaar-based ATM usage facility. It is a first of its kind facility in India. The customer can transact using his biometric details instead of the PIN at the ATM.

The user can key-in the 12-digit Aadhaar number or swipe the card at an automated teller machine (ATM) to start a transaction, but



at the stage of confirming the identity, it requires biometric details rather than the PIN.

News 3: Federal Bank ties up with Singapore headquartered Phillip Capital

The Federal Bank, the Indian Banking major in the private sector, entered into a strategic partnership with Phillip Capital (India) Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of the Singapore headquartered Phillip Capital group, for managing NRI Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS).

The tie-up with its Indian subsidiary will thus be a significant value-add to the NRI clientele of Federal Bank to offer a full range of quality



and innovative services to retail, corporate and institutional customers using the wide global network of Phillip Capital and their experience and expertise in providing consistent and world-class customer service.



#### News 4: Airtel M Commerce received RBI license to start payments bank

The Airtel M Commerce Services Ltd. has become the first entity to receive the final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a payments bank. Airtel M Commerce is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.

The RBI had granted in-principle licenses to a total of 11 entities to start payment banks in the month of August 2015. Of which, Kotak Mahindra Bank has picked up 19.9% stake for Rs 98.38 crores in this Airtel M Commerce Services.



#### **News 5: Federal Bank launched Campus Wallet for Students**

The Federal Bank has tied up with Chillar Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. to promote the latter's 'Campus Wallet'. This is a student Identity Card integrated with banking technology.

The wallet facilitates students to make payments in various outlets that include stores, canteen, library, etc. within their school or college campus, without opening a bank



account. They can make payments by flashing the cards at the special swiping machines installed at these locations. Parents can pre-load the desired amount via card payment or net banking.

# News 6: Unified Payments Interface launched by National Payments Corporation of India

Unified Payments Interface launched by National Payments Corporation of India jointly with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). UPI will provide uniform mobile payment due to increasing smart phone adoption and deeper penetration of mobile data. It will be a single app for accessing different bank accounts. UIP is an advanced version of NPCI's Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) which is a funds transfer service.



This Mobile based payment will provide multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any bank) of a participating bank, easy fund routing 24X7 and merchant payments under one roof.



#### News 7: FSS to provide UPI solution for 6 major Indian banks

FSS, a leader in payments technology and transaction processing, announced partnership with 6 major Indian Banks to provide UPI solution. FSS is the one among the first payments technology companies to be providing UPI PSP solution on a hosted platform for major Banks across the country.



The Unified Payment Interface (UPI) facilitates

easy and seamless person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transaction experience for end customers. With the support of FSS UPI, Banks can now provide customers with the facility to transact on-the-go from their mobile phones, with a click of a button.

### News 8: BRICS Bank Disburses \$250 Million Loan for Renewable Energy

#### **Project to Canara Bank**

The New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS countries has handed out a multi tranche \$250 million to India's Canara Bank for renewable energy projects. It is a part of \$811 million financial assistance been given to Brazil, China, South Africa and India by the bank. The project will result in generation of 500 MWs of renewable energy and savings of about 815,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.



#### News 9: RBL opens first dedicated branch for startups

The RBL Bank launched an exclusive branch for start-ups in Bengaluru making it the first private sector bank to open a dedicated branch for start-ups. The branch was inaugurated by Nandan Nilekani, former chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India.



The branch will assist entrepreneurs in setting up new companies/enterprises and offer a host

of banking products, including foreign exchange services, remittances, cash management and a range of value-added services. The bank also provides mezzanine funding for startups through partners and accelerator funds, up to ₹25 crores.



#### News 10: New Zealand's stunning \$5 bill named best banknote of the year

New Zealand's five-dollar note has been selected among nearly 40 eligible designs from a record 20 countries to emerge a clear winner to be named as the banknote of the year for 2015 by the International Bank Note Society.

The note incorporated some of the advanced security features and also beautifully showcased New Zealand's history, culture and heritage. The note is printed by the Canadian



Bank Note Company in Ottawa. The new \$5 and \$10 notes released by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand in October are part of its Brighter Money range.

#### News 11: Experian India launched the new fraud detection scheme

The Global Data Analytics company launched its 'Hunter Fraud Score' in India. It is a new scoring mechanism that measures the probability of fraud in a credit application across banking and insurance industries.

It will help retail finance providers and insurance companies significantly increase their efficiency in fraud detection. The new application comprises several rules that work



towards identifying inconsistencies in credit applications.

#### News 12: DBS Bank launched 'mobile-only bank' in India

The DBS Bank which is Singapore's largest and a leading bank in Asia, officially unveiled Digibank, India's first mobile-only bank. A revolutionary offering, Digibank brings together an entire suite of ground-breaking technology – from biometrics to artificial intelligence (AI) – to enable customers to enjoy a whole new way of banking. Digibank is a completely paperless, signatureless and branchless bank.



Digibank will provide customer service via a 24x7 artificial intelligence-driven virtual assistant, which understands natural language and has learning ability, so that it is able to respond in real-time.



#### News 13: EPF interest rate increased from 8.7% to 8.8% for 2015-16

In a major climb-down after persistent pressure from the trade unions and political parties, the government raised the interest rate on employee provident fund (EPF) contributions to 8.8% for 2015-16 against 8.7%.

The provident fund rate was 8.75% in 2014-15 and the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) had recommended to make it 8.8% for this fiscal. However, the finance ministry had rejected the recommendation and had approved only 8.70% interest, citing lower earnings. Trade



unions had threatened to intensify agitation from September if the government did not comply with the demand of higher EPF interest rates.



### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### News 1: World Autism Awareness Day 2016 observed

The 9th annual World Autism Awareness Day was observed on April 2, 2016 around the

world. The theme was Autism and the 2030 Agenda: Inclusion and Neurodiversity. The day aims to increase people's awareness about people, especially children, with autism.

Different public organizations including the Ministry of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Department, National Disability Development Foundation, National Disability Forum, sociocultural bodies and non-government



organizations are holding elaborate programs to observe the day.

## News 2: International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action observed

The International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on 4<sup>th</sup> April every year throughout the world. The theme of the year 2016 is Mine Action is Humanitarian Action because mine action saves life. This day aims to raise awareness about landmines and progress towards their eradication.



It also includes assisting victims, teaching people how to remain safe in a mine-affected environment, advocating for universal participation in international treaties related to landmines, explosive remnants of war and their victims, and destroying landmines stockpiled by governments and non-state armed groups.

#### News 3: India celebrates 5th April as National Maritime Day

National Maritime Day of India recalls the sailing of India's first steamship Loyalty on April 5<sup>th</sup> 1919 from Mumbai to London.

The day since 1964 has been observed as National Maritime Day and all major ports observe this day celebrating India's seafaring traditions. About 7516 kms of coastline serviced by a total of 182 ports are in India, out of which 12 of them are Major Ports being



under the purview of the Central Government. 70 other ports termed as minor ones come under respective State Governments.



#### News 4: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2016

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) 2016 was observed across the world on 6 April 2016. The United Nations Office on Sport for Development (UNOSDP) launched and Peace campaign Let's play for Sustainable Development Goals.

The day recognizes the power of sport in promoting peace and erasing cultural barriers worldwide. The day promotes healthy lifestyles and emphasizes the International Olympic



Committee's (IOC) focus on giving as many people as possible access to sport.

#### News 5: World Health Day 2016 observed around the globe

The World Health Day (WHD) 2016 was observed all around the world. It is observed annually on 7th April on the founding day of the World Health Organization. The theme for this year is Halt the Rise: Beat Diabetes. The WHO puts together regional, local, and international events on this day related to the theme.



The goals of the World Health Day 2016 are – Scale up prevention, strengthen care, enhance surveillance.

#### News 6: World Health Day 2016 in India

Celebrating the World Health Day on 7th April, the Health Minister Shri J P Nadda launched the 'Swasth Bharat Mobile application' and 'ANM Online application-ANMOL'. ANMOL is a tablet-based application that allows ANMs to enter and updated data for beneficiaries of their jurisdiction.

He also launched 'E-RaktKosh initiative' and mobile application 'India Fights Dengue'. The former is an integrated Blood Bank



Management Information System. This web-based mechanism interconnects all the Blood Banks of the State into a single network. The latter empowers the community members how to contribute towards prevention of Dengue.



#### News 7: International Romani Day celebrated on April 8th across Europe

International Romani Day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 across Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). It is to celebrate the Romani culture. International Roma Day draws attention to discrimination directed at Roma and Gypsy communities globally and is a call for the human rights of all to be respected and observed.

Europe's largest ethnic minority, they have an estimated 10 million Romani's live in Europe



and six million within the EU, which is often subject to discrimination and social exclusion.

#### **News 8: World Homoeopathy Day observed**

The World Homoeopathy Day was observed on 10th April 2016 to commemorate the 261st birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, a German Physician and Father of Homeopathy.

The Homoeopathic fraternity organizes various symposia, road shows, medical camps and conferences and memorial events to popularize the strength of Homoeopathy. In 2016, LMHI (Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica



Internationalis), the international professional body of Homeopaths, designated India to organize the World Homeopathy day.

#### News 9: International Day of Human Space Flight observed

The International Day of Human Space Flight was observed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. It is celebrated annually on this day to remember the first human space flight on April 12, 1961.

This day celebrates the start of the space era for humankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology. It also aims to promote aspirations to explore and maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. The first human space flight was



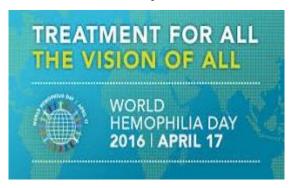
carried out by Yuri Gagarin on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1961. This historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity.



#### News 10: World Hemophilia Day 2016 observed on 17th April

World Hemophilia Day was celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The theme for this year is - Treatment for all is the vision of all.

World Hemophilia Day is an international observance observed annually by the World Federation of Hemophilia. The day aims at raising awareness about Hemophilia and increase support for those living with an inherited bleeding disorder. Globally 1 in 1,000 people has a bleeding disorder. The date of 17<sup>th</sup>



April was chosen to honor Frank Schnabel, the founder of WFH, whose birthday falls on the same date.

#### News 11: World Heritage Day observed on 18th April

The 18<sup>th</sup> of April is annually observed as the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS). It aims to highlight the need to conserve monuments and sites as our cultural heritage and to "celebrate the diversity of this heritage". The day is traditionally popular as "World Heritage Day".



The 2016 theme for this year is: The Heritage

of Sport. The theme was decided by the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) considering the Rio Olympics 2016 that is to be hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 2016.

#### News 12: International Mother Earth Day observed across the world

The International Mother Earth Day was observed across the world on 22nd April 2016. The theme for this year is 'Trees for the Earth'. The aim is to plant 7.8 billion trees over the next five years. This day provides an opportunity to raise public awareness around the world to the challenges regarding the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports.



This year, Earth Day coincides with the

signing ceremony for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which will take place at UN Headquarters in New York. The Agreement was adopted by all 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP21 in Paris on 12th December 2015.

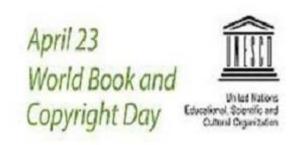


#### News 13: World Book and Copyright Day observed on 23rd April

The World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated annually on April 23rd. UNESCO

undertakes the responsibility of the event and aims to inculcate reading habits among people and highlight the various issues, specially, the copyright issue surrounding authors, publishers and other related parties.

Each year a World Book Capital is selected for a one-year period, effective 23rd April each year. The city of Wroclaw, Poland was chosen this year for its commitment to spreading the



message of the power of books to nurture creativity and advance dialogue between women and men of all cultures.

#### **News 14: World Immunization Week 2016**

The World Immunization Week 2016 is being held between 24th to 30th April across the globe. This week's campaign is 'Close the Immunization Gap". WHO highlights recent gains in immunization coverage, and outlines further steps countries can take to "Close the Immunization Gap" and meet global vaccination targets by 2020.

The "Global Vaccine Action Plan" envisions a world where everyone lives life free from



vaccine preventable diseases by 2020. The WHO Director-General is Dr. Margaret Chan.

#### News 15: World Malaria Day 2016 observed

The World Malaria Day 2016 was observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. It is an annual event. The theme for 2016 is End Malaria for Good. The day recognizes global efforts to control malaria. WMD is one of eight official global public health campaigns currently marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Some of its key facts are – In 2015, there were 214 million cases, and 438000 deaths



from Malaria. About 78% of people who die from malaria are children under the age of five years. Close to 2 million Indians effected annually and over 50,000 killed.



#### News 16: 24th April: National Panchayati Raj Diwas

The National Panchayati Raj (PR) Diwas was observed across the nation on 24<sup>th</sup> April. It is an annual event which marks the passing of the Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> April 1993. Best performing Gram Panchayats are conferred with Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

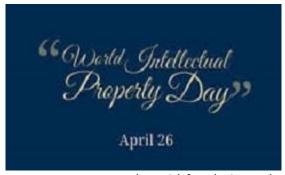


The Amendment Act helped in decentralization of political power to the grassroots level. In turn it had led to institutionalization of Panchayati Raj (PR) through the village, Intermediate and District Level Panchayats.

#### News 17: World Intellectual Property Day 2016 observed globally

The World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated annually on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The theme for this year was Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined. The day aims to increase people's awareness and understanding of intellectual property (IP).

It highlights the role intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and



creativity. It helps people working in the creative sector get properly paid for their work, so they can keep creating.

## News 18: Remembrance Day observed for all Victims of Chemical Warfare 2016

The Day of Remembrance for all the Victims of Chemical Warfare is a UN observance. This Day gives people the chance to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare and to make commitment to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of any sort in any country.



The Chemical Weapons Convention came into force on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and since then the day is observed as Remembrance Day.



### **INTERNATIONAL**

# News 1: EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 at Brussels 13<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit

India's PM Narendra Modi participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> India-European Union Summit held at Brussels, Belgium. The leaders endorsed the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 planning out a concrete road-map for the EU-India Strategic Partnership.

The leaders showed cooperation to counter violent extremism and the flow of Foreign



Terrorist Fighters, sources of terrorist financing and arms supply by adopting a joint declaration on Counter Terrorism. They also endorsed the establishment of the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) between the EU and India, reflecting the importance of India as a strategic partner for the EU in the field of migration and mobility.

# News 2: France to cease 'Operation Sangaris' across Central African Republic

France aims to cease its military intervention in the Central African Republic this year, said French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. The planned withdrawal of the troops indicates France expects a gradual return to peace in Central African Republic after more than two years of civil war and inter-religious violence.

France initially deployed some 1,600 troops in

the country in December 2013 in a mission called Sangaris. The mission was launched with the objective of restoring security in the country after three years of communal violence. But the French Defense Ministry said no incidents were reported when the results of the first round of voting in the country's presidential election were announced on January 25, due to which France aims to cease its military intervention in CAD.



#### News 3: The 4th Nuclear Security Summit commenced in Washington

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the United States to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Security Summit where all participating countries assessed nuclear terrorism threats. This summit highlighted the achievements of several countries towards safeguarding nuclear devices and technologies and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Narendra Modi began his speech by applauding President Obama for his sincere service to global security and said that we need



to focus on three contemporary features of terrorism: Violence, technology and involvement of State actors and said that 'Terrorism is globally networked. But, we still act only nationally to counter this threat. The reach and supply chains of terrorism are global, but genuine cooperation between nation states is not.

### News 4: Faustin Touadera sworn in as Central African Republic's New President

The Central African Republic's newly elected president Faustin Archange Touadera took the oath of office ushering in the first elected leader since Muslim rebels overthrew the government more than three years ago.

Touadera, a former math professor and prime minister, emerged from a crowded field of candidates and won the Feb. 14 runoff with



nearly 63% of the vote. Both he and the runner-up candidate, Anicet Georges Dologuele, are Christians and campaigned on promises to help reunify the country plagued by sectarian violence that exploded in late 2013 between Muslim and Christian militias.

# News 5: Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> female speaker of Vietnam

Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan has been elected and sworn in as the NA Chairperson with 472 votes out of 481 valid ballots at the ongoing 11<sup>th</sup> session of the 13<sup>th</sup> NA. Previously, Ngan served as the Vice Chairperson of the Natonal Assembly from July 2011.

Apart from this, the NA Vice Chairwoman Tong Thi Phong delivered a proposal on the nomination of candidates for the position of NA head, of which the 12<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPVCC) and

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CPVCC's Politburo nominated Ngan as the sole nominee to the post.



#### News 6: US and Saudi Arabia jointly impose sanction on terrorists funding

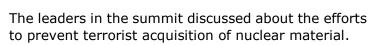
The US and Saudi Arabia imposed sanctions jointly on four individuals and two organizations to disrupt terrorism fundraising operations in South Asia and the Middle East.

The Treasury said these organizations and individuals provide money for Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and other Afghan extremist groups, and the sanctioned have ties across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. The sanctions freeze any property they have within US jurisdiction and bans Americans from doing business with them.



#### News 7: Nuclear Security Summit 2016 concluded in Washington DC

The Nuclear Security Summit 2016 concluded in Washington, D.C. The fourth edition of the conference was organized by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) attended by over 50 World leaders. However, Russia, North Korea, Iran and Belarus did not participate in the summit.





#### News 8: Police Chief Tran Dai Quang sworn in as the President of Vietnam

Vietnam's Chief of Police Tran Dai Quang, was sworn in as the 9<sup>th</sup> President of the nation. He won 91.5 per cent of the votes. He will succeed Truong Tan Sang. Quang was the serving Minister of Public Security from 2011 to 2016.

He had been nominated for the largely ceremonial role at January's communist party conference. One of his first tasks will be to welcome visiting US President Barack Obama next month. Analysts



believe one-party Vietnam will continue with economic reforms, but steer clear of major political changes.



# News 9: Philippines launched world's first mass dengue vaccination program

Philippines launched the first public immunization program for dengue fever. The vaccine consists of three shots of Dengvaxia.

The government is spending 3.5 billion pesos (\$76 million) to administer the free vaccines, which it bought at a discounted cost of 3,000 pesos (\$65) for three doses for each child. Dengvaxia, developed by



the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur, obtained its first license in Mexico in December last year for use in individuals aged 9 to 45.

#### News 10: International Conference on Zero held in Paris

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, through the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, and together with the Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris, hosted an International Conference on the Zero on 4-5 April, 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The International Conference shared the rich and remarkable history of mathematics, through the participation of some brilliant minds, resonating with the UNESCO's mandate to advance, transfer and share knowledge for the greater global good.



# News 11: UNESCO adopted two new recommendations on Education and Training

The President of UNESCO's General Conference, Mr. Stanley Mutumba Simataa, and UNESCO's Director-General, Ms. Irina Bokova, signed the Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education and the Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris on 4<sup>th</sup> of April.



They will be used around the world to guide the transformation and expansion of equitable learning opportunities for youth and adults.



#### News 12: US Senate unanimously approves Trade Secrets Bill

The U.S. Senate approved the Defend Trade Secrets Act. The legislation gives companies greater legal protections for their commercial secrets and allow them for the first time to sue in federal court if they are stolen.

The legislation was introduced by U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT). The Defend Trade Secrets Act passed 87-0, amid strong White House backing.



Supporters hope the unanimous vote will boost the bill's prospects in the House of Representatives.

### News 13: Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson appointed as the new Prime Minister of Iceland

Iceland's governing coalition named the deputy chair of the Progressive Party, Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson, as the new Prime Minister. Johannsson is the current agriculture and fisheries minister. He will succeed Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson who stepped down in the wake of the leaked Panama Papers.

The coalition, also announced early elections in the autumn. Protesters have gathered the last three nights in their capital, Reykjavik.



### News 14: Vietnam's Eighth Prime Minister: Nguyen Xuan Phuc

The Vietnam Parliament approved Nguyen Xuan Phuc as the country's eighth Prime Minister succeeding outgoing leader Nguyen Tan Dung at the Communist Party's congress, in a formal vote, 446 of the 490 members in the National Assembly. He won more than 90% of the vote in parliament.

In his inaugural remarks reported by local media, he promised to lead the country to prosperity. Mr. Dung had gunned for the position of general secretary, pitting



himself against Mr. Trong, but ultimately withdrew when he failed to win sufficient support among delegates.



#### News 15: French Government passed a Law to ban paying for sex

French lawmakers passed a bill that makes it illegal to pay for sex and imposes fine up to 3750 Euro (4270 dollar) on sex workers' clients. The bill has been drafted by Socialist Lawmaker Maud Olivier. Earlier in 2003, the It reverses the Nicolas Sarkozy's administration had passed a legislation that placed the legal burden on sex workers and not on the buyers.

The bill was passed by 64 votes to 12. Backed by the Socialist government, the legislation makes

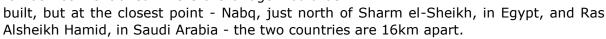


France only the fifth European country that punishes the clients of sex workers. Other four countries that punish the clients of sex workers are Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Britain.

## News 16: Red Sea Bridge to be Constructed Across Egypt and Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia and Egypt agreed for an agreement to build a bridge over the Red Sea connecting the two countries and increasing trade between the two continents. An Egyptian official said the deals agreed with Saudi Arabia during Salman's visit would amount to about \$1.7bn (£1.2bn). They include an agreement to build a university and homes in South Sinai, and a power plant.

It was not mentioned where the bridge would be





Hashim Thaci, the leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo assumed in as President of Kosovo at the Parliament replacing Atifete Jahjaga. The sworn-in ceremony at the Kosovo Assembly was boycotted by Opposition parties.

Thaci said that "Serb and Albanian peoples have a bitter past but should turn to the future," and that dialogue with Belgrade "has no alternative," while "Kosovo will work on constructive relations with Serbia."





#### News 18: UN-backed Yemen ceasefire in effect

The Saudi-led coalition supporting government forces in Yemen and the Iranian-allied Houthi rebels who are trying to overthrow the government have said that they will respect a UN-backed ceasefire. The UN special envoy to Yemen is Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

Negotiation on ending the conflict is scheduled for  $18^{\text{th}}$  April 2016 in Kuwait. The current President of Yemen is Abd-Rabbu Mansour



Hadi. The Houthis are backed by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and supported by Iran.

#### News 19: Pakistan successfully test fires anti-ship 'Zarb' missile

The Pakistan Navy has conducted a successful test-fire of shore-based anti-ship missile 'Zarb'. The missile successfully hit the surface target in the Arabian Sea. Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi were present during the launch of the new missile system.



The missile has been formally inducted into Pakistan Navy's defence system soon after its successful launch.

#### News 20: Pakistan and China launch joint air force training exercise

Pakistan and China have launched a joint bilateral air force exercise named Shaheen (Eagle) 5. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of such exercise started on April 9 and will last till 30<sup>th</sup> April, it is being conducted in Pakistan. Shaheen 4 was staged in China last year.





The two countries are also jointly producing the PACJF-17 Thunder aircraft.



## News 21: United Nations to observe the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar

United Nations (UN), for the first time, will observe the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, father of the Indian Constitution on April 13, 2016. The main focus of this observance will be on combating inequalities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary Dr. Ambedkar will be commemorated at the UN headquarters in



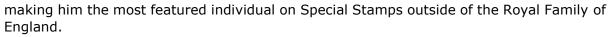
New York by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, in association with the Kalpana Saroj Foundation and Foundation for Human Horizon.

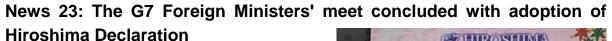
### News 22: Royal Mail marks 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death with

**Special Stamps** 

The Royal Mail launched a set of stamps to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. Ten First Class stamps pay tribute to the genius of Shakespeare through his immortal words and poetry. They will be sold at 8000 post offices across Britain.

For more than 50 years, William Shakespeare and his work have appeared on 25 stamps





The two-day G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 10 and 11 April 2016 ended in Hiroshima. The meeting ended with a joint communique, a Hiroshima Declaration and two other statements on maritime security and nonproliferation.

The highlight of this meeting was the Hiroshima Declaration that calls for a world without nuclear weapons. The leaders also condemned the



recent terrorist attacks across the globe and this year's nuclear test and rocket launch by North Korea.



#### **News 24: Operation Omari launched by Taliban**

The Taliban announced the launch of its annual spring offensive in Afghanistan. This operation is titled "Omari Operation" after its deceased leader Mullah Omar.

The announcement was made to launch largescale offensives against the government strongholds backed by suicide and guerrilla attacks to drive Afghanistan's Western-backed government from power. The Taliban have



grown stronger than at any point since the withdrawal of international troops from combat at the end of 2014.

### News 25: European Commission proposes public tax transparency rules for multinationals

The European Commission proposed to tackle corporate tax avoidance in Europe, estimated to cost EU countries EUR 50-70 billion a year

in lost tax revenues.

It would require multinationals operating in the EU with global revenues exceeding EUR 750 million a year to publish key information on where they make their profits and where they



pay their tax in the EU on a country-by-country basis. The companies will also have to publish an aggregate figure for total taxes paid outside the EU.

# News 26: IMF warned of risk from Brexit amidst reducing the global growth forecast

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned of risks of Britain's exit from the European Union (EU) amidst reducing the global growth forecast. Some advocacy groups including individuals and political parties like justice secretary, Michael Gove, and London's mayor Boris Johnson in the United Kingdom (UK), believe that Britain's exit out of the EU will favor them but according to IMF, if the voters of Britain opt to leave the EU, it would damage established trading relations globally.



This led to Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron on 20 February 2016 declaring to hold a referendum on the country's membership of the EU on 23 June 2016 following the passing of the European Union Referendum Act 2015.



#### News 27: Nauru joins as 189th member of IMF, World Bank

The South Pacific Island Nation Nauru has become the 189<sup>th</sup> member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The Nation had applied for membership in the IMF and World Bank in April 2014, after joining the United Nations in 1996.

By joining the World Bank, Nauru gains support to financial matters, technical and special expertise in dealing with Pacific area issues,



such as water and sanitation and disaster risk management amid the threat of climate change and rising sea levels.

# News 28: Sushila Karki Becomes the First Female Chief Justice of Nepal's Supreme Court

The 63-year-old Justice Sushila Karki has been selected by the Constitutional Council of Nepal for the post of 26<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nepal, succeeding Justice Kalyan Shrestha.

She was appointed ad-hoc judge at the Supreme Court in January 2009 and as permanent justice on November 18, 2010. Previous to her appointment as judge of



Supreme Court in 2009, she had served as a senior advocate. She was accorded the title of senior advocate in 2004 and had served as President of the Appellate Court Bar Association Biratnagar for a term until 2004.

## News 29: Iconic Pepsi-Cola sign got historic landmark designation in New York

An immense Pepsi-Cola sign on the banks of East River of New York has been declared as a historic landmark after 25 years of discussion. The red neon sign was built in 1936.

It has appeared in several films, including Steven Spielberg's "Munich" (2005) with Daniel Craig and Mathieu Kassovitz, and Sydney



Pollack's "The Interpreter" (2005) with Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn.



### News 30: US Jury Slaps \$940 Million Fine on TCS in a Trade Secret Case

The Tata Consultancy Services(TCS) and Tata America International Corp have been slapped with a USD 940 million fine by a US grand jury in a trade secret lawsuit filed against them by Epic Systems. The jury has asked the Tata firms to pay \$240 million to Epic Systems for ripping off its software and also asked to pay \$700 million in punitive damages.



Epic Systems had accused the two companies

of brazenly stealing the trade secrets, confidential information, documents and data" belonging to Epic. TCS acknowledged the receipt of the verdict, but denied any wrong doing.

### News 31: The 13th Islamic Summit Conference concluded in Istanbul

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held their Summit (13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit titled 'Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace') in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. The Summit Conference was chaired by H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey.



The leaders of Muslim nations had gathered to

address issues such as terrorism, migration crisis, and the issue of Palestine. The OIC has called upon India to implement the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

# News 32: The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China held in Moscow

The Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China held their 14th Meeting in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 18 April 2016. Foreign Ministers - Sergey Lavrov of Russia, Sushma Swaraj for India, and Wang Yi of China took part in the meeting.

They discussed issues like terrorism, latest developments in Afghanistan, world drug problem, situation in Israel and Palestine,



latest developments in Syria etc. They emphasized that cooperation between their countries is conducive to maintaining international and regional peace and stability and promoting global economic growth and prosperity. The next trilateral meeting will be held in India.



## News 33: World Bank Group to Invest \$2.5 Billion in Education Projects benefiting Adolescent Girls

The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced that the World Bank Group would invest \$2.5 billion over 5 years in education projects that directly benefit adolescent girls. The announcement was made at the Let Girls Learn event during the World Bank Group-IMF Spring Meetings.

Programs to be supported will include access to quality education at the secondary level, ensure they are enrolled in and stay in school, and provision of scholarships, conditional

promote enrollment.

cash transfers, and schools with basic facilities like clean drinking water and toilets that



## News 34: Global Leaders Launch First-Ever Investment Framework for **Nutrition and Call for Immediate Action**

Leading researchers and economists in the fields of nutrition and development launched first-ever investment framework for nutrition during the Investing in Nutrition: Foundation for Development event hosted by the World Bank, the Results for Development Institute, and 1,000 Days. It is part of a global effort to increase investment in nutrition.

Investing an additional \$2.2 billion per year in nutrition over the next 10 years will help to



save an estimated 2.2 million lives and result in 50 million fewer stunted children by 2025, empowering them to grow to their full physical and cognitive potential. To finance these priority actions, together country governments will need to invest on average an additional \$1.4 billion per year while donors will need to finance on average an additional \$650 million per year on top of current investments. The 2015 Global Nutrition Report indicates that every \$1 of investment in nutrition yields \$16 in benefits across health and productivity.

### News 35: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hits Ecuador

Ecuador's Pacific coast was hit by a 7.8magnitude earthquake, country's strongest earthquake in decades, killing at least 413 people and more than 2000 people believed to have been injured. The earthquake struck in the country's largest city of Guayaquil. President Rafael Correa declared a national emergency. The epicenter was approximately 27 kms southeast of Muisne.



About 10,000 troops have been deployed along with 3,500 extra national police officers. Five shelters have been set up for those evacuated from their homes.



## News 36: UN, IMF, World Bank and OECD join hands for Collaboration on

Tax

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), The United Nations (UN) and the World Bank Group (WBG) have joined hands to form the Platform to boost global cooperation in tax matters and develop new tools and standards for tackling tax base erosion and evasion.

The group aims to develop appropriate policies for the taxation of multinational enterprises and support governments better in addressing the tax challenges they face.



### News 37: Laos appoints a new President and a Prime Minister

The National Assembly of Laos appointed Communist Party Chief Bounnhang Vorachit as the new president of the country. Foreign minister, Thongloun Sisoulith, was appointed as the new as prime minister of the country. Outgoing president Choummaly Sayasone completed the maximum permissible tenure of 10 years in office. Phankham Viphavanh was appointed vice president, along with three



deputy prime ministers: Bounthong Chitmany, Sonexay Siphandone and Somdy Douangdy.

Laos is one of the fastest growing economies in East Asia and averages GDP growth of 7% in the last decade.

## News 38: Europe becomes the world's first region to end malaria: WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) in its World Malaria Report 2015 has declared Europe to be the world's first region to wipe out Malaria with zero cases reported in the year 2015. WHO declares a particular region or country as Malaria free after it has zero locally acquired malaria cases for at least three consecutive years.



According to the report, the number of malaria cases fell from 90,712 to zero between 1995 and 2015 in the countries of European region. Only 179 cases of malaria were reported in six countries in 2010. The last cases of malaria were reported in Tajikistan in 2014.



### News 39: Idriss Deby elected as the President of Chad for the 5th time

Mr. Idriss Deby was elected as the President of Chad for a record 5<sup>th</sup> time. He has been in power since 1990. His party, Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS), secured the 61.56 % of the votes.

Deby, at present, is also the Chairperson of the African Union (AU). Chad serves as the headquarters for a five-nation regional force



intended to defeat the Islamic extremist groups like Boko Haram. It is also the base for France's military operations in Africa.

## News 40: Harriet Tubman to be the first African-American to appear on US paper currency

Anti-slavery activist Harriet Tubman will become the first African-American and the first woman in more than a century to appear on the face of U.S. paper currency. when she replaces former President Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill. The U.S. Treasury Department said that Tubman will take the centre spot and replace former President Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill who would move to the back.



Tubman was born as a slave around 1820 and helped hundreds of others escape. She was also an armed scout and spy for the United States Army during the American Civil War.

### News 41: Pakistan, China to launch a special satellite to monitor CPEC

The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and the China Great Wall Industry Cooperation (CGWIC) signed an agreement for the launch of "Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1) System to monitor execution of development projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The satellite is set to launch in June 2018. The CPEC is a \$46 billion project giving Beijing an opening to the Arabian Sea.



India has been protesting the corridor's passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.



### News 42: 175 countries including India sign the Paris climate agreement

About 175 countries including India have signed the historic Paris climate agreement. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar put the signature on the historic deal on behalf of India.

The Paris Agreement on climate change is a milestone in global climate cooperation. The Paris Agreement addresses all the important concerns and expectations of India. The agreement will come into force once 55 countries representing at least 55% of the



global emissions formally join it. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Nigeria and Kazakhstan are some of the countries who have not yet confirmed on the submission to the agreement.

### News 43: Saudi Arabia plans to bring down dependence on oil

The Saudi Arabia cabinet agreed for a broadbased economic reform plan. Known as Vision 2030, the government is planning to diversify the economy over the next 14 years. The vision includes forming public investment fund, boosting affordable housing and giving expats long-term residence.

Saudi Arabia's economy has suffered over the past 12 months in line with the falling price of oil, with a \$98bn budget deficit last year and



an estimated deficit of \$87bn this year. Its reserves decreased from \$746bn in 2014 to \$616bn.

## News 44: Al-Qaeda affiliate claims the murder of LGBT activist Xulhaz Mannan in Bangladesh

An Al-Qaeda affiliate, Bangladeshi militant group, Ansar al-Islam, has claimed the murder of a top gay rights activist and his friend in Bangladesh. Xulhaz Mannan, editor of a LGBT magazine, and actor Tanay

Mr Mannan edited Roopbaan, a magazine and activist group for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual

Mojumdar, were hacked to death on Monday.



and Transgender (LGBT) community that had received some support from foreign embassies.



### News 45: JKLF founder Amanullah Khan passed away

The Founder of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Amanullah Khan, died at the age of 82 years. He co-founded the JK National Liberation Front (NLF) with Maqbool Bhat.

Amanullah Khan has been believed to be the mastermind behind the killing of Ravindra

U.C.

Mhatre, the number two in the Indian Consulate in Birmingham in 1984.

### News 46: Lobsang Sangey re-elected PM of Tibetan Govt-in-exile

The Tibetan government-in-exile, re-elected Lobsang Sangey as the Prime Minister for a second consecutive term. 48-year-old Sangey defeated his only rival, who is the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament Pempa Tsering by 9,012 votes.

The Chief Election Commissioner of the Tibetan government-in-exile Sonam Chhopel said, the names of all the 45 elected members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile have also been



declared. Counting of the votes was held from April 20-22 at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh.



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- The Upper House of Myanmar's parliament approved a Bill on 1 April 2016 to give more powerful role over the country's parliament and government to **Aung San Suu Kyi.**
- President Pranab Mukherjee on 1 April 2016 signed ordinance to authorize expenditure beyond April 1 in Uttarakhand which is under **President's rule.**
- Union Government launched a Mobile App to empower People to demand 24x7
   Power for the states on 31 March 2016 Vidyut PRAVAH.
- The administration of National Capital Territory of Delhi launched the Phase I of 'Green Initiative' at an estimated cost of 2 crore rupees.
- **Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016** were notified by the Union Government to properly manage the 484 tons per day bio-medical waste from 168869 healthcare facilities (HCFs) across the country.
- The Legislative Assembly of **Haryana** passed a bill prescribing minimum educational qualifications to contest for urban local bodies.
- Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched the Startup India portal and mobile app in New Delhi on 31 March 2016.
- The theme of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action that was observed on 4 April 2016 across the world is **Mine Action is Humanitarian Action.**
- The 2016 Nuclear Security Summit concluded on 1 April 2016 in Washington,
   D.C., United States
- **Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore** was adjudged as the top university in India as per the India Rankings 2016 released under National Institutional Ranking Framework.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its first bi-monthly monetary policy review for the 2016-17 fiscal on 5 April 2016 cut key interest rates by **25 basis points.**
- Delhi High Court in Joginder Singh vs State (NCT of Delhi) on 4 April 2016 held that keeping a criminal case pending for indefinite period amounts to violation of constitutional rights of the accused under Article 21 (right to life).
- The subsidiary of Vedanta Limited, **Talwandi Sabo Power Limited**, officially set the Guinness World Record for simultaneously planting 208751 saplings at a single location in less than an hour.
- Odisha government launched its first set of 100 English-medium schools in 14 districts under the aegis of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya.
- The great Indian Mathematician & Astronomer whose statue was unveiled at UNESCO headquarters on 6 April 2016 is Aryabhatta.
- Myanmar's (Burmese) Parliament in Naypyidaw on 5 April 2016 passed a bill that gives Aung San Suu Kyi the post of state counselor, which is similar to that of Prime Minister.



- Syria, Yemen and Iraq are greatest emergency areas wherein 125 million people are living in crisis according to a World Health Organization report.
- Cyclone Zena forced Fiji authorities to issue orders asking peoples to stay inside their homes.
- In UK, Britain's Royal Mail launched a set of special postage stamps on 5 April 2016 to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of the playwright William Shakespeare.
- The Cabinet sub-committee on scarcity of Gujarat declared 623 villages as scarcity affected.
- The electricity regulatory commission of Madhya Pradesh approved an average hike of eight percent in power tariff.
- Union Minister of State for Textiles, Santosh Kumar Gangwar inaugurated the Apparel and Garment making Centre at District Industries Centre Complex in Dimapur, Nagaland.
- Under the first Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17, the repo rate was reduced by 25 basis points to 6.5 percent.
- The Union Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change on 5 April 2016 notified Solid Management Rules, 2016, which will replace Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000.
- India's expenditure on military in 2015 was 51.3 billion dollars, as per a study of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). This was 3.1% of global spending.
- The researchers of American University successfully managed to 3D print chemically active structures that could help in mitigating pollution.
- Ranjan Baindoor, who was part of the Ranji Trophy-winning Mumbai team of 1983-84 under Sunil Gavaskar, died on 4 April 2016.
- Indian scientists developed eco-friendly nanotechnology which is basically a biopolymer, which uses a naturally occurring substance for water purification Chitosan.
- The Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia of West Indies on 6 April 2016 was renamed as **Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium.**
- The Union Cabinet gave approval to Exim Bank of India for increasing the framework agreement with **Central Bank of Iran.**
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to implement **National Hydrology Project** that provides for establishment of National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) as an independent organization.
- Jharkhand State Government that announced two percent employment reservation in various departments for meritorious sportspersons of the state on 10 April 2016.
- World number two shuttler Kento Momota of Japan was axed from Japan's badminton team for the 2016 Rio Olympics for Gambling at an illegal casino.
- Chinese researchers in April 2016 introduced a new approach for making an allweather solar cell that can generate electricity even during rains by making use of Graphene.



- Scientists, led by an Indian-origin researcher, discovered a way to forecast earthquakes based on slow fault movements caused by moving sub layers of Earth Deepa Mele Veedu.
- A four-member Indian professional boxing team which will compete in the WBA Oceanic undercard bouts in Jinghong, China on 11 April 2016 are Mukesh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Sandeep Singh and Pramod Kumar.
- Himachal Pradesh Governor Acharya Devvrat unveiled Swami Vivekananda statue in Palampur town of Kangra district
- Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom arrived in New Delhi on 10 April 2016 on a two-day visit to India.
- India will take part in a special meeting of the OECD in Paris on 13 April 2016 to firm up cooperation between countries in the wake of 'Panama Papers' leak.
- 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on the Tiger Conservation was inaugurated on 12 April 2016 in New Delhi.
- US President Barack Obama on 12 April 2016 designated a new Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington to honour the women's equality movement in America and across the globe.
- The Supreme Court on 12 April 2016 gave 2 weeks' time to the Union Finance Ministry and Indian Banks Association's to give response on the defaulted loans issue.
- The Taliban said that it has launched its annual spring military offensive in Afghanistan, titled Omari Operation.
- The Supreme Court said that gender justice is endangered by ban on entry of women of menstrual age group in Sabarimala temple in Kerala.
- The 16-year-old Indian-American boy who invented a low-cost hearing aid to help those who cannot afford the expensive devices is Mukund Venkatakrishnan.
- The first Water Express train carrying five lakh liters of water reached Latur district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra hit by drought.
- Gujarat government set up control rooms at headquarters in districts that are facing Water scarcity.
- Tausif Monif was appointed the Global Operations President of Lambda Therapeutic Research.
- Veenu Paliwal, India's top woman biker and the Lady of the Harley, died on 11 April 2016 in a road accident.
- First company in India to implement the Union Health Ministry's Cigarettes Packaging Amendment Rules, 2014, that calls for display of health warnings in 85 percent of the area on tobacco products is Golden Tobacco Ltd.
- To enable both militaries to use each other's assets and bases for repair and replenishment of supplies, India and the US agreed in principle to conclude Logistics Exchange Agreement.
- Delhi Government approved the Delhi Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015 that focuses on In-situ development for city's urban poor.



- Election Commission removed Rajeev Kumar from the post of Kolkata Police Commissioner and placed Soumen Mitra, ADG & IGP of the State CID in his place.
- The Dardic indigenous people residing in the Chitral District of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan and fears existential threat is Kalash (Kalasha)
- The 1985 batch IPS officer who was appointed the Director General of Haryana Police is K P Singh
- The state that announced the formation of a new Integrated Tribal Development Agency is Andhra Pradesh
- The cricketer named as the Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for the year 2015 is - Kane Williamson
- The nuclear capable undersea ballistic missile that was successfully test fired in March 2016 from an undisclosed location in the Bay of Bengal is K-4 missile
- The senior journalist appointed the president of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is Ram Bahadur Rai
- People of this state on 14 April 2016 celebrated the harvest festival, Vishu Kerala
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 April 2016 unveiled the National Perspective Plan for Port Development at - Maritime India Summit in Mumbai
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Agriculture Market portal to connect e-mandis in several States at a function in New Delhi, aimed at - Ushering in much needed agri marketing reforms
- In its annual report Migration and Development Brief, World Bank said, India retained its top spot in 2015, attracting about 69 billion US dollars in remittances, down from 70 billion in 2014
- Organization that 14 April 2016 released Innocenti Report Card 13, titled Fairness for Children: A league table of inequality in child well-being in rich countries United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- Union Government notified the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) (Prevention of Atrocities (PoA)) Amendment Rules, 2016 on 14 April 2016 that amended the rules of 1995.
- **PV Rao** was appointed as the Chairman of the High Powered Group (HPG) to develop a policy paper on promotion of Pre-Engineered Buildings (PEB) technology by Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)
- **European Parliament** approved a joint system for Police and Justice Officials to access airline passenger data on all flights to and from the EU.
- **K P Singh** of the 1985 batch IPS officer was appointed the Director General of Haryana Police.
- **Andhra Pradesh** announced the formation of a new Integrated Tribal Development Agency.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its Global growth forecast on 12 April 2016 termed Brexit that means **Britain's exit from the European Union (EU).**



- The driver of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who opened a bank account at the age
  of 116 years and is considered to be the oldest human alive is Colonel
  Nizamuddin.
- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, on 16 April 2016 approved its first set of loans valued at 811 million US dollars for four BRICS countries namely Brazil, India, China and South Africa to create 2370 MW of renewable energy capacity.
- Rudra Gaurav Shresth was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique.
- The name of the supercomputer unveiled by Sikkim Governor at the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim is **Param Kanchenjunga.**
- The traces of Isotopes of Supernova that were discovered on Moon as per publication in Physics Review Letters journal is **60Fe Iron Isotope.**
- India, Afghanistan and Iran on 11 April 2016 finalized draft of the Chabahar Trilateral Agreement on **Transport and Transit Corridors.**
- The state that launched its first all-women bus service on 19 April 2016 is Jammu
   & Kashmir
- Manali's district administration took the path of Delhi's Odd-Even scheme to beat the traffic woes on this highway, **Manali Leh Highway.**
- The monkey-hunting tribes are found in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and were in news in April 2016.
- Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq was appointed as the chief selector of Pakistan's cricket team.
- **World Bank and UNICEF** announced to establish an alliance with an aim to make early childhood development (ECD) program a global policy.
- **Maharashtra** State government on 18 April 2016 decided to restrict digging of bore wells beyond 200 feet.
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced a new annual global home and away league, involving world's leading hockey nations, to be launched in **2019**.
- A special court issued a non-bailable warrant against **Vijay Mallya** in a money laundering case involving alleged defrauding of IDBI Bank of 950 crore rupees.
- **Bulgaria** will host the 40th World Congress of Vine and Wine and the 15th General Assembly of the International Organization of Vine and Wine in 2017.
- **Italy** overtook France to become the world's leading wine producer.
- **Ismael Quintana**, Puerto Rican composer and singer died in Colorado, United States of America on 16 April 2016.
- British boxer, Nick Blackwell, announced his retirement from the sport on 18 April 2016.
- **Iran** unveiled S-300 missile system parts at army parade on 17 April 2016.
- Bimlendra Jha in April 2016 was appointed as the CEO of Tata Steel UK.



- The 106-carat diamond also known as Mountain of Light in Persian that came into news due to a hearing in Supreme Court of India **Kohinoor.**
- Union Government on 19 April 2016 extended the Beti Bachao Beti Padho (BBBP) Scheme in additional 61 districts across **11 States and Union Territories.**
- **China** suspended "Business 20" an anti-corruption taskforce in 2016 after taking over the G20 presidency
- **France** has planned to extend the state of emergency in place since November terrorist attacks for a further period of two months to ensure security at the Euro 2016 soccer tournament.
- Laos's National Assembly appointed Communist Party chief, Bounnhang Vorachit, as the country's new President.
- Laos's National Assembly appointed Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith as Prime Minister of the country.
- **Ethiopia** declared two days of national mourning for 208 people killed in cross-border cattle raids.
- **Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee,** granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, was conferred Order of Arts and Letters honor of France on 20 April 2016.
- **India and China** agreed to abide for peaceful negotiations to settle the problematic border issue and reach a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution.
- **Shaktiman**, the Uttarakhand Police horse, died on 20 April 2016 after being injured during a protest in Dehradun.
- The book that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Drama category is **Hamilton.**
- The novel that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction category is **The Sympathizer.**
- The news agency that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service is Associated Press.
- Union Government on 20 April 2016 notified that the Department of Disinvestment is renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management or DIPAM.
- **468** villages of Saurashtra and Kutch region were declared as partially scarcity-hit by the Gujarat government.
- Signaling a major social change, women were permitted entry to the 'garbha griha' of **Trimbakeshwar temple** in Maharashtra.
- The Indian environmentalist and political activist included in the TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World is **Sunita Narain.**
- India's national carrier **Air India** featured in an official commemorative album launched to mark Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday celebrations.
- India needs to grow at 10% to become ten trillion-dollar economy and eliminate poverty by 2032.
- Bollywood actress, Radhika Apte, bagged the best actress in an international narrative feature honor at 2016 Tribeca Film Festival for her performance in anthology film "Madly".



- India cancelled the visa given to **Dolkun Isa, a** leading Chinese dissident leader, to participate in a conference in Dharamsala, after China's objection over it.
- The 25-year-old Indian rower, **Dattu Bhokanal**, qualified for the Rio Olympics after winning a silver in the finals of men's single sculls at the 2016 FISA Asian and Oceania Olympic Qualification Regatta at Chung-ju in South Korea.
- Andhra Pradesh interim Secretariat complex that was inaugurated at Velagapudi village in capital region Amaravati is named as AP Government Transitional Headquarters.
- The Sub Committee that was constituted to interact with the trade and industry on the imposition of Central Excise Duty on jewelry will be headed by Former Chief Economic Advisor Ashok Lahiri.
- The Ecuadorian government declared eight days of national mourning as the death toll from the massive earthquake that hit the South American country a week ago raised to 654.
- The Six Day Army Commanders Conference that will appraise current and emerging strategic security scenario and modernization among others began in **New Delhi.**
- Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso appointed former Finance Minister, **Clement Mouamba**, as the Prime Minister.
- **Operation Sulaimani**, is an initiative in which the people of Kozhikode, Kerala are silently funding to feed anyone who is hungry for free, with utmost dignity.
- The American natives saw a full moon on 22 April 2016, also called as The Pink
   Moon.
- Badminton player, **Nandu Natekar**, became the first non-cricketer to be included in the Legends Club of Cricket Club of India founded by late Jagmohan Dalmiya.
- **Amanullah Khan**, the founder of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, passed away on 26 April 2016.
- The Cabinet of **Bangladesh** approved a law with provision to impeach Supreme Court judges if allegation of misconduct or incapacity is proved.
- Indian origin wrestler who is set to represent Australia at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics 2016 is **Vinod Kumar Dahiya.**
- Renowned Freedom fighter **Poornima Arvind Pakvasa**, died on 25 April 2016. She was popularly known as Didi of tribal Dang district.
- The Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that was passed in Lok Sabha on 25 April 2016 seeks to amend Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Government of Madhya Pradesh and Sun Pharma entered into an agreement for Research and innovation in **Preventive** health.
- The western Odisha town that continued to remain the hottest place in the State is **Titlagarh.**
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the State government is seeking a loan of 5000 crore rupees from the World Bank for implementing Water conservation to changing crop pattern.



- Indian cricketer, **Kapil Dev**, became the sixth cricketer to be inducted into the Legends Club founded by the late Cricket Club of India (CCI) president Raj Singh Dungarpur.
- The 7-year old Kashmiri girl who will, for the first time, represent India at the World Kickboxing Championship in Andria, Italy is **Tajamul Islam.**
- One of the 17 zones of Indian Railways that launched a missed call service for train updates is **Western Railway.**
- The Japanese financial services firm **Nomura** announced that India may surpass China in attracting Foreign Direct Investment in 2016.
- Facility notified by the Department of Telecommunications in Mobile Phone Handsets Rules 2016 is **Panic Button and Global Positioning System.**
- A Naval Detachment (NAVDET) was on inaugurated at Androth Island of Lakshadweep.
- **Ashok Lavasa** was appointed as the Expenditure Secretary in the Union Finance Ministry on 26 April 2016.
- **Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN)** was suspended in view of government interference in the board by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The design of the speed breakers which will be introduced on a few highways to act as virtual speed breakers by the Union Road & transport Ministry is Threedimensional (3D) design.
- **Venezuela** ordered a two-day working week for public sector workers as a temporary measure to help it overcome a serious energy crisis.
- 1982 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh Cadre, **Ajay Mittal**, was appointed as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary.
- The theme of the 2016 World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed across the world on 28 April 2016 is **Workplace Stress: a collective challenge.**
- Union Government decided to extend the ceasefire with NSCN (R) for a further period of one year with effect from **28 April 2016.**
- State cabinet of **Jammu and Kashmir** approved 5 percent interest subvention to flood-hit traders with effect from 1 April 2016.
- State Government of **Maharashtra** decided to increase the punishment for chain snatching up to 5 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of 25000 rupees.
- Haryana Janhit Congress (Bhajan Lal) party merged itself with Indian National Congress.
- **Papua New Guinea** decided to close a detention centre used by Australia for asylum seekers.



## **NATIONAL**

### News 1: 2016 Indian Intellectual Property Panorama Released

Government released the Indian Intellectual Property Panorama by offering a single window interface for information and guidance on intellectual property for competitive advantage.

The Indian IP Panorama is a customized version of IP Panorama Multimedia toolkit developed by World Intellectual Property Organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, encourages and provides assistance to all its 188 member countries in



formulating a national IPR policy. The portal will strive for an expansion of awareness and to build sensitivity towards IP among stakeholders in the SME sector, Information, Communication Technology & Electronics (ICTE) sector, academia and researchers.

### News 2: Online Portal and Mobile App launched for Startup India Initiative

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched the Startup India portal and mobile app to provide timely information on various notifications and circulars issued by various Government ministries and to solve queries with the help of a list of FAQs available.

The user friendly app involves a single page application form that a user can fill either through a web interface or through mobile



app. A real time recognition certificate will be provided to Startups on completion of the application process through the portal and mobile app. The certificate of recognition is verifiable through the portal and mobile app by entering the Startup Recognition and Certificate Number.



## News 3: Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index for Persons with Disabilities launched by DEPwD

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) launched the Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index to help industries and corporates participate in the Accessible India Campaign (AIC) by voluntarily evaluating their readiness for making the workplace accessible for Persons with Disabilities.

The Index, prepared in collaboration with The

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The Index toolkit is based on research, and the best examples and experiences of organisations that have taken initiatives to increase accessibility of persons with disabilities and have benefited from such initiatives.

# News 4: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan launched by Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment

The Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched "Accessible India Campaign" that will enable persons with disabilities to gain universal access, equal opportunity for development, independent living and participation in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. The Awards will be presented to individuals for "outstanding" contributions towards the empowerment of disabled persons.



The campaign is aimed at making three verticals disabled-friendly: built environment, public transport sector and IT field. The government further aims to convert 50 per cent of all government buildings in the national and state capitals into "fully accessible" structures by July, 2018. The government also plans to make 50 per cent of all the stations in the country disabled-friendly by March, 2018.

#### News 5: India and Sri Lanka inked MoU to present 150 boats to fishermen

The Government of India will gift 150 boats and other fishing equipment to 300 beneficiaries in Mullaitivu by signing MOU in Colombo, Srilanka.

Fishermen in the North have been accusing Indian fishermen of poaching in Sri Lankan waters which in turn has affected the livelihood of local fishermen. The Indian High Commission will float a tender to procure the items through a competitive bidding process.





## News 6: Japan provides loan of JPY 242.2 billion for various Indian projects

Japan committed a loan of JPY 242.2 billion (around Rs. 14,251 crore) for various projects across India, including Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and the North East.

It is meant for strengthening project in Madhya Pradesh, an integrated sanitation improvement project in Odisha, a dedicated freight corridor project, a road network connectivity improvement project in the North East, and a micro drip irrigation project in Jharkhand. The



Government of Japan has committed a total of JPY 390 billion in the current financial year which is the highest amount committed in a year.

## News 7: First Indian Chair established by Indian Council for Cultural Relations at Cairo

India introduced first Indian chair in the Arab world at Egypt's prestigious Ain Shams University (ASU). An MoU inked between India's Ambassador to Egypt Sanjay Bhattacharyya on behalf of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Prof. Abdel Wahab Ezzat, Acting President of ASU.

Taking note of the technological advancements in India and the growing demand in Egypt, the

first visiting Indian Professor will be in the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology. The agreement also provides flexibility to appoint professors in other disciplines, as per the requirements of the university.



In order to promote research in premier technical institutions through Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) initiative, an MOU was inked among 25 different ministries at Kanpur.

The Minister announced that there was no sustainability in the technology related work as it was totally dependent on the funds released by Ministry of HRD. The programme also aims at synergizing with all major initiatives of the



Government of India like 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Namami Gange', 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan', 'Swachch Bharat Mission' etc.



News 9: Space Technology to be made available by ISRO for Indian

**Airport Authority** 

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) by signing MoU with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will provide scientific parameters for construction of airports. It will also provide data on the landscape around the airports. In the field of aviation sector, the minister said that the use of space technology is being done on pilot basis in the Hyderabad and Port Blair airport.

The MoU signed with Ministry of Railways will help in construction of railway tracks and managing the railway crossings. Space technology will be helpful in agriculture sector in the areas of crop damage assessment, soil health, blue revolution and irrigation etc.



### News 10: India, Saudi Arabia inked 5 MoUs

India and Saudi Arabia signed five agreements to boost trade ties and strengthen anti-terror co-operation during PM Modi's two-day visit to the Gulf nation.

#### The details of these five agreements are -

MoU was signed between the financial intelligence units of India and Saudi Arabia to co-operate in the exchange of



- MoU on Labour Co-operation between the Ministry of External Affairs, India and Ministry of Labour, Saudi Arabia for recruitment of general category workers.
- India and Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SABIA) signed a framework agreement on investment promotion cooperation.
- A fourth agreement was signed for promotion of tourism and handicrafts between the Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH), India and Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage.
- MoU on Technical Cooperation Program between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO).



### News 11: Government launched "Vidyut PRAVAH" Mobile Application

The Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Piyush Goyal, launched a mobile application 'Vidyut PRAVAH-Electricity, Price Availability and Highlights'. The mobile application provides highlights of the power availability in the country on real time basis and will empower common people to demand 24x7 power from the states.

The Web application can be accessed through vidyutpravah.in and the mobile version will be

freely available for download from the Playstore for both Android and iPhones.



#### News 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Stand Up India Scheme

The Prime Minister has launched the "Stand up India scheme" and a Web portal for the scheme on 05<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

The scheme will promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women for loans in the range of Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs. Under the scheme, at least two such projects per bank branch (Scheduled Commercial Bank) on an average one for each



category of entrepreneur will be done. At the event, the Prime Minister flagged off 5,100 e-rickshaws.

## News 13: Union Government launched "Transnational Skill Standards" in India

The Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, Rajiv Pratap Rudy along with National Skill Development Corporation and UK-India Education and Research Initiatives announced the launch of Transnational Skill Standards in India.

2 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between National Skill Development Council (NSDC) and Association



of Colleges (UK) and NSDC and UK Awarding Organization City & Guilds and Pearsons Education in order to enable sharing of best practice, staff exchange and development of new models to increase employer engagement and investment in skills in India. These standards in skill development are benchmarked to United Kingdom across 82 identified job roles.



## News 14: India's first semi-bullet train Gatimaan Express flagged off by Suresh Prabhu

The Union Rail Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first semi-bullet train, Gatimaan Express, India's fastest train, from Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station to Agra Cantt which the train covered in about 100 mins.

The Gatimaan Express is indigenously built and runs at a speed of 160 kms per hour. It is powered by a 5400 HP electric locomotive and has two Executive AC Chair cars and eight AC



chair car coaches. The fare for AC chair car is 750 rupees, while the fare for the Executive class is 1500 rupees.

#### News 15: More than 100 crore Indians enrolled for Aadhaar

More than a 100 crore Indians till date have registered for Aadhaar card numbers in fiveand half years since the first Aadhaar was issued in 2010. This unique Aadhaar 12-digit number serves as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India.

Aadhaar marking the 100-crore number is a success story to the government's initiative of bringing transparency in the way services.



Subsidies and benefits will be directly delivered to the beneficiaries.

### News 16: Government releases Food Subsidy of Rs. 25,834 crores

The Centre released Rs. 25,834 crores subsidy to Food Corporation of India and wage advance of Rs. 10,000 crores to be released shortly. In 2015-16, original Food Subsidy allocation was Rs. 97,000 crores which was increased to Rs. 1,12,000 crores at RE stage. This helped to bring down the arrears of subsidy to Rs. 58,650 crores. During 2016-17 also the Government



may consider additional food subsidy over and above budgetary provision, if required, towards the end of financial year to further bring down the subsidy arrears.

To manage resources for Rabi procurement which has just started, FCI is raising short term loans from banks up to a maximum limit of Rs. 30,000 crores.



## News 17: National Summit on Family Planning 2016 concluded in New Delhi

The two-day National Summit on Family Planning concluded in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was "New Choices, New Horizons".

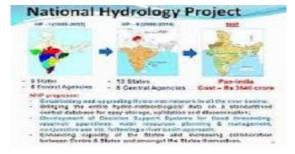
The Union Health Minister launched the new revamped logo for Family Planning media awareness campaign along with the 360-degree communication plan for enhanced awareness regarding various issues surrounding family planning in the country. The new packaging of contraceptive Nirodh and the mobile app for Mission Indradhanush were the



other highlights. Amitabh Bachchan was announced as the brand ambassador and anchor for the new IEC campaign.

### **News 18: Union Cabinet approved National Hydrology Project**

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for implementation of the National Hydrology Project. It will be a central sector scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 3679.7674 crore. This includes Rs. 3,640 crores for National Hydrology Project (NHP) and Rs. 39.7674 crore for National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) to be taken up in two stages.



The NHP will help in gathering Hydro-meteorological data which will be stored and analyzed on a real time basis and can be seamlessly accessed by any user at the State/District/village level. The project envisages to cover the entire country as the earlier hydrology projects covered only 13 States.

News 19: Funding of exports to Iran from India through the Export Development Fund of Exim Bank

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for increasing the framework agreement between Exim Bank of India and a consortium of Iranian banks lead by Central Bank of Iran for financing the purchase of goods and services from India to Rs.3000 crores from Rs. 900 crores. This will be done by utilizing the Export Development Fund (EDF).

The proposal will promote the country's exports with Iran and also deepen India's relationship with Iran as a strategic partner.





## News 20: Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for implementation of OROP

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP).

#### The details are as follows:

- The benefit will be given with effect from 1 July 2014 and be extended to family pensioners including war widows and disabled pensioners.
- Personnel who opt to get discharged henceforth on their own request under Rule 16B of the Army Rule, 1954 or equivalent Navy or Air Force Rules will not be entitled to the benefits of OROP. It will be effective prospectively.
- Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly installments.
- In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.

Financial implications on account of grant of OROP including Pre-Matured Retirees (PMR) cases would be Rs. 10925.11 crores for payment of arrears and annual financial implication would be Rs. 7488.7 crores.

# News 21: Union Cabinet approved recommendations of 14th Finance Commission on fiscal deficit targets

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to Recommendations on Fiscal Deficit Targets and Additional Fiscal Deficit to States during Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award period 2015-20.

FFC has adopted the fiscal deficit threshold limit of 3 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the States. Further, FFC has provided a year-to-year flexibility for additional fiscal deficit to States. FFC has though provided additional headroom to a



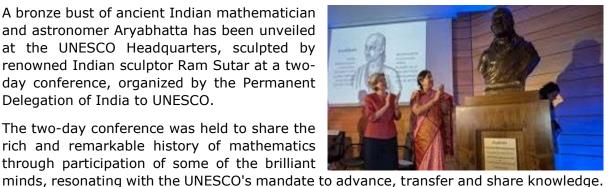
maximum of 0.5 per cent over and above the normal limit of 3 per cent in any given year to the States that have a favorable debt-GSDP ratio and interest payments-revenue receipts ratio in the previous two years.



### News 22: HRD Minister unveils bronze bust of Aryabhatta at UNESCO HQ

A bronze bust of ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhatta has been unveiled at the UNESCO Headquarters, sculpted by renowned Indian sculptor Ram Sutar at a twoday conference, organized by the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO.

The two-day conference was held to share the rich and remarkable history of mathematics through participation of some of the brilliant



## News 23: NTPC Suspends Power Generation from Farakka in West Bengal

Considering water shortage in in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, there will be partial suspension of power generation at the NTPC's Farakka plant till April 10.

The water level at Farakka feeder canal receded due to "diversion of water to Bangladesh as per the international treaty and one unit of 500 MW is under operation. Total



allocation to West Bengal from NTPC stations is 786 MW, which can be fully met by the company from its stations, if power is requisitioned by the state.

## News 24: Union Cabinet Approved MoU between India and Sweden on **Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector**

The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Sweden on Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector. The MoU was signed in the fields of exchange of knowledge, innovation, technology, technical expertise, sustainable solutions and research.

The MoU envisages benchmark of railways policy development, regulations, organization



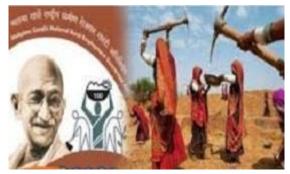
and specific characteristics for each country. It will also facilitate bilateral exchange of knowledge, technical expertise, innovation, technology, sustainable solutions and research in railways.



### News 25: Funding released of 12,230 crores under MGNREGA Scheme

Funds of Rs. 12,230 crores have been given to the states for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This is the largest amount released for the scheme at one time by the ministry.

It will provide pending wage liability of the States for the previous Financial Year (2015-16) and for the new Financial Year (2016-



17). States have also proposed to construct 33 lakh individual household toilets as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission and 63,000 anganwadi centre buildings to strengthen rural infrastructure.

#### News 26: International Standard Book Number Portal Launched by HRD

E-portal launched by the government will facilitate publishers as well as the authors to register for ISBN online to book and enhance information among authors and publishers. 13-character identification allotted by International ISBN Agency provides access to bibliographic data bases used by the book industry and libraries to provide information and eliminates the problem of free download of works of authors from the Internet.



A mobile app will be soon launched in regional languages to ease registration, enhanced accessibility, wider transparency and greater efficiency for the book writing fraternity in India.

#### News 27: Uma Bharti Inaugurates Water Films Festival

The Union Minister for water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti inaugurated the Water Film Festival for the growth and prosperity of a nation where Films can prove to be an effective tool of communication to spread the message of water conservation.

The theme for this year's India Water week is "Water for all: Striving together. The film festival is organized by the Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), a PSU under Ministry of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.





## News 28: Union Government approved country's first Metrino Pod Taxi project for Gurgaon

The Union Government gave its approval for country's first personal rapid transit (PRT) network (Metrino Pod project) for Gurgaon, work for which is expected to start by 1 June 2016.

The groundwork of the project is being laid by the National Highways Authority of India with an estimated budget of Rs 850 Cr. It will cover a stretch of 13 kilometers from the Gurgaon-Dalki handan to Radahanan Mad an Caban Band



Delhi border to Badshapur Mod on Sohna Road with a total of 16 stations.

A single Metrino Pod can accommodate upto five passengers and the fare is likely to be that of Metro rail in Delhi.

## News 29: Corporate Affairs Ministry exempts housing finance companies from XBRL filings

The Union Corporate Affairs Ministry exempted the housing finance companies from filing financial statements in XBRL format after it amended the Companies (Filing of Documents and Forms in Extensible Business Reporting Language) Rules. XBRL, or Extensible Business Reporting Language is a data-rich dialect of



XML (Extensible Markup Language) and provides a common, electronic format for business reporting via the internet.

The companies having paid up capital of at least Rs 500 crore or those with a turnover of Rs 100 crore or more have to follow XBRL rules. However, banking, insurance, power sector and non-banking finance companies were already exempted.

## News 30: Union Government Recommends Rs. 1,304 Crore for Drought Relief to Uttar Pradesh

Under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF), a high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi, has recommended Rs 1,304 crore for drought relief to Uttar Pradesh. The committee took review of drought situation in Bundelkhand, Vidharbha and Marathwada. The first review meeting was about Bundelkhand.



As part of the relief, the working day under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the Bundelkhand for financial year 2016-17 was extended from 100 to 150. Apart from that the government also decided that water tanks, building of dug wells, farm ponds would be taken up on priority under various projects and schemes for Bundelkhand.



## News 31: Union Government to Issue Universal ID-Cards for physically challenged People

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is planning to issue Universal ID-cards to the physically challenged people to help the differently-able ones have easy access to various benefits being extended by the government.

Currently, such cards are issued at the state level and some states do not accept cards of

other states leading to inconvenience. The government plans to distribute modern motorized wheelchairs with British financial assistance and was also taking up the manufacturing of tricycles with German technological backup.



## News 32: BSNL Testing Wi-Fi Technology to Connect 1 Lakh Panchayats

in a Year

BSNL has started a pilot to test broadband connectivity to about 1 lakh village panchayats using Wi-Fi network. It has tied up with Vihaan Networks for implementation of the project. The sustainability of the project is being tested in three villages, Karenda, Phalsa and Bahadri, of Alwar district of Rajasthan.

Under the project, a wireless network over 6 kilometers has been set up connecting Wi-Fi





### News 33: India offered an investment of \$20 Billion in Iran

India has offered to invest up to \$20 billion in oil, petrochemicals and fertilizer projects in a joint venture with Iran. The announcement was made during the two-day visit by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan.

Indian companies are interested in setting up petrochemical and fertilizer plants, including in the Chabahar SEZ. The two parties also



discussed on the long pending rights to develop Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf discovered by ONGC Videsh as well as clearing of the \$6.5 billion oil dues Indian refiners owe to Iran.



### News 34: India, Maldives signed six agreements

India and Maldives inked six agreements in different sectors. The agreements were signed during the two-day official visit of Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom to India.

#### The six Agreements/MoUs are:

 Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation of income derived from International Air Transport



- Agreement for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes
- Bilateral Agreement related to Orbit Frequency Coordination of "South Asia Satellite" proposed at 480E
- MoU for Cooperation in the area of conservation and restoration of ancient mosques and joint research and exploratory surveys in Maldives
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Tourism
- Action Plan for Defence Cooperation

### News 35: NRDC signs agreement for commercializing "NEMHARI"

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), under Ministry of Science & Technology, has entered into a license agreement with M/s Rainbow Agrilife India Private Limited, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh for commercialization of "NEMHARI-A Plant based Formulation for Management of Mulberry Root Knot Disease" developed at Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute (CSR&TI), Central Silk Board (CSB), Mysuru.



The formulation is safe to the native soil micro

flora and fauna but effective against the nematodes causing the root knot disease in mulberry. Tests conducted in the field revealed reduction of disease severity by about 84% and prevented loss of leaf yield by 24%.



## News 36: Union Cabinet gave its approval for India adopting the Statute of the SAWEN

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for India adopting the Statute of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and becoming its formal member in order to strengthen ties with the member countries.

SAWEN, a Regional network is consisting of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as members. Its aim is to work as a strong



regional intergovernmental body for combating wildlife crime by attempting common goals and approaches for combating illegal trade in the region.

### News 37: India to sign MoU with UAE to curb Human Trafficking

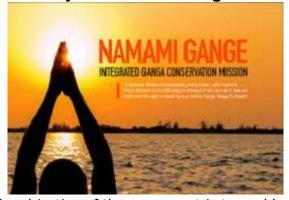
Union Cabinet gave its approval to sign a MoU between India and the UAE to curb the danger of human trafficking to Middle East.

The MoU is expected to strengthen cooperation to prevent all forms of human trafficking. The repatriation of victims would be done as promptly as possible and the home country will undertake the safe and effective re-integration of the victims. It will also ensure speedy investigation and prosecution of traffickers.



### News 38: India signed agreement with Germany on Namami Gange

An Implementation Agreement for Ganga Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange Program was signed in New Delhi between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and German International Cooperation (GIZ) of Germany. 'Namami Gange' Program, is a flagship program of Government of India with a renewed impetus to conserve the revered river 'Ganga'.



Based on Indo-German Knowledge exchange, the objective of the agreement is to enable responsible stakeholders at National and State level to apply integrated river basin management approach for the rejuvenation of the river Ganga. The project duration is three years i.e. from 2016 to 2018 and the German contribution in the project will be to the tune of Rs. 22.5 crore.



### News 39: India, US agreed on sharing military logistics

India and the United States have agreed in principle to share military logistics. The agreement will make it easier for both militaries to share each other's facilities. The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) will be ready in a month.

Besides LEMOA, the other fundamental agreements are Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum



of Agreement (CISMOA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA). The two countries also agreed to set up a new Maritime Security Dialogue.

# News 40: Dr. Ambedkar's 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary- Launch of Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan

Gram Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyaan was launched on the occasion of 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar at his birthplace Mhow, Madhya Pradesh to strengthen Panchayati Raj in villages and ensure social harmony in villages so that the farmers could be benefitted from such campaigns.

The 11-day campaign (from 14 April to 24 April 2016) is a joint effort by the Ministries of Rural



Development, Agriculture, Social Justice, Labour and Information and Broadcasting along with the States. The series of events include 'Social Harmony Program' from 14 to 16 April, Gram Kisan Sabha from 17 to 20 April and 'Gram Sabha' from 21 to 24 April.

### News 41: South Korea and India ink MoU for port related matters

An MOU was signed in Mumbai between Union Road, Transport and Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari and South Korea Oceans and Fisheries Minister Kim Young Suk for cooperation and mutual assistance between India and Republic of Korea in port related matters and their developments.

This MOU is expected to encourage both countries for the development of ports, port



related industry, and maritime relationship. There will be exchange of information on construction, building, engineering and related aspects in the field of port development.



News 42: E-Bidding & E-Reverse Auction Portal launched by Power Ministry

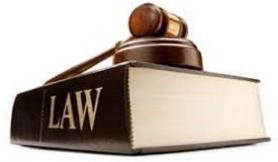
The Power Ministry has launched an e-bidding platform to make the bidding more efficient and transparent by bringing power procurement contract details to the public domain. The Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price (DEEP), e-bidding reverse auction portal, will cover short-term power purchase of less than a year. In the near future it will also start offering the option for longer-term power



purchase. Kerala, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, have already sought 1,000 megawatt (MW) of short-term power through the power trading portal.

## News 43: The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules, 2016 notified

The Union Government on 14 April 2016 notified the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) (Prevention of Atrocities (PoA)) Amendment Rules, 2016. The amendments are done in the principal rules of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995.



For key features of the SC and ST (PoA) Amendment Act, 2015, please click on the following links: <a href="http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135764">http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135764</a>

## News 44: PM Narendra Modi launched National Agriculture Market

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the pilot of e-NAM - the e-trading platform for the National Agriculture Market on 14th April, 2016. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that 21 mandis in 8 states have been linked to National Agriculture Market today. By September 2016, 200 mandis will be included and by March 2018, 585 mandis.



The project will operate through an online

portal which is being linked to the mandis of the States. Its software will be provided to all the willing states without cost. Under this Project, Government of India is providing a grant of Rs. 30 lacs to the proposed agriculture mandis of the states.



## News 45: Google extends free internet service through Wi-Fi to 10 railway stations

Google, as part of its tie up with Railtel - the internet provider arm of Indian Railways, has extended free internet service through Wi-Fi to 10 railway stations across the country to provide internet to over 1.5 people. The 10 Railway Stations are: Pune, Bhubaneshwar, Bhopal, Raipur, Ranchi, Vijayawada, Kacheguda (Hyderabad), Ernakulum Jn (Kochi) and Vishakhapatnam.



Google and RailTel will take the total number of covered stations to 100 within this year. The service will be free for a reasonable amount of time. The first such kind of service was launched at Mumbai Central in 2015.

## News 46: Indian Railways used drone for the first time to inspect Dedicated Freight Corridor project

Indian Railways used drones for the first time to inspect the ongoing work on the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project. The drone was used for 3 days on a trial basis to ascertain the progress on the 42 km long track between Baghega to Srimadhopur in Rajasthan in the Western DFC and also the 56 km long line between Durgawati and Sasaram in Bihar.



The drone was hired from a private operator and it cost Rs 3,000 per km for undertaking the aerial survey.

### News 47: New Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies

18/04/2016. National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in Indian collaboration with Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) announced the formal launch of Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (CGRBMS) in New Delhi. The Ministry signed а 10-year Memorandum of Agreement with IITK for provision of continual scientific support in the implementation and dynamic evolution of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan.



The government has decided to implement Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STP's) using a specific Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework called hybrid annuity model.



**PAKISTAN** 

INDIA

## News 48: India, Afghanistan and Iran finalize draft of Trilateral Chabahar

IRAN

Agreement

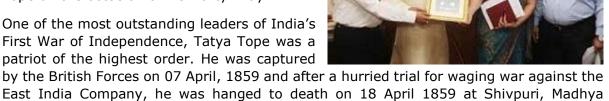
The second meeting of experts from India, Afghanistan and Iran was held in New Delhi on April 11 to finalize the text of the Trilateral Agreement among the three countries on Transport and Transit Corridors (Chabahar Agreement).

The draft Agreement envisions trilateral cooperation for providing alternative access to seas to Afghanistan, inter alia for Afghanistan's trade with India. When the Agreement comes into force it will significantly enhance utilization of Chabahar Port, contribute to economic growth of Afghanistan, and facilitate better regional connectivity, including between India and connections to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

News 49: Government released Commemorative Coin and Circulation Coin on Tatya Tope on his Martyr Day

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) and Civil Aviation released a Commemorative Coin of Rs. 200/and a Circulation Coin of Rs. 10/- on Tatya Tope on the occasion of his Martyr Day.

One of the most outstanding leaders of India's First War of Independence, Tatya Tope was a patriot of the highest order. He was captured



Pradesh. News 50: India and Mauritius sign MoU to promote cooperation in the field

India has signed an MoU with Mauritius on cooperation in the field of traditional system of medicine and Homoeopathy during the recent of State for AYUSH visit Minster (Independent Charge) and Health & Family Welfare, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik to Mauritius.

of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy

This MoU will promote cooperation in the field of traditional system of health and medicine between the two countries and popularize the various Indian traditional systems which fall



under AYUSH. It envisages exchange of experts, supply of traditional medicinal substances, joint research and development and recognition of the traditional systems of health and medicine in both countries.



## News 51: Union Government released Report of Technical Committee on Large Scale Integration of Renewable Energy

The Union Government released Report of the Technical Committee on Large Scale Integration of Renewable Energy, Need for Balancing, Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) and associated issues. The Committee has put forth a 15-point Action Plan for facilitating scale large integration renewables in the country, in a secure and reliable manner.



The committee had extensive deliberations and has recommended several actions, such as bringing flexibility in the conventional generation, frequency control, generation reserves, ancillary services, forecasting, scheduling, deviation settlement mechanism, balancing requirement, data telemetry and communication, Renewable Energy Management Centres (REMCs), Transmission system augmentation and strengthening as well as certain compliance actions at renewable generation front.

#### News 52: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme launched in 61 more districts

Smt. Maneka Gandhi formally launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padho scheme in additional 61 districts at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and was initially launched in 100 districts with adverse Child Sex Ratio. The key elements of the scheme include awareness and advocacy campaign, multi-sectoral action in selected districts (low on CSR) and effective



enforcement of Pre-Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act.

## News 53: Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the Regional Conference of the North Eastern States on Child Adoption

The Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated the Regional Conference of the North Eastern States on Child Adoption in Shillong, Meghalaya. The Conference was organized by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) of the WCD Ministry.

The conference had been organized with a view to familiarize the stakeholders with the



adoption program in the North Eastern States. Secondly, orient them about the provisions of Adoption Guidelines - 2015 as well as the online adoption process through Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS).



### News 54: India, US to Collaborate On Tackling Offshore Tax Evasion

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and U.S Treasury Secretary Mr. Jacob J. Lew met for the Sixth Annual U.S.–India Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP) in Washington D.C. The two sides have agreed to enhance collaboration on tackling offshore tax evasion and increase cooperation in sharing of cross-border tax information.

The two sides also noted the progress in sharing of financial information between the two countries under the Inter-Governmental



Agreement pursuant to Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

### News 55: India ranked 133rd in World Press Freedom Index

India was ranked 133 out of 180 countries in the 2016 World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). India scored 43.17 this year as compared to 40.49 in 2015. It was ranked 136 out of 180 countries in 2015. India's poor ranking is mainly due to the number of journalists killed and the impunity for crimes of violence against the media.



Pakistan ranks 147, Sri Lanka (141), Afghanistan (120), Bangladesh (144), Nepal (105) and Bhutan (94). China is ranked 176. The United States is ranked 44th and Russia is placed at the 148th place.

# News 56: Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bhutan on Technical Cooperation

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bhutan on technical cooperation in the field of capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering.

The MoU is in furtherance of Article 2,7 and 8 of the India-Bhutan friendship treaty. The MoU will provide an Umbrella for educational,



scientific & technical research and environment protection which are also stated aim of the India-Bhutan foundation established in August 2003.



### **News 57: Cabinet Approves Signing the Paris Agreement**

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties held in Paris in December 2015. Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar, will sign the agreement on behalf of India on 22 April 2016 at the high level signature ceremony convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.



The Paris Agreement on climate change is a

milestone in global climate cooperation. India had advocated a strong and durable climate agreement based on the principles and provisions of the Convention. The Paris Agreement addresses all the important concerns and expectations of India.

News 58: Competition Appellate Tribunal sets aside Rs 258-crore fine on Jet Airways, IndiGo, SpiceJet

The Competition Appellate Tribunal (Compat) set aside Competition Commission of India's order of imposing a Rs 258 crore fine on Jet Airways, IndiGo and SpiceJet in the case of alleged cartelisation in relation to cargo fuel surcharge. It also directed the regulator to pass a fresh order. COMPAT has given the airlines one more chance to defend themselves before the final order is passed.



In Nov 2015, CCI had imposed Rs 151 crore on Jet Airways, Rs 63 crore on IndiGo and Rs 42 crore on Spice Jet as penalty for the reason.

## News 59: President of India inaugurated Second Edition of Global Exhibition on Services

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Second Edition of a Global Exhibition on Services -2016 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida on April 20, 2016.

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry in association with Services Export Promotion Council and Confederation of Indian Industries



organizes this Global Exhibition annually with the aim to enhance international trade in services between India and the world.



News 60: Prime Minister confers awards for excellence in implementation

of priority program

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi conferred awards for excellence in implementation of priority program on the occasion of 10th Civil Services Day today. The winners for various categories are:

 Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJSY): Nagaon, Assam was awarded in North East and Hill States category, Chandigarh in UTs and North 24 Parganas, West Bengal in Other States group.



- Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin): West Sikkim and Bikaner, Rajasthan were awarded in North East & Hill states and Other States category respectively
- Swachh Vidyalaya program: Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh were awarded in North East & Hill states, UTs and Other States group respectively
- Soil Health Card Scheme: Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh and Balrampur, Chhattisgarh were conferred award in North East and Hill states and Other States respectively

On the occasion, the Prime Minister also released two books namely: The Change Makers and Transforming India.

### News 61: First Meeting of All India Handloom Board held

The first meeting of the recently constituted All India Handloom Board was held in New Delhi, on 19th April, 2016. The 'India Handloom' Brand registration has so far been granted to 170 handloom producing agencies and weavers in 41 product categories.

The brand producers have reported a sale of more than Rs.15 crores within a period of about four months. The Government has significantly expanded its support to handloom clusters, in



terms of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) and skill upgradation. Life insurance and health insurance benefits to handloom weavers will now be provided through national social security schemes.



#### News 62: Commerce and Industry Ministry launched Twitter Seva

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a new service named Twitter Seva. It will be used to address issues and grievances of startups, exporters and importers and other stakeholders on matters relating to Department of Commerce and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) will be answered through this service.



The ministry will try to respond to the queries within 48 to 72 working hours. Anyone who is desirous of assistance from the ministry can use the hashtag, #mociseva on Twitter.

# News 63: India's first Cellulosic Alcohol Technology Demonstration Plant at Kashipur, Uttarakhand

Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated India's 1st Second-Generation (2G) Ethanol plant at Kashipur in Uttarakhand.

The technology is projected to be capable of converting all types of agricultural residues like Bagasse, Rice Straw, Wheat Straw, Bamboo, Cotton Stalk, Corn Stover, Wood chips etc. to



ethanol in less than 24 hours, with optimum product yields. The Technology Demonstration plant has a capacity to consume 10 tons of biomass per day.

### News 64: India and France launch \$1 Trillion Potential Solar Program under ISA

India and France have launched \$1 trillion potential solar finance program that aims to lower the cost of finance and facilitate the flow of more than \$1 trillion investment to members of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Power Minister Piyush Goyal and French Environment Minister Segolene Royal made the announcement.



A second program launched at the ISA meeting aims to make available solar technology for farmers.



#### **News 65: Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)**

INS Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette based at the Andaman and Nicobar Command, alongwith a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, are participating in the 22nd Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT).

The 22nd edition of the CORPAT would include participation of one warship and one Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both sides with the Closing Ceremony being held at Port Blair. The two navies have been carrying out CORPATs twice a year with the aim of keeping the Indian



Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

#### News 66: India banned milk and mobile phones import from China

India has banned import of milk and milk products (including chocolates and chocolate products and candies/ confectionary/ food preparations with milk or milk solids as an ingredient) from China till 23.6.2016 or until further orders, whichever is earlier as their quality was unacceptable.

Further some mobile phones, which do not carry International Mobile Station Equipment Identity number or other security features, and



some steel products have also been banned from importing from China.



### **PERSONS IN NEWS**

### News 1: Mehbooba Mufti becomes first woman Chief Minister of Jammu

& Kashmir

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti, took oath as the first women Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) at Raj Bhawan in Jammu. The swearing-in ceremony was presided over by J&K Governor NN Vohra.

Bharathiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator Nirmal Singh took oath as Deputy Chief Minister. His



party increased its strength with eight Cabinet-rank ministers, two more over its share in the Mufti government.

#### News 2: Priyadarshini Chatterjee crowned FBB Miss India World 2016

Miss Delhi Priyadarshini Chatterjee was crowned the FBB Femina Miss India World 2016 at the 53rd edition of the Femina Miss India beauty pageant held in Mumbai. Bangalore's Sushruthi Krishna emerged as the Femina Miss India Supranational 2016 and Lucknow's Pankhuri Gidwani was crowned the Femina Miss India Grand International 2016.



Priyadarshini will now represent India at the Miss World 2016 pageant.

#### News 3: MS Dhoni appointed as Brand Ambassador of LAVA International

Lava International has appointed Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the new brand ambassador. The contract value was not revealed. The move will help strengthen the brand of the company. The company plans to invest Rs. 2,615 crores to raise its annual production capacity to 216 million phone sets.



Lava International earned revenues of \$1.2 billion in fiscal 2014-15.



News 4: Barack Obama appointed MasterCard CEO Banga to key

administration post

President Barack Obama appointed MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga as a member of the Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity. He is one of the nine members of the Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity, tasked with working towards internet safety.

Ajay Banga is President and CEO of MasterCard, positions he has held since 2010.



Mr. Banga joined MasterCard in 2009 as President and COO. Prior to joining MasterCard, Mr. Banga held various senior management roles with Citigroup from 1996 to 2009, most recently serving as CEO of Citigroup Asia Pacific.

News 5: Paytm's Vijay Shekhar Sharma appointed as Chairman of IAMAI's

**Payments Banks Group** 

Ukraine

19/04/2016. Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been appointed as chairman of the newly formed payments banks group of Internet and Mobile Association of India. Vodafone India business head(M-Pesa) Suresh Sethi, will be the vice-chairman of the group.

IAMAI includes global companies such as Google, Facebook and LinkedIn as members.

The RBI had granted payment licences in August last year, to companies including Paytm, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone.

News 6: Volodymyr Groysman appointed as the new Prime Minister of

Members of Parliament of Ukraine voted by 257 to 50 to approve the appointment of Volodymyr Groysman as the new prime Minister of the country. Mr Groysman will replace Arseniy Yatsenyuk who stepped down as Prime Minister after his government had faced accusations of corruption and inability to implement reforms.

Mr Groysman was the parliamentary speaker and a close ally of Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko.





# News 7: Mary Kom named as AIBA ambassador for Women's World Boxing Championship

Mary Kom has been named among one of the eight ambassadors for the upcoming World Championship by the International Boxing Association (AIBA). The World Championship is scheduled from May 19 to 27, 2016 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The other ambassadors for the World Championship are Nicola Adams (Great Britain), Marlen Esparza (US), Adriana Arauja (Kazakhstan), Stanimira Petrova (Bulgaria)



and Khadija Mardi (Morocco). The female officials chosen as ambassadors are Kheira Siki Yakoub (Algerian) and Jennifer Huggins (Canada).



### **PLACES IN NEWS**

#### News 1: Special Purpose Vehicle for Bhubaneswar Smart City takes off

India's first special purpose vehicle (SPV) on smart city - Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited - commenced its operations on 1 April 2016. Shri R. Balakrishnan, Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Odisha was appointed as Chairman of the SPV and Shri R Vineel Krishna as the CEO of 'Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited'.

It will have Authorized Capital of Rs.500 crores, divided in to 5 crore shares of Rs.100 each. Of



this, the Government of Odisha and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation will have a share of Rs.112.50 crores each while Bhubaneswar Development Authority will contribute share capital of Rs.250 crores.

#### News 2: Massive fire at Puttingal temple in Kerala; judicial probe ordered

The Puttingal Temple in Paravur, Kollam, India, experienced an explosion and fire after firework celebrations went awry which killed 110 people and more than 350 were injured. The explosion and fire were caused by firecrackers. The pilgrims were celebrating the last day of a seven-day festival of the goddess Bhadrakali.

The Kerala state government has ordered a judicial inquiry into a fireworks display headed by retired justice Krishnan Nair. The committee



by retired justice Krishnan Nair. The committee will submit the report in six months.

#### News 3: World's Largest 'Wooden Charkha' to be on Display at IGI Airport

The world's largest wooden Charkha (spinning wheel) will be installed at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport. It is ready for dispatch from Paryog Samiti, a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Ahmedabad.

The four-tonne Charkha is made from highquality teak wood and will last for over 50 years. It was built by around 26 workers and carpenters in 40 days. It was the initiative of KVIC Chairman VK Saxena to showcase India's symbol of non-violence to the world.





#### News 4: Supercomputer Param Kanchenjunga Unveiled at NIT Sikkim

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Sikkim has unveiled the Supercomputer Param Kanchenjunga which is said to be the most powerful and fastest among all the 31 National Institute of Technology's.

It was formally unveiled by Sikkim Governor Shrinvas Patil at the NIT Sikkim campus at Ravangla in South Sikkim District. The super computer is expected to help in research and



academics. Since NIT Sikkim has research areas like climate modelling etc., it would aid in these fields as well. The supercomputer was established jointly with C-DAC - Pune at a cost of Rs.3 crores.

#### News 5: Delhi ranked 44th among world's 50 "Future-ready Cities"

Delhi has been recognized as one of the 50 future-ready cities around the world, according to a report by IT major Dell. The National Capital is ranked 44th on the list which is topped by San Jose, followed by San Francisco.

The 'Future-Ready Economies Model' scores large, high-growth global metropolitan areas. The cities positioned in the list were evaluated along three dimensions -- human capital, infrastructure and commerce.



# News 6: Operationalization of new Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Tirupati

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for operationalization of new Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh from the Academic Year of 2015-16 from a transit / temporary campus, at an estimated cost of Rs. 137.30 crore for the initial three years (2015-18).



The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has earmarked 244 acres of land at Srinivasapuram, Pangur and Chindepalli villages of Yerpedu Mandal for construction of the permanent campus of IISER, Tirupati. It was also decided to commence its functioning from the academic session of 2015-16 from the transit campus at Sree Rama Engineering College, Tirupati.



#### News 7: President of India to attend the Khongjom Day

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee will visit Manipur on April 23, 2016 where he will attend the Khongjom Day Observation 2016 and inaugurate a Monument-cum-Tourist Centre at Khongjom, Manipur.

Khongjom Day is observed on the 23rd April every year by the Government of Manipur to pay tribute to the brave sons of Manipur who made supreme sacrifice for the cause of their motherland.



#### News 8: Tallest 'Tiranga' to be flagged off at Wagah border

The Border Security Force to hoist the tallest national flag of 350 feet at Wagah border breaking Jharkhand's record of hoisting tallest flag of 293 feet in Ranchi.

The tallest tri-color can be seen both from Lahore as well as Amritsar. At that height, the flag would have to be proportionately sized, therefore it would also be the largest Tricolour.





### REGIONAL

#### **News 1: Telangana Road Transport Authority Launched M-Wallet**

The Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao and the Transport Minister P Mahender Reddy launched the State Road Transport Authority's new mobile app, M-Wallet in Hyderabad.

The app lets a user download digital copies of documents like driving license and registration certificate which could be produced before the police and RTA authorities when demanded. Driving licenses issued in other states are not incorporated and Insurance policy documents not integrated.



#### News 2: 'Education Qualification' - A Must for Urban Bodies' Haryana polls

Any male contestant participating in contest for Urban Local Bodies in Haryana will now have to be matriculate and have a functional toilet at home while and a woman and a Scheduled Caste candidate will be required to be at least 8th standard pass. The amendment aims at strengthening the Urban Local Bodies, the third tier of the governance and improving the efficiency, transparency and accountability by



making education a necessary qualification for the office-bearers of the Urban Local Bodies, according to the government.

#### News 3: Maharashtra first state to link colleges to National Cancer Grid

Maharashtra tied up with the Tata Trusts to link all government colleges and medical colleges to the national cancer grid for uniform cancer profiling and quality treatment.

The target was to have 50,000 bone marrow donors in the next three years. The chief minister said a total of 9 MoUs were inked between the government and Tata Trusts. Tata Trusts has established a national cancer grid



that links all existing and proposed cancer care centers to create a uniform line of treatment for cancer patients across the country. Maharashtra is the country's first state to join the initiative.



### News 4: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched Green Delhi Initiative Phase 1

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the Green Delhi initiative by planting trees at the Triangular Park at the ITO Chowk. The exercise involves the greening of approximately 120 acres of the 1,260 kms of road maintained by the PWD.

The greening will be completed within three months at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 crores.

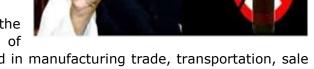
The next phase of the program, which will cover other areas, will begin in July and shall be completed by September, 2016.



#### News 5: Bihar Government imposes complete ban on alcohol

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has completely banned on all types of liquor (alcohol) throughout the state. Earlier on 1st April 2016, Bihar government had banned country made liquor in the state except IMFL in the first phase. Second phase bans foreign liquor (IMFL).

The Bihar Excise (Amendment) Act bans the production, sale and business of all types of



liquor due to which people if found involved in manufacturing trade, transportation, sale or consumption of liquor across the state will have to face 'capital punishment'.

#### News 6: Odisha Government launched Adarsha Vidyalaya Project

The Odisha Government launched the Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) project with an aim to open one Adarsh Vidyalaya in each of the 314 revenue blocks of the State and provide modern schools on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas. 100 of these schools already started functioning with the official launch of the project.



Adarsh Vidyalayas will have teacher-pupil ratio

of 1:25 and classroom-student ratio of 1:40. Around 50 per cent of total seats would be reserved for the scheduled categories and girls. The schools will provide free education to students along with free uniforms and other study materials.



#### News 7: Gujarat Government launches 'Maa Annapurna Yojna'

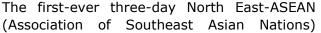
Gujarat chief Minister Anandiben Patel officially implemented National Food Security Act, which has been renamed as Maa Annapurna Yojna which will benefit 3.82 crore people of Gujarat. An individual will get rice at Rs 3 per Kg and wheat at Rs 2 per Kg. Initially, out of 35 kg given at subsidized rates during Congress rule, only 16 kg of food-grain was given at those rates, while for the remaining 19 kg, government used to charge Rs 7.70. Centre has announced to give the entire 35 kg of food-grain at subsidized rates.



The National Food Security Act has been partially implemented by 11 states till date. The number of states has increased from 11 to 21, including Gujarat, which will implement it by April 1, 2016.

#### News 8: Manipur, Imphal organized North East-ASEAN Business Summit

The summit was organized by Manipur Commerce and Industries Department in collaboration with the Union Ministries of External Affairs and Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Indian Chamber of Service Industries (ICSI)





Business Summit concluded at the City Convention Centre in Imphal, Manipur to attract investment from both domestic and foreign firms to the North-East states of India and to increase productivity and generate employment in the region.

#### News 9: Rajasthan Passed Urban Land (Certification of Titles) Bills 2016

Rajasthan become the first state to pass land title bill. The Provisions in the bill helps in good governance and improves transparency for land acquisition in the state and also benefit authorities as no capital expenditure will be required from their end. It means the state residents living in urban areas, which are governed by the municipalities or state development authorities, can seek a certificate of ownership of their lands by paying a nominal fee to the state government.



State government will set up an authority which will be headed by an Indian Administrative Service Officer. It will seek all the documents from the landowners, and will verify it against records held by the state.



#### News 10: Two-member inquiry commission set up by the Haryana

Government to probe Jat quota stir

The Haryana government appointed a two-member Commission of Inquiry to probe conspiracy behind violent incidents during Jat agitation on demand of reservation quota. The committee is headed by Justice (retd.) S N Jha, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court and Rajasthan High Court. The committee has former IPS officer NC Padhi as its member. The government has asked the committee to submit its report within six months from the date of its first hearing.



The headquarters of the Commission shall be at Chandigarh.

#### News 11: Delhi Government launched a Carpool App

The Delhi Government launched a **Poochh-O Carpool** app to help people explore carpooling options during the second phase of the 15-day odd-even car scheme set to begin from 15 April 2016.

The app is prepared by the Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS), can be downloaded on Google Play store for Android users. Users after downloading the app will have to register themselves and then can



search for carpooling options within a radius of 1-5 km. Those who wish to participate will be required to give their car number.

# News 12: Haryana government to rename Gurgaon as Gurugram and Mewat as Nuh

Haryana Government announced to rename Gurgaon as Gurugram and Mewat as Nuh. The decision will now be placed before the Haryana cabinet before it is sent to the union Government.

Gurgaon is renamed Gurugram after Guru Dronacharya of Mahabharat. The decision was



taken on the basis of the representations received at several forums that it would be appropriate to rename Gurgaon as Gurugram. Similarly, the people and the elected representatives of Mewat had been demanding that the name of Mewat be changed as Nuh.



#### News 13: Maharashtra Assembly passed Dance Bar Bill 2016

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly unanimously cleared the Dance Bar Regulation Bill 2016 to regulate dance bars in Mumbai and the rest of the state. The draft of the bill was discussed and cleared in the 25-member all-party MLA and MLC committee.

As per the draft bill, stringent conditions have been put forward. Those owners who violate terms and conditions prescribed to get permission to set up the dance bar can be jailed for five years or fined Rs 25 lakh. In cases of sexual harassment or 'vulgar dance', an owner

महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा में डांस बार बिल पास BREAKING NEWS वार वालाओं पर नोट उड़ाने पर पावंदी होगी है 00 करे

wpuld be jailed for three years or fined Rs 10 lakh.

### News 14: J&K Government announces Mufti Sayeed Food Entitlement Scheme

Jammu and Kashmir government announced the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Food Entitlement Scheme (MMSFES) to supplement the National Food Security Act in the state. The State Government will bear the financial burden of Rs 1497 crores per annum for the implementation of NFSA and MMSFES.

Under this scheme, the beneficiaries will get additional 5 kgs of ration per person in addition to 5 kgs of ration they are entitled to get under



NFSA at the subsidized rate of Rs. 13 per kg for aata (flour) and Rs. 15 per kg for rice. The state cabinet also approved the revision in Temporary Move Allowance from existing rate of Rs. 1,500 per month to Rs. 2,000 per month, with effect from 1 April, 2016.



News 15: Maharashtra government approved the Prohibition of Social Boycott Bill 2016

Maharashtra Legislative Assembly unanimously approved the Prohibition of Social Boycott Bill, 2016. The bill seeks to curtail down on extra-judicial bodies like caste and community panchayats. Maharashtra will be the first state in India to give nod to a law against social boycott. The violation of the law will lead to punishment for imprisonment up to 7 years or fine up to 5 lakh rupees or both. According to bill, the victim or any member of the victim's family



may file a complaint either through the police or directly to the magistrate.

### News 16: Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana for widows launched by Jharkhand Government

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das launched the Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana for widows on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar.

An amount of Rs 75,000 would be granted to build a house in districts in hilly terrains and Rs 70,000 in plains and the amount would be distributed among the beneficiaries in three installments in their bank accounts. A target of



11,000 units (houses) has been set in the current financial year for the program. The budget allocation is Rs 80 crores.

#### News 17: The phase 2 of odd-even scheme rolled out in Delhi

The Delhi Government rolled out the second phase of odd-even car rationing scheme from 15 April 2016 till 30 April 2016.

Under the scheme, private cars having odd registration numbers will be allowed to ply on odd dates and those with even numbers on even dates. Violation of the Scheme will attract a penalty of Rs 2,000 under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act. Under the



experiment, 25 categories of people are being given exemptions including the VIPs.



### News 18: Maharashtra to use hologram technique to check spurious liquor

The Maharashtra Government decided to paste polyester base track and trace hologram on every alcohol bottle manufactured and sold in the state, to be supported by a mobile app in order to check sale of spurious liquor. It will also help prevent loss of revenue due to cheap liquor being imported into Maharashtra.

If one holds the liquor bottle against the mobile app one will get a green tick mark indicating it



is a genuine product. A red tick mark will indicate the product to be fake. The decision will be implemented either from July 1 or August 1. Twenty-one states are already using the hologram technology.

### News 19: Maharashtra Government bans digging of bore wells beyond 200 feet

The Maharashtra Government has banned digging of borewells beyond 200 feet in order to check the steep decline in ground water level across the state. State Government has taken this decision in the wake for severe drought and decreasing ground water level across various regions in the state. This ban will be implemented under the Maharashtra Groundwater Development and Management



Act in order to control the excess water pumping through borewell. Henceforth, the violators of the rule would now face fine or even imprisonment.

# News 20: Himachal HC issued notice to Union and State government over declaring Monkeys as Vermin

The Himachal Pradesh High Court issued notices to the Union and State governments on the issue of declaring monkeys as vermin for the next six months in the jurisdiction of the Shimla Municipal Corporation. The notice was issued by a division bench of Chief Justice Mansoor Ahmad Mir and Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan. The bench was hearing a plea in this

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regard filed by animal activist Rajeshwar Singh Negi.



#### News 21: Uttarakhand HC revoked President's Rule in Uttarakhand

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice K.M. Joseph and Justice V.K. Bisht of the Uttarakhand High Court revoked the order of the Central government that had put the State under President's Rule on March 27. The court ordered for a floor test where former Chief Minister Harish Rawat's claim of having majority support shall be put to test.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat had filed an application with apprehensions that the Centre might revoke Article 356 from



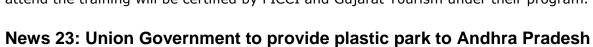
Uttarakhand and attempt to get the BJP in Uttarakhand to form government.

News 22: Uber enters into partnership with Gujarat Tourism and FICCI for soft skills training

Uber has entered into a partnership with Gujarat Tourism and FICCI to facilitate training for Uber driver-partners.

The training is designed and conducted by Ace Driving & Road Safety Education Pvt. Ltd on areas of Safe Driving and Interpersonal Skills of the drivers, in order to improve the overall rider experience in Gujarat. All drivers who

attend the training will be certified by FICCI and Gujarat Tourism under their program.



The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Ananta Kumar announced that the Centre would provide a plastic park to Andhra Pradesh with Rs.1000 crore and it would be the plastic hub.

The announcement was made after laying the foundation stone for the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) at Surampalli village of Gannavaram Mandal, near



Vijayawada. He also announced that a plastic waste management center would be set up in Vijayawada.



News 24: Cadbury installed the largest Asia-Pacific facility in Andhra

**Pradesh** 

Cadbury India installed its \$190 million factory in Sri City SEZ and was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. It is the company's largest plant in Asia Pacific.

The plant will have an initial capacity of about 60,000 tonnes a year, which will be increased to 250,000 tonnes by 2020. It will start production of Dairy Milk chocolates. It will help create around 1,600 jobs.



#### News 25: Isuzu opens a manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh

Isuzu Motors India opened its manufacturing plant in Sricity, Andhra Pradesh. The facility was inaugurated by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Isuzu rolled out its India-made D-Max pick-up on the day. Ambassador of Japan to India Kenji Hiramatsu was also present.

The initial production capacity of the plant is 50,000 units per annum and can be scaled up to 1,20,000 units. Isuzu Motors President is Masanori Katayama.



News 26: Installation of Solar Power Plant of 200 MW or more Capacity at

the Central State Farm at Jetsar, Rajasthan

28/04/2016. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for utilization of 400 hectares of un-cultivable farm land at the Central State Farm (CSF), Jetsar in Sri Ganganagar District, Rajasthan for setting up of a solar Power Plant of capacity exceeding 200 MW. The land is presently in possession of National Seeds Corporation (NSC).

The Solar Power Plant will be set up by a Central Public Sector Enterprise. The identified CPSE will be



allowed to utilize the land for the installation of a Solar Power Plant over a contract period of 25 years.



### **REPORTS**

#### News 1: WHO and UN-Habitat released Global Report on Urban Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) jointly released the Global Report on Urban Health: Equitable, healthier cities for sustainable development, 2016. The report compares data on health from urbanites in almost 100 countries. The criteria vary from clean water access to HIV knowledge, obesity and air pollution.



About 3.7 billion people live in cities today. A further 1 billion people will be added by 2030,

with 90% of the growth being in low- and middle-income countries. India's urban population is projected to increase from 380 million (33 percent) in 2014 to 600 million (about 40 percent) by 2031.

### News 2: UNIDO ranked India at the 6<sup>th</sup> position in the top-10 manufacturers list

In a report published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, India was ranked 6th among the world's top 10 largest manufacturing countries. Previously, India held the 9th position.

According to the report, While Manufacturing Value Added grew by 7.5% compared to previous fiscal, Index of Industrial Production went by 1% in the fourth quarter of 2015 for India. The global growth rate of manufacturing production slowed to 2.8% in 2015. China



topped the list followed by the U.S., Japan, Germany and Korea. Indonesia was ranked 10th on the list.



#### News 3: Aon Hewitt released the list of India's Best Employer 2016

05/04/2016. Aon Hewitt released its list of India's Best Employer 2016. Aon Hewitt is a global human resource firm. A total of 113 organizations participated in the 2016 Aon Best Employers India study.

Reliance Asset Management Company - India's third biggest mutual fund in terms of asset under management —has been recognized among the best employer brands.

In the list released by Aon, Reliance Capital Asset Management is the only asset

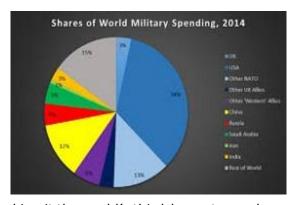


management company to be named as one of the best employers in India in the Aon list for 2016. The AGS Health, the SKS Microfinance and the Yash Technologies were named in the Emerging Best Employers of India for the years 2016.

#### News 4: SIPRI released Trends in world military expenditure, 2015 report

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published the Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2015 report. World military expenditure totaled almost \$1.7 trillion in 2015, an increase of 1% in real terms from 2014.

The United States remained by far the world's biggest spender in 2015, despite its expenditure falling by 2.4% to \$596 billion. Among the other top spenders, China's expenditure rose by 7.4% to \$215 billion,



Saudi Arabia's grew by 5.7% to \$87.2 billion—making it the world's third-largest spender—and Russia's increased by 7.5% to \$66.4 billion. India moved up one spot in the global rankings to reach the sixth position in terms of military expenditure with 51.3 billion US dollars (a growth of 0.4%) as military spending in 2015.

#### News 5: WHO released Global Report on Diabetes

The World Health Organization (WHO) released its first Global Report on Diabetes. WHO has announced the theme for World health Day observed on 7th April as "Halt the rise: Beat Diabetes".

The report says that there were 422 million adults living with diabetes in 2014, a fourfold increase since 1980. The WHO Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) Global Action



Plan 2013-2020 aims at helping countries reduce the impact of diabetes.



#### News 6: Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen 2016 by Forbes

Forbes released Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen 2016 list that features eight Indian women business leaders. Reliance Industries Director Nita Ambani and State Bank of India Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya topped Forbes' Asia 50 Power Businesswomen 2016 list.

# Forbes Asia POWER

#### Top 8 Power Businesswomen 2016 -

- Ist Rank Nita Ambani (Chairman, Reliance Industries)
- IInd Rank Arundhati Bhattacharya (Chairman & Managing Director, State Bank of India)
- IIIrd Rank Cao Thi Ngoc Dung (Chairman & CEO, Phu Nhuan Jewelry, Vietnam)
- IVth Rank Somruedee Chaimongkol (CEO, Banpu, Thailand)
- Vth Rank Sabrina Sih Ming Chao, Chairman, Wah Kwong Maritime Transport Holdings
- VIth Rank Solina Chau Hoi Shuen (Cofounder, Horizons Ventures)
- VIIth Rank Chew Gek Khim (Co-founder & CEO, Trend Micro, Honk Kong)
- VIIIth Rank Sonia Cheng (Executive Director, Rosewood Hotel Group, Singapore)

#### **News 7: India Tops Consumers Scorecard 2016**

According to Credit Suisse Emerging Consumer Scorecard 2016, India topped the chart, while China and Saudi Arabia shared the second position with Indian consumers being most optimistic, among nine followed by followed by Turkey (5th), Mexico (6th), Brazil (7th), South Africa (7th) and Russia (8th).

Credit Suisse Deputy Global Chief Investment Officer Giles Keating said, the survey points to fast growth in consumption in categories with



very low penetration like female hygiene products and smart phones.



#### News 8: India ranks 44th in the 2016 Global Connectivity Index

Huawei has released its third Global Connectivity Index report. The report released during the Global Analyst Summit 2016 in Shenzhen, China, sheds light on various global improvements in the field of connectivity.

The US, Singapore and Sweden top the ranking while India is ranked 44th in the list with a GCI score of 30. The Digital India initiative of the Government of India is the driving reason.



# News 9: UN Health Agency: Investment in treatment for depression and anxiety yields four-fold return

The United Nations (UN) health agency unveiled a study published by The Lancet Psychiatry, that depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy 1 trillion US dollars each year. Every US\$1 invested in scaling up treatment leads to a return of US\$4 in better health and ability to work, according to a new WHO-led study. The study for the first time estimates both health and economic



benefits of investing in treatment of the most common forms of mental illness globally.

#### News 10: World's largest remittance recipient in 2015 - India

According to the World Bank Report 'Migration and Development Brief', India has appeared to be the world's largest remittance recipient for the year 2015. India recorded 69bn US\$ in remittances, down from 70 billion in 2014 followed by China (64 billion dollars), Philippines (28 billion), Mexico (25 billion) and Nigeria (21 billion dollar). This marks the first decline in remittances since 2009 for India.



It is estimated by calculating global remittances which include those to high-income countries contracted by 1.7% to 581 billion US dollar compared to 592 billion in 2014.



#### News 11: A total of 3 Indians make it to the Forbes First Ever 'Global Game **Changers' List**

Forbes launched its inaugural Global Game Changers list featuring 30 of the most powerful business leaders from around the world based on corporate growth, innovation and global presence. Three Indians have also made it to the list. Rahul Bhatia of InterGlobe Enterprises at number 3, Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India at 23 and Sunny Varkey of GEMS Education at 26th rank.



Some of the other notable names on the list

include Larry Page, cofounder, Alphabet; Mark Zuckerberg, cofounder, chairman and CEO, Facebook; Jeff Bezos, CEO, founder, Amazon.com; Reed Hastings, founder, CEO, Netflix; Travis Kalanick, cofounder, CEO, Uber; Jack Ma, founder, CEO, Alibaba; Elon Musk, cofounder, CEO, Tesla Motors; Howard Schultz, CEO, Starbucks. The list was topped by Mark Benioff of Salesforce.com.

#### News 12: World Bank released 2015 Migration and Development Brief

Growth in global remittances, including those to developing countries, will slow sharply this year due to weak economic growth in Europe, deterioration of the Russian economy and the depreciation of the euro and ruble as per the latest issue of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief, released on 13th April 2016.



The 2015 remittance growth rates are the

slowest since the global financial crisis in 2008/09. The number of international migrants is expected to exceed 250 million in 2015, and their savings and remittances are expected to continue to grow.

#### News 13: India's Ad Growth Rate to be the Fastest in 2016: Report

India's 2016 advertising growth rate will be the fastest at 12%, way ahead of global average of 4.5%, including the US (4.7 per cent), the UK (6.2 per cent), Russia (0.2 per cent), China (5.8 per cent), Japan (1.8 per cent), and Brazil (6.8 per cent). The report was released by media agency Carat, which is part of the Dentsu Aegis Network. India's ad growth rate for the previous year was 11%. The growth is driven by the urge of marketers in India to promote their goods and services.

	2015	2016*	2017*
India	11.0	12.0	13.9
China	6.0	5.8	5.7
Brazil	7.8	6.8	8.4
US	4.4	4.7	4.0
UK	6.0	6.2	5.7
Japan	0.3	1.8	1.1
Russia	-9.8	0.2	3.5
Global	3.9	4.5	4.5
Forecast			Source: Car

It was reported that India's advertising market

is small at Rs 50,000 crore and the growth next year is expected to touch 13.9%.



### News 14: Time Magazine released the list of 100 most influential people in the world

Time Magazine released its list of 100 Most Influential People in the World. RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, tennis player Sania Mirza, actress Priyanka Chopra, Google CEO Sundar Pichai and founders of Flipkart, Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal have been named by Time magazine in its list of the '100 Most Influential People in the World'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not in the final list determined by Time's editors.



Time Magazine editor Nancy Gibbs revealed the others who made the cut, ranging from U.S. presidential candidates to Hollywood stars, and the qualities that defined them as "most influential" in the world.

### News 15: TCS recognized as one of the Times Top 50 Employers for Women in the UK

The Tata Consultancy Services has been recognized as one of the UK's leading employers for women in The Times Top 50 Employers for Women.

TCS' place in The Times Top 50 is recognition of its continued drive to make gender equality a central part of its business strategy, its ongoing commitment to enabling women to fulfill their professional ambitions across all areas of its



organization. TCS employs over 100,000 women globally, a third of its total workforce.



### **RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS**

#### News 1: Australian bowler Clint McKay announced his retirement from

#### international cricket

Australian pace bowler Clint McKay announced his retirement from international cricket. He will continue playing for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL) and for Leicestershire in the County Championship. McKay played in 59 oneday internationals, 6 T20 internationals and a Test for Australia.

McKay did not have outright pace, which

seemed to limit his prospects. He played only one Test and six T20Is but his resume was stronger in ODIs - 59 matches, 97 wickets at an average of 24.37 and economy rate of 4.78.

#### News 2: Iceland PM Gunnlaugsson resigned amid Panama Papers fallout

The Prime Minister of Iceland, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, resigned after leaked documents from a Panamanian law firm, Mossack Fonseca, revealed offshore finance and tax evasions by him.

The leaks exposed Gunnlaugsson owned an offshore company, Wintris Inc., with his wife but had not declared it when he entered parliament. He is accused of concealing millions of dollars' worth of family assets. He said that he sold his shares to his wife, and denies any

wrongdoing.



#### News 3: Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk resigned

Ukrainian Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced his resignation. His decision comes two months after he survived a no-confidence vote in parliament. The government has been plagued by corruption and economic struggles.

The tough-talking Prime Minister's decision comes barely two months after he survived a



bruising parliamentary no-confidence hearing in which MPs took turns takings jabs at the job he has done since February 2014. President Petro Poroshenko may appoint Volodymr Groysman as the new prime minister.



#### **News 4: England Cricketer James Taylor forced to retire**

England and Nottinghamshire batsman James Taylor was forced to retire at an early age of 26 because of a serious heart condition. He was diagnosed with Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC) and needs an operation.

He played seven Test matches for England averaged 26 with top Test score was 76 against Pakistan in November 2015. He played 27 ODIs with an average of 42.23. He scored seven



fifties and one century (101) against Australia in September 2015.

#### News 5: Flipkart Chief Product Officer Punit Soni resigned

The chief product officer of Flipkart, Punit Soni has quit. He had joined the company in March 2015. He helped build products such as Ping, a chat application on the mobile app, and relaunch its mobile website, Flipkart Lite.

He is a former Motorola vice president. Prior to joining Flipkart, he worked with Google as a product management executive. His exit, which ends months of speculation on his exact moves, comes at a time when Flipkart has seen



a management overhaul following several top-level exits, including that of commerce platform head Mukesh Bansal.

### News 6: Sri Lankan spinner Rangana Herath announced his retirement

#### from limited-overs cricket

Sri Lankan left-arm spinner, Rangana Herath, announced his retirement from limited-overs cricket. He will, however, continue to play in Test matches. He announced his retirement to concentrate on Test cricket as well as to allow young players to be groomed for the 2019 World Cup.



In ODIs, he claimed 74 wickets from 71 matches and in T20I, he claimed 18 wickets from 17 matches.



#### News 7: English Snooker great Steve Davis announced retirement

England's snooker legend Steve Davis announced his retirement from the game at the age of 58 years.

Davis began his career in 1978 and dominated the sport in the 1980s, winning six world titles and was world number one from 1983 to 1990. In a career spanning 38 years, he won 28 ranking titles, putting him joint second on the all-time list with Ronnie O'Sullivan and John Higgins. His last match came on 10 April where



he lost against Fergal O'Brien and failed to qualify for this year's World Championship.

#### News 8: Zee Media Corp Group CEO Bhaskar Das resigned

Bhaskar Das, Group CEO - News Cluster of Zee Media Corporation has quit following his transfer to another Essel Group entity. He resigned as Chief Executive Officer of the company with effect from April 20, 2016.

Prior to joining Subhash Chandra-led Essel Group as chief executive officer (CEO) in 2012, he was president of media group Bennett, Coleman and Co. Ltd (BCCL).



#### News 9: Double Olympic Champion Felix Sanchez retired

Two-time Olympic 400m hurdles champion Felix Sanchez announced his retirement. The 38-year-old from the Dominican Republic won two world titles and two Olympic titles during his international career.

He won his first gold in the Olympics in the 400-meter hurdles at the 2004 Olympics in Athens and second at the 2012 Summer Games in London. Sanchez reached the final at seven successive IAAF World Championships; only two other athletes in history have achieved such a feat in an individual track event.





### **SPORTS**

#### **News 1: Nico Rosberg won the Bahrain Grand Prix**

Mercedes star driver Nico Rosberg won the 2016 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix held at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir near the capital Manama. Rosberg romped to his 5th successive win and 16th Formula One victory.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen of Finland stood second, Rosberg's teammate, Lewis Hamilton of Britain stood third in the race. Force India's



Nico Hulkenberg (Germany) and Sergio Perez (Mexico) were at the 15th and 16th positions respectively.

#### News 2: West Indies Women team wins their maiden ICC World T20

The West Indies claimed their first Women's World Twenty20 after they defeated Australia by 8 wickets in the final clash at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. Stafanie Taylor and Meg Lanning were the captains of West Indies and Australia respectively.

- Player of the match Hayley Matthews (West Indies Women)
- **Player of the series -** Stafanie Taylor (West Indies Women)



#### News 3: Novak Djokovic won the 2016 Miami Open title

The top seed Novak Djokovic won his sixth Miami Open title after he defeated Japanese star Kei Nishikori in straight sets of 6-3, 6-3.

He also registered his 28th Masters Tournament win, moving ahead of Spaniard Rafael Nadal. In the process, he also became the first tennis player to win the Indian Wells-Miami Open double three years in a row. He also managed to surpass Swiss ace Roger Federer as the ATP's leading prize money



winner with a current career earning at \$98.2 million.



#### News 4: Victoria Azarenka won 2016 Miami Open titles

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus won the women's title of the Miami Open at Crandon Park and won \$1 million as prize money after she defeated Russian veteran Svetlana Kuznetsova in straight sets, winning by 6-3, 6-2.

This was her 3rd Miami Open title and 28th WTA Title. She also became the third woman in WTA history to lift the Indian Wells-Miami Open double after Steffi Graf and Kim Clijsters.



#### News 5: West Indies won the ICC World T20 Men's title

The West Indies team clinched their second ICC Cricket World T-20 Men's Cup 2016 after they defeated England in the final at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. West Indies is the only team to have won the Cup twice. Darren Sammy led the West Indies team whereas England was led by Eoin Morgan.



- Player of the match Marlon Samuels (West Indies)
- Player of the series Virat Kohli (India)

# News 6: Kento Momota and Ratchanok Intanon, champions of 2016 Yonex Sunrise India Open Badminton titles

Japanese shuttler Kento Momota and Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon emerged winners in the men's and women's finals of the \$300,000 India Open Superseries respectively.

In the final match held at the Siri Fort Sports Complex in New Delhi, defending champion Momota defeated Denmark's Viktor Axelsen



while Ratchanok Intanon defeated Olympic champion Xuerui Li of China.



#### News 7: Indian men won Gold in Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament

Indian men won the 2016 Asian Nations Cup Chess championship held in Abu Dhabi. The men's team registered a 3-1 victory over Vietnam in the final round. India collected 17 points, two more than World and Olympiad champions China, to clinch the title. Kazakhstan and Iran secured third and fourth places respectively.

The Indian team was represented by Grandmasters B Adhiban on top board, SP



Sethuraman, Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, Krishnan Sasikiran and Deep Sengupta. The Indian women's team came fourth. The women's team was represented by Woman Grandmasters (WGM) Soumya Swaminathan, Bhakti Kulkarni, GM Harika Dronavalli, International Masters (IM) Padmini Rout and Tania Sachdev.

#### News 8: Coca-Cola World Rankings 2016 revealed by FIFA

Federation Internationale de Football Association released the April 2016 edition of the FIFA or Coca-Cola World Ranking among 171 games which includes 51 qualifiers for Russia 2018 and 60 continental qualifiers and 60 international friendlies.

It was topped by Argentina Men's Soccer team followed by Belgium team to second position.



#### News 9: Danny Willett won 2016 US Masters Golf Championship

Danny Willett won the 80th edition of the 2016 US Masters golf championship. He won his first major by three shots on five under to become the first British victor in 20 years. Lee Westwood and Jordan Spieth tied up as joint runner ups. It was held from 7 April to 10 April 2016 at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia.



The Masters Tournament, also known as The Masters or The US Masters, is one of the four major championships in professional golf.



#### News 10: Anthony Joshua won the International Boxing Federation title

The British professional boxer Anthony Joshua won the International Boxing Federation heavyweight title in London. He knocked out defending champion Charles Martin in the second round. Joshua won his first world title in only his 16th professional fight.

As of March 2016, he is ranked the world's eighth best heavyweight boxer by The Ring magazine. As an amateur, he won a gold medal in the super heavyweight division at the 2012

Olympics, and silver at the 2011 World Championships.

#### News 11: Lee Chong Wei won the Malaysian Open 2016

World No 4 Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia won the men's singles title at the Malaysia Open 2016 after he defeated defending Champion China's world No. 1 Chen Long in the final which was held at the Malawati Stadium in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

It was Chong's 11th Malaysia Open crown after he won it consecutively from 2004-2006 and again from 2008 to 2014.



### News 12: Shiv Chawrasia named Hilton Asian Tour Golfer for the Month of March

Shiv Shankar Prasad Chawrasia was named the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for March 2016 in Sentosa, Singapore. He clinched the Hero Indian Open last month.

The Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award recognizes the outstanding efforts of Asian Tour members both at home and abroad. Chawrasia is the second Indian to win the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award after Anirban



Lahiri won the June-September title last year before going on to sweep the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Year award.



#### News 13: Wisden Almanack's Cricketer of the Year goes to New Zealand's

#### Kane Williamson

One of the illustrious New Zealand Cricketer, Kane Williamson was awarded as the Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for the year 2015. On the other hand, Australian captain Suzie Bates was announced as the Leading Women's Cricketer in the World for 2015.

This is for the first time that two New Zealand players - Williamson and Brendon McCullum -



were named among the Wisden Almanack's Five Cricketers of the Year. England's Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow, and Australia's Steve Smith completed the list of Five Cricketers of the Year.

#### News 14: WADA revoked accreditation of the Moscow Laboratory

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has revoked the accreditation of the Moscow Anti-Doping Center in Russia (Laboratory) due to non-compliance with the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) and the related Technical Documents.

The Laboratory was suspended by WADA on 10 November 2015 following a key recommendation in the WADA Independent Commission Report. Since that date, the



Laboratory has been prohibited from carrying out any WADA-related anti-doping activities including all analyses of urine and blood samples.

## News 15: Dipa Karmakar: First Indian woman Gymnast to qualify for the Olympics

The Indian artistic gymnast Dipa Karmakar became the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics.

She also became India's first gymnast to qualify for the Olympics in 52 years. She booked her Rio ticket with a gold medal in an Olympic Test event. The 22-year-old garnered a total score of 52.698 points in the Olympics qualifying event to book a berth for artistic gymnastics in



Rio Games. Karmakar is also a medalist at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and is one of only five gymnasts to have successfully completed the Produnova, one of the hardest vaults in the discipline.



#### News 16: Nico Rosberg won the 2016 Pirelli Chinese Grand Prix

Mercedes Driver Nico Rosberg of Germany won the 2016 Formula 1 Pirelli Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai International Circuit. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel of Germany stood second while Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat came 3rd.

Rosberg has won all three three Grand Prix that were held in 2016. It was Rosberg's sixth consecutive victory, having won the final three races of the 2015 season.



#### News 17: Australia won the 25th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

Australia won the 2016 edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup held in Ipoh, Malaysia after they defeated India 4-0 in the final. It was the 9th title win for the Australians having last won it in 2014. Defending Champions New Zealand secured third position. India finished third in the last edition.

Thomas Craig deservedly received the man-of-the-match. The Australian team, also popularly

known as the Kookaburras, were captained by Mark Knowles.



#### News 18: Rafael Nadal Beats Gael Monfils to win Ninth Monte-Carlo Title

Rafael Nadal captured his ninth Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters crown as he defeated Gael Monfils 7-5, 5-7, 6-0 in an enthralling final on Court Ranier III. He claimed a record-equaling 28th ATP World Tour Masters 1000 crown and his first for almost two years.



Player	Titles
Rafael Nadal	28
Novak Djokovic	28
Roger Federer	24
Andre Agassi	17





#### News 19: Laureus World Sports Awards 2016 announced

Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams claimed the top accolades, sportsman and sportswoman of the year respectively, at the Laureus World Sports Awards 2016 Berlin ceremony for their 2015 achievements. Brazil's Paralympic swimmer Daniel Dias was named disabled sportsperson of the year after winning seven golds at the IPC Swimming World Championships.



#### Other awards:

- Team of the Year: New Zealand, who won the Rugby World Cup
- Comeback of the Year: Rugby player Dan Carter of New Zealand
- **Breakthrough of the Year**: US golfer Jordan Spieth, who won the Masters and US Open
- Action Sportsperson of the Year: German triathlete Jan Frodeno
- Athlete of the Year: Argentina and Barcelona footballer Lionel Messi
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Three-time Formula 1 world champion Niki Lauda
- Spirit of Sport Award: Dutch football legend Johan Cruyff.

#### News 20: Emirates Airline continues longstanding relationship with ICC

The International Cricket Council (ICC) and Emirates Airline, the world's largest international airline, renewed a deal for an additional seven years which confirms Emirates as a Global Partner for all ICC events from 2016-2023.

The ICC and the Emirates relationship dates back to 2002, when the award-winning airline came on board as a sponsor of the ICC. The partnership was strengthened with Emirates



becoming the ICC's official partner for the 2007-2015 events cycle and the official sponsor of the ICC's elite panel of umpires and match referees.



#### News 21: India's Durga Thakur promoted as FIH International Umpire

India's Durga Thakur was promoted as International Outdoor Umpire by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) after her good performance at the Hawkes Bay Cup that was held in April 2016 in Hastings, New Zealand. FIH's list currently has 14 Indians in the elite league of international umpires (10 men, 4 women).

Durga Thakur is a graduate of NSNIS in 2011. Her first international assignment came in 2015 at the double Six-Nation Cup in Breda,



Netherlands. She is a physical education teacher at Modern School, New Delhi.

#### News 22: Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyaan renamed as Khelo India

The Union Government has merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) with the Khelo India program for development of sports.

Under the Khelo India scheme, schools and colleges from different parts of the country participate in about 27 disciplines. The RGKA was originally launched by UPA Government in



February 2014 with an aim to construct sports complexes in each block of the country by 2020.

### News 23: ICC suspends Hong Kong's Irfan Ahmed on account of

breaching ICC Anti-Corruption Code

The ICC suspended Hong Kong all-rounder Irfan Ahmed from all forms of cricket for two-and-a-half years after he admitted to breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code (the 'Code').

The suspension will end on 4 May 2018. Ahmed was not charged with any offence involving corruption but he had failed to disclose full details of approaches or invitations to engage



details of approaches or invitations to engage in corrupt conduct that had been made to him between January 2012 and January 2014.



#### News 24: WADA suspends the accreditation of the Beijing Laboratory

WADA has suspended its accreditation of the National Anti-Doping Laboratory in Beijing, China for a maximum period of four months.

The suspension, which takes effect immediately, prohibits the Laboratory from carrying out any WADA-related anti-doping activities including all analyses of urine and blood samples. During the period of suspension, samples are required to be transported securely to another WADA-



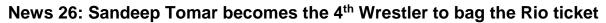
accredited laboratory. The Laboratory may appeal this decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days of receipt of notice.

# News 25: Salman Khan appointed as India's Goodwill Ambassador for 2016 Rio Olympics

Salman Khan has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian contingent for the 2016 Rio Olympics to be held in August 2016 by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He is the first actor to be chosen as goodwill ambassador So far, 75 Indian athletes in 8 disciplines have qualified for the Rio Olympic Games.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA), which

made the announcement at its headquarters in New Delhi, chose Salman from a list of two to three candidates which also included Shah Rukh Khan and veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan.



Wrestler Sandeep Tomar bagged an Olympic quota in the men's 57kg freestyle category after he defeated Alexandru Chirtoaca 10-0 and won the bronze medal in the 1st World Olympic qualifying tournament at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Sandeep became the fourth Indian wrestler after Yogeshwar Dutt (men's 65kg freestyle), Narsingh Yadav (men's 74kg freestyle), and

Hardeep Singh (Greco-Roman 98kg) to book a berth for the Rio Games.



#### News 27: Rafael Nadal won Barcelona Open Men's singles title

Rafael Nadal beat defending champion Kei Nishikori, 6-4, 7-5 to win the Barcelona Open for the 9th time and equal Guillermo Vilas' men's tennis record of 49 career clay-court titles.

Bob and Mike Bryan won the Barcelona Open men's doubles title after defeating Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas and the Spaniard Marcel Granollers 7-5, 7-5 in the final. It was Nadal's 9th Barcelona Open title, and he



has now won his opening 10 matches of the European clay-court season.

#### News 28: India to host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships

The Judo Federation of India has made an announcement that India will host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships in Jaipur. India will host the championship for the first time.

The Commonwealth Judo Congress had allotted the Championships to India at its meeting held at Port Elizabeth in South Africa. The championship is organized in every 2 years for Cadets, Junior, Seniors, Masters and visually impaired Judo Players. India will also host the 10th Asian Cadet Judo



Championships & 17th Asian Juniors Judo Championships from September 6th to 12th at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Kadvanthaa, Kerala.

#### News 29: South Africa: Cricket, Rugby banned from hosting tournaments

South Africa banned the national rugby and cricket federations from bidding for or hosting major international tournaments for at least a year over their failures to create opportunities for black players. Mbalula Minister Fikile **Sports** made announcement after receiving а report 'transformation' in South Africa's five biggest sports, Rugby, cricket, soccer, athletics and netball. The athletics and netball federations were also banned from bidding.



The South African government has been pushing for years for the country's main sports, especially rugby and cricket, to create more opportunities for black players.



## News 30: The Indian Government to provide Rs. 1 lakh per month to Riobound athletes

The Sports Ministry has decided to provide Rs 1 lakh per month as out of pocket allowance to the sports persons under the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme in their preparation for the Olympics and Paralympics Games at Rio de Janeiro. 77 Indian athletes in eight disciplines have qualified for the Olympics till date and many more are likely to qualify in the next two months.



The Target Olympic Podium scheme is a sports ministry initiative under which Olympic medal prospects are funded by the government for top class training as part of their preparations for the Games.

### News 31: Riyad Mahrez wins PFA Player of the Year Award

Algerian footballer, Riyad Mahrez, won the Professional Footballers Association's (PFA) Player of the Year award for the 2015–16 season and thus, became the first African footballer to win the PFA Award. Riyad Mahrez plays for English club Leicester City and the Algerian national team. Tottenham Hotspur and England midfielder Dele Alli was named Young Player of the Year.



Manchester City midfielder Izzy Christiansen won the PFA Women's Player of the Year award, Sunderland forward Beth Mead took the Women's Young Player of the Year award and Ryan Giggs was handed the PFA Merit award.

### News 32: Jeje Lalpekhlua named the Indian Player of the Year by FPAI

Indian striker Jeje Lalpekhlua was named the Indian Player of the Year by the Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) at its annual awards function held in Mumbai. Jeje plays for the Indian national team and for Chennayin FC in ISL. The other players nominated for the award included India's Captain Sunil Chhetri, Bikash Jairu, David Lalrinmuana and Dhanachandra Singh.



#### The winners in other categories are:

- Foreign Player of the Year: Nigerian striker Ranti Martins, who played for East Bengal in the I-League
- Young Player of the Year: Udanta Singh of I-League champion Bengaluru FC
- Coach of the Year: Bengaluru FC's coach Ashley Westwood



#### • The Fans' Player of the Year: Debjit Majumder

### News 33: Sanath Jayasuriya re-appointed as the Chief Selector

Former Sri Lankan Captain Sanath Jayasuriya was re-appointed as the Chief Selector of the national team by the Sri Lanka Cricket Board (SLC). The other members in the panel include former wicketkeeper-batsman Romesh Kaluwitharana, former fast bowler Eric Upashantha and former off spinner Ranjith Madurasinghe.



The new four-member selection panel will start office from 1 May 2016 and will serve for two years.

### News 34: Japan unveiled the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympics Emblems

Japan unveiled the official emblems of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, "Harmonized Chequered Emblems." The design was highly acclaimed by the public. Composed of three varieties of rectangular shapes, the design represents different countries, cultures and ways of thinking. It incorporates the message of "Unity in Diversity." It also conveys the fact that the Olympic and Paralympic Games seek to promote diversity as a platform to connect the world.



The design was selected following an open competition - the first ever in the Olympic history. The emblems were designed by Asao Tokolo.

# News 35: Deepika Kumari equals world record in recurve event at the Archery World Cup

Deepika Kumari equaled the world record in the Women's Recurve event of the Archery World Cup held in Shanghai, China. She scored 686/720 to equal the earlier world-record score of 686/720 set by South Korea's Ki Bo-Bae in 2015.

She had won silver medals in individual events in the 2011, 2012 and 2013 editions of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ 



Archery World Cup. She also has already qualified for the Rio Olympics.



# News 36: Garima Chaudhary wins Gold at Commonwealth Judo Championship

The 26-year-old Meerut based judoka, Garima Chaudhary won another gold medal at the 2016 Commonwealth Judo Championship finals in the 63 kg weight category at Port Elizabeth in South Africa.

In the year 2012, the 26-year-old Meerut based judoka was the only representative from India to contest for Judo Olympic medals at the London Olympic Games in 2012. Participating



in the 63 kg category, this 26-year-old from Meerut followed up her quarter-final exit from the previous edition of the competition held at Glasgow in 2014 in perfect fashion, winning the event.



## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### News 1: LIGO observatory set up in India

The MoU was signed between India's Department of Atomic Energy and the US' National Science Foundation (NSF) on setting up Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) in India, on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. The Union cabinet had said "LIGO-India will also bring considerable opportunities in cutting edge technology for the Indian industry" which will be responsible for the construction of the new observatory's 4-kilometer-long beam tubes.



Indian scientists at Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT) Indore have designed a special testing/prototype facility for receiving Advanced LIGO parts; have been training the teams that will install and commission the detector; and are currently cross-checking the IPR vacuum-system drawings against the Advanced LIGO detector drawings, to ensure a good fit and rapid installation for the third Advanced LIGO detector.

### News 2: Asia's largest Optical Telescope ARIES launched at Devasthal

01/04/2016 India's largest ground-based optical telescope, in Devasthal in Uttarakhand, switched by the prime ministers of India and Belgium from Brussels, during Narendra Modi's day-long visit to the country. Aries, the largest optical telescope of its kind in Asia, is a product of Indo-Belgian collaboration and will replace Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu to be Asia's largest ground-based optical telescope.



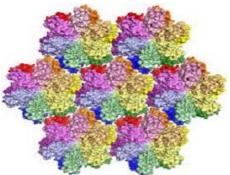
It will be used to study star structures and magnetic field structures of stars. The work is also afoot on other agreements in the areas of Information and Communication Technology, audio-visual production Tourism biotechnology and shipping and ports.



### News 3: The first 3D map of Zika virus structure revealed

According to a study published in Science journal, researchers of the Purdue University in Indiana in United States have successfully revealed the first 3D map of the Zika virus structure.

It can prove to be a major breakthrough in the battle against the mosquito-borne Zika virus as it provides a map that shows potential regions of the virus that could be targeted by a therapeutic treatment. It can further help to create an effective vaccine or to



improve ability to diagnose and distinguish Zika infection from that of other related viruses.

## News 4: Indian Scientists develop eco-friendly nanotechnology for water purification

A team of scientists from Guwahati (Assam) based Institute of Advance Study in Science & Technology (IASST) have developed an ecofriendly biopolymer using nanotechnology for water-softening and water purification applications.

The biopolymer has been created using a naturally occurring substance, called chitosan

and can be used in civic water treatment plants for generating potable water.



China successfully put into space a retrievable (returnable) scientific research satellite SJ-10 (Shijian-10). The bullet-shaped satellite was launched aboard Long March 2-D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwestern China's Gobi Desert.

The satellite will help scientists back on Earth in studying microgravity and space life science. SJ-10 is the second of four scientific satellites



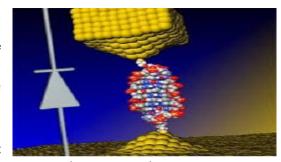
under a CAS space program and the 25th such retrievable satellite launched by China in the past decades.



### News 6: World's smallest diode developed

The world's smallest diode of a size of a single molecule, has been developed jointly by U.S. and Israeli researchers from the University of Georgia and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). The study was published online in Nature Chemistry.

The discovery can lead to progress in the design and construction of nanoscale electronic elements that are at least 1,000 times smaller than current components.



#### News 7: Low Cost Micro Solar Dome Surya Jyoti launched

Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched the Low Cost and Environment-friendly solar lighting device, Surya Jyoti. The device has been developed under the aegis of the Department of Science & Technology.

It would prove to be a boon for the urban and rural households in the country that do not have reliable access to electricity. Photo-Voltaic Integrated Micro Solar Dome costs



about Rs.1200 and the Non Photo-Voltaic version around Rs. 500.

### News 8: Gravity Gobbler 'Black Hole' weighing 17 billion Suns Found in

**Cosmic Backwater** 

The astronomers at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) discovered a super massive Black Hole in the center of a galaxy in a sparsely populated area of the universe.

The supersized black hole resides in the center of a massive elliptical galaxy, NGC 1600, located in a cosmic backwater, a small



grouping of 20 or so galaxies, which weighs about 17 billion times the mass of Sun," said astronomer Chung-Pei Ma, head of the MASSIVE Survey.



## News 9: Falcon 9 rocket successfully landed on a floating drone ship by SpaceX

The SpaceX successfully landed Falcon 9 rocket on a drone ship at sea after being launched into space. This was the first time that the company succeeded in landing the rocket in Ocean.

This was the second time SpaceX successfully landed one of its rockets post-launch, the first time was on 21 December 2015, when the



company's Falcon 9 rocket touched down at a ground-based landing site in Cape Canaveral, Florida, after putting a satellite into space.

## News 10: World's Thinnest Laptop Introduced by HR Inc. (Hewlett-Packard)

The American IT company HR Inc. (Hewlett-Packard) launched world thinnest laptop of 10.4 mm thickness, 13.3-inch full HD screen and weighs 2.45 pounds only. It has battery backup of 9 and a half hours. Surprisingly, the display isn't a touch-screen, and there's no option to get one.

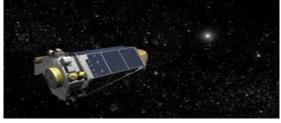


The IPS screen still looks sharp from a working distance and while a touch-screen and 4K would have been added plus points.

### News 11: NASA's Kepler Spacecraft goes into Emergency mode

NASA's Kepler spacecraft has gone into emergency mode (EM). Emergency Mode is the lowest operational mode during the orbit.

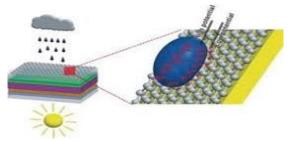
Launched in March 2009, the spacecraft looks for Earth-like planets orbiting other stars. Since its launch, the mission has been highly



successful. It has led to finding of more than 1,000 alien planets of which almost half are exo-planets to be ever discovered.

### News 12: Chinese researchers develop all-weather Solar Cell

A group of researchers from the Ocean University of China and Yunnan Normal University have developed a new type of solar cell that can generate electricity during rain. The prototype solar cell uses "Graphene" which allows electrons to flow freely on its surface.



Rain water consists of bits of salt that separate

into positive and negative ions. Graphene, on the solar panels, lets positive ions pair with negative electrons to produce electricity as the end product.



## News 14: Infosys co-founder S Gopalakrishnan launched 'Itihaasa' App which chronicles Indian IT journey

Infosys co-founder S Gopalakrishnan launched a new app named 'Itihaasa'. The app narrates the Indian IT journey since the 1950s with 600 videos featuring 44 technology stalwarts.

It contains extensive archives of newspaper articles on the Indian IT industry. There are 12,000 plus tags. It also contains extensive interviews of icons like TCS founder FC Kohli, Wipro's billionaire chairman Azim Premji and Infosys founders NR Narayana Murthy and Nandan Nilekani. It follows the installation of the country's first modern computer in 1955 to

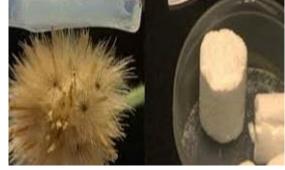


the country's first modern computer in 1955 to crystal gazing on Indian IT in 2040.

## News 14: World's lightest material 'Silica Aerogel' made by Indian Scientists

The Scientists at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram manufactured the world's lightest synthetic material called 'silica aerogel' or 'blue air' or 'frozen smoke'.

This material has excellent thermal resistance. It can be used as a filler in soldiers' uniforms making it useful at places like Siachen glacier. The material has uses both in space and on



Earth. It can be used to insulate rocket engines. Silica Aerogel is the lightest synthetic material ever made by man. The material is likely to be used on India's moon rover in Chandryaan-2 mission.

# News 15: PSLV-C33 Successfully Launches India's Seventh Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1G

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C33) successfully launched the 1425 kg IRNSS-1G, the seventh satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. This is the thirty fourth consecutively successful mission of PSLV and the thirteenth in its 'XL' configuration.



The Prime Minister dedicated IRNSS to the nation as 'NavIC' (Navigation Indian Constellation). IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.



### News 16: World's 1st historical graphene based e-paper made in China

The Guangzhou based OED Technologies of China made a breakthrough after it developed a brand new technology described as "the world's first graphene electronic paper". OED Technologies collaborated with a Chongqing-based firm to create the electronic paper.

E-paper is utilized in many modern digital devices including smart devices and e-readers. It is extra economical and environment friendly



than liquid crystal displays. E-papers are generally extra energy efficient, pliable and thinner. Graphene is the world's strongest and lightest known material; a single layer of graphene is only 0.335 nanometers thick, and it can conduct heat and electricity.



## **VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

# News 1: MHA forms Madhukar Gupta committee to suggest ways to tighten the security along the Indo-Pak border

The Union Government formed a high-level committee headed by former Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta to suggest ways to tighten the border protection along Indo-Pak border and address the issue of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing. The committee will submit its report in three months.



The committee will suggest comprehensive approach to fix the gaps in fencing and other vulnerabilities on interim and permanent basis.

## News 2: B B Tandon to head the committee that will the monitor Government Advertisements

The I&B ministry constituted a 3-member committee headed by former Chief Election Commissioner B B Tandon, to monitor government advertisements. The committee was formed in accordance with the Supreme Court directions dated 13 May 2015. The other two members of the committee are Rajat Sharma, Editor-in-Chief of India TV, and Piyush Pandey, Executive Chairman South Asia, Ogilvy and Mather.



The selection panel for constitution of this committee was headed by Chandramauli Kumar Prasad, Chairman, Press Council of India.



## News 3: Shyam Benegal panel submitted a report on the Censor Board

functioning

The Shyam Benegal headed committee constituted by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry to take a relook at the functioning of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), submitted its report to the ministry.

The committee has recommended that CBFC should only be a film certification body whose scope should be restricted to categorizing the



suitability of the film to audience groups on the basis of age and maturity. The committee also recommended that it should be more specific and apart from U category, the UA Category can be broken up into further sub-categories – UA12+ & UA15+. The A category should also be sub-divided into A and AC (Adult with Caution) categories.

# News 4: The SC appoints Gopal Subramanium as the Amicus Curiae to implement the Justice RM Lodha committee recommendations

The Supreme Court appointed senior advocate Gopal Subramanium as the 'Amicus Curiae' and sought his assistance to explore the ways to get the recommendations of the Justice RM Lodha committee implemented.

The committee has favored large-scale structural reforms. Mr. Subramanium may also suggest modifications to the committee's recommendations if he finds them to be unconstitutional but it may not be bind-able to



the court. However, the court will take the suggestions seriously as the court itself asked for the assistance.



# News 5: Parliamentary panel suggests fine, jail for the celebrities appearing in misleading advertisements

A Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Telugu Desam Party MP J C Divakar Reddy submitted its report and recommended stringent provisions including jail term up to five years and hefty penalty of up to 50 lakhs to make celebrities accountable for misleading ads and protect consumer interest. The report on the Consumer Protection Bill 2015 was tabled in Parliament on 26th April.



The panel recommended for legal teeth to Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to curb misleading ads. The panel recommended that the Department of Consumer Affairs should be empowered to make laws to regulate growing sectors of e-commerce, direct selling and multi-level marketing where consumer complaints are on the rise.



## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

# News 1: Astronaut Scott Kelly to publish a book on 'My Year in Space and Our Journey to Mars'

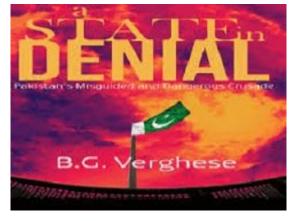
NASA astronaut Scott Kelly will write a memoir titled Endurance: My Year in Space and Our Journey to Mars. The book will be published by Alfred A. Knopf. He will mention in his book about the obstacles he encountered along the way, his early struggles in school, his training as a Navy test pilot, and the work required to become an astronaut and live in space for one year.



The memoir will offer a glimpse of Scott's journey to space and his life aboard the ISS. Kelly's retirement from NASA took effect on April 1, and that's freed him up to take on a variety of outside gigs – including the book deal. Knopf said Kelly would write "Endurance" with Margaret Lazarus Dean as co-author, with publication set for late 2017.

### News 2: Author and Journalist BG Verghese's 'A State in Denial'

A State in Denial - Pakistan's Misguided and Dangerous Crusade written by journalist BG Verghese re-released during a discussion organized by the India International Centre, New Delhi. BG Verghese who died on 30 December 2014, in his last book differs from others on the subject with its ultimately optimistic outlook and some radical out-of-the-box solutions on how the two countries can dismantle and bury deep over six decades of acrimony.



The book explores a subject of immense global

significance of Pakistan and its relations with remaining World including India. Verghese's book is not only a primer of what is wrong with Pakistan and how it could be fixed but also an eloquent warning against India making the same mistakes and miscalculations, quite a few of which he discerns in some measures of some figures of the Narendra Modi government and some of its ideological backers.



### News 3: Emraan Hashmi's 'The Kiss of Life' Book launched

The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the book 'The Kiss of Life: How a superhero and my son defeated cancer'.

The book, which Emraan Hashmi has co-written with author Bilal Siddiqi, tells about his struggle with his six-year-old son Ayaan's cancer treatment. The book has been published by Penguin Books India in three languages.

Born on February 2010, Ayaan, who is Emraan and wife Parveen Shahani's first child, was diagnosed with first stage cancer at the age of four in early 2014.



News 4: The Making of India: The Untold Story of British Enterprises authored by Kartar Lalvani

The Making of India: The Untold Story of British Enterprises written by Kartar Lalvani was in the highlight. The book discusses the many positive aspects of the colonial rule that remained untold. This book is the first to assess in a single volume almost all aspects of Britain's remarkable contribution in providing India with its lasting institutional and physical infrastructure.



Mr. Kartar Lalvani moved to Mumbai from Karachi after partition. He then studied Pharmacy in London and settled there. He is the founder-chairman of Vitabiotics, a global company that specializes in vitamin and mineral based formulations.

