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# GK Digest

# April 2016

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## International

### France operation 'Sangaris' comes to an end in CAR

France will end its three year long military operation 'Sangaris' in Central African Republic which came into force in 2013 following a communal violence.

- The France government proposed to withdraw its troops citing the formation of the new government under Faustin-Archange Touadera and restoration of peace
- The communal violence broke out in CAR when Muslim rebels ousted the Christian president Francois from power and following this French troops started the operation 'Sangaris' in 2013

### India 3rd in worldwide dope violation in new WADA report

India has become No. 3rd in Anti-Doping Rule Violation in 2014 – WADA reported

- Russia ranked first followed by Italy
- 96 Anti-Doping Rule violation cases registered by India.

### India becomes fourth largest spender on defence

India has become the world's fourth largest spender on defence, following a 13.1% increase in its 2016-17 defence budget, according to US research firm IHS Inc.

- India's rise in the rankings from sixth position last year is a result of an increase in expenditure to \$50.7 billion, combined with cuts to military spending by Russia and

Saudi Arabia, where low oil prices have put considerable strain on their finances.

### World Intellectual Property Day 2016 observed globally

The World Intellectual Property Day 2016 was on 26 April 2016 observed across the world with the theme Digital Creativity - Culture Re imagined.

- On this day, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) works together with various government agencies, non-government organizations, community groups and individuals to hold different events and activities to promote World Intellectual Property Day.
- The day is celebrated to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

### 4th Nuclear Security Summit begins in Washington

The fourth edition of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) began in Washington, United States to discuss a gamut of issues pertaining to nuclear security.

- In this edition of summit, heads of about 53 countries and representatives of five international organisations including the UNO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union (EU), Interpol are taking part.
- India is being represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the two-day summit.

### World Book and Copyright Day – April 23

World Book and Copyright Day (also known as International Day of the Book or World Book Day)

is observed on April 23 of every year by UNESCO in order to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people.

- World Book Capital 2016: Wroclaw, Poland
- World Book Capital 2017: Conakry, Republic of Guinea.

## **World Autism Awareness Day – April 2 2016**

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on the 2nd of April every year. World Autism Day is also one of only four official health-specific UN Days.

- This is the 8th annual World Autism Awareness day encouraging by the Member of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about children with autism throughout the world.

## **El Salvador declares drought emergency for first time ever**

The Central American country of El Salvador has declared a water shortage emergency

- It was the first drought emergency in its history.
- Residents near by the capital city of San Salvador have protested because of water shortages in recent weeks
- River and water reserve levels have reached a critical state.

## **New York Mayor declares April 14 as Bindeshwar Pathak Day**

New York City declared this year's April 14 as 'Bindeshwar Pathak Day' in recognition" of the contributions made by the Indian social activist and 'Sulabh International' founder for improving the

lives of people engaged in the "most dehumanising situation".

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio honoured Pathak for his outstanding work to improve health and hygiene and "moving the world forward".

## **World Hemophilia Day – April 17**

World Hemophilia Day is an international observance held annually on April 17 by the World Federation of Hemophilia. It is an awareness day for Hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

- The day was first established in 1989.
- Theme 2016: "Treatment for All The Vision of All"

## **World Heritage Day: 18th April, 2016**

World Heritage Day was observed all over the world on 18 April.

- The day is observed with an aim to create awareness among the people towards conserve and protect the valuable assets and cultural heritage across the world.
- The 2016 theme for the ICOMOS International Day on Monuments and Sites celebrated on 18 April is: The Heritage of Sport.

## **Bronze bust of Aryabhata unveiled at UNESCO Headquarters**

A bronze bust of ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata has been unveiled at the UNESCO by the HRD Minister Smriti Irani in an international conference on the zero in Paris, France.

- The bust has been sculpted by renowned Indian sculptor Ram Sutar who was

awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian awards for his contribution to the world of art.

#### **Dubai to build tower taller than Burj Khalifa**

Dubai plans to build a tower that will stand higher than its Burj Khalifa, currently the world's tallest skyscraper, will be built by property developer Emaar. The total cost will be USD 1 billion.

- The Tower in Dubai Creek Harbour, a 6-square-kilometer master development, will be a notch higher than 828-metre Burj Khalifa.

#### **Saudi Arabia and Egypt To Build Bridge Across Red Sea**

Saudi Arabia's King Salman has announced an agreement with Egyptian President Abdul-Fattah al-Sisi to build a bridge over the Red Sea connecting the two countries.

- The announcement made on the second day of visit of Saudi Arabia's King to Cairo. The planned bridge would help in boosting commerce and trade between the two allied countries.

#### **Hashim Thaci Sworn In As New President Of Kosovo**

Hashim Thaci, Foreign Minister of Kosovo has been sworn in as the President of Kosovo by the members of Parliament of the country in the 3rd round.

- Mr. Thaci succeeded Atifete Jahjaga in the voting held in Pristina.
- With this, he becomes fourth President of Kosovo after the European country had unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

#### **Maharaja Ranjit Singh Statue to be ensconced in France.**

The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh will be installed in France's Saint-Tropez town, the birth place of Army General Jean-Francois Allard.

- Henri Prevosat-Allard, Deputy Mayor and in-charge of tourism of Saint-Tropez met Punjab Tourism Minister Sohan Singh Thandal to invite him for the ceremony which will be held in the month of September.

#### **World Malaria Day: 25 April**

World Malaria Day is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria.

- It was firstly observed in 2008 by UNICEF to give public attention about the disease which causes millions of deaths every year.

#### **India Signed Paris climate pact**

India, along with 170 other countries has signed historic Paris climate pact in United Nation.

- Union Environment and Forestry minister Prakash Javarekar signed the pact in a high level conference at United Nation.
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon chaired the Conference which include Ministers, diplomats, industrialists and artists.

**World's largest indoor amusement park to open on 15 August**

World's largest indoor amusement park 'IMG world of adventure' will be opened on 15 August in Dubai. 30,000 people are expected to visit daily.

- CEO, Mr Lennard Otto said that 96 percent of the park is ready and it has an area of 15 lac sq. feet, which is equal to 28 Football grounds.

**Sangay re-elected PM of Tibetan 'govt-in-exile'**

National Democratic Party candidate Lobsang Sangay has been re-elected prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile in voting.

- Sangay crushed his only rival Penpa Tsering, receiving about 58 percent of the 58,740 votes casted in the prime minister's runoff.
- The result in the northern Indian town of Dharmasala, the headquarters of the government-in-exile.

**Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk resigns**

The Ukrainian Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced his resignation two months after he survived a no-confidence vote in parliament.

- Arseniy Yatsenyuk, 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Ukraine is a lawyer and economist.
- Yatsenyuk served in the government of Ukraine as Minister of Economy from 2005 to 2006.
- He was also served as Foreign Minister of Ukraine in 2007 and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) from 2007 to 2008

**Pakistan, China launch joint air force training exercise Shaheen 5**

China's air force to launch joint training exercises with Pakistan, the fifth such edition between the two countries. Shaheen-5 will take place from April 9 to 30 this year.

- This joint exercise was started in 2011 between both the countries.

**Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Temir Sariyev resigns**

Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Temir Sariyev resigned after a parliamentary commission accused his cabinet of corruption.

- A commission set up by the ex-Soviet republic's parliament revealed that the government had broken the law, accusing it of having rigged a \$100 million road construction tender to a Chinese firm that lacked the required license.

**India, US 'agree in principle' on sharing military logistics**

India and the United States have agreed in principle to share military logistics. Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar announced this agreement at a joint press conference with US Defense secretary Ashton Carter.

- According to Mr. Parrikar, the growing interaction between armed forces of the two countries is a "significant aspect of bilateral relationship". India has more joint exercises with the US than any other country in the world.
- The details of the logistic support will be decided by the two governments.

**Indo German Agreement on Namami Gange Signed**

An agreement has been signed for Ganga Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange

Programme in New Delhi, between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and German International Cooperation.

- The agreement was signed in the presence of the German Ambassador to India, Martin Ney and Secretary, and Shashi Shekhar, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

### **Cabinet nod for MoU with UAE to combat Human Trafficking**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a MoU between India and UAE on preventing all forms of human trafficking, especially women and children.

- The MoU is expected to be signed very soon after approval. Anti-trafficking Cells and Task Forces will work on both sides to prevent human trafficking.
- It will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and increase the bilateral cooperation on the issues of prevention, rescue, recovery and repatriation related to human trafficking

### **Dharmendra Pradhan Visit of to Bangladesh**

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Bangladesh. During his visit he discussed all bilateral issues relating to hydrocarbon sector between the two countries.

- New Delhi based Indian Oil Corporation has inked an MoU with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation to scrutinize the possibility of jointly working on setting up a LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) import terminal at Chittagong port and other downstream infrastructure in that country.

- The minister's discussions with his counterpart authorities focused on laying a Chittagong-Tripura pipeline.
- Bangladesh is likewise signing up Indian engineering consultancy firm Engineers India Ltd as consultants for extension of the Eastern Refinery.

### **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley visit to US**

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on a 10-day itinerary to the US to attend the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, a UN session on the drugs problem, and an interaction with American investors.

- He was accompanied by Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan and Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian and some Indian Delegations.
- FM Arun Jaitley will address World Bank in Washington
- Sixth Annual Ministerial Meeting of India-US Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP)

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

### **India ranked 133 in World Press Freedom Index**

India ranks abysmally low at 133 among 180 countries, in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index which says Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems "indifferent" to the threats posed to journalists.

- The 2016 'World Press Freedom Index' released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), is led by Finland, which retained its top spot for the sixth consecutive year, followed by the Netherlands and Norway.

**Europe becomes world's first region to end malaria: WHO**

Europe has become the world's first region to eliminate malaria the zone recorded with zero cases reported last year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

- The number of cases reported dropped to zero in 2015 from 90,712 in 1995.

**North Korea to block Facebook, Twitter, other websites**

North Korea has officially announced it is blocking Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and South Korean websites in a move underscoring its concern with the spread of online information.

- The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications announcement was posted this week at the country's main mobile service provider, Koryolink, and other places serving Internet users.
- Very few North Koreans have internet access. Typically they can only see a sealed-off, government-sanctioned intranet. But foreigners in the country had previously been able to surf the web freely.

**Vietnam Police Chief Tran Dai Quang sworn in as President**

Vietnam's Public Security Minister and Police Chief Tran Dai Quang has been sworn in as the communist country's president. Quang from Communist Party of Vietnam.

- The Police Chief received 436 votes from 465 assembly members who cast their votes accounted 5% of a rubber-stamp vote for Mr Quang that made him victory in parliament.

- Quang is the first police general to fill the post, He succeeds Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung withdrew his candidacy.

**Iceland PM steps aside after protests over Panama Papers revelations**

Iceland's embattled Prime Minister, Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, has become the first major casualty of the Panama Papers, stepping aside from his office amid mounting public outrage that his family had sheltered money offshore

- The leaked documents from the Mossack Fonseca law firm in Panama reveal Gunnlaugsson and his wife, Anna Sigurlaug Pálsdóttir, bought a British Virgin Islands-based offshore company, WintrisInc, in December 2007 to invest her share of the very substantial proceeds from the sale of her father's business, Iceland's only Toyota importer.

## National

**Narendra Modi to launch Asia's Biggest telescope Aries in Nainital**

A Major achievement and progress in the field of Astronomy, the Aryabhatta Research Institute for Observational Sciences abbreviated as ARIES the first optical telescope is set to be inaugurated by PM Modi in Nainital.

- It was a contract undertaken by the Aries and Belgian company- Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems in March , 2007

**Kachhabali Becomes 1st Liquor-free village in Rajasthan**

Kachhabali village in Rajsam and district of Rajasthan, has become the first in state to vote in support of closing down the only liquor shop in the village.

- The polling was carried out by the excise department of the state and 94% of the voters demanded that they want a complete ban on the sale of alcohol in the village.

**Seventh navigational satellite IRNSS 1G launched**

ISRO developed PSLV-C33 is carrying India's seventh navigation satellite IRNSS-1G which is blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sri Harikota.

- The satellite was successfully placed in sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. The satellite with a design life time of 12 years has 2 payloads for navigation and ranging.

**Mumbai to get its first Arbitration Centre**

The financial capital of India is likely to get the International Arbitration Centre. This will be the India's first arbitration centre for dealing the financial disputes.

- The financial disputes of India were dealt in the Singapore Arbitration centre, now with the establishment of the International arbitration centre in Mumbai it will be a boon to the Indian companies.

**Telangana government launches M Wallet mobile App**

State Road Transport Authority's brand-new mobile app, M-Wallet, was launched by IT minister

KT Rama Rao and transport minister P. Mahender Reddy. Telangana State Transport Authority's launched brand-new mobile app named M-Wallet, which is first of its kind in India.

- It will help motorists to avoid physically carrying documents like driving licence, registration certification and other vehicle related documents, since digital certificates can be uploaded through the App.

**Haryana fixes edu qualification for Urban Bodies' polls**

Haryana Assembly passed two Bills mandating minimum educational qualification for contesting urban local bodies polls in the state.

- The minimum educational qualification for a general male candidate will be Class X, while that for women and those belonging to SC category would be Class VIII.

**"Vidyut PRAVAH" App will Empower Common People to Demand 24x7 Power from The States"**

Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal launched a mobile application Vidyut PRAVAH Mobile application, the app will empower common people to demand 24X7 power from the states.

- Vidyut App will provide information belong to to the current demand met, shortages if any, surplus power available and the prices in the Power Exchange.

**Union Government releases Indian Intellectual Property Panorama**

Union Government has released Indian Intellectual Property (IP) Panorama to increase awareness and build sensitivity towards IP in the SME sector, academia and researchers.



- The IP Panorama is a single window interface for information on IP and guidance on leveraging it for competitive advantage. It can be accessed at <http://ict-ivr.in/index.php/ip-panorama>.
- The Indian IP Panorama is a customized version of IP Panorama Multimedia toolkit developed by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA).

### **Piyush Goyal Launched Schemes for Distribution of Energy Efficient Smart Agriculture Pumps & Fans in Andhra Pradesh**

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal with Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh to launch two schemes in Vijayawada , Andhra Pradesh, In order to make country more energy efficient.

- National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme,
- National Energy Efficient Fan Programme.
- These Schemes will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited under Power ministry.

### **Low cost and environment-friendly solar lighting device Solar Jyoti launched by Dr. Harsh Vardhan**

Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the Low Cost and Environment-friendly solar lighting device, Surya Jothi the device has been developed under the aegis of the Science& Technology Department.

- This technology would lead to the saving of fossil fuels to a great extent as 1 unit of energy saved is equivalent to 3 units of energy generated.

### **Cabinet approves new oil import policy**

1Union Cabinet has given its approval to replace the existing policy on crude oil import by Oil PSUs. These companies are authorised to go forward to their own policies for import of crude oil, consistent with the Central Vigilance Commission guidelines and get them approved by the respective boards.

- This decision will provide a more efficient, flexible and dynamic policy for crude procurement, eventually benefiting the consumers.
- Oil marketing PSUs have been allowed to buy crude on a day-to-day basis against the prevailing cumbersome practice of calling tenders two-months before purchase.

### **'Green UP – Clean UP' Programme: Five crore trees to be planted in UP**

Akilesh Yadav led Uttar Pradesh government has directed all the district magistrates for plantation of 5 crore trees at 6,500 sites in 24 hours on a date fixed in month of July under the 'Green UP – Clean UP initiative .

- Earlier in November, stategovt created a record by planting 10 lakh plants in a day.

### **Uma Bharti inaugurates Water Films Festival**

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti inaugurated Water Film Festival at Water Expo-2016 in New Delhi .

- Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that Water Resources are the prime input to the growth and prosperity of a nation and Films can prove to be an effective tool of communication to spread the message of water conservation. Sushri Bharti said such films should be shown in every nook and

corner of the country for the benefit of the masses.

- The Films festival was organized by Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) Limited, a PSU under Ministry of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation as part of the ongoing India Water Week 2016 celebrations.

### **Rajasthan Becomes the first state in India to clear land title Bill**

Rajasthan has become the first state to pass land title bill.

- State Assembly passed the Rajasthan Urban Land (Certification of Titles) Bills 2016.
- State government will set up an authority which will be headed by an Indian Administrative Service Officer.
- Now land owners can get their land certificates by giving a negligible fee to state government.

### **Union HRD Minister Smriti Zubin Irani Launches ISBN Portal**

The Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani has launched a portal for registration and allotment of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) at a function held in New Delhi.

- The portal has been created to facilitate publishers as well as the authors to register for ISBN online.
- ISBN gives an identity to a book and will enhance information about authors and publishers. This interactive automated system would provide fast and efficient services in a stipulated time frame to the Publishers and Authors as well.

### **India, Maldives sign six agreements in different sectors**

In the delegation-level bilateral talks led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom both sides signed 6 agreements in the fields of defence, tourism, taxation, space research, and conservation of mosques.

- One agreement was about dual taxation on the revenue generated by international air transport.

### **Jharkhand Government announced to reserve 2 percent employment for meritorious sports persons**

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the government would reserve two per cent employment in various departments for meritorious sports persons of the state.

- Currently two per cent job quota for medal-winning sports persons is there only in state police department. Now it will be applicable in all departments.

### **Prime Minister to Inaugurate 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the three-day 3rd Edition of Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in New Delhi.

- More than 700 tiger experts, scientists, managers, donors and other stakeholders are gathering to discuss issues related to tiger conservation.

### **Shan-E-Punjab Express Becomes the First Train Fitted with CCTV Surveillance Cameras.**

Union Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhu inaugurates fitment of CCTV in Shan-E-Punjab Express (Amritstar-New Delhi) through Video-Conferencing. CCTV Surveillance Cameras installation is a one more step towards improving security in Indian Trains.

- The installation of surveillance systems was done through Ms/ A-Paul Instrument Company at an approximate cost of 36.71 lakh.
- CCTV system includes 4 to 6 Cameras per coach with Digital Video Recorder (DVR)

### India's Maharajas' Express among top rated trains globally

India's Maharajas' Express has been ranked among the top rated trains in the world, while The Plaza New York was rated among the best hotels for the super-rich, says a survey.

- The Maharajas' Express' train has redefined the luxury travel experience by offering guests the opportunity to explore fabled destinations providing a glimpse of rich cultural heritage of Incredible India

### Delhi government launched PoochhO Carpool app to help people during odd-even scheme

"PoochO Carpool" app was launched by Delhi Transport Minister Gopal Rai to give people more options for carpooling during the second phase of the odd-even traffic scheme(April 15 to 30)

- It would help users find carpool options within a radius of 1-5km
- It would have a chat feature that will help users communicate with the car driver without even mentioning their numbers
- The scheme is not applicable to CNG vehicles, two-wheelers, women motorists,

cars carrying school children in uniform and several kinds of VIPs

### Haryana Government renames Gurgaon as Gurugram

Manohar Lal Khattar led Haryana government decided to rename Gurgaon district as Gurugram. The state government also decided to change the name of Mewat district to Nuh.

- The decision comes from government in the aftermath of the demands by people of the area.

### India ranks 44 in 2016 Global Connectivity Index, Digital India seen as driver of growth

India placed at the 44th position among 50 different countries in a Global Connectivity Index (GCI) report has been compiled Electronics major by Huawei. The list was topped by USA.

- The 50 countries assessed by GCI 2016 account for 90 percent of global GDP and 78 percent of the world's population.
- Huawei claims that the GCI also includes survey results from 3,000 firms across 10 verticals in 10 nations.

### "India Rankings 2016" by NIRF

Ministry of Human Resource Development released the first ever domestic ranking "India Rankings 2016" which has been made by National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

- The report by NIRF covered 3,500 educational institutes in 4 categories University, Engineering, Management and Pharmacy.
- In the Tech category, IIT- Madras topped the list while in the management category, IIM-Bangalore leads the chart.

**India's first semi-high speed train 'Gatimaan Express' flagged off**

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the Gatimaan Express from Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station, Gatimaan Express, India's first high speed train, crossed its maiden trip of 188 Kms in 101 minutes.

- The train runs at a speed of 160 km per hour, covering the 184 kilometre distance between Delhi and Agra in 105-110 minutes. Gatimaan Express which is India's first semi-high speed train.

**Maharashtra Gov become first to bring law against Social boycott & launched Mission Drinking Water**

The Maharashtra Assembly lead by Devendra Fadnavis passed the Prohibition of Social Boycott Bill 2016 to becoming the first State to enact such a law.

- He also launched the 'Mission Drinking Water' to conquer water crisis.

**India, US to collaborate on tackling offshore tax evasion**

India and the US have agreed to enhance collaboration on tackling offshore tax evasion and increase cooperation in sharing of cross-border tax information.

- Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley and US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told in a Joint Statement that we are committed to continued collaboration and sharing of experience in tackling offshore tax evasion and avoidance, including joint tax audits and tax examination abroad.
- The statement was issued after Mr Jaitley and Mr. Jacob Lew co-chaired the 6th US-

India Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP) in Washington on the sidelines of the annual Spring Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank.

**Jharkhand Government launched Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana for widows**

A target of 11,000 units (houses) has been set in the current financial year for the programme, adding Rs 80 crore has been earmarked in the budget for it.

- Rs 75,000 would be granted to build a house in districts in hilly terrains and Rs 70,000 in plains in three installments
- The widows would also get pension

**Trimbakeshwar allows entry of women with rider, activists**

The Trimbakeshwar Devasthan Trust in Maharashtra to allow women into the sanctum sanctorum of Shiva temple for an hour every day.

- The Temple Trust allowed with a rider that they must wear wet cotton or silk clothes while offering prayers in the core area. Women activists have, however, refused to abide by the rule and lodged a police complaint against the Temple Trust.
- This Decision comes in the aftermath of trust meeting that arrived on the decision following an agitation by Pune-based Swarajya Sanghatana.

**Delhi ranked 44th among world's 50 'future-ready cities'**

Delhi is ranked 44th on the list which is topped by San Jose, followed by San Francisco, Singapore and London as the world's most future-ready cities.

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- The efforts put in by the Delhi and Union government to make a digitally enabled nation, one that allows for last mile connectivity and helps improve the quality of life.

### **Dhoni quits as Amrapali Brand Ambassador**

India's Limited edition Cricket Captain MS Dhoni has resigned as brand ambassador of realty firm Amrapali, days after the residents turned unhappy of a housing project in Noida launched a social media campaign asking the cricketer to dis-associate himself from the builder.

- The Indian captain was the brand ambassador of the company for the last 7 years.

### **Government to allow Pakistani Hindus to buy property, open bank accounts**

People belonging to minority communities of Pakistan, staying in India on Long Term Visa, will soon be allowed to buy property, open bank accounts and get PAN Card as well as Aadhaar.

- The government also offer reduction in fees for registration as citizens of India from Rs.15,000 to as low as Rs.100.
- The exact number of minority refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan living in India is not known.
- Approximately, 400 Pakistani Hindu refugee settlements are there in cities like Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Raipur, Ahmedabad,

Rajkot, Kutch, Bhopal, Indore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Delhi and Lucknow.

### **Nagaland's Kohima declared 'smoke-free city'**

Nagaland's capital Kohima has been declared as a 'smoke-free city'.

- The official declaration was made by the Deputy Commissioner of Kohima, Rovilatuo Mor.
- A tobacco product contains 4000 chemicals which destroy any part of the body and causes death to one million people in India every year.

### **Gujarat govt. decides to provide 10 % reservation to economically backward of higher castes**

Gujarat Government will issue an ordinance on 1st May to provide 10% reservation to economically backwards of higher caste.

- Any persons, whose monthly family income is less than Rs. 50 thousand will entitle for this new quota.
- There will be no change in reservations presently available to SC, ST and OBCs in the state.
- The ordinance will be drafted in a way that constitution provisions regarding reservations would not be violated.

### **BSF to put tallest 'Tiranga' at Wagah border by January 2017**

The Border Security Force (BSF) is planning to install the tallest national flag near the Attari-Wagah Joint Check Post, famously known as the Wagah border.

- The flag at 350 feet is part of BSF's expansion plans for the visitors' gallery at the site of the iconic Retreat ceremony.

#### **NITI Aayog launched urban management programme for capacity building of states and urban local bodies**

NITI Aayog chaired by Vice Chairman Dr Arvind Panagariya has launched the Urban Management Programme in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The Programme is designed by NITI Aayog, Temasek Foundation and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) under the platform of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between NITI Aayog and the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE).
- It was to tap the expertise of Singapore in urban sector to build capacities in State Governments and ULBs to design efficient solutions to urban problems.

#### **Indian Naval Ships Veer and Nipat Decommissioned**

Two Indian Naval Ships 'Veer' and 'Nipat' were decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

- The decommissioning ceremony was held in the presence of Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command.

#### **Rahuri in Ahmednagar Becomes First to have Digi-Locker**

Rahuri Municipal Council of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra has become the first Municipal Council to attain the status of integrated with digital locker for the issuance of all essential Documents.

- Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad formally launched this service as part of Digital India Programme.
- With this facility, the citizen of the area can now apply for the certificates like Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates online without going to Municipal Council and these documents will be available in the Digilocker signed to the citizens.

#### **EC launches mobile app e-voter for Kerala assembly polls**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched an innovative mobile application titled e-voter with comprehensive details about the forthcoming 2016 Assembly polls in Kerala.

- The app is envisaged for voters' facilitation for search in electoral roll, information regarding candidates, location of polling station, affidavit filed by them, filing of complaint and so on.
- The e-voter app was developed by the state IT Mission. It aims at ensuring great transparency and conduct of free and fair elections.

#### **Netaji's driver becomes oldest human alive at 116 years**

Netaji's Driver Colonel Nizamuddin becomes oldest human alive at 116 years by opening a bank account at the ripe old age of 116-years.

- Colonel Nizamuddin alias Saifuddin's voter identity card and passport, which he produced as proof of identity before the

State bank of India for opening the account, he was born in 1900.

- This year February a Japanese man, who was thought to be the oldest man alive passed away at the age of 114

### **World's largest 'charkha' to be on display at IGI airport**

Wooden Charkha -spinning wheel which is largest in the world is planned to be installed at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here is ready for dispatch from a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Ahmedabad.

- It was the initiative of KVIC Chairman V K Saxena who decided to install the world's largest charkha at the international airport in Delhi.

### **Army conducts battle exercise 'Shatrujeet' in Rajasthan**

Indian Army's elite STRIKE 1 corps is to conducting a major exercise Shatrujeet in the deserts of Rajasthan to evaluate the capability of the Army to strike deep into enemy territory in an integrated air-land battle environment.

- Nearly 30,000 soldiers are taking part in exercise Shatrujeet to ensure the forces are provided real war-like situations and are kept in a high state of battle readiness.
- The exercise would culminate on April 23.

### **SC/ST victims to get minimum compensation of Rs 8.5 lakh from state government**

Union government to compensate of Rs 8.5 lakh for SC/ST victim of gang rape, murder or an acid attack including 47 offences to get the

compensation from a state government, The new rules have come into force immediately.

- The amended the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, in which states will pay compensation ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 8.25 lakh to SC/ST victims.
- The amounts now must be paid by the state within 7 days of the incident being reported, either in full or at various stages of the investigation and trial, as per a schedule.
- The new rule says state Police have to file a charge sheet in cases of SC/ST victims within 60 days and any delay has to be explained in writing by the officers.

### **Konkani museum to be set up in Mangaluru**

Mandd Sobhan, a Konkani cultural organisation, will set up a Konkani museum in Mangaluru.

- The Karnataka Budget for 2016-17 has allocated ₹ 2.5 crore for the project.
- The state government has assured to allocate another ₹ 5 crore in the next financial year.

### **New Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies**

National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in collaboration with Indian 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 a 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.
- Ministry was focused on cleaning the Ganga by setting up Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).

#### **PM Modi inaugurates Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana super-specialty hospital in Katra**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 230 bedded Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super specialty Hospital in Katra in Jammu and Kashmir.

- For the hospital operation the board has entered into an agreement with Narayana Hrudayalaya Ltd, Bangalore that operates 32 hospitals across the country.

#### **Cabinet approves signing the Paris Agreement**

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for signing the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of Parties held in Paris in last December.

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar will sign the agreement from India side on 22 April 2016 at the high level signature ceremony convened by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

#### **Government merges Rajiv Gandhi KhelAbhiyan with Khelo India**

The Union Government has merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan with Khelo India. They merged another two sport projects which were launched during UPA Government

- Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS)

#### **Missed call service launched for local train updates**

The Western Railway has launched a unique service through which commuters would be able to know the running status of local trains from simply giving a missed call.

- The commuter needs to dial the Toll Free No.- 1800 212 4502 and the call will get disconnected automatically after two rings subsequent to which an SMS will be sent informing the running status of the suburban trains.
- Western Railway has hired a private agency to facilitate this service.
- The best part of this service is that the system can be used by any kind of mobile phones be it smartphone or high end mobile or basic mobile phone.
- Commuters would not need to have internet connection and the service is totally free of cost and commuters can also alternately register themselves with [www.Mobitip.Info](http://www.Mobitip.Info) for daily periodic updates at scheduled times.

#### **Heart of Asia conference begins in New Delhi**

The heart of Asia conference has begun in New Delhi. The conference aims to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan and speeding up its reconstruction with a focus on enhancing investment and connectivity to the country.

- In this conference 14 countries are participating and apart from those there are some countries who are supporting the conference which include France, Germany, Canada etc.



## **Indo-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise, Nomadic Elephant – 2016, commenced**

The 11th Indo-Mongolia joint training Exercise, titled 'Nomadic Elephant - 2016' commenced on 25 April 2016 in Mongolia.

- The exercise aims at promoting military associations between India and Mongolia will culminate on 8 May 2016.

## **Ceasefire in Nagaland extended by one year**

Union Government and National Socialist Council of Nagaland, under the leadership of N. Kitovi Zhimomi and M.B Neokpao Konyak have mutually agreed to extend the Cease Fire Agreement by another year with effect from April 28.

- The agreement targets to bring lasting peace in the state of Nagaland with the involvement of Naga people.

## **Chandigarh to host this year's International Yoga Day**

Chandigarh will host this year's International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21, with the Centre deciding to shift the venue from the Rajpath.

- The Ministry has decided to shift the venue of the event from Delhi this year, as a steep increase in the number of participants to the mass Yoga event is being expected this year.

## **7 Women officers of SSC granted permanent commission by Navy**

To provide equal opportunities to women officers Indian Navy decided to grant permanent commission to seven women officers belonging to

the Short Service Commission (SSC) batch of 2008-09.

- Earlier the Navy had limited women officers only to the Short Service Commission of 14 years.
- From 2017 women officers can choose to join as pilots of Maritime Reconnaissance planes viz. Boeing P8I, Dornieras also in the Naval Armament Inspectorate cadre.

## **Shyam Benegal panel submits report on censor board**

Film maker Shyam Benegal headed committee constituted by the Information and Broadcasting ministry to suggest measures to help Board members understand the distinctions of film certification of the censor board submitted its report to I&B minister Arun Jaitly.

- The committee suggested that the Central Board of Film Certification can decline certification if a film having anything that contravenes the provisions of Section 5B (1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- CBFC head will only plays the role of a guiding mechanism for the body, and not be involved in the day-to-day activities regarding the certification of films.

## **Union Railway Ministry to set up Rs 1 lakh crore Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh**

Ministry of Railways has pledged to set up a 1 lakh crore rupees safety fund called Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh which aimed to strengthen safety measures on the rail network to prevent accidents.

- The announced fund will help to accomplish railway's zero-accident mission by

strengthening the safety measures on the rail network in a comprehensive way.

- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced renaming of the body in his budget speech for 2016-17.
- The new department has been mandated to advise the government in the matters of financial restructuring of central public sector enterprises and for attracting investment through capital markets.
- The body will deal with all matters concerning to management of union government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in central public sector undertakings.

#### **Panel suggests fine or jail for celebs in misleading ads**

Parliamentary Standing Committee has been formed to tackle misleading advertising as well as to fix liability on endorsers/celebrities.

- The panel suggests that for first time offence the violator may be penalised with either a fine of Rs 10 lakh or imprisonment up to two years or both. For second time offence a fine of Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment of five years.

#### **Uttara khand HC quashes President's Rule**

The Uttarakhand High Court quashed the order of the Union government that had put the State under President's Rule on March 27.

- The Court also ordered that a floor test must be held in the Uttarakhand Assembly on April 29 where former CM Harish Rawat's claim of having majority support shall be put to test.

#### **Mumbai Noisiest city: Central Pollution Control Board**

While Delhi may be the dirtiest city in terms of high air pollution but the Mumbai is reported the maximum violation of safe noise levels for consistently longer periods during 2011-14 and becomes Noisiest City in India.

- Rank 1: Mumbai 2: Lucknow 3: Hyderabad 4: Delhi

#### **Department of Disinvestment is now 'DIPAM'**

The Department of Disinvestment which runs under Finance Ministry has been renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management or 'Dipam',

#### **PM ushered in "Stand Up India" scheme**

In order to promote entrepreneurship, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the "Stand up India scheme" and a Web portal for the scheme in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- The initiative is taken to elevate entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women by providing loans between Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs.
- 5100 E-Rickshaws also distributed at the launch event by Bhartiya Micro Credit (BMC) under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna scheme. Kaushal Vikas Kendra also inaugurated in Noida.

## **UIDAI produced 100 crore Aadhaars**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) touched the historic point in a range of five and a half years by producing the 100<sup>th</sup> crore Aadhaar.

- The first Aadhaar was issued in 2010.
- This major landmark had achieved just after the government notification of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, benefits and services) Act, 2016 which will give statutory support to exchange of subsidies and advantages to qualified individuals having Aadhaar (UID) number.

## **National Maritime Day – April 5**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> National Maritime Day is observed on 5<sup>th</sup> April with the theme of “Ease of doing business in the maritime sector”.

- The National Maritime Day is celebrated every year on 5th April in commemoration of the maiden voyage of the first Indian Vessel ‘S. S. Loyalty’.

## **Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) project instigated by Odisha**

In 14 districts of the state 100 Adarsha Vidyalayas has been launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during an event held in the Ambagaon village of Ganjam district, Odisha.

- These schools will be administered by the Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya Sangathan of the state.

## **Anandiben Patel launches ‘Maa Annapurna Yojna’**

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel launched the state-wide implementation of Centre’s National

Food Security Act, which has been renamed as Maa Annapurna Yojna by the state government.

- Under the scheme, a beneficiary holding the Annapurna card will receive wheat at Rs 2 per kilo and rice at Rs 3 per kilo. Currently, Above Poverty Line (APL) card holding families are entitled to a monthly stock of 2.5 kg wheat per member of the family at Rs 7.70 per kg.

## **Permanent memorial to Kalam at Dilli Haat in INA**

AAP government has decided to build a permanent memorial to APJ Abdul Kalam at a famous market here where belongings of the former President including his books and musical instruments would be on display.

- They will be kept inside the Delhi Assembly till July 27 and thereafter, they will be permanently placed at Dilli Haat.
- The Delhi government will also have a permanent exhibition on Kalam at Delhi Haat.

## **Mumbai gets its first-ever AC local train**

The first ever air-conditioned local train for Mumbai flagged off into the city, the blue-grey train rake with a stainless steel body has 12 coaches with a capacity to seat 5,964 passengers.

- The new train will consume 25% lesser energy as opposed to normal rakes.
- The train has been in the making since July 2014 in the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, under an Rs 54-crore project.

## **Bihar Government imposes complete ban on alcohol**

With the ban on country liquor Bihar would become the fourth state in India to impose a total prohibition of alcohol.

- After the ban on country liquor, the state government said it would continue selling IMFL at 655 liquor shops in towns and cities.

- They will also provide information regarding incubators and funding agencies recognized for the purpose of recommending Startup sup to Rs 25 crore.
- Startup India Hub was established within Invest India will be a single point of contact for the entire Startup ecosystem. It would enable exchange of knowledge and will work in a hub and spoke model with Governments, Angel Funds, VCs, Incubators, Mentors, etc.

## Trade and Economy

### Japan commits loan worth 14251 crores

Japan has been providing support to India both financially and technically when it comes to the development of Infrastructure. It has now committed a loan worth 242.2 billion yen for the various infrastructure projects in India.

- Transmission System Strengthening Project in Madhya Pradesh -JPY 15.45 billion
- Odisha Integrated Sanitation Improvement Project -JPY 25.7 billion
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) -JPY 103.6 billion or Rs 6,170 crore
- North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project- JPY 67.1 billion
- Jharkhand Horticulture Intensification by Micro Drip Irrigation Project -JPY 4.65 billion

### Union Government launches Startup India portal and mobile app

The Union Government has launched the Startup India portal (<http://startupindia.gov.in>) and mobile application.

### Flipkart acquires mobile payments firm PhonePe

India's largest e-commerce company Flipkart has acquired PhonePe, a Bengaluru-based mobile payments company

- It was co-founded by ex-Flipkart employees Sameer Nigam and Rahul Chari.
- PhonePe is building India's a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based product, which is, planned to go live in April. The interface will allow users to transact using their unique identification and mobile phone number or virtual payments address without sharing any other bank details.

### Ficci, AIBC sign MoU to strengthen business ties

In a bid further strengthen and promote business ties with Australia, FICCI on Friday announced inking an MoU with Australia India Business Council (AIBC).

- The agreement was signed in the presence of the visiting Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the 'Invest in India Round Table Conference' here.
- According to National Chairman of AIBC Dipen Rughani: "The signing of the MoU is a great milestone in the bilateral relations between the two organisations and will certainly have a positive impact and add

tremendous value to the business relations between the two countries."

- The agreement reinvigorates the ongoing relationship between the two organisations to further promote, facilitate and grow the trade and investment relationship between Australia and India.

### **India signed World Trade Organization's Trade facilitation agreement**

India officially signed the World trade organization's trade facilitation agreement

- This move would supplement India's ongoing reforms to bring in simplification and transparency in cross-border trade in goods. India is 76<sup>th</sup> country to sign TFA.

### **RBI issues master direction on merger of private sector banks**

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) issued the master direction for merger of private sector banks and also between NBFCs and banks.

- The decision of amalgamation should be approved by respective boards by two-thirds majority
- NBFC merging with a private sector bank, all accounts should be KYC compliant as they would eventually become accounts of the banks after amalgamation.

### **Union Government imposes safeguard duty on import of steel products**

Union finance ministry imposed the Safeguard duty of up to 20 percent on steel imports until March 2018 to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap Chinese imports.

- The finance ministry notification directs 20 percent ad valorem safeguard duty in the

first year from September 14, 2015 to September 13, 2016 on hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy and other alloy steel in coils of 600 mm width or more.

### **Banks have to report foreign contribution to NGO's within 48 hours**

All the Banks mandated to report to the central government within two days any information on NGOs getting foreign funds.

- The amended Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules 2015 directed these rules in Gazette of India on December 2015.
- As per the rules banks have to report to the central government within 48 hours any transaction in respect of receipt and utilization of any foreign contribution by any person.
- This is applicable irrespective of whether or not such person is registered or granted permission under the FCRA.

### **DBS Bank launches mobile-only bank**

Singapore based DBS Development Bank launched a mobile-only bank in India. The dedicated digibank uses technologies like biometrics and artificial intelligence for paperless, signature-less and branchless bank.

- The virtual bank will influence biometrics-integrated ID and Aadhaar card to ensure that that there is no paperwork. It will provide customer service via a 24x7 artificial intelligence-driven assistant networks.
- It will have an intuitive budget optimiser that will help customers do their budgeting, track expenses and analyse purchasing trends.

- The digibank is smart such that it can understand customer behavior and preferences, synthesise data, and provide recommendations.
- It also has embedded soft token security, avoiding the need to wait for SMS to arrive.
- Account should not need to maintain any minimum balance requirements earn 7 per cent interest for accounts opened on digibank and can avail themselves of free cash withdrawals.
- Account holders will be provided with a physical debit card which can be used in all Visa-enabled online and POS transactions

- This is the first ATM in the country which operates using the Aadhaar data. One can do a transaction without the card as well.
- ATM card holders can key-in the 12-digit Aadhaar number or swipe the card at an automated teller machine (ATM) to start a transaction

### Germany's Development Bank KfW to provide loan assistance to metro system for Nagpur

Germany's Development Bank KfW will provide loan assistance of 3750 crore rupees for the modern and sustainable metro system for Nagpur city.

- In this regard, a loan agreement was signed by Joint Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs S Selvaraj and Director General of KfW Roland Siller in New Delhi.
- The loan period is 20 years with a moratorium of 5 years and disbursement will be based on the progress of the project over three years.
- With this Nagpur metro project becomes first metro to be financed under the Indo-German partnership for clean, socially inclusive and climate friendly mobility for people in cities. The project is being executed by Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited and its total costing is of 8,680 crore rupees.

### 2015 report on "World Military Expenditure" released by SIPRI

In accordance with the report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has been ranked at 6<sup>th</sup> Position in the 2015 report on Trends in world military expenditure.

- The chart has been topped by the USA as the world's biggest spender in 2015.

### India has elevated to 6th position among World's Top 10 Manufacturers

In accordance with the "The Yearbook" published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), India has been positioned at 6th place among the world's 10 largest manufacturing countries.

- The list has been surmounted by China, which was followed by the **US, Japan, Germany** and **Korea**. **Indonesia** was stood at the bottom of the list.
- The India's growth has been upgraded to 3 positions as compared to the previous 9th. As per report, the Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) in India enhanced by 7.6% in 2015 in comparison with the previous year.
- While India shows the tremendous growth, on the global front, the growth rate of manufacturing production has slowed to 2.8% in 2015.

### DCB Bank starts India's first Aadhaar-based ATM

Maharashtra based Small-sized lender **DCB Bank** has started an Aadhaar-based ATM usage facility in which a customer can transact using his biometric details instead of the PIN.

- Top 5 countries – USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and UK.

### Asia's 50 most powerful businesswoman list topped by Nita Ambani

American magazine Forbes has released 2016 "Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen" list featuring business women from 14 countries, including China, Indonesia, Australia, Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Philippines and New Zealand.

- In accordance with the list, 8 Indian women have made their mark in the list of 50 women leaders which is topped by Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani (52).

### Union Minister Piyush Goyal Lays Foundation Stone for IPDS Work

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal laid the foundation stone for underground cabling work under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Varanasi.

- The Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 432 crores for the project.
- The IPDS Scheme covers conversion of overhead lines to Underground cables, establishment of 2 new 33 Kv Sub-stations and augmentation of 11 nos. existing Sub-stations.

### Centre Releases Rs.12, 230 crore To States For MGNREGA

The Ministry of Rural Development has released a central share of Rs. 12,230 crore to the states for implementation of its flagship programmes under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

- The Minister also underlined that this fund release will take care of the pending wage liability of the States for the previous Financial Year (2015-16) and help the States to run the programme during the new Financial Year (2016-17).

### Airtel Buys Aircel's 4G Spectrum in 8 Circles For Rs 3,500 crore

Bharti Airtel announced the acquisition of 20 MHz spectrum in eight circles from Aircel for Rs 3,500 crore.

- Bharti will acquire spectrum or radio waves in 2,300 MHz band in Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, North East, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- Aircel had won the spectrum in a government auction and is entitled to hold it till September 20, 2030. After this acquisition, Bharti Airtel will become a pan-India 4G operator.

### India retains 19th rank among top 30 global exporters

India's rank remained unchanged at 19th in 2015 in the list of top 30 merchandise exporters of the world, according to a WTO report. China continues to hold the top position in the list.

- However, India's ranking among top importers slipped by one notch to 13th in 2015, from 12th in previous year. In imports, the US topped the list.
- India's exports dipped by 17.2 per cent to USD 267 billion last year while imports aggregated at USD 392 billion. In 2014, the country's outbound and inbound shipments aggregated at USD 317 billion and USD 460 billion respectively.
- Further, India's rank remained unchanged at 8th last year among the top 30 leading

exporters of commercial services respectively. In imports, India positioned 10th.

- In 2015, India's commercial services exports aggregated at USD 158 billion while imports were USD 126 billion.
- The report said that China registered the highest merchandise trade by value in 2015 with USD 2,275 billion worth of exports.
- Total world merchandise exports were USD 16,482 billion whereas imports were USD 16,766 billion.

### **RBI gives nod to Bharti Airtel's payments Bank Unit**

Gopal Vittal led Bharti Airtel's payments bank venture Airtel M Commerce Services Ltd has become the first entity to receive final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a payments bank.

- Delhi based Bharti Airtel will set up the payments bank in partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank, which holds 9% stake in Airtel M Commerce, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.

### **Nauru becomes 189th member of IMF, World Bank**

South Pacific island nation Nauru has become the 189th member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

- Nauru applied for membership in the Washington-based IMF and World Bank in April 2014, after joining the United Nations in 1996 as the world's smallest independent republic.

### **India To Notch Up To 7.5 % Growth In 2016-17 : IMF**

In its Economic Outlook IMF retained its 7.5 per cent GDP expansion forecast for India in 2016 and 2017.

- IMF suggested the government to size down the subsidies, initiate labour reforms and dismantle infrastructure bottlenecks to sustain strong growth.
- In India, growth is projected to notch up to 7.5 per cent in 2016-17, as forecast in October.
- IMF 2016 global growth forecast for the fourth time in the past year to 3.2 per cent, quoting China's slowdown, persistently low oil prices and chronic weakness in advanced economies. This was down from 3.4 per cent projected in January.

### **Reliance AMC named as India's "Best Employer Brand"**

In accordance with the study by Aon Hewitt, the global talent, retirement and health solutions business, the Reliance Asset Management Company has been listed among the best employer brands.

- Reliance AMC is the only mutual fund company to get this recognition in India in the top 25 AON list for 2016.

### **World's largest oil firm Aramco plans to invest in India**

The world's largest crude exporter with crude reserves of about 265 billion barrels Company Aramco is planning to make a major investment in India's petroleum sector.

- The head of Aramco, Khalid A. Al Falih, recently stated that the company regarded India as the most preferred investment destination.



- Saudi Arabia is currently India's largest crude supplier, supplying one-fifth of the country's oil.

#### Private equity firm, Blackstone to buy Mphasis for \$1.1billion

Private equity firm Blackstone India has entered into an agreement with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) to buy a majority stake in Mphasis Limited in a deal valued between \$825 million and \$1.1 billion.

- It is the largest deal by Blackstone in India and is the largest private equity transaction in the country.
- Mphasis, IT Services provider which offers Applications, Business Process Outsourcing and Infrastructure Services.

#### Panama Papers: Investigation of 500 Indians as per new anti-black money law

Union Government declared that action will be taken against unlawful accounts held abroad by Indians and constituted a multi-agency group to continuously monitor information after the Report from Panama Papers which says 500 Indians being named off illegal fund holdings in abroad.

- Panamanian law firm have revealed offshore accounts linked to the world's most prominent people hundreds of Indians have been named.

#### India signs USD 100m draft export pact with IDB

India has signed a memorandum of understanding with the 56-member Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for a possible \$100 million line of credit to simplify exports to IDB's member countries.

- The agreement was signed by Khaled Al-Aboodi, CEO of the IDB, and Tarun Sharma, regional head on behalf the EXIM Bank.

#### RBI cuts repo rate by 25 basis points

RBI has announced the first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2016-17. It cuts the Repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.5% and kept the Cash Reserve Rate (CRR) unchanged.

- Repo Rate : 6.50%
- Reverse Repo Rate : 6.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate : 7.00%
- Bank Rate : 7.00%
- CRR : 4%
- SLR : 21.25%

#### India world's largest remittance recipient in 2015: World Bank

According to the World Bank India named as the world's largest remittance recipient in 2015 despite experiencing a \$ 1 billion drop from the previous year, the first decline in its remittances since 2009.

- India reserved its top spot in 2015, attracting about \$69 billion in remittances, down from \$70 billion in 2014, the World Bank in its annual report 'Migration and Development Brief'.

#### BSNL to launch data sharing service facility for users across India

BSNL to launch data sharing facility for pre-paid customers across the country. It will allow four users to share data among themselves. No charges will be levied for availing this facility.

- Currently, the company has introduced a special tariff voucher (STV) for this service

in south zone. The STV allows sharing of data among a group of people.

### **NDB sanctions \$ 250 million for India's renewable energy scheme**

India gets a loan from the BRICS's China based New Development Bank (NDB) which gave a \$250 million funding to Canara Bank for a renewable energy project.

- The Development Bank has approved four green renewable energy projects from India, China, Brazil and South Africa entailing Bank financing of \$811 million.

### **RBI cuts maturity of masala bonds to three years**

RBI has reduced the minimum tenure of Masala bonds to make it more attractive. The term "Masala Bond" is used to refer to rupee-denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas markets.

- The minimum maturity period for the rupee-denominated bonds issued overseas reduced to three years from the previously stated five years.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank issued a 1,000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India that were listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

### **US jury slaps \$940 million fine on two companies of India's Tata group**

A US grand jury has slapped \$ 940 million fine on two companies of India's Tata group namely Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Tata America International Corp

- TCS and Tata America International must pay USD 240 million to Epic Systems for stealing its software
- Tata firms have also been asked to pay another USD 700 million as penalty.

### **Banks to Share All Transaction Details In Standard Format**

From now onward all the Banks have to share the transaction details in a standard format.

- The banks were providing data in various file formats making it difficult for the agencies to process and analyse the information.
- The processing of multi-format data also results in wastage of manpower and time.
- To recover with this issue a meeting was called by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau and a commonly acceptable format was designed.

### **FSS to provide UPI solution for 6 banks**

Financial Software & Systems Pvt. Ltd. (FSS), a Chennai-based payments technology and transaction processing company, has inked agreements with six banks to provide UPI (Unified Payment Interface) solution across the country on a hosted platform.

- UPI facilitates easy and seamless person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions for end-customers.
- A bank customer can download this app in his/her mobile device, register the account number and take a virtual address.

### **India and Mauritius sign MoU to promote cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy**

Union Government inks Memorandum of Understanding with Mauritius for the following advantages

- Traditional system of Medicine and Homeopathy
- Exchange of Experts, Supply of traditional medicinal substances
- Joint research and Development
- Recognition of the traditional systems of health and Medicine

### **RBL becomes first private sector bank to open dedicated branch for Startups**

RBL Bank launches Bengaluru branch exclusively for startups. The dedicated branch will assist entrepreneurs in setting up new companies and offer banking services like foreign exchange, remittances and cash management.

- It will also provide a range of value added services including registration, legal and tax formalities through its affiliates and partners.

### **Morgan Stanley downgrades Bank of Baroda and ICICI Bank**

Morgan Stanley downgraded India's biggest private sector bank ICICI as well as state-run Bank of Baroda, citing rising concerns about Non-Performing Assets(NPA).

- These banks will have to provide more money to cover for NPAs in the current and next fiscal year.

### **India to Purchase 145 M777 Howitzers for US\$ 750 Million**

India is expected to buy 145 M777 Howitzers for \$750 million to prepare its Mountain Strike Corps. The decision to buy ultra-light Howitzers

produced by UK based BAE Systems under the Make In India

- The Decision was taken at a meeting between Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar and his US counterpart Ashton Carter. The price notified by the US in 2012 was \$694 million. But the Gun maker seeking price revision of 10% hike from the earlier price.

### **Union government allots Rs. 800 crore to clean up polluted lakes in garden city**

Union government has pledged to provide Rs. 800 crore under AMRUT scheme to rejuvenate lakes especially the Bellandur Lake the largest and most polluted water body.

- Out of the total sum 500 crore is for laying down a 74 kms trunk sewage pipeline. Of the total money about Rs 162 crore have been provided to construct 4 Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs) in Bellandur Lake.

### **India bans import of mobile phones, milk, steel products from China**

India has banned import of milk and milk products, mobile phones and some other items from China after finding them of poor quality.

- Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in Lok Sabha that Some mobile phones, which don't have International Mobile Station Equipment Id number and some steel products have also been banned from importing from China.
- Completely banning imports from any country is not possible due to World Trade Organisation rules even if we have problems diplomatically, territorially or militarily," she said.

**International Solar Alliance Cell and UNDP Declared Cooperation for Promoting Solar Energy**

The Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) declared their intention to promote solar energy globally.

- It was declared at UN headquarter New York by Solar Alliance Cell. Joint declaration is a new beginning and will help in leveraging and expediting solar energy development and deployment in ISA countries.

**Cabinet clears expansion of India-Chile trade agreement**

Introduction: Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has successfully accorded its approval for expansion of the India – Chile Preferential Trade Agreement

**Advantages of Agreement:**

- Import and Export of Products
- Double taxation treaty particularly for Mining Sector
- Help to increase our trade concentration
- Several Opportunities to explore various sectors
- Chile has offered concessions to India on 1,798 tariff lines and India has offered concessions to Chile on 1,031 tariff lines

**Xiaomi invests \$25 million funding in Hungama**

Xiaomi has made \$25 million investment in digital media firm, Hungama. It is the first investment made by Xiaomi in the country.

- Hungama has 65 million monthly active consumers. It has partnerships with over 700 content creators, and offers over 8,000 movies in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam,

Bengali, Punjabi and six other Indian regional languages on its platform.

**ISRO, NASA to jointly launch satellite to study earthquakes and their patterns**

In ISRO and NASA are jointly operated mission NISAR a satellite that helps studying earthquake and its patterns will be launched.

- The satellite is called NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, or NISAR and is designed to make observations and measurements of ecosystem disturbance, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards such as tsunami, volcanoes and landslides.

**Ola introduce e-rickshaws on its platform**

India's smartest app based cab company Ola has introduced electric rickshaws on its platform. It was launched in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 'Start-up India' event held in Noida

- A total of 5,100 Ola e-rickshaws will be launched in partnership with Bhartiya Micro Credit (BMC) and will be deployed across Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad.

**Government widens export funding to Iran to Rs 3,000 crore**

The agreement between Exim Bank of India and a consortium of Iranian banks led by Central Bank of Iran for financing the purchase of goods and services from India to Rs 3,000 crore, from Rs 900

- This will facilitate an opportunity to Indian companies to penetrate and enhance their footprint in Iran.

## Mother Dairy Partners Delhi Daredevils As Principal Sponsor

Mother Dairy, an Indian FMCG company has partnered with Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket team Delhi Daredevils as its principal sponsor.

- With this association, the brand Mother Dairy will be seen on Delhi Daredevils team jersey, along with the visibility at key spots in the stadium on match days.

## Appointments

### Faustin-Archange Touadera sworn in as President of Central Africa

Faustin-Archange Touadera was sworn in as the president of the Central African Republic in the main stadium at Bangui.

- Central African Republic has been at political unrest since the communal violence between Christians and Muslims that took place in 2013

### Wipro appoints Patrick Dupuis as its Board member

The IT Major Wipro has announced the appointment of Patrick Dupuis as its new independent board member.

- Patrick Dupuis was the Senior Vice President of Paypal Holdings. He has also been a part of BJC healthcare and

functioned as the CFO of Sitel, one of the largest customer care company

### Wipro

- Established: 1945
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Chairman: Azim Premji

### First female speaker for Vietnam Parliament

Vietnam has chosen Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan as its first female speaker.

- Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan got 472 votes out of the total 481 votes and got a clean sweep of majority in becoming the speaker of the assembly
- She became the first female speaker of the nation and also elected as the chairperson of National Election council with 467 votes out of 477
- Earlier she served as the Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly from July, 2011

### Rajiv Gauba takes over as Secretary of Urban Development Ministry

Rajiv Gauba took over as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Urban Development.

- Jharkhand government is now looking for another Chief Secretary.

### Bhupendra Kainthola is new FTII director

Bhupendra Kainthola, an Indian Information Service (IIS) officer of 1989 batch, has been appointed as the new Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).

- FTII, country's premier institute that provides training for acting, film making, video editing, direction and production.
- It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### **Bishwadip Dey to serve in Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

Shri Bishwadip Dey was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

- He is currently working as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India, Thimphu

### **Nagaland Chief Secy Pankaj Kumar becomes first Ambassador for Girl Child**

Nagaland Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar has become the first Ambassador for Girl Child (AFGC) under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Project

- Every AFGC will provide one under privileged girl child the chance to live a better life besides contributing towards quality education of such girls.

### **Government reconstitutes IGNCAs board; Ram Bahadur Rai appointed as Chairman**

Government has reconstituted Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) board. Ram Bahadur Rai, Senior Journalist has been appointed as Chairman of the Board.

- Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma appoints a new 20-member team including classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, lyricist Prasoon Joshi, artist Vasudeo Kamath and Union Culture Ministry Secretary.

### **Ajay Devgn, Kajol to be brand ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh tourism**

Bollywood actors Ajay Devgn and Kajol are all set to become the brand ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh Tourism.

- About 8 million tourists visited Andhra Pradesh in 2015, a 30% increase over the previous year, according to the state government. Of these, 237,000 were foreign tourists mainly from Southeast Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and West Asia.
- The celebrity couple were prepared to take up the role of brand ambassadors for the tourism of Amravati and the rest of the state.

### **Vijay Shekhar Sharma appointed chairman of IMAI payments banks group**

Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been appointed as the chairman and Vodafone India business head Suresh Sethi as Vice chairman of the newly formed payments banks group Industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

- IMAI Payments Banks is an innovative model of bringing unbanked population into the formal banking fold.

### **Ukraine appoints Groysman new Prime Minister**

Ukraine's parliament has appointed Volodymyr Groysman as the country's new prime minister. He was voted in by MPs 257 to 50 as the 16th Prime Minister of Ukraine.

- MPs voted to approve Mr. Groysman's appointment and accept the resignation of his predecessor, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.
- Groysman will succeed Yatsenyuk, after serving as his deputy during the latter's first

government, in the aftermath of the toppling of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych in 2014.

### **C.P. Gurnani appointed as Chairman of NASSCOM**

C.P. Gurnani appointed as Chairman of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2016-2017. He will replace B V R Mohan Reddy, who served as Chairman for 2015-16.

- Mr. Raman Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of Quattro Global Services, appointed as the Vice Chairman of NASSCOM for 2016-17.

### **Govt ropes in Sachin Tendulkar for 'Skill India' campaign**

Prime Minister's Skill India Mission is all set to get a major boost with cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar endorsing the 'I Support Skill India' campaign of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

- The ministry's target is to skill 40.2 crore youth by 2022. It has also introduced its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the world's largest monetary reward scheme promoting skill development to those who need financial support.
- It is an attempt to reach out to the youth and build awareness on the importance of skill development.

### **GoJavas Appointed Amitabh Coomar As Its New CEO**

GoJavas, the logistics and supply chain solutions company has announced the appointment of Mr.

Amitabh Coomar as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

- The appointment of Coomar came after the departure of Vijay Ghadge, who was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the company.

### **LAVA International Announces MS Dhonias Its Brand Ambassador**

Indian cricket legend MS Dhoni was elected as a brand ambassador of local handset maker Lava International.

- MS Dhoni will be the new face of Lava's multi-channel marketing campaign to make it the most reliable brand of Indian market.

### **Centre appoints Finance Secretary as liaison officer with Jammu and Kashmir**

Finance Secretary Ratan Wattal was appointed as the liaison officer to working between Jammu and Kashmir government and central government

- He will be responsible to ensure the flow of funds to the J & K government and implementation of Prime Minister's Development Package in the state.

### **Government appoints Susmita Pande as National Monument Authority (NMA) Chairperson**

Susmita Pande, a professor at Ujjain's Vikram University, has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Monument Authority (NMA) for a three-year term.

- She would succeed Himanshu Prabha Ray, the professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- NMA, under the Union Culture & Tourism Ministry, is responsible for the protection

and preservation of centrally protected monuments and sites.

### **Rudra Gaurav Shresth appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique**

IFS Officer from 1999 cadre Rudra Gaurav Shresth presently Director in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique.

- He will assume his new duty soon.

### **Geetha Johri becomes Gujarat's first woman DGP**

Geetha Johri is all set to become first woman top cop of Gujarat. With this she will be the Gujarat's first woman IPS officer who promoted to DGP rank.

- Geetha has been promoted from the rank of ADGP to Director General of Police and she will continue at her present post as Managing Director of the Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation.
- She is a 1982-batch IPS officer, who is originally from Tamil Nadu.

### **Thomas Cook elevates Mahesh Iyer to COO post**

Thomas Cook has elevated Mahesh Iyer, head of its foreign exchange division, to the position of chief operating officer(COO).

- He will be responsible for day to day business management.
- He will also be responsible for managing the visa and foreign exchange business in India, Mauritius and Sri Lanka.

### **PCB appoints Inzamam-ul-Haq as new chief selector**

Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq appointed as the head of the new selection committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

- Inzamam, who replaces former batsman Haroon Rasheed.
- He was the Afghanistan cricket team coach for the past six months

### **India's Durga Thakur Promoted as International Hockey Umpire**

International Hockey Federation has promoted Durga Thakur of India as the international outdoor umpire. FIH's list currently has 14 Indians in the elite league of international umpires (10 men, 4 women).

- Thakur started her career as an umpire from the third Hockey India Sub-Junior Men & Women National Championship.
- She is a graduate of NSNIS in 2011 her first international assignment came in 2015 at the double six-Nation Cup in Breda, Netherlands.

### **Laos appoints new president, prime minister**

Communist Party chief Bounnhang Vorachit was appointed as the country's new president and foreign minister Thongloun Sisoulith as the prime minister of Laos by Laos's National Assembly

- The National Assembly has elected president, with more than two-thirds of the votes.

### **Centre appoints A. Ajith Kumar as Rubber Board Chief**

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of A. Ajith Kumar, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, to the post



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of chairman, Rubber Board, Kottayam. The post has been lying vacant since August 2014.

- He has been appointed for a period up to May 31, 2018.

### **BCCI appoints media veteran Rahul Johri as CEO**

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Rahul Johri as its new CEO, in line with the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee.

- Before this assignment, Johri was executive vice-president and general manager for South Asia at Discovery Network.
- Johri will join the Board on June 1st. He will be responsible for the stakeholder management and building robust strategies for further promoting the sport.

### **Suresh Babu appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mongolia**

Current Ambassador of India to Armenia T. Suresh Babu has elected as the country's next Ambassador to Mongolia.

- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

### **Goa appoints Justice PK Mishra as Lokayukta**

Goa Government appointed former Chief Justice of Patna High Court Justice, P. K. Mishra as Lokayukta of the state.

- He had recently retired as chairman of Goa State Human Rights commission.
- He will succeed Justice (Retd) Sudarshan Reddy, Goa's first Lokayukta.

### **Shubhdarshini Tripathi appointed as Ambassador to Jordan**

Shubhdarshini Tripathi presently Deputy Chief of Mission in Berlin, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

- Nandini Singla , presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Portugal
- Masakui has been appointed as the ambassador to Zimbabwe.
- Shri Satender Kumar, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to Barbados

### **Madhukar Gupta committee to suggest ways to tighten security along Indo-Pak border**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted high-level committee to suggest ways to tighten security along India-Pakistan border.

- The committee will be headed by former Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta.
- It will Study all types of gaps in the fencing and all other vulnerabilities along the India-Pakistan border. Suggest a comprehensive approach to fix them on interim and permanent basis. It will submit its report in three months i.e. till June 2016.

## Awards

### **Ranveer Singh honoured as "Maharashtrian of The Year"**

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, who started his career with romantic comedy "Band Baaja Baaraat"

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in 2010 has been conferred with “Maharashtrian Of The Year” award.

- On the other hand, the “lifetime achievement award” was bestowed upon 82 year old legendary singer Asha Bhosle.
- The award was presented by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a ceremony held at Mumbai.

### **Imprisoned Novelist Ahmed Naji bagged PEN Freedom to Write Award**

The prestigious PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, presented by PEN America has been conferred upon, jailed Egyptian author and journalist, Ahmed Naji.

- Naji will be accorded with the award at Pen America’s annual Literary Gala on 16 May 2016 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

### **New Zealand's \$5 bill named best banknote of the year**

New Zealand’s five-dollar note has been named the banknote of the year for 2015 by the International Bank Note Society.

- The \$5 note has won form the 40 eligible designs from a record 20 countries. The \$5 note has featured mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary and on the other side, a rare yellow-eyed penguin and local flora.

### **Swat activist Tabassum Adnan wins 2016 Nelson Mandela Award**

A women's rights activist from Swat valley of Pakistan, Tabassum Adnan, has won the Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award 2016 in Bogota, Colombia.

- She won the award for the individual activist category on the concluding day of the International Civil Society Week held from April 25-28.
- A victim of child marriage, Tabassum Adnan was married at the age of 13. The marriage which was marked by frequent domestic abuse, ended after 20 years when she gathered the courage to divorce her abusive husband.

### **Sudarsan Pattnaik bags gold medal at Sculpture Championship in Moscow**

Renowned artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the gold medal at ninth Moscow Sand Sculpture Championship in Russia.

- Mr. Pattnaik won the competition for his 15 feet high art work Mahatma Gandhi's sculpture for non-violence and peace.
- The 20 top sculptors from different countries competed at the championship.

### **PM Narendra Modi conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Saudi Arabia’s highest civilian honour- the King Abdulaziz Sash.

- The prestigious award was bestowed upon Indian Prime Minister by incumbent Saudi Arabia’s King Salman bin Abdulaziz at the Royal Court.

### **Vedanta sets Guinness World Record for mass plantation**

Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), a subsidiary of Vedanta Limited has formally set the Guinness World Record for at the same time planting 208,751 saplings at a solitary area in under 60 minutes.

- ISO 900, ISO 14001, ISO 50001 and OHSAS certified company TSPL is the largest Greenfield Power Project in Punjab.

**Bollywood Actress Radhika Apte Wins Best Actress award at Tribeca Film Fest**

The 30 year old actress has won the best actress award in an International narrative feature honour at Tribeca Film Festival for her contribution in the Film Madly.

- The Actress starred in 'Clean Shaven; which is a part of the film Madly.

**Indian documentary 'Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale' wins bronze medal in New York Festivals 2016**

Indian Documentary film, "Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale" has won a bronze world medal at the New York Festivals 2016 in the Social Issues category.

- This documentary film explores anti-trafficking activist Rishi Kant's search for two minor girls, who have been abducted.

**Jennifer Aniston named as World's Most Beautiful Woman by People magazine**

Jennifer Aniston(47) was named as the World's Most Beautiful Woman for 2016 by People magazine, for the second time.

- She has received this honour in 2004.
- Last year winner was Sandra Bullock.
- Aniston won an Emmy Award in 2002 and a Golden Globe Award in 2003.

**Bernie Sanders wins Time reader poll of 100 most influential people**

American Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders won the TIME 100 reader poll with 3 percent of the vote, ahead of Hilary Clinton who was 25th with 1 per cent of the vote.

- Bernie had finished with 3.3% of the total votes on the poll, edging out the South Korean boy band Big Bang's 2.9%, Burmese leader Aung San SuuKy's 2.2%, and President Obama's 2%.

**Government renames Panagarh airbase after former IAF Chief Arjan Singh**

Union government has renamed the Panagarh airbase Base as Air Force Station Arjan Singh in honour of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh. This Honour came from the government on the 97th birthday of Arjan Singh, Marshal of the Indian Air Force.

- The Air base station is located in Burdwan district which is around 150 kms from Kolkata. Panagarh was constructed in 1944 during the Second World War.
- Air Force Station played a significant role in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan.

**Delhi girl Priyadarshini Chatterjee crowned Miss India World 2016**

Delhi girl, Priyadarshini Chatterjee was announced as the winner of FBB Femina Miss India World by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan during a star-studded ceremony.

- She saw off competition from Bangalore girl Sushruthi Krishna, who was the 1st runner up and Lucknow's Pankhuri Gidwan.
- Priyadarshini will represent India at the Miss World 2016

**Mother Teresa Conferred With Founders Award Posthumously In UK**

The Nobel Peace Prize awardee Mother Teresa now has been conferred with the UK's prestigious Founders Award this year.

- The award is given to recognize and reward exemplary achievements of people within the global Asian community.
- The Founders award is to recognize and reward exemplary achievement within the global Asian community across 14 categories that include business, philanthropy, entertainment, culture and sport.
- Teresa, who died in 1997 at Kolkata, have spent more than 45 year of her life as serving the poor, the sick and the orphaned.

**Khadija Ismayilova to receive UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016**

Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova awarded with UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016. The Prize will be awarded during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day on 3rd May 2016 hosted by Finland.

- She has been recommended Ismayilova in recognition of her outstanding contribution to press freedom in difficult circumstances. The prize is awarded on the recommendation of an independent jury of 12 news

**Priyanka Chopra to be conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award 2016**

Actress Priyanka Chopra will be bestowed with Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation's Best Actress of the Year Award.

- The ceremony will be held on the 147th Dadasaheb Phalke Jayanti in Mumbai on April 24.
- This will be the second award from the Foundation after she received her first one for Most Memorable Performance in 2011 for her role in Vishal Bhardwaj's '7 Khoonmaaf'.

**Varanasi Kathak dancer breaks world record**

Soni Chaurasiya a Kathak dancer from Varanasi has broken the world record of longest dance performance by continuously dancing for 123 hours and 30 minutes.

- She broke the record on 9th April at 9.21 pm at Mount Litera Zee School, Varanasi. With her performance, she broke the previous record of Hemlata Kundalu of Trichur, Kerala, who performed Mohiniattam continuously for 123 hours and 20 mins.

**Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won Global Indian of the Year 2016 award**

Bollywood star Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has won the 'Global Indian of the Year' award, she was honoured at NRI of the Year award function held in Mumbai.

- She dedicated the award to her daughter Aaradhya. t continues
- Eminent tennis player Sania Mirza honoured at the NRI of the Year Award 2016 where she was conferred with the Global Indian Icon of the year award.

**Ex-army chief JJ Singh gets highest French civilian honour**

Former army chief Gen. (retd) JJ Singh was conferred with the highest French civilian distinction, Officer of the Legion of Honour by French Ambassador to India, Francois Richier.

- Singh was chosen for the honour in recognition of his “stellar role” in modernizing the Indian Army and initiating robust exchanges between the Indian and French armies.

### Jammu-born poet Padma Sachdev gets Saraswati Samman

Jammu& Kashmir born poet and novelist Padma Sachdev has been chosen for the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2015 for her autobiography named ‘Chitt-Chete’ written in Dogri language and published in 2007.

- Sachdev’s work was selected 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.

### Forbes Releases First Ever ‘Global Game Changers’ List, Three Indians Make The Cut

Forbes in its inaugural edition of Global Game Changers List launched this year has ranked some of the biggest names in business.

- Topped by Mark Benioff of Salesforce.com and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook ranked 30.
- Three Indians have been featured in the list, they are Rahul Bhatia of Inter Globe Enterprises, Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India, and Sunny Varkey of GEMS Education at 3, 23 and 26 positions respectively.

### T N Ninan gets Mumbai Press Club’s lifetime achievement award

The Mumbai Press Club selected T N Ninan, Chairman and Editorial Director of Business Standard, for this year's 'RedInk Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism'.

- The award will be presented to Ninan by the Governor of Maharashtra C Vidyasagar Rao on April 26 in New Delhi.

### Djokovic, Serena bag top honours at Laureus World Sports awards

Serbia, Novak Djokovic won “Sportsman of the year” Trophy for the third continuous victory

- Serena Williams also bagged the Women’s top honour “Sportswoman of the year” for the third time.

### The 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winners

Awarded for achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature and musical composition in United States

- The winner in the public service category of the journalism is awarded a gold medal.

### Winners of 2016

- Public Service – Associated Press
- Breaking News Reporting – Los Angeles Times Staff
- Investigative Reporting – Leonora LaPeter Anton and Anthony Cormier of the Tampa Bay Times and Michael Braga of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune
- Explanatory Reporting – T. Christian Miller of Pro Publica and Ken Armstrong of The Marshall Project

- Local Reporting – Michael LaForgia, Cara Fitzpatrick and Lisa Gartner of the Tampa Bay Times
- National Reporting – The Washington Post Staff
- International Reporting – Alissa J. Rubin of The New York Times
- Feature Writing – Kathryn Schulz of The New Yorker
- Commentary – Farah Stockman of The Boston Globe
- Criticism – Emily Nussbaum of The New Yorker

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Geoscience Awards 2014 at a function to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- 33 geoscientists received the National Geoscience Awards (NGA 2014) which includes one Award for Excellence, one Young Scientist Award and 19 individual and / or team awards in 16 fields of geosciences.

### Viswanathan Anand to be feted with Hridaynath Award

Chess maestro Viswanathan Anand will be honoured with the Hridaynath Award, which felicitates and recognises successful individuals across the country from various walks of life.

- The Five time World champion will receive the prize from the Maharashtra governor C. Vidyasagar Rao.

### Mahatma's granddaughter Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee gets French honour

Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee has been awarded with one of France's highest honour. The Order of Arts and Letters for her contribution in promoting peace, solidarity, culture, education, and development.

Bhattacharjee was conferred the Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) honour by French Ambassador Francois Richier.

### Google India awarded 'most attractive employer' in India

In the 6th edition of Randstad Award 2016, Google India emerged as the most attractive employer for a second consecutive year followed by Mercedes-Benz in the second place.

- The sectoral specific special recognition award: Dell
- Consumer Electronics: Samsung India
- E Commerce: Amazon India

### Pranab Mukherjee presents National Geoscience Awards 2014

Leicestershire and also play in the Big Bash League for the Sydney Thunder.

### **West Indies lift their second ICC World T20 title**

West Indies beat England by four wickets to lift their second ICC World T20 title in Kolkata. With this win, West Indies become the first side to win T20 World Cup for the second time. All previous teams had won, but only once.

- Chasing a stiff 19 for win in the final over bowled by Ben Stokes, Carlos Brathwaite fired four consecutive sixes to gun down England's 155 in emphatic fashion, with two balls to spare.

### **Nandu Natekar becomes first non-cricketer to be inducted into Legends Club**

Badminton ace Nandu Natekar has been inducted into the Legends Club, founded by the late Cricket Club of India president Raj Singh Dungarpur, as the first non-cricketer, along with 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev.

- The Legends Club will celebrate the birthdays of Nandu Natekar -- on May 12 -- and Kapil Dev -- on January 6, 2017.
- The Legends Club celebrates the birthdays of Vijay Merchant, Vijay Hazare, Vinoo Mankad, Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar.

### **Riyad Mahrez becomes first African footballer to win PFA Player of the Year**

Riyad Mahrez of Algeria was adjudged as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year. He is the first African to receive the award.

- On the other hand, Dele ally of Tottenham club has been chosen as young player of the year.

### **Mairaj shoots silver at Rio World Cup**

Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan made a successful start to his campaign at the ISSF World Cup by winning a silver medal in men's skeet event in Rio de Janeiro. Mairaj's feat gave India its first skeet medal at a World Cup.

- Mairaj lost to Sweden's Marcus Svensson 2-1 in the shoot-off tiebreaker in the gold medal match on Sunday night after both were tied on 14 targets at the end of the regulation 16 shots. Italy's Tamarro Casandro got the bronze. Earlier, Mairaj shot 122 out of 125 in the qualifying round to be second among the top six shooters.
- In the semifinal stage, both Mairaj and Marcus shot 15 out of 16 targets each to earn the right to contest for the gold medal.

### **Women's World T20: Maiden title for West Indies women**

The Caribbean women lifted the T20 world cup after their convincing eight-wicket win over Australia in the women's World T20 final.

- A world record 120-run opening partnership between Matthews and Taylor set up the chase, which became pretty facile in the end. It was West Indies' maiden title, dethroning three-time defending champions.

**Kane Williamson, Ben Stokes make through Wisden's top five cricketers of 2015**

In the 153rd and latest edition of Wisden has included New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and predecessor Brendon McCullum are among Wisden's five cricketers of the year.

- Australia captain Steve Smith, and England's Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow were the others announced.

**Australia thrash India 4-0 to win Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

Australia achieved up a huge 4-0 victory over India in the summit clash to win the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament in Malaysia.

- Australia won the tournament for a record ninth time.
- The New Zealand took the third place while the Hosts Malaysian team grabbed fourth spot.
- The tournament is named after the ninth King of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah and keen fan of field hockey.

**Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath retires from ODIs, T20Is**

Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath has retired from 50-over and Twenty20 internationals in order to carry on playing test matches.

- The 38-year-old took 74 wickets in 71 one-day internationals and another 18 in 17 T20 matches for the island nation, shouldered the burden of the slow bowling attack following the retirement of spin great Muttiah Muralitharan in 2011.
- He has the record of best bowling figures in Tests by a left-arm spinner.

**Dipa Karmakar becomes first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics**

Dipa Karmakar created history by becoming the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics. Karmakar, the 22-year-old gymnast from Tripura, exhibited a strong show as she completed her performance at the final qualifier and Olympic Test Event in Rio de Janeiro.

- She had created history by becoming the first woman gymnast to win a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.
- This win had made her the first Indian woman to win a commonwealth gymnastics medal and the second Indian, after Ashish Kumar.

**Rafael Nadal wins Monte Carlo Masters title**

Rafael Nadal defeated Frenchman Gael Monfils to grab the 2016 Monte Carlo Masters title.

- He defeated Gael Monfils by 7-5 5-7 6-0 in 2 hours 46 minutes to claim his ninth title, but his first since 2012.
- Nadal has, now, claimed clay-court titles in each of last 13 years. Before losing the 2013 final to world number one Novak Djokovic, Nadal had won eight consecutive titles.

**India wins 2016 Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament**

India won the Asian Nations Cup chess team championship defeating Vietnam with a convincing 3-1 margin in the final round in Abu Dhabi. This was the third time that Indian men won the event.

- India finished well against Vietnam with Grandmasters SP Sethuraman and K Sasikiran winning on second and fourth



boards while B Adhiban and Vidit Santosh Gujarathi drew on first and third boards.

- India earned 17 points, two more than World and Olympiad champions China, to clinch the title.

#### Lee Chong Wei Wins 11th Malaysian Open Title

Malaysia's badminton star Lee Chong Wei won his 11th Malaysian Open title, a much-needed boost for his pursuit of a still-elusive Olympic gold medal.

- Lee cruised to victory with a flurry of devastating smashes against world number one Chen Long from China, beating him 21-13, 21-8 in a match that lasted 42 minutes.

#### Danny Willett, first British to win US Masters golf 2016

Danny Willett has won the Masters at Augusta National to become the first Briton to claim US Master's title under his belt which is to become the first British victory in 20 years.

- He won with a superb five-under-par 67 as 2015 champion Jordan Spieth crumbled during a final round.
- He is one of the golf's rising stars, having climbed from outside the top 100 to inside the top 10 in less than two years.

#### Chawrasia wins Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Month

S.P. Chawrasia of India was honoured with the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for March, to his performance at the Hero Indian Open. He is the second Indian to win the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award.

- His superb display of golf in his National Open last month to win his third title on the Asian Tour by defeating 2015 Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Year Anirban Lahiri and

South Korean rising star Jeunghun Wang by two shots.

#### England Cricketer James Taylor retired from International Cricket

England middle order batsman James Taylor has been forced to retire from cricket at the young age of 26 due to a serious heart condition, by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

- He played 7 test matches and 27 ODI internationals for England and captained the side against Ireland in May 2015.

#### Vishnu Vardhan is first ATT champion

Former national champion Vishnu Vardhan put his name into the record books by becoming the first champion of the Asian Tennis Tour (ATT) after he beat Sidharth Rawat by 7-6(7), 6-3 in the final of the \$5,000 event at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi.

- Vishnu Vardhan is a professional tennis player from Andhra Pradesh.

#### Nico Roseberg wins 2016 Bahrain Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg claimed the 2016 Bahrain Grand Prix to win his fifth straight race and Kimi Raikkonen finished second for Ferrari.

- Five in a row Nico Rosberg wins Bahrain Grand Prix While his Champion teammate Lewis Hamilton's hopes of a third successive Bahrain Grand Prix victory.

## Deaths

**Babu Bharadwaj Passes Away**

Renowned writer and journalist Babu Bharadwaj, 68, passed away. He breathed his last at a private hospital in the city where he was undergoing treatment after suffering a cardiac arrest.

- He was working as the chief editor of the online news portal Dool News. He had worked with Kairali TV, Chinta Magazine and Media One. He was the first Joint Secretary of Students' Federation of India (SFI).
- His novel "Kalapangalkkoru Grahapadam" won the best novel award of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi. He was also the producer of film "Iniyum Marichittillatha Nammal" directed by Raveendran.

**Ronnie Corbett dies aged 85**

Entertainer Ronnie Corbett, best known for BBC comedy sketch show The Two Ronnies, has died aged 85.

- Corbett was one of the UK's best-loved comedians and along with Ronnie Barker; their double act was one of the most successful of the 1970s and '80s. His most memorable solo projects include the sitcom Sorry! and the game show Small Talk.

**Renowned Iraqi-British Architect Zaha Hadid passes away**

Renowned Iraqi-born British architect Zaha Hadid passed away due to heart attack. She was 65.

- She was the first female winner of the top Pritzker Architecture Prize (2004), also known as the Nobel for architecture.
- ZahaHadid Born on 31st October 1950 in Baghdad, Iraq. Hadid first had studied mathematics at the American University in

Lebanon and later pursued architecture at the Architectural Association in London in 1972.

- She had designed the London Aquatics Centre, which was used during the 2012 London Olympics.

**Sherlock Holmes actor Douglas Wilmer dies aged 96**

Sherlock Holmes actor Douglas Wilmer has died at the age of 96.

- He donned the famous deerstalker in the mid-1960s to play Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's character in a BBC series.

**Former Italy coach, AC Milan player Cesare Maldini passes away**

Italian football manager and player, Cesare Maldini has died on April 3. He was 84.

- Cesare Maldini won four Serie A titles during his time with Milan and was skipper of the side in 1963.
- In his 412 appearances for AC Milan and moved into coaching when his playing career ended, managing the north Italian club from 1972-74.

**British playwright Arnold Wesker died**

British playwright Arnold Wesker, has died at the age of 83. He had Parkinson's disease.

- London born prolific political writer who produced more than 40 plays, as well as books of essays, poetry and short stories. His work also included children's fiction and a first novel, Honey, which was published in 2005.

**Punjab lokpal Justice J.S. Sekhon passes away**

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Punjab lokpal and former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge, Justice Jai Singh Sekhon passed away.

- Sekhon, elder brother of Punjab cabinet minister Janmeja Singh Sekhon, had been fighting cancer for more than a year.
- He started his career as a lawyer at the Ferozepur district and sessions court and before being elevated as high court judge, he worked as district and sessions judge in several courts of the state.

### **Hero group co-founder SatyanandMunjial dies at 99**

Co-founder of Hero Cycles group SatyanandMunjial, died at the age of 99 in Model Town, Ludhiana.

- Munjal was popularly known as ‘mahatma’ SatyanandMunjial for being devoted to several social causes related to the AryaSamaj.
- Hero Honda started in 1984 as a joint venture between Hero Cycles of India and Honda of Japan by Dr. Brijmohan Lall Munjal

### **Iconic African photographer Malick Sidibe passes away at 80**

Eminent Malian photographer Malick Sidibe has died at 80 years old, He had been ill for some time.

- Malick is known for his street scenes and studio shots that render a portrait of photos of Mali’s post-colonial period helped people see the Mali’s in a new light.
- He was the first African and the first photographer to win the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, in 2007.
- The distinctions he earned are the International Center of Photography Infinity Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2008

and the Hasselblad Foundation’s annual award in 2003

### **Telangana Finance Minister’s PRO & Former Journalist D. Ravinder passes away**

Telangana Finance Minister Eatala Rajender’s Public Relations Officer and former journalist D. Ravinder passed away.

- Ravinder from Raikal of Karimnagar district, Telanagana
- He worked as reporter for Etv and Saakshi Telugu news channels.
- Later, he joined as PRO to the Finance Minister

### **Chyna, Former WWE women’s champ, passes away**

Former WWE Women’s Champion, as well as former WWE Intercontinental Champion, Chyna (Real name: Joan Laurer) passed away.

- Chyna became the first woman in WWE history to participate in the Royal Rumble match, when she entered as the 30th entrant during the 1999 Royal Rumble match.

### **Former Bombay Ranji player Ranjan Baidoor passes away**

Former Mumbai Ranji Trophy player Ranjan Baidoor died on April 4 due to a fatal heart attack at his residence in Mumbai.

- Hetook 20 wickets in 16 games at 37.20 with a best of 4 for 32. He was also a useful lower-order batsman with a career best of 96 and aggregated 316 runs at an average of 19.75.
- Baidoor was also the former secretary of Tata Sports Club and served as the

chairman of the selection committee for the under-19 team.

#### **Father of Madras Atomic Power Station "M.H.P.Rao" passes away**

The architect of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), "Myneni Hari Prasad Rao" aka MHP Rao passed away due to old age ailments. He was 88.

- He was specially appointed by the then Nuclear Power Board to administer the construction and commissioning of the MAP.
- He had also served as a member of Southern, Western and Northern Indian Regional electricity boards.

#### **Cartoonist Toms Passes Away in Kerala**

Eminent cartoonist Vadakkal Thoppil Thomas known as Toms has died at a private hospital in Kottayam due to age-related illnesses. He was 86.

- His impression created everlasting cartoon characters like Bobanum Moliyum (Boban and Molly).
- The Bobanum Moliyum strip was first published in Malayala Manorama in 1957. Toms retired from the newspaper in 1987.

#### **Veteran Journalist Yogendra Bali Is No More**

The veteran journalist and author Yogendra Bali has passed away due to a heart attack. He was 85 year old.

- Mr. Bali was a member of the general council of the Lalit Kala Akademi and a member of its committees on Art Education, Publications, the Triennale and International Exhibitions.

- In his long and success career, Mr. Bali has served The Times of India as its roving correspondent till retirement.
- Mr. Bali has written 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'.

#### **Former Union MoS Dr C Silvera passes away**

Former Union Minister of Mizoram C Silvera died at 81. He was the only leader from Mizoram to be in the union council of ministers.

- Silvera was born on May 6, 1935. He worked as medical officer under the Baptist Church of Mizoram before joining politics.
- He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1985 and to ninth, tenth and eleventh Lok Sabha.
- He was inducted as union minister of state for health and family welfare on February 17, 1994 and afterwards was allotted industry portfolio.

#### **Screenwriter Barbara Turner passed away**

Barbara Turner, the Emmy-nominated screenwriter and producer has died in Los Angeles.

- The 79 year old screenwriter earned two Emmy norms for "The War Between the Tates" and "Hemingway & Gellhorn" and worked on numerous films such as "Petulia", "Georgia" and "Pollock".

## Books

### **The Making of India: The Untold Story of British Enterprises authored by Kartar Lalvani**

The making of India: The untold story of British Enterprises authored by Kartar Lalvani was in news in the third week of April 2016. The book discusses the British rule and its role in creating a unified India.

- The book supposedly brings out the many positive aspects of the colonial rule.
- The story of the book open in the 17th century when a small seafaring island dispatched sailing ships over 11000 miles on a five-month trading journey in search of new opportunities.

### **Book Launched By Arvind Kejriwal Co-Authored By Imran Hashmi**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched the book "The Kiss of Life: How a superhero and my son defeated cancer" in New Delhi.

- The book is written by Bilal Siddiqi and co authored by Emraan Hashmi.
- The book has been published by Penguin Books India in three languages.
- The book narrates the story of Emraan's life when his family dealt with the horrific struggle as his six-year-old son Ayaan battled his way through cancer. The book is about hope to all cancer patients who loses hope, his or her body starts to give up.

### **NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly will write a book about his year in space**

NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly will write a book titled "Endurance: My Year in Space and Our Journey to Mars". Mr. Scott Kelly returned to the Earth in March 2016 after spending almost a year aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

- The book will be published by Alfred A. Knopf.
- He holds the record for the most total time spent in space, with more than 520 days logged on spacecraft, including the 340 consecutive days he worked on the space station.

### **A State in Denial authored by BG Verghese**

A State in Denial – Pakistan's Misguided and Dangerous Crusade authored by veteran journalist BG Verghese was re-released during a discussion organised by the India International Centre, New Delhi.

- Former union minister Shashi Tharoor described Verghese's book as the most explicit description of India-Pakistan relation.