

GK Digest: May 2017

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Current Affairs

India becomes associate member of International Energy Agency

- India has joined the International Energy Agency as an associate member, a development that the IEA said makes the prestigious Paris-based body more relevant and reflects the country's move to the centre stage of the global energy dialogue.
- With India as a member, International Energy Agency now formally covers 70% of the

world's energy consumption. This increases the relevance of the IEA

- India will now have a greater say in global energy issues.

The International Energy Agency (IEA)

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974

- The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia. The Agency's mandate has broadened to focus on the "3Es" of effectual energy policy: energy security, economic development, and environmental protection

President Pranab Mukherjee to inaugurate Namami Brahmaputra in Assam

- President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated Namami Brahmaputra, India's largest river festival.
- The festival will be celebrated in 21 districts of Assam and the festival will be kicked off on the banks of the river.
- **Brahmaputra is considered to be the country's only male river** and the five-day festival will include cultural programmes, traditional sports, Brahmaputra Aarti, exhibition, film shows, seminars and competitions.
- The festival is expected to be a boon for Assam's tourism industry. Security has been beefed up in and around Guwahati ahead of the visit of the President and Dalai Lama.

Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu releases Book Titled "Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry"

- Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu released the book titled "Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry" **jointly authored** by **Shri Bibek Debroy** (Member, NITI Aayog) **Shri Sanjay Chadha** (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce) & **Ms. Vidya Krishnamurthi**.

- In addition, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu also launched Hi-speed free Wi-Fi services for the visitors at National Rail Museum.
- This book by Shri Bibek Debroy is a great contribution for Indian Railways.
- The theme of this book is the historical development of railways in India, organized into chapters dealing with different periods of development in chronological order. It builds its foundations from periods prior to 1853, when the first commercial passenger Railway was inaugurated. like the Red Hill Railways in the south, which were primarily captive freight systems
- True to its reader-friendly style the book is light reading and a valuable collection to the most well documented organisation, perhaps in the World – which is our Indian Railways

Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadra Singh launched a scheme allowing distribution of LED tubelights

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh launched a scheme allowing distribution of LED tubelights and energy-efficient fans as part of an initiative to promote energy saving.
- The LED tubelights and fans would be distributed under 'Unnat Jeevan by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All' (UJALA) scheme, which is an extension of old domestic efficient lighting programme.
- The cost per tube light would be Rs 230 along with three years free replacement warrantee.
- The BEE 5-star 50-watt fan will replace the conventional 75-watt ceiling fan. It will cost Rs 1,150, along with two-years free replacement warranty, thus saving 33 per cent electricity.

- The government had earlier launched a scheme to distribute subsidised CLF bulbs and LED lights, which helped in saving energy worth about Rs 200 crore and the present initiative is an extension of that scheme.
- UJALA was an integral part of energy conservation initiative of the state government and had been very successfully adopted by the people of the state

Maninder Singh Juneja appointed as MD & CEO of NBHC

- National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC), India's leading provider of integrated commodity and collateral management services of agri-commodities announced appointment of Maninder Singh Juneja as the managing director and CEO.
- Juneja joined True North (erstwhile India Value Fund Associates) in December 2016 as the managing director which owns 100 per cent of NBHC
- Juneja takes reins from Anil Choudhary, founder MD & CEO, NBHC, who will continue to associate with NBHC as an executive vice-chairman in the company.
- Juneja was previously associated with ICICI Bank as senior general manager.
- **National Bulk Handling Corporation** is an Indian commodity and collateral management company based in Mumbai.
- NBHC is a venture of the Financial Technologies Group
- It was founded in 2003.

S.V Sunil named Asian Hockey Player of Year

- Indian forward S.V Sunil and drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh were named as the Asian Player of the Year 2016 and Asian Promising Player of the Year respectively by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).
- Sunil played a vital role in India's successful outing at the FIH Champions Trophy in London where the team earned a historic silver medal.
- Considered to be one of the fastest men on the pitch in the world, Sunil has also served as the team's vice-captain and is entrusted with the duty of leading by example.
- The nominations for these awards were made by coaches across the national teams in Asia and the criteria of nomination was based on the performance for the year 2016
- Harmanpreet had a stupendous 2016 with India winning the Junior World Cup where he led the team's defence and was instrumental in converting penalty corners.
- He was also part of the Indian men's team at the 2016 Rio Olympics and the FIH Champions Trophy in London.

El Salvador becomes first country to ban metals mining nationwide

- **The smallest country in Central America** – El Salvador – has approved a law prohibiting all metal mining in an attempt to protect the environment and natural resources.
- It is the first country in the world to do so
- The new law, supported by 70 lawmakers, bans all exploration, extraction, and processing of metals both in open pits and mines.
- The level of environmental pollution in El Salvador is one of the highest in the region,

second only to Haiti, and the availability of drinking water is the lowest, according to UN data.

- The legislation was passed despite interest from international gold and silver mining companies.
- In October, El Salvador won a lawsuit at the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) against the Australian-Canadian miner OceanaGold Corp.

Indian magnate appointed head of SA's BRICS Business Council

- Indian-origin South African billionaire Iqbal Surve has been appointed as chairperson of the country's BRICS Business Council and has underlined the need for strengthening trade ties with countries like India and China.
- Straight after his appointment by the South African government, Surve, headed to New Delhi for the mid-term meeting of the Brics Councils from other countries in the bloc – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- He highlighted importance to strengthen ties with China and India.
- Surve, the chairperson of Sekunjalo Group and Independent Media, has interests in media, technology and healthcare.
- Surve is a founding member of the BRICS Business Council and the Clinton Global Initiative; he serves on a number of multi-lateral institutions and global organisations.
- Surve served as the first chairperson of the World Economic Forum Global Growth Companies Advisory Board and vice chairperson of the Global Agenda Council for Emerging Multinationals.

- He is a participant member of the G20 meeting and serves on B20 Task Teams as well as the Unga private sector forum, amongst others.

Vanaja N Sarna appointed Central Board of Excise and Customs chief

- Senior bureaucrat Vanaja N Sarna was appointed as chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- Sarna, a 1980 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), is at present member in the CBEC, an apex policy making body for indirect taxes.
- She will take over charge from incumbent Najib Shah who completes his term this month-end.
- The CBEC will be responsible for ensuring successful roll out and subsequent implementation of the GST, with the help of VAT officers of state governments and others. The board will also be rechristened as Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) after necessary legislative approval in the GST regime.
- **The CBEC - which works under Finance Ministry - comprises of a chairperson and a maximum of six members.**

Rajiv Kumar Chander appointed India's Permanent Representative to Geneva UN offices

- Rajiv Kumar Chander, a 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was appointed the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN offices in Geneva.

- Chander, who at present is the Consul General in Vancouver, Canada, is expected to take up his new assignment shortly
- He will succeed Ajit Kumar at the Geneva office.
- Chander earlier served as Deputy Permanent Representative in the Geneva office from 2006 to 2009.
- He was in-charge in New Delhi of political work relating to Gulf countries as well as Haj related matters.
- Chander served as India's Ambassador to Ukraine from July 2011 to July 2015.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Chenani-Nashri tunnel

- Amid multi-tiered security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will today dedicate to the nation India's longest road tunnel+ on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, making it operational for traffic.
- The new 10.8 kilometre Chenani-Nashri road tunnel+ is the longest highway tunnel in Asia
- A high alert has also been issued ahead of the Prime Minister's visit, even as vigilance at the border and at vital installations in J&K has been stepped up.
- The tunnel will save fuel worth nearly Rs 99 crore a year. "Rs 27 lakh worth of fuel is likely to be saved per day

Miami Open: Johanna Konta defeats Caroline Wozniacki

- Johanna Konta defeated Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 to win the Miami Open on Saturday — the biggest title won by a British woman in 40 years.

- Konta, who had never won an elite WTA premier mandatory event, will move to number seven in the world rankings with the victory.
- No British woman had ever won a premier mandatory event since the elite tier was introduced in 2009 and this was only the second time that Konta had even qualified for the Miami tournament.

SpaceX successfully launches first recycled rocket

- SpaceX successfully launched and then retrieved its first recycled rocket Thursday, a historic feat and the biggest leap yet in its bid to drive down costs and speed up flights.
- It was the first time SpaceX founder Elon Musk tried to fly a booster that soared before on an orbital mission.
- his particular first stage landed on an ocean platform almost exactly a year ago after a space station launch for NASA. SpaceX refurbished and tested the 15-story booster, still sporting its nine original engines. It nailed another vertical landing at sea Thursday once it was finished boosting the satellite for the SES company of Luxembourg. SpaceX employees jammed outside Mission Control at the Hawthorne, California, company headquarters cheered loudly every step of the way - and again when the satellite reached its proper orbit.

US Astronaut Peggy Whitson Breaks Sunita Williams' Record For Most Spacewalks By A Woman

- American astronaut Peggy Whitson made history when she floated outside the International Space Station on Thursday,

breaking the record for the most spacewalks by a woman. Ms Whitson, 57, made her eighth career spacewalk, surpassing the record of seven previously held by American Suni Williams.

- The spacewalk formally began at 7:29 am (1129 GMT) when Ms Whitson and her NASA colleague Shane Kimbrough switched their spacesuits to battery power before venturing outside the airlock and into the vacuum of space.

PV Sindhu clinches India Open Super Series

- PV Sindhu avenged her Rio defeat against Carolina Marin in style with a thumping 21-19, 21-16 victory over the top seed Spaniard in the India Open Super Series 2017 final.
- Sindhu took 47 minutes to win her maiden home Super Series crown.
- The Indian shuttler dominated the match from the very beginning and never look out of control. This was the second Superseries title win for Sindhu.
- The Indian shuttler has shown character in the tournament and she entered the final after beaten Saina Nehwal and Sung ji-Hyun.
- Sindhu rated India Open as one of the important tournaments in her itinerary.
- Both these players were also involved in an epic battle during the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- In the one hour 23 minute classic, Marin emerged the winner in an epic three-game match but Sindhu created history as she became the first Indian female shuttler to clinch the silver medal in the Olympics.

AP Chief Minister bags US India Biz Council award

- Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been selected for another prestigious award.
- The US India Business Council has selected the CM for award of 'Transformative Chief Minister' and Naidu would be receiving coveted award at second annual West Coast summit which to be held in California on May 8.
- The CM has been requested to deliver his message on the occasion and CM's office received the message towards award function.
- Several prominent personalities and industrialists would attend the meeting. However, the CM would also take part in the interactions after the award function.

Harmanpreet Kaur named Aus T20 team's Player of the Year

- India's women's T20I team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been named Player of the Year by Australia's Women's Big Bash League team Sydney Thunder.
- Harmanpreet earlier had become the first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League, when she was picked by the team last year.
- She played 13 matches for the team, scoring 296 runs.
- Pat Cummins, who was brought in a replacement for Mitchell Starc during Australia's tour of India, after the Ranchi Test, won the Michael Hussey Medal for the Best Men's Player of the Year award for the Men's Sydney Thunder franchise.
- Last year, the 28-year-old became the first ever Indian cricketer to be picked by a Big

Bash League franchise, when the Sydney Thunder picked her in their squad.

- Kaur's selection was soon followed by that of Smriti Mandhana, who was picked by the Brisbane Heat, later in the year.

81st Foundation Day of Odisha-'Utkal Divas

- On April 1, 1936, Odisha was formed and since then the day is celebrated to mark the contributions and sacrifices made by the people of the state in the formation days.
- The day is also called as 'Utkal Divas'. Constant efforts of activists – Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das, Maharaja Shri Ramachandra Bhanjadeo, Raja Baikunthanath Dey, Maharaja Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapati, Gourishankar Ray, Gangadhar Meher, Utkala Gaurav Madhusudan Das and Fakir Mohan Senapati – helped Odisha to get status of separate linguistic state, which carved out Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.
- Odisha was later divided in to 13 and further to 30 districts.
- Odisha is largely recognized as a poor state with poor infrastructure and people suffering from nutrition.
- But that is not the actual case; in fact the state is blessed with rich heritage, culture, natural beauty and some amazing festivals and traditions.

Myanmar becomes SASEC's 7th member

- Myanmar has become the seventh member of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) partnership, opening up new markets and supply chain links for trade

and business between South Asia and Southeast Asia.

- SASEC countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka — coordinate the planning of projects and activities to increase economic growth by building transport connectivity, facilitating faster and more efficient trade, and promoting cross-border power trade.
- South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme of Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expanding towards the East with Myanmar formally becoming the seventh member of the Corporation in 2017.
- Myanmar's membership in SASEC can offer a host of opportunities for realising synergies from economic cooperation in the sub-region. SASEC member countries recognise that most of SASEC's multi-modal connectivity initiatives include Myanmar.
- Road corridors in Myanmar provide the key links between South Asia and Southeast Asia. Ports in Myanmar will provide additional gateways to the landlocked North Eastern region of India.

'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' t launched in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

- "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana", a 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category' is launched in District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.
- Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens will be distributed in Camp mode and the Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency, 'Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation

(ALIMCO)' which will undertake one year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices.

- The devices will help the Senior Citizens to overcome their age related physical impairment and to lead a dignified and productive life with minimal dependence on care givers or other members of the family.
- The ambitious Scheme, first of its kind in the country is expected to benefit 5,20,000 Senior Citizens over a period of the 3 years
- The Scheme aims at providing Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmary viz. Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and Locomotor disability, with such assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmary manifested.
- The assistive devices shall be of high quality and conforming to the standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standard

Karnataka Bank, SBI Card launch co-branded credit card

- Karnataka Bank and SBI Card have launched co-branded credit cards for the customers of Karnataka Bank.
- Through this alliance Karnataka Bank and SBI Card will launch two variants of the co-branded credit card – 'Karnataka Bank Platinum SBI Card' and 'Karnataka Bank SimplySAVE SBI Card'.
- Karnataka Bank Platinum SBI Card', which has been designed keeping in mind the premium customers, offers features in line with their lifestyle and spending patterns.

- 'Karnataka Bank SimplySAVE SBI Card' is aimed at value conscious consumers and offers rewards and features that enable customers to maximise their savings on their regular spends
- the introduction of the co-branded card has added more flavour to bank's bouquet of tailor-made products and services.

Government announces 30% subsidy for upgradation of powerloom sector

- Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani announced that the government has increased subsidy by 30 per cent for upgradation of powerloom sector and for the benefit of small weavers.
- Irani launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive power-loom development scheme today in Bhiwandi district of Maharashtra.
- PowerTex India scheme will benefit the small powerloom weaver's to survive. For upgradation of powerloom sector government has increased subsidy by 30 per cent.
- The yarn bank issue has also been addressed and an assistance to the tune of Rs 2 crore will be given for the yarn bank created by 11 weavers.
- A common facility centre will be started under this scheme. Under Mudra Yojana the government would give a soft loan.
- With the help of Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) powerloom company can expand their business.
- Powerlooms using solar power would be granted 50 per cent subsidy

Roger Federer Downs Rafael Nadal To Win Miami Open

- Roger Federer outclassed long-standing rival Rafael Nadal to win the Miami Open on Sunday and continued his remarkable comeback run in 2017.
- 18-Grand Slam champion ousted the Spaniard in straight sets 6-3, 6-4 to win the third Miami Open title.
- The loss was Nadal's fifth in a final in Miami and this remains one tournament that the Spaniard is yet to win.
- Since returning from his six month injury lay-off, Federer is not putting a foot wrong and has registered wins in the last four meetings against Nadal--including Australian Open and Indian Wells Title

Singapore blocks visas for Indian IT professionals

- While the focus has been on the US, visas for IT professionals to work in Singapore have dropped "to a trickle", prompting the government to put on hold the review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) citing violation of the trade pact.
- With Indian companies being advised to hire local talent, they are looking at relocating some of their operations to other countries in the region.
- From HCL and TCS, which were the early movers to Singapore, the list has expanded to include Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant and L&T Infotech.
- Singapore authorities were insisting on what is called "economic needs test" (ENT), which requires compliance with certain economic criteria, to deny access to Indian professionals

- In recent years, Singapore has emerged as a key opponent of allowing foreign professionals into the island nation.

Dawit Isaak chosen for 2017 World Press Freedom Prize

- Dawit Isaak a journalist who was arrested in Eritrea in 2001, and whose case has been championed for years by human rights organizations and international governments, will receive the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- He was a co-founder of the first independent newspaper in Eritrea when he was arrested in a security crackdown that followed the September 11 attacks in the United States, and a call for democratic dialogue at home.
- He had returned to the small Horn of Africa nation, tucked along the Red Sea between Sudan and Ethiopia, after living in Sweden for years.
- The \$25,000 Prize is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in 1986 in front of the offices of his El Espectador newspaper in Bogotá.
- It is awarded each year to an individual or organization that has persevered to protect press freedoms under adversity.
- The Prize will be awarded during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, which will be hosted in Jakarta, Indonesia.

MS Dhoni officially turns Gulf Oil India CEO

- Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has worn many hats over the years, worn another feather in his cap today.
- The 'Captain Cool' has been appointed as the CEO of Gulf Oil India for a day.
- The former Indian captain was named as the brand ambassador of Gulf Oil back in 2011 and since then has shared a good bond with it.
- To take this relationship a step forward, the company decided to appoint him as CEO for a day

First bio-gas bus in Kolkata with flat Re 1 fare

- A city-based company has claimed to have launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in Kolkata keeping a flat fare of just Re 1.
- All buses will have a flat fare of Re 1 irrespective of the distance, even in excess of 40 km
- Presently, the lowest fare in a Kolkata bus is Rs 6.
- The first bus will run a distance of 17 km between Ultadanga and Garia in the southern fringes of the city and Phoenix India will run the bio-gas service from its Corporate Social Responsibility fund.

Indian Government Withdraws FAME Subsidies For Mild Hybrids

- The Central Government has effectively withdrawn the subsidies that have been provided to mild hybrid diesel cars under the FAME scheme.
- The FAME or 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles' was introduced in 2015 and offered discounts

of up to Rs 29,000 for two wheelers and up to Rs 1.38 lakh for four wheelers.

- The change in policy will affect the prices of two Maruti Suzuki vehicles in India, the Ertiga and the Ciaz. Incidentally, the Ciaz was just recently moved to the Nexa chain of premium dealerships.
- The overall benefit given under the FAME scheme was approximately Rs 66 Crore.
- According to the Department of Heavy Industries, almost Rs 40 Crore of the funds allotted, which is close to 60% of the total allotments were directed towards the mild hybrid cars while the more eco-friendly (but more expensive) full electric cars got only about 14% of the total subsidy offered.

IISc India's best educational institution in HRD ministry's NIRF rankings

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has emerged at the top of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) that rates Indian higher educational institutes on the basis of their performance.
- the ranking based on five broad parameters—teaching, learning and resources (0.30 weightage); research and professional practices (0.30 weightage); graduation outcomes (0.20 weightage), outreach and inclusivity (0.10 weightage) and perception (0.10 weightage).
- The second edition of the rankings, compiled by the ministry of human resource development, lists seven Indian Institutes of Technology among the top 10—
 1. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
 2. Indian Institute of Technology Madras
 3. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

4. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
5. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
6. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
7. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
8. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
9. Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
10. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Scientists identify plastic eating fungus

- Scientists from Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) have identified a soil fungus **Aspergillus tubingensis** that uses enzymes to rapidly break down plastic materials.
- This fungus also uses the physical strength of its mycelia (the network of root—like filaments) to break apart the polymers.

IISc ranked India's top university in 2017 NIRF Survey

- The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru was adjudged as the best Indian university in the 2017 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by Union Human Resource Development Ministry.
- NIRF survey is a ranking framework for higher education institutions in the country. Parameters of ranking broadly cover Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and inclusivity and Perception.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana launched

- The Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh.

- Under this scheme, Senior citizens, living below the poverty line, will now get for free assistive devices like hearing aids and wheelchairs. Scheme corpus is Rs 477 crore.

India, Malaysia inks 7 agreements

- India and Malaysia today inked seven pacts, including an air services agreement and a mutual recognition of educational qualifications of the two nations.
- Apart from the air services agreement, the two nations signed an MoU on cooperation in the development of the proposed 2.5 MT per annum urea and ammonia manufacturing plant in Malaysia.

Subsidy for mild hybrid vehicles under FAME scheme removed

- Mild hybrid cars have electric motors that only assist normal engine by using recovered energy stored
- It has now been removed from government's subsidy list
- Maruti Suzuki's two popular cars - Ertiga and Ciaz - have mild hybrid technology
- Auto companies had received incentives of Rs 13,000 for each mild hybrid vehicle each under the scheme.

Gujarat gets its first woman police chief , DGP Geetha Johri replaces PP Pandey

- Director General of Police (DGP) Geetha Johri was appointed in-charge police chief of Gujarat on Tuesday.
- The minister of state for home Pradeepsinh Jadeja announced the decision while stating that Johri has been given the additional

charge as she is the senior-most IPS officer in the state.

- With this Johari has become the first woman IPS officer to be appointed for the top job in the state.
- Johri moved discharge application before the special CBI court in Mumbai which is hearing Sohrabuddin case there.
- In 2015, the special court allowed her application and discharged her from the case.

Berhampur Thakurani Yatra festival begins

- The famous Berhampur Thakurani Yatra, one of the biggest festivals of southern Odisha, has been celebrated with pomp and gaiety
- The nearly month-long festival, which began yesterday, celebrates the journey of the deity Maa Budhi Thakurani to her father's house at Desibehera street here. The extravaganza is scheduled to conclude on May 1.
- The biannual extravaganza is the festival of the weaving community, known as Devangiris, and organised by P Durga Prasad Desibehera, whose family has been conducting the festival for generations.
- Desibehera, head of the Devangiris, and his wife along with several others went to the Thakurani temple in a procession to invite the goddess 'home' at midnight on the first day.

J & K Govt bans polythene manufactured below 50 microns

- Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology, Choudhary Lal Singh today said the Government is taking all the possible measures to prevent the State's environment and ecology getting polluted.

- The Minister announced that the Government has put a blanket ban on polythene bags manufactured below fifty (50) microns.
- The manufacturer's name and address will now be required to be printed on the bags, failing which, strict action, as per the law, will be taken against them.

Banking veteran Mahesh Kumar Jain is new IDBI bank MD and CEO

- IDBI has appointed Mahesh Kumar Jain as the Managing Director & CEO with immediate effect. Before his role in IDBI, Jain was the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank.
- Jain joined Indian Bank as an executive director in September 2013 where he handled several key portfolios.
- Prior to joining Indian Bank, Jain served as general manager with Syndicate Bank.
- He began his banking career with Punjab National Bank
- He was also a member of the steering committee on Risk Management of IBA and a member of the IBA working group on risk management and implementation of Basel II and III. He was also the secretary & coordinator to Basant Seth Committee on review & revamp of internal & concurrent audit system in PSBs.

International Mine Awareness Day 4 April

- 2017 Theme: Needs driven. People Centred
- On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

- It called for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the civilian population, or an impediment to social and economic development at the national and local levels.
- For 20 years, the work of UNMAS has been driven by the needs of affected people and tailored to the threat of explosive hazards faced by civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarians.
- UNMAS works to save lives, to facilitate deployment of UN missions and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to protect civilians, to support the voluntary return of the internally displaced and refugees, to enable humanitarian and recovery activities and to advocate for international humanitarian and human rights law.

World Health Day: 7 April

- Theme 2017: Depression: let's talk
- WHO is leading a one-year global campaign on depression. The highlight is World Health Day 2017, celebrated today.
- The goal of the campaign is that more people with depression, everywhere in the world, both seek and get help. Depression is the leading cause of ill-health and disability worldwide.
- More than 300 million people are now living with depression, an increase of more than 18% between 2005 and 2015.

Rajya Sabha passes GST bill without amendments

- The Rajya Sabha passed the historic [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) bill without any amendments.
- The Lok Sabha had passed [four key GST Bills](#) on March 29 while rejecting amendments moved by the opposition.
- The Central GST Bill, 2017; The Integrated GST Bill, 2017; The GST (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017; and The Union Territory GST Bill, 2017 were passed after negotiation of a host of amendments moved by the opposition parties.
- The GST is one of the most significant reforms since India opened its economy in the early 1990s that will harmonise a mosaic of state and central levies into a national sales tax.
- For example, a panel of central and state finance chiefs has agreed for tax rates, ranging from 5 to 28 percent, it has yet to decide which rates will apply to which categories of goods.
- GST will subsume a host of indirect taxes levied by the Centre and states, including excise duty, VAT, service tax, entry, luxury and entertainment levies.
- The government is set to roll out the GST from July 1.

India's is the world's 7th largest tourism economy in terms of GDP

- India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's GDP, according to a new report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).
- According to data, the travel and tourism sector generated Rs 14.1 trillion (USD208.9

billion) in 2016, which is world's 7th largest in terms of absolute size; the sum is equivalent to 9.6% of India's GDP.

- Visitor exports, money spent by foreign travellers in India, only represents 12% of tourism revenues and in 2016 totalled Rs 1.5 trillion (USD22.8bn).
- This is 5.4% of the country's total exports, compared to a global average of 6.6%. Data from the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) shows that India received only 9 million international arrivals in 2016, placing it at 40th place in the world; a tenth of those received by top-ranking France.

World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)

- The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) is a forum for the travel and tourism industry.
- It is made up of members from the global business community and works with governments to raise awareness about the travel and tourism industry.
- The WTTC was officially established in 1990
- The WTTC is headquartered in an office located in London, UK.
- The Chairman of WTTC is Gerald Lawless and President & CEO is David Scowsill

Virat Kohli named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016

- India cricket team skipper Virat Kohli was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016
- Kohli scored 1215 Test runs at a brilliant average of 75.93 last year.
- His 10 ODI appearances fetched him 739 runs at 92.37, while he scored 641 T20 International runs at 106.83.

- Only six batsmen have ever scored more international runs in a calendar year than Kohli but none of them has come close to the Team India captain's average.
- Virat Kohli, who features on the cover of the 2017 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, is also the Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016, an accolade put in place in 2003 when Ricky Ponting became the first honouree,
- The 28-year-old became the third Indian cricketer to win the award, which has been running since 2003 and covers all the three formats of the game in the preceding calendar year. Former Indian opener Virender Sehwag earned the honour twice by Wisden, while legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar won it once.

The Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World

- The Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World is an annual cricket award selected by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
- It was established in 2004, to select the best cricketer based upon their performances anywhere in the world in the previous calendar year.

Jhargram becomes 22nd Bengal district

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared Jhargram as the 22nd district of West Bengal, fulfilling a longstanding demand of its residents.
- April 4 will henceforth be celebrated as Jhargram Divas.
- A Rs 200 crore budget has been sanctioned for Jhargram's development. Building a new stadium at Nayagram and renovating the

Jhargram stadium are part of my government's agenda. Multi-specialty hospitals, as well as schools and colleges, will be built in all blocks of the new district

- Jhargram is famous for its wooded beauty and tooting in the hill ranges of Belpahari, Kankrajhor to the north and Subarnarekha to the south.
- It is a favorite destination for people who love forests.
- The ancient temples, royal palaces, and folk tunes and rhythms make this area attractive.

Haryana govt to provide Rs 21,000 to families for third girl child

- Haryana government would provide one-time grant of Rs 21,000 to all those families whose third girl child was born after August 24, 2015, under the 'Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti' scheme.
- Under the scheme, the eligible families would receive the amount irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, income and number of sons
- The scheme is aimed to combat the problem of declining child sex ratio and promote girls' education in the state.
- The third girl child born on or after August 24, 2015 in any family in the state satisfying the eligibility criteria would be covered in this scheme.
- Earlier under the scheme, the first girl child born in the families belonging to Scheduled Castes and all Below Poverty Line (BPL), and second, twin or multiple girls born on or after January 22, 2015 in any family were eligible for the grant
- The efforts of the state government under the ambitious '[Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao](#)' programme were clearly reflected in the

improved sex ratio at birth (SRB), which was recorded at 938 girls per 1,000 boys in February, 2017

Cabinet approves closure of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved closure of the [Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana \(MGPSY\)](#)
- It was set up in 2012 to address the social security-related issues of the Emigration Check Required (ECR)-category workers going abroad for employment to ECR countries.
- The subscription under the MGPSY was very low and no new subscription was received for more than a year. Closure of the scheme will, therefore, obviate the avoidable recurring administrative and record-keeping expenditure.

Japan Officially Recognises Bitcoin as Currency Starting April 2017

- [Bitcoin](#) has finally gained the recognition of a mainstream currency along the lines of other fiat currencies.
- The privilege follows the implementation of a new law in Japan which categorises Bitcoin as a legal payment option within the country.
- The much-awaited law went into effect on April 1, 2017
- Bitcoin exchanges will also come under additional regulatory scrutiny.
- The recognition of cryptocurrency as a legal tender also means the applicability of regulations governing banks and financial

institutions to cryptocurrency exchange platforms.

- They will be required to comply with strict anti-money laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements, along with annual audits.
- Other requirements include meeting the stated capital and cyber security requirements to ensure consumer protection.
- The recognition of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as legal payment instruments is good news for the global cryptocurrency ecosystem.
- Adoption of cryptocurrency is expected to increase among people, which will, in turn, drive demand and price.
- The new developments are expected to drive the cryptocurrency usage in Japan to over \$9 billion in the next three years (2020), which is more than five times the 2015's \$1.7 billion worth of cryptocurrencies in circulation.

Online tax filing portal ClearTax launches tech platform for GST

- ClearTax has launched a first-of-its-kind multi-GSP (GST Suvidha Provider) taxation solution and the software will be adept to handle over 1 billion invoices, which is expected to be generated after the GST rollout. GSTN, the company that is tasked with building the world's biggest and most complex tax framework, has short-listed 34 companies to be the GST Suvidha Provider.
- The GSP is mandated to provide innovative and convenient ways to taxpayers and other stakeholders for interacting with GST Systems,

from registration of entity to uploading of invoice details to filing of returns.

- GSPs will provide an identical interface that links to the GSTN. A single GSP can become a point of failure for a business in case the GSP server goes down.
- The ClearTax multi-GSP technology solves the problem of single point of failure, and selects the GSP automatically for fault tolerance

German cyber command becomes official military branch

- The German military has officially inaugurated a 260-strong cyber command which will become a fifth branch of the Bundeswehr.
- Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen has officially inaugurated the newly-created Cyber and Information Space Command (CIR), making it the fifth branch of German military after the army, navy, air force and medical service
- The Bundeswehr's cyber command will operate around the clock to protect its own IT infrastructure and computer-assisted weapons systems, also be tackling inbound online threat.

German cyber command

- The Cyber and Information Space Command is the youngest branch of Germany's military the Bundeswehr.
- The decision to form new military branch was presented by Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen on 26 April 2016, with the command becoming operational on 1 April 2017.
- The command's headquarter is Bonn.

India's first transgender police officer appointed in Tamil Nadu

- Prithika Yashini won her first fight against the society when she decided to undergo a sex change operation to become who she believed she was from within. Born Pradeep Kumar, Yashini left her parents' house before completing a computer studies course and undergoing surgery.
- After struggling with the social dogma and gender bias, she recently applied to become a police sub-inspector in Dharampuri, Tamil Nadu. A court in Chennai, Madras has now ruled in her favour.
- Her application was rejected stating that there were only two columns under which she can file her application to restrict her gender identity, wither 'male' or 'female', but she went ahead and filled the form as 'transgender'.
- Yashini has now taken charge as sub-inspector of police at Dharampuri police station, Tamil Nadu. This is a new beginning for the transgender community of India.

Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill

- The Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill was passed in April, 2016 and the Indian Supreme Court recognised transgender as the third gender, five years after the electoral commission added the category to ballot forms.
- The bill meant the government had to provide transgender people with quotas in jobs and education in line with other minorities, as well as basic amenities.
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education in line with other minorities, as well as basic amenities.

Malvika Sinha appointed RBI Executive Director

- The Reserve Bank has appointed Malvika Sinha as Executive Director following the appointment of B P Kanungo as Deputy Governor.
- Sinha took charge on April 3.
- As Executive Director, she will look after foreign exchange department, department of government and bank accounts and internal debt management wing, RBI said in a release.
- Kanungo was Executive Director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to the post of Deputy Governor.
- Sinha had joined the Reserve Bank in 1982 and as a career central banker served in the areas of regulation and supervision, foreign exchange and government and bank accounts.
- Prior to being promoted as ED, she was Principal Chief General Manager, Department of Cooperative Banking Supervision in the Reserve Bank.

Dr. Chirag Trivedi appointed President of Indian Society for Clinical Research

- The Indian Society for Clinical Research (ISCR), an association of clinical research professionals, has announced the appointment of Dr. Chirag Trivedi as its President for the term 2017-19.
- Dr. Trivedi takes over the reins from Suneela Thatte who was President for two terms from 2013-217

- Dr. Trivedi, who holds a doctorate in Pharmacology and has worked across the biopharma industry for over 14 years, brings rich and varied clinical research experience to his role as President of ISCR.
- As President, he is responsible for spearheading ISCR's efforts to build awareness of clinical research as a specialty in India and to facilitate its growth in the country, while helping to evolve the highest standards of quality and ethics. He was earlier the co-chair of the Investigator Council of ISCR.

India Signs Mega Missile Deal With Israel For 2 Billion Dollars

- India has signed a weapons deal with Israel for nearly \$2 billion in what's being described as the "largest defence contract" ever signed by the military exporting giant.
- The deal will provide India with an advanced defence system of medium-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and communications technology.
- The "mega" missile agreement is "considered to be the largest defense contract in Israel's defense industries' history
- some components will be assembled in India, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to reduce reliance on costly imports.
- The Israeli firm will also supply a naval defence system including long-range surface-to-air missiles for India's first aircraft carrier, which is still under construction.
- India - the world's largest defence importer - has been investing tens of billions in updating its Soviet-era military hardware to counter regional rivals China and Pakistan.

64th National Film Awards

- The 64th National Film Awards were announced.
- Sonam Kapoor and Akshay Kumar were among the big winners. While Sonam's Neerja was declared the Best Hindi Film of 2016, Rustom won Akshay Kumar the Best Actor award.
- Zaira Wasim grabbed the best actor in a supporting role award.
- Pink was announced the best film on a social issue
- The National Film Awards is the most prominent film award ceremonies in India.
- Established in 1954, it has been administered, along with the International Film Festival of India and the Indian Panorama, by the Indian government's Directorate of Film Festivals

Hema Malini and S P Balasubramanyam win NTR National Awards

- Andhra Pradesh Government announced the NTR National Award for the years 2012 and 2013 at the Film Development Corporation office in Hyderabad.
- Popular playback singer, actor and music director S.P. Balasubramanyam has got the NTR National Award for 2012, while Hema Malini will receive the same for 2013.

- The NTR National Award is an annual Government award to recognise people for their lifetime achievements and contributions to the Cinema of India.
- **The NTR National Award** is an honorary Nandi Award in the honour of an Indian Film Actor, director, producer, and politician N.T. Rama Rao who also served as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Award carries a cash prize of Rs. 500,000/- and a memento.

Yokoyama takes over as Country Director of ADB

- Kenichi Yokoyama has taken over as the new Country Director of India Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Yokoyama replaces M Teresa Kho who is now posted as Deputy Director General of ADB's East Asia Department in Manila.
- Yokoyama was previously heading the Nepal Resident Mission of ADB.
- Prior to joining ADB, Yokoyama worked with the Government of Japan for about 16 years in various capacities. He is an agriculture engineer from Iwate University, Japan and holds a master's degree in agriculture economics from Stanford University.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- The company also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia.

India, Russia ink pact to build two nuclear reactors in Tamil Nadu

- India and Russia today signed an agreement paving the way for building the third and fourth reactors at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu
- The pact was signed between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Russia's Atomstroyexport
- The accord will operationalise the General Framework Agreement (GFA) signed in April this year between the two sides for construction of units 3 and 4 at Kudankulam.
- The cost of the two units is likely to be around Rs 40,000 crore and they will generate a total of 2,000 MWs of power.
- A separate agreement was also signed between (NPCIL) and Atomstroyexport for unit 3 and 4 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant for supply of some major equipment by the Russian company.
- Aiming to enhance cooperation in the nuclear sector, both the countries also came out with a 'Strategic Vision for Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy' under which Russia will build at least 12 reactors in India by 2035.
- **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant** (or Koodankulam NPP or KKNPP) is the single largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Koodankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- Construction on the plant began on 31 March 2002

Subrahmanyam named Larsen & Toubro CEO

- The Board of Directors of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday elevated S.N. Subrahmanyam as chief executive officer and managing director from the position of deputy managing

director and president of the company and appointed Anil Manibhai Naik as non-executive chairman with effect from October 1, 2017, for a period of three years.

- Mr. Subrahmanyam will take charge as CEO on July 1, 2017
- Mr. Naik had given himself a five-year extension in 2012 to restructure the complex businesses, focus on core business, exit non-core businesses and find his successor. His current term as group executive chairman ends on September 30.

Malala to become youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace

- Malala Yousafzai, the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is to become the youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace, the organisation's
- Yousafzai, 19, will be appointed on Monday by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and will help promote girl's education around the world as part of her new role.
- The Pakistani education activist came to prominence when a Taliban gunman shot her in the head on her school bus in 2012 as punishment for campaigning for girls to go to school which defied the militant Islamic group's ban on female education.
- Yousafzai has since continued campaigning on the world stage and in 2014 became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- Yousafzai, who received medical treatment in Britain where she has since studied, has also set up the Malala Fund to support girls' education projects in developing countries.
- A regular speaker on the global stage, Yousafzai visited refugee camps in Rwanda

and Kenya last July to highlight the plight of refugee girls from Burundi and Somalia

Quattro's Raman Roy is new Nasscom chief, Rishad Premji appointed vice chairman

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) appointed Raman Roy, managing director of Quattro Global Services, as its chairman for 2017-2018.
- Rishad Premji, chief strategy officer, Wipro Limited has been appointed Vice Chairman.
- Roy takes over from CP Gurnani, CEO of Tech Mahindra. He is considered one of the poster boys of the Indian business process outsourcing industry, has been a member of Nasscom's executive council and was the vice-chairman
- **The National Association of Software and Services Companies** (NASSCOM) is a trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.
- Established in 1988, NASSCOM is a non-profit organisation.
- NASSCOM is headquartered in New Delhi, India, with regional offices in the cities of Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram.

Aadhaar Mandatory For Filing Tax Returns, PAN Card From July 1

- Quoting of Aadhaar has been made mandatory for filing income tax returns with effect from July 1, as introduced by the

Finance Act, 2017, an official statement said on Wednesday.

- Aadhaar will also be compulsory for making an application for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN), with effect from July 1.
- Section 139AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 as introduced by the Finance Act, 2017 provides for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar /Enrolment ID of Aadhaar application form, for filing of return of income and for making an application for allotment of Permanent Account Number with effect from July 1.
- As per the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, only a resident individual is entitled to obtain Aadhaar.
- Resident as per the said Act means an individual who has resided in India for a period or periods amounting in all to 182 days or more in the 12 months immediately preceding the date of application for enrolment.

Madhya Pradesh CM launched Deendayal Rasoi Yojana in 49 districts of Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh is all set to join the league of those states which have launched populist subsidised meal scheme for poor with the opening of canteens that provides wholesome food at Rs 5 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana.
- This scheme, named after the BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya, is being launched in 49 districts across the state this evening.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the Deendayal Rasoi Yojana at Gwalior this evening. In the first phase, the scheme is being launched at 49 district headquarters simultaneously between 6-7 pm

- Anyone can have a wholesome meal at Rs 5 which includes four chapatis, one vegetable curry and Dal every day between 11 am to 3 pm. The arrangement would cater to at least 2000 persons every day,

India ranks 9th among 41 countries in corruption in businesses: Survey

- India ranks ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses, according to the findings of a recent survey.
- Nearly 78 per cent respondents queried in the country said that bribery and corrupt practices happen widely in businesses here, as per the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017.
- India ranks behind Ukraine, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Kenya, South Africa and Hungary, in the perception survey.
- The ranking has improved marginally from the survey findings in 2015 when India was at the sixth position, owing to better regulatory scrutiny and emphasis on transparency and governance.
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NBA Launches International Basketball Schools Network In Mumbai

- NBA Basketball Schools open to young male and female players; Top players at each

basketball school will have opportunity to attend NBA Academies.

- The National Basketball Association (NBA) today announced the launch of NBA Basketball School, a network of tuition-based basketball development programs around the world open to international male and female players ages 6-18.
- The first NBA Basketball School launched today in Mumbai, India as part of a multiyear agreement announced today with India On Track (IOT), one of India's leading sports management, marketing and development companies. Additional NBA Basketball Schools will be launched in India and around the world in the coming months.

Central Bank of India customer wins Rs 1 cr under Modi's cashless scheme

- A transaction of Rs 1,590 has bagged a Central Bank of India customer a lucky bounty of Rs 1 crore under the Modi government's promotional scheme to popularise digital payments.
- President Pranab Mukherjee picked up the lucky winners from the 100th draw of lots under digital payments promotion schemes at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- He congratulated the six winners — three consumers and three merchants — under the Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana.
- In the consumer section, the first mega prize of Rs 1 crore went to a customer of Central Bank of India, while the second prize of Rs 50 lakh went to a Bank of Baroda customer. A

customer of Punjab National Bank is the winner of third prize of Rs 25 lakh.

- The winners will be felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 at Nagpur on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti.

India Today's Kalli Purie awarded FICCI Young Woman Achiever for excellence in media

- India Today Group Editorial Director Kalli Purie was today awarded the FICCI Young Women Achievers Award for excellence in media.
- The award was conferred to outstanding women achievers who have excelled in their respective fields and made a significant contribution to society.
- Young women under the age of 45 are chosen from diverse fields and are felicitated through these awards.
- Other awardees included Sussanne Khan (Entrepreneur), Simran Lal (Business), Shaina NC (Politics), Deepa Malik (Sports), Chiki Sarkar (Literature), Malvika Poddar (Fashion), Gauri Shinde (Film), Preeti Chandra (Community Service), Bhavna Kakkar (Art) and Vidha Lal (Performing Arts).
- The award to Purie comes after she was listed as one of India's most influential women in media, marketing and advertising last month at the sixth edition of Impact magazine's prestigious awards.

Former Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh to head TDSAT

- The government has cleared retired Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh as the next

chairman of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

- The appointment is for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office or "until further orders, whichever is earlier
- As per rules, the head of the dispute resolution agency for the telecom industry must be a person, who has been a Supreme Court judge, or the chief justice of a high court.
- Justice Singh had, in fact, served as the chief justice of Allahabad High Court before he became a judge in the apex court.
- The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) was established to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector
- It was established in 2000.

IOA grants affiliation to Boxing Federation of India

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has granted affiliation to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), ending a long-standing impasse between the two bodies.
- As per the directives of the International Olympic Committee vide their letter dated February 7, the IOA grants affiliation to the BFI subject to ratification by the Executive Council/General Body of the IOA
- The IOA had initially refused to grant recognition to BFI stating that it still considered the now-defunct Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF)
- With this, the BFI now becomes the fully recognised body for Indian boxing, having already been granted affiliation by AIBA and

the sports ministry.

Uruguay government legalises sale of recreational cannabis in pharmacies

- Uruguay's three-year process of legalising recreational cannabis consumption reached its final stage when the government said it would authorise pharmacies to begin selling the substance as of July.
- Sixteen pharmacies have registered with the government of the tiny South American country to be able to sell marijuana for recreational purposes.
- That number is expected to increase to 30 in the coming months,
- Uruguay became a global pioneer when it legalised the cultivation, distribution and consumption of marijuana in late 2013. But the roll-out has been slow, and the authorisation for pharmacies to sell cannabis – initially expected by the end of 2014 – has been postponed several times.
- The government hopes the formalisation process will "guarantee the quality and the purity of the product" citizens consume. The cannabis sold in pharmacies will be grown by producers licensed by the state.

HDFC Bank launches its UPI on Chillr

- Country's second largest private sector lender HDFC Bank today launched its unified payment interface app on the fintech startup Chillr.
- The UPI on Chillr is in addition to the same facility available on the bank's mobile banking application.

- Chillr has been running on IMPS with 11 banks prior to the launch and has achieved a milestone of monthly transaction value of over Rs 500 crore
- Chillr is India's first multi-bank mobile payment app that links directly to your bank account. It allows you to send money instantly from your HDFC Bank account to anyone in your phone book or to a beneficiary using his 'Account number & IFSC code' or 'UPI ID'.
- You can also recharge, pay bills, split bills, or request money on Chillr.

President of India inaugurates first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017
- The slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit is, 'Unite for a Healthy Mind'.
- Depression affects people of all ages from all walks of life and in all countries. As per the National Mental Health Survey 2015-16 conducted by NIMHANS, 5.2% of the Indian adult population suffers from depression in some form or the other.
- The problem of depression often gets ignored due to lack of understanding on the part of family members.
- The social stigma attached to a mental disorder, even if it is easily treatable, is also a major problem in India.
- The World Health Day Summit has begun in the right direction by launching the eCAP & SOL's Telepsychiatry application for the rural and urban population in need of mental health consultation.

Atu Zumvu is first Naga cop to receive 'Shaurya Chakra' award

- Atu Zumvu, SDPO Kohima has been conferred with the prestigious "Shaurya Chakra" thus becoming the first Police Officer from Nagaland Police to be conferred with Shaurya Chakra since 1st December 1963 when Nagaland achieved its Statehood.
- Besides this award, Zumvu was earlier awarded with US special agent medal (2013), India Cyber Cop award (2011) Governor Gold Medal (2009) and Governor Commendation Certificate in 2005.
- In his message to the men and women in Khaki service across the country, Zumvu said: "Inculcate in oneself these three qualities—courage, dedication and promptness—to be an achiever and to do justice in your work."

NASA's Peggy Whitson Takes Command Of Space Station

- NASA's Peggy Whitson, soon to become the most experienced US astronaut in terms of time spent in space, assumed command of the International Space Station as two Russian crew members and an American prepared to fly back to Earth. For Whitson, 57.
- It was her second stint in charge of the \$100 billion station, a multinational project overseen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Russian space agency Roscosmos.
- On April 24, Whitson will have spent more time in space than any other American astronaut, surpassing the current US record of 534 days held by NASA's Jeff Williams, 59.

- She already held records for the most time spent in space by a woman and for the most time spent spacewalking by a woman.

Indian-origin educationist wins Businesswoman of Year award

- An Indian-origin educationist in the UK, who moved to Britain after her marriage with no English language skills, has been named the Asian Businesswoman of the Year in an award ceremony in Birmingham.
- 65-year-old Dame Asha Khemka, Principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College, was honoured for her efforts in the field of education and skills at the Asian Business Awards ceremony
- Born in Bihars Sitamarhi district, Dame Khemka left school after passing her exams at the age of 13 and had close to no English language skills when she moved to the UK with her husband and kids at the age of 25.
- She taught herself English by watching children's TV shows and talking to other young mothers. She went on to acquire a business degree from Cardiff University before becoming a lecturer and eventually taking over as principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College, one of the largest in the UK.
- In 2013, she was awarded a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, one of Britain's highest civilian awards.
- The mother-of-three was the first Indian-origin Dame since Maharani Lakshmi Devi Bai Sahiba of Dhar State in 1931.

NEFT transfers to be faster as RBI cuts clearance time

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to slash clearance time for National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) in an attempt to enhance efficiency of the electronic payment system and add to customer convenience.
- In line with the document on Vision-2018 for Payment and Settlement Systems, the NEFT settlement cycle will be reduced from hourly batches to half hourly batches
- RBI is initiating a pilot project on financial literacy at the block level to explore innovative and participatory approaches to financial literacy.
- The pilot project will be commissioned in nine states across 80 blocks by non-government organisations (NGOs) in collaboration with sponsor banks
- The pilot project will be executed with the following broad objectives — active saving and good borrowing; financial planning and goal setting and going digital and consumer protection.
- The Centres for Financial Literacy (CFL) will be set up under a common name and logo, Money-wise Centre for Financial Literacy.

Moily presents copy of his new book to President

- Former Union minister and senior congress leader M Veerappa Moily today presented the first copy of his book 'The Flaming Tresses of Draupadi' to President Pranab Mukherjee.
- Speaking about the book at a function organised at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Mukherjee said the Mahabharata and the Ramayana have had a profound influence on the Indian minds and thought process and in both the cases the central theme of these epics have been on women.

- Mukerjee said he has known Moily for over five decades, starting from he being Karnataka in-charge of the Congress in the 1970s and then as ministers in the Manmohan Singh cabinet.

Canara Bank partners BSNL to upgrade bandwidth at all branches

- Canara Bank, a public sector bank, has embarked upon an ambitious project of upgrading the bandwidth at all its branches to 2 Mbps in partnership with BSNL.
- The project was officially inaugurated jointly by Dina Bandhu Mohapatra, Executive Director, Canara Bank, in the presence of P V Bharathi, Executive Director, Canara Bank and other top executives of the Bank and BSNL.
- Speaking on the occasion Dina Bandhu Mohapatra, that said the bandwidth upgradation of branches is in line with the bank's policy of promoting digital channels and shall be a game changer for ensuring faster service across the counters.
- The bandwidth upgradation activity shall be completed in three months.

Mukta Dutta Tomar appointed India's Ambassador to Germany

- Mukta Dutta Tomar was appointed as new India's Ambassador to Germany.
- Tomar, a 1984 batch IFS officer is presently working as the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- She is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- Earlier, Gurjit Singh was holding this post till in March 2017.

Akshay Kumar launches Bharat Ke Veer for families of soldiers

- Launching the app and website 'BharatKeVeer' with Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, lauded the Government of India for making his dream come true and providing a platform for everyone to help the next of the kin of slain soldiers financially.
- The portal is an IT based platform, with an objective to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a braveheart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty. The amount so donated will be credited to the account of 'Next of Kin' of those Central Armed Police Force/Central Para Military Force soldiers. Actor Akshay Kumar was the Guest of Honour during the function.

Google Doodle Pays Tribute To Famous Indian Artist Jamini Roy

- Google doodle celebrated the birth anniversary of world-renowned Bengali painter, Jamini Roy.
- Born on this day in the last century, Mr Roy is one of the most significant modernists in the world of Indian fine arts of the 20th century.
- He was also accorded with the honour of Padma Bhushan award in 1955.
- The National Gallery of Modern Art says Mr Roy "turned to the folk arts of Bengal".
- As brought out quite simplistically in the Google doodle, Jamini Roy exhibited use of bold, flat but dazzling colours unlike the natural colour palette used at that time.

- His style was restricted his palette to seven colours- Indian red, yellow ochre, cadmium green, vermilion, grey, blue and white.
- Even though he is known for his distinctive style, the artist is also identified as one of the most famous students of Abanindranath Tagore.
- Some of his notable works include Gopini, Three Pujarans, Standing woman, Bengali Woman among many others.
- Many of these can be viewed in the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.

100 years of Champaran Satyagraha: PM Modi inaugurated 'Swachhagraha' exhibition

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an exhibition to mark the 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagrah.
- The exhibition, titled 'Swachhagraha - Bapu Ko Karyanjali - Ek Abhiyan, Ek Pradarshani', was held in the Delhi.
- Champaran Satyagraha was a historic mass movement which had a phenomenal impact and appealed to the countrymen to become 'Swachhagrahis' and create a Swachh Bharat.
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Movement) was launched on October 2, 2014, with an aim to achieve clean India and aims to achieve an Open-Defecation Free (ODF) by October 2, 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Gandhi had arrived in Champaran, a district in Bihar, in 1917 to take up the cause of the farmers who were forced to grow indigo, instead of food crops, by the British.
- Champaran Satyagraha was the first non-violence action initiated by Gandhi, who during his stay in Bihar, also delved in detail with the

social problems like scavenging, illiteracy, and issues related to women and health.

India, Mongolia begin joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant'

- India and Mongolia have commenced a joint military training exercise called "Nomadic Elephant -2016" in Mongolia.
- The Indian Army sent platoon-strength soldiers of the Kumaon Regiment to the 11th Indo-Mongolia exercise.
- The exercise will be inclusive of the specialised operations in counter insurgency and counter terrorism setting.
- The Indian Army contingent will also be accompanied by two observers.
- Both the armies will participate in sporting events and be sharing techniques gained in unarmed combat and specialised rappelling
- The joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant - 2016" is expected to end on May 8.

Kristin Davis appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist Kristin Davis as its Goodwill Ambassador.
- Davis started her journey with UNHCR by travelling to Northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, meeting South Sudanese refugees and hearing their stories. Moved by refugee accounts, Davis wrote about her trip.
- Davis championed UNHCR's work through media interviews and via her social media channels. She has also supported key UNHCR

advocacy and fundraising events and campaigns - including traveling to Australia in 2016 to help raise funds for women victims of sexual violence in DR Congo.

- The Office of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is a United Nations programme mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- Its **headquarters are in Geneva**, Switzerland, and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- The UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, once in 1954 and again in 1981
- It was formed on 14 December 1950

Family court judge Tej Bahadur Singh in the Guinness book of world records for deciding over 6 thousand cases

- The principal judge of a family court in Muzaffarnagar has set a Guinness World Record by disposing of as many as 6,065 cases in 327 working days.
- Tej Bahadur Singh has decided 6,065 cases in 327 days despite the lawyers strike in the district.
- The Guinness Book of World Records has confirmed about Singh's entry in its list of world record holders.
- The judge said that his move was aimed to reduce the number of pending cases in the court and provide justice to the litigants.
- He said that this was the highest ever disposal of cases in the country. A total of 903 couples

were reunited after settlement in the family court

Sisi declares 3-month state of emergency in Egypt

- President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has declared a three-month state of emergency in Egypt and ordered military special forces to protect vital infrastructure after two powerful church bombings by the Islamic State terror group killed at least 45 people and wounded more than 100 others.
- Mr. Sisi announced the state of emergency nationwide for three months following the blasts that targeted the minority Coptic Christians on Palm Sunday, one of the holiest days of the Christian calendar.

Fino Paytech inks deal with ICICI group companies to distribute insurance products

- Fino Paytech, which just received the Reserve Bank of India's licence to launch a payments bank, has inked a deal with ICICI group companies to distribute insurance products and tied up with Exide Life insurance to sell products via its distribution channel.
- Fino Payments Bank will sell life and general insurance products of ICICI Prudential and ICICI Lombard.
- The [payments bank](#) will launch its operations with 3-4 products including current and savings account, business correspondent lending, remittances and insurance.
- The bank will also offer a bouquet of products related with mobile recharge and bill payments which are currently offered through Fino Money Mart.

- The bank is still devising the strategy on the sale of mutual products via its branches.

Smita Sandhane takes charge as MD, Saraswat Co-operative Bank

- Smita Sandhane has taken charge as Managing Director of the Saraswat Co-operative Bank with effect from April 1. She is the first woman chief of India's largest urban co-operative bank.
- Prior to her elevation, Sandhane was the Joint Managing Director of the bank. She has been with the bank since 1982.
- Sandhane has taken over from S.K. Banerji, who retired from the services of the bank on March 31, 2017. Banerji is now an Advisor to the bank's board.
- The new MD has worked across various operational spheres at branches, departments and zones. She has served as Head - Wholesale Banking Department and Head - Planning, Accounts and Stressed Assets.
- She successfully executed the merger and consolidation plans of three other co-operative banks into Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd., laying the operational road-map for their smooth transition into the bank's mainstream business and was also instrumental in substantial recoveries in the NPA accounts of these banks.

Lewis Hamilton wins Chinese Grand Prix ahead of Sebastian Vettel

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton dominated the Chinese Grand Prix to take his first win of the year and move into a share of the championship lead.

- Hamilton's victory, in a race enlivened by a wet start and some terrific wheel-to-wheel battles, ties him with first-race winner Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.
- Vettel was second, hardening impressions that 2017 will be a fight between the two multiple champions.
- Red Bull's Max Verstappen moved up from 16th on the grid to finish third.

ESAF Small Finance Bank launches social deposit scheme Hrudaya Deposit

- ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched a social deposit scheme called Hrudaya Deposit at a function held in Thrissur.
- The deposit scheme, as the name suggests, stands for a social cause, through which, ESAF Bank provides the customers with an opportunity to be a part in social welfare projects, which none of the other banks has given so far.

Salient Features Of Scheme

- The significance of the scheme is that a customer who deposit in it, becomes a part of nation building, as their deposits are used for the welfare and infrastructure development of the marginalised sections of the society
- An individual or a legal entity can join the Hrudaya Deposit Scheme with a minimum deposit amount of Rs.15 lakh and for a minimum period of two years.
- An account can be opened through internet banking or by calling the Relationship Manager. The compound interest will be given in every quarter as per the present rates.
- The customer will also have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of how their money

is used to improve the lives of the ordinary people in the country.

- The Hrudaya deposit scheme envisages the business development of the rural farmers, fishermen, vegetable vendors etc.

Vice President receives first copy of the book titled 'Hope in a challenged democracy; An Indian narrative' authored by Shri Ashwini Kumar

- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari has received the first copy of the Book titled 'Hope in a challenged democracy; An Indian narrative' authored by Shri Ashwini Kumar, from the former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, here today.
- The former Chief Justice of India, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- The principal themes of the book, in the author's own words, are firstly on the 'incestuous relationship between wealth and power' and its impact on the credibility and moral authority of the government, and secondly on what he describes as 'an insufferable atmosphere of intolerance.'
- Interspersed in the argument is 'the disturbed equilibrium between the institutions of democracy, the pressures on the secular conscience of the country and on its social cohesion.

Flipkart acquires eBay's India biz to fight Amazon

- India's largest e-commerce firm Flipkart has raised \$1.4 billion led by China's internet giant Tencent, with participation from the online auction site eBay and Microsoft, valuing the

Bengaluru-based company at \$11.6 billion, post the investment.

- This marks the largest capital infusion for any privately-held Indian internet venture and surpasses the earlier high set by Flipkart itself when in July 2014 it picked up \$1 billion and set the stage for a funding boom in the local startup ecosystem.
- In exchange for an equity stake in Flipkart, eBay is making a cash investment of USD 500 million and selling its India business to the company.
- Even as eBay has sold its India business Flipkart, not all of its employees in India will be absorbed by the Bangalore-based company.
- A part of employees will move to Flipkart at the closure of the deal which will take approximately 60-90 days. While another chunk of employees who will continue to support the transition will take further more time to move to Flipkart.

National Hindi Sevi Samman Awards announced

- Central Hindi Institute Director N.K. Pandey announced the names of 26 writers from different categories for the prestigious Hindi Sevi Samman Awards.
- The awardees will receive Rs 5 lakh each, a citation and a shawl from President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan
- The Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Award for Hindi journalism will be awarded to Rahul Dev and Baldev Bhai Sharma.
- Professor S. Shesharatnam (Andhra Pradesh), M. Govind Rajan (Tamil Nadu), Harmahendra Singh Bedi (Punjab) and H. Subadani Devi (Manipur) have been selected from non-Hindi

speaking states for their contribution to the Hindi language.

- Foreign Hindi writers selected for the award are Professor Fujii Takeshi (Japan) and Professor Gabriela Nik Ilieva (New York) while the Non-Resident Indians (NRI) who get the awards are Pushpita Avasthi (Netherlands) and Padmesh Gupt (London).
- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry instituted the Hindi Sevi Samman in 1989. More than a hundred Hindi writers have received the prestigious awards till now.

nakshe" Portal launched by Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 250th Anniversary of Survey of India

- A new web portal nakshe" was launched by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Survey of India(Sol).
 - Topographic maps or Open Series Maps (OSM) containing natural and man-made geographical features including terrain or topography are prepared by the Sol since its inception in 1767 and is in conformity with the National Map Policy-2005.
 - These OSM maps have been made available for free download from nakshe" web portal in pdf format on 1:50,000 scale through Aadhar enabled user authentication process, in line with Digital India programme of the Government of India.
 - The Survey of India, the principal mapping agency of the country is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year.
 - Origin of the Survey of India is traced back to Year 1767.
- It is the oldest scientific department in India and one of the oldest survey establishments in the world.
 - Foundation for the scientific survey and mapping of the country was laid with The Great Trigonometric Survey (GTS) in 19th century on this day i.e. 10th April, 1802, by noted surveyors Col. Lambton and Sir George Everest.

Colson Whitehead wins Pulitzer prize for The Underground Railroad

- Literary blockbuster novel The Underground Railroad, which depicts the journey of a young woman escaping from slavery via a fantastical train system, has won the Pulitzer prize for fiction.
- The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead review – luminous, furious and wildly inventive
- This genre-bending tale of escape from slavery in the American south contains extraordinary prose and uncomfortable home truths
- Author Colson Whitehead has collected multiple accolades for the bestselling book, including last year's National Book Award.
- The Pulitzer prizes, considered the most prestigious journalism and arts awards in the country, were announced on Wednesday afternoon at Columbia University in New York.

Other Awardees

- Lynn Nottage→ Pulitzer for the drama Sweat, a Broadway play about factory workers battling job cuts.
- Matthew Desmond→ Nonfiction award for Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American

City, Hisham Matar → biography prize for *The Return*,

- Tyehimba Jess → won the poetry award for *Olio*.
- New York Daily News and ProPublica → journalism awards for their investigation into the New York police department evicting people, mostly minorities, from their homes.
- David A Fahrenthold of the Washington Post → the national reporting award for the lack of promised donations by the Trump Foundation during the election
- California's East Bay Times nabbed the breaking news Pulitzer for its coverage of the Oakland fire at a warehouse that killed 36 people.
- Hilton Als of the New Yorker won the criticism award, Eric Eyre of the Charleston Gazette-Mail took home the investigative award for his reporting on opioids in West Virginia, and the New York Times garnered the international reporting award for its coverage of Vladimir Putin and Russia.

Bank Accounts To Be Blocked If Not Self-Certified By April 30.

- Bank accounts opened between July 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015 need to submit self-certification by April 30 to comply with FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) provisions, without which the accounts would be blocked
- Central Board of Direct Taxes or CBDT said that the account holders may be informed that, in case self-certifications are not provided till April 30, 2017, the accounts would be blocked, which would mean that the

financial institution would prohibit the account holder from effecting any transaction with respect to such accounts.

- Investors are required to provide details such as country of tax residence, tax identification number from such country, country of birth, country of citizenship etc.
- Mutual funds and other financial institutions had also asked customers to comply with the new norms.
- The purpose of FATCA is aimed at ensuring that individuals pay tax on income generated from their wealth parked overseas.

Andhra Pradesh CM relaunches 'Adarana'

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana', a scheme for improving traditional occupations on the occasion of 191st birth anniversary of social reformer Mahatma Jyotirao Phule which is being celebrated for the first time as a State function.
- The scheme will offer modern tools, technology, marketing, and financial support to artisans and those pursuing traditional occupations to raise their income levels and provide employment in the rural areas.
- Modernising was necessary for goldsmiths, carpenters, weavers, blacksmiths, and potters, among others, he said. 'Adarana' had been launched with this objective during the TDP rule.

Lucknow just held its first Pride Parade

- Lucknow held its first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and Asexual - Pride Parade

- In a proud moment for the state, LGBTIQA members were also joined by their family members, who came out in support of the participants.
- The city's LGBT (lesbian, gay, intersex and transgender) community walked a distance of barely 1.5 km, from the Sikandarbagh crossing to the General Post Office Hazratganj, but their message went a long way.
- The first Awadh Queer Pride Parade saw at least 300 people march hand in hand, waving rainbow flags or wearing its colours
- By evening, social media users in Lucknow had flooded their pages with photographs of the city's first gay pride parade.

India beat Malaysia to lift Asian School Hockey Championship

- Alishan Mohammad and Pratap Lakra scored a brace each as India emerged champion at the 5th Asian School Hockey Championship with a convincing 5-1 win over Malaysia in the final
- In the match for third and fourth place, Singapore beat China 3-1 in a nail-biting shootout after the two teams ended the regulation time in a 1-1 stalemate.

First UK-China freight rail leaves London; to travel 12k km via 7 nations

- The first China-bound freight train carrying British products left London on a 12,000-km journey adding another terminal to the rail freight between China and Europe.
- The DB Cargo train, loaded with 30 containers carrying products, including whisky, soft drinks, vitamins and baby products, started

from east London's DP World Gateway to Yiwu city in central Zhejiang province, east China.

- After going through the Channel Tunnel, the train will pass through seven countries — France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan — before arriving in eastern China on April 27
- The service is part of China's One Belt, One Road programme of reviving the ancient Silk Road trading routes with the West, initially created more than 2,000 years ago.
- London is the 15th European city on an expanding map of China's rail freight

Three Indians selected for Gates scholarship at Cambridge University

- Three Indians are among 90 Gates Cambridge scholars selected from nearly 6,000 applicants from around the world for postgraduate study at the University of Cambridge from the academic year beginning later this year.
- The three Indians in the Gates Cambridge Class of 2017 are Yaikhomba Mutum, Saloni Atal and Akhila Denduluri,
- Atal will study PhD in Psychology, exploring innovative and culturally appropriate solutions to tackle the problem of gaps in access to mental healthcare in India
- Denduluri's PhD research in Chemistry will focus on developing biophysical tools to better understand and elucidate the protein chemistry and associated toxicity in neurodegenerative diseases.
- Mutum will pursue a PhD Biological Science at the MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit, looking at the mechanism of active proton transport in Complex I, an enzyme involved in making energy rich ATP molecules.

- The scholarship aims to identify and select applicants who are academically outstanding and are likely to be transformative leaders across all fields.

Manappuram Finance to launch co-branded prepaid card with YES Bank

- In its efforts to promote digital financial transactions, the Kerala-based NBFC Manappuram Finance will launch its own co-branded prepaid card in tie-up with YES Bank.
- The 'Manappuram YES Bank Prepaid Money Card' can be pre-loaded up to a maximum amount of Rs.50,000 and then be used to withdraw money from all ATMs.
- As the card works on the popular MasterCard and RuPay networks, it can also be used for online transactions and at merchant establishments with PoS terminals.
- The company will issue the prepaid cards to its entire base of 20 lakh customers and link their existing gold loan accounts to the card.
- This will enable them to withdraw money from ATMs across India. Moreover, customers can also withdraw money from any of the 3,300 branches of Manappuram Finance, a feature unique to this card.
- The card can be reloaded directly at all Manappuram branches and can also be purchased by non-customers by furnishing their mobile number and KYC document as prescribed by the RBI.

PM releases Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan's book Matoshree

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday released a book 'Matoshree', based on life of

Maratha Queen Ahilyabai Holkar, authored by the Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

- After the release, a play based on the book was staged at Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament Library Building with the Prime Minister, several Union ministers and MPs in attendance.
- Mahajan said she had written the play more than 35 years ago as a volunteer of the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti, women's wing of the RSS.
- She wanted to show "an Indian way of good administration". Ahilyabai, the daughter-in-law of Maratha chieftain Malhar Rao Holkar, was the Queen of Indore from 1767 to 1795.

China heads world executions list

- China executed more people than all other nations put together last year, according to Amnesty International.
- The charity says in its annual report on the death penalty that while it is known that China puts large numbers of people to death, the exact number is not clear.
- But Amnesty says it has managed to calculate that the figure is more than the 1,032 people killed by the state in other countries in 2016.
- In 2015, the total was 1,634 - the highest recorded since 1989.
- A drop in executions in the US has meant that America has now fallen out of the top five countries for judicial killings.
- The other countries in the top five are: 2nd, Iran; 3rd, Saudi Arabia; 4th, Iraq and 5th, Pakistan.

Manipal doctors discover new genetic disease

- Department of medical genetics, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal has discovered a new genetic disease called "Multiple mitochondrial dysfunction syndrome" in four children from two unrelated families in the region.
- The children with the neurodevelopmental disorder were found to be affected with early onset of neurological deterioration, seizures, extensive white matter abnormalities, cortical migrational abnormalities, lactic acidosis and early demise.

President to conferred National Geoscience Awards

- President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Geoscience Awards 2016 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan
- The National Geoscience Awards includes one Award for Excellence, one Young Scientist Award and nineteen individual and/or team awards in 16 fields of geosciences.
- The National Geoscience Awards, previously known as the National Mineral Awards, were instituted by the Ministry of Mines in 1966, to honour individuals and teams of scientists for their extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in fundamental, applied geosciences, mining and allied fields.

Government appoints two more MDs at LIC- B Venugopal, Sunita Sharma

- The government today appointed two more managing directors to the nation's largest financial powerhouse LIC — B Venugopal and Sunita Sharma, for a period of nearly two years.

- While Venugopal is currently heading the Western zone of LIC in Mumbai, Sharma is the managing director of its subsidiary, LIC Housing Finance. V
- Venugopal took over as the head of the Mumbai zone last year, where as Sharma has been heading LICHL since November 2013.
- LIC consists of the chairman and four managing directors.
- The post of an MD fell vacant after VK Sharma was elevated as the chairman last December, and the other post was lying vacant since the superannuation of SB Mainak in February last year.
- With these appointments, LIC has four MDs, with the other two being Usha Sangwan and Hemant Bhargava, who was appointed in mid-February.

Asha Parekh's autobiography 'The Hit Girl' launched by Salman Khan

- In a star-studded event in Mumbai Salman Khan of Bollywood launched actress Asha Parekh's autobiography 'The Hit Girl', for which he's written the Foreword as well.
- Authored by celebrated film critic and author Khalid Mohamed, the book covers the life and times of an actress who ruled the hearts of many in the 1960s and 1970s.
- The book has been published by Om Books International.

ICC Champions Trophy 2017 Ambassadors

- With 50 days to go for the ICC Champions Trophy 2017, the International Cricket Council announced eight stalwarts of the game as

Champion Ambassadors for the tournament in England and Wales.

- Shahid Afridi of Pakistan,
- Bangladesh's Habibul Bashar,
- Ian Bell of England,
- Shane Bond of New Zealand,
- Australia's Mike Hussey,
- **India's Harbhajan Singh,**
- Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka and
- Graeme Smith of South Africa

ECIL bagged SCOPE award 2016

- The Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL) has bagged the SCOPE Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution to the Public Sector Management – Institutional Category III (Other Profit Making PSEs) for the year 2014-15.
- President Pranab Mukherjee presented the award to ECIL Chairman and Managing Director Debashis Das
- The award was based on an evaluation done by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd.
- A technology driven company since its inception in 1967, ECIL has over the 50 years brought many innovative products like Solid State Television, Digital Computers, and Cockpit Voice Recorders popularly known as Black Box, Electronic Voting Machines, Programmable Logic Controllers, Earth Station and Deep Space Network Antennas.

Haldia Port Tops the List in The First Ever Ranking of Ports on Sanitation Parameters

- For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters, based on

the efforts undertaken by them to counter waste generating sources with respect to port operation, office area, township area and the response to incoming ships. The assessment methodology included official interview, direct observation by the designated team from Quality Council of India and stakeholder's interaction.

- The exercise was undertaken during the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' observed from the 16th to 31st of March 2017. Quality Council of India (QCI) was tasked to assess the Swachhata activities undertaken by all the Ports.
- While Haldia and Vizag ports bagged the first and second ranks respectively, almost all ports have achieved the benchmark for cleanliness or are well above it.
- The 'Swachhta Pakhwada' was a major sanitation and cleanliness campaign launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Sh. Nitin Gadakari on the 16th of March 2017 at the Shipping House in Mumbai, and observed by all the twelve major ports, five PSEs and seven attached offices/organizations of the Ministry of Shipping.
- This was a culmination of one year of activities undertaken to promote the vision 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi on 2nd October 2014.

Pink patrol, security app for women in Bengaluru

- A fleet of pink patrol vehicles to attend to the distress calls from women and an exclusive police mobile phone distress application have been introduced in Bengaluru as part of an effort to improve the safety and security of women in the city.

- The pink patrol cars called the Pink Hoysalas and the Suraksha mobile phone app were unveiled by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah
- As part of this initiative, 51 pink patrol vehicles are being introduced and the Suraksha app has been launched
- The patrol cars will be headed by women police officers and will supplement the existing 221 such vehicles in the city.
- The vehicles will be positioned near schools, colleges, offices, temples, shopping malls, theatres and sensitive areas.
- The app has been developed by the Bengaluru city police IT team and can be downloaded on Android and iOS phones.
- It aims at providing police services to women in distress in the least possible time in coordination with the pink patrol vehicles and the police control room.
- The Suraksha app registers the numbers of two persons the user wants to inform in emergencies.

Ambedkar jayanti to be observed as 'Water Day'

- India will observe the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar on April 14 as "Water Day" to sensitize people on managing the precious natural resource.
- Apart from being instrumental in framing the Constitution, Ambedkar was also responsible for an all-India policy on managing water resources.
- Announcing the government's decision to observe April 14 every year as "water day", Union water resources minister Uma Bharti

said, "Water is going to become an important agenda of the government

Petrol, diesel prices to change every day from May 1

- Come May 1, petrol and diesel prices will change every day in sync with international rates, much like what happens in most advanced markets.
- State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL), which own over 95 per cent of nearly 58,000 petrol pumps in the country, will launch a pilot for daily price revision in five select cities from May 1 and gradually extend it to all over the country.
- A pilot for daily revision of petrol and diesel price will be first implemented in Puducherry, Vizag in Andhra Pradesh, Udaipur in Rajasthan, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand and Chandigarh, he said.
- State fuel retailers currently revise rates on 1st and 16th of every month based on average international price of the fuel in the preceding fortnight and currency exchange rate.
- Instead of using fortnightly average, pump rates will reflect daily movement in international oil prices and rupee-US dollar fluctuations.

Government sets up inter-ministerial panel to monitor UDAN

- The government has set up an inter-ministerial committee to monitor the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN which seeks to

make flying affordable by connecting unserved and under-served airports.

- Besides, the panel would be responsible for coordination among stakeholders, including state governments, for "time-bound" implementation of the scheme.
- Chaired by Civil Aviation Secretary, the 'Inter-Ministerial Monitoring-cum-Coordination Committee' would have representations from the ministries of finance, defence, home as well as petroleum and natural gas, as per a notification.
- The committee would be responsible for "overall monitoring of the schemes of promotion of regional connectivity by way of revival of unserved and under-served airports/airstrips and RCS-UDAN

Andhra to introduce 'Ammaku Vandanam' in schools

- A unique programme to pay tribute to mothers will be introduced in the government-run schools in Andhra Pradesh from this year
- Under 'Ammaku Vandanam' -- mother worship -- the school children will take the blessings of their mothers and may also do 'paada pooja
- The government also decided to implement the programme in 5,000 high schools across the state from academic year 2017-18.
- The mothers would be invited to the schools on a specific day every year for the special function.
- it would be a voluntary programme, aimed at paying tributes to mothers and respect motherhood. It hopes this would inculcate in students respect for mothers and sensitise them towards women and gender equality.

Amazon gets RBI nod for e-wallet in India

- Amazon India has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to launch its own digital wallet in India, paving the way for the American online retail giant to gain a slice of India's fast-growing digital payments business.
- Amazon India will now look to take on established rivals such as Paytm and Freecharge as it prepares to launch a prepaid wallet service that will be broader in scope than its Pay Balance service and will not be restricted to Amazon-based transactions.
- Amazon's new wallet service will look to address a vital problem in the world of payments — like other wallet services such as Paytm, it will help customers bypass the two-step authentication process for online payments using credit or debit cards and makes the process smoother for online shoppers, thus plugging a key gap in the payments process that reduces the risk of loss of business from online shoppers.

Haryana launches 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state

- Haryana on Thursday launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state, under which the police caught at least 72 eve-teasers on its first day.
- The Chief Minister's Flying Squad formed 24 teams to catch offenders from all districts of Haryana for their alleged involvement in crimes against women.
- Operation Durga, an initiative launched by the Haryana Government, is a good step for the betterment of society and for women safety

- The main focus of this drive is on the youth as these days they are distracted and this is a good way to get them back to track
- The team includes woman personnel, nine sub-inspectors of police, 14 assistant sub-inspectors, six head constables and 13 constables, besides other police officers from each district.

India-Australia sports partnership launched

- India and Australia on Wednesday started a partnership aimed at increasing cooperation in sports,
- It will advance India–Australia cooperation in four areas – athlete and coach training and development, sport science, sport governance and integrity, and grassroots participation.
- The India-Australia Sports Partnership would facilitate exchange of athletes, coaches, technical officials, sports scientists between the two countries
- A National Sports Talent Identification and Development Portal would be launched shortly
- under the new partnership, Victoria University and the University of Canberra would work with India to assist in the establishment of a National Sports University similar to the Australian Institute of Sport.

Karnataka Bank appointed P Jayarama Bhat as Chairman

- Karnataka Bank Ltd has announced top-level management changes with the present Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of the bank, P Jayarama Bhat, assuming the charge of part-time non-executive Chairman of the bank

- The Chief General Manager of the bank, Mahabaleshwara MS, who is appointed as MD and CEO of the bank, will assume office on April 15.
- The board of directors of the bank appointed Mahabaleshwara as MD and CEO of the bank for a period of three years from the date of assuming charge, as per the approval received from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was in accordance with the board's earlier recommendation.
- The board appointed Jayarama Bhat as the new Chairman of the bank
- Initially appointed for three years, he got extension for two terms up to July 13 2018.

India's first-ever micro-drama festival held in Delhi

- With the longest play running for not more than 10 minutes to the shortest one ending in 42 seconds, India's first ever micro-drama festival was held in New Delhi
- Named after Thespis of Icaria, believed to be the first actor in Greek drama (6th century BC), the day-long event 'Thespis' saw screening of 28 independent plays at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Art.
- Organised by theatre group 'Vriksh', the festival marks the debut of the micro-drama concept in India.
- It is the first time in India and only the second time in the whole world that a micro-drama festival is happening.
- The plays were also awarded in several categories including 'Best Drama', 'Best Drama (Audience Poll)', 'Best Director, Script, Actor, Actress, and Technician.

Himachal bags Krishi Karman Award 2015-16

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture has selected Himachal Pradesh for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grains
- State Agriculture Minister Sujan Singh Pathania said that during last five years, the total food grains production has increased from 14.94 lakh tone to 16.34 lakh tone.
- Besides, the department has done considerable work in promoting poly-house cultivation, crop diversification, micro irrigation, organic farming and soil health management. The award would carries a trophy, citation and cash prize.
- The state was also conferred the Krishi Karman Award for 2011-12 for increase in wheat production and in 2014-15 for increasing food grains production.
- Krishi Karman awards were instituted in the year 2010-11 to reward the best performing States in foodgrains and individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses and Coarse Cereals.
- Krishi Karman awards are given to Best performer States for raising country's food grain production. Krishi Karman Awards comprises of three awards for total food grain production and four awards for production of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses - the crops that constitute the food grain.
- Abdulqadir Rashik, also an entrepreneur, won the 'Unite Ideas UNGAViz Textual Analysis and Visualisation Challenge' for his 'Global Policy', an open-source tool that enables users to search and interactively view General Assembly resolutions to gain a deeper understanding of the voting patterns and decisions made by United Nations Member States.
- Rashik's prototype will be made public and shared with United Nations bodies and member states. He will also receive recognition from the Department of State and the Office of Information and Communications Technology.
- The UNGAViz challenged developers worldwide to create an open-source tool capable of providing greater visibility into member state voting patterns, as well as greater public transparency about their voting choices.
- Solutions were judged not only on their technical merits, but also on their potential to support policymakers dealing with humanitarian challenges, peace and security issues, and other international matters, sometimes under extreme time pressure.

Abdulqadir Rashik wins top prize at UN challenge for open source tool

- An Indian software engineer has won the top prize at a global challenge for an open-source tool that enables users to interactively view UN General Assembly resolutions and gain a deeper understanding of the voting patterns of member states.

CPC in Bengaluru gets new pin code for taxpayers' benefit

- Taxpayers wanting to send their paper ITR acknowledgement forms or documents related to refunds and others to the I-T department's CPC in Bengaluru can now send it to a "unique" pin code.
- The Department of Post has allotted the pin code to the Central Processing Centre (CPC) to ensure that letters and mails sent by

taxpayers and assesseees are not lost and reach the centre without delay.

- The CPC is the central database centre of the department which receives all Income Tax Returns (ITRs), both e-filed and sent through post, and processes them for issuance of refunds and also deals with other tax related documents of a taxpayer.
- The new pin code is — 560500 — while the CPC earlier used to sport the old pin code of 560100.
- The older pin code was marked for the entire Electronic City area in Bengaluru
- The new pin code is meant exclusively to cater to CPC of the Income Tax department and it will now help to curb the complaints and issues of non-reaching of postal mails

Postal Dept, SBI join hands to promote cashless transactions

- Department of Posts has joined hands with State Bank of India to promote 'SBI buddy e-wallet' and POS machines for cashless transactions at post office counters while booking speed post and registered post items.
- installation of SBI Buddy e-wallet and POS machines will facilitate economy through digital payments/cashless transactions in the post offices.
- SBI buddy e-wallet and SBI POS machines facility will be further extended to other post offices in Punjab.
- India Post is not only a partner in the nation's growth but also a partner in the nation's vision of a "cashless India".

PM Narendra Modi launches BHIM-Aadhaar platform to push digital payments

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the BHIM-Aadhaar platform, putting in place yet another keystone of a digital payment system that will help India make the shift to a less-cash economy.
- The biometric-based indigenous payment solution will enable real-time bank-to-bank money transfers even for those without a phone and at no additional cost.
- This app can work even on a Rs 1,000-1,500 phone, you don't need a smartphone. If you don't have a phone you can use your thumb.
- Close to 30 banks, including the country's biggest have adopted BHIM-Aadhaar, also known as Aadhaar Pay.
- The Unified Payment Interface (UPI), BHIM, Bharat QR code and Aadhaar Pay form the basis of a digital payment ecosystem that's part of the government's initiative to reduce the dependence on cash, track transactions and end the scourge of black money
- The BHIM-Aadhaar channel is "reverse" MDR
- The government has allocated Rs 495 crore for a period of six months for the scheme, which will be paid from the Digital Inclusion Fund. Almost 715,000 merchants are already on the BHIM platform
- Referral Bonus and Cash Back schemes were also launched to promote digital payments. The first will pay Rs 10 to a BHIM user who refers a new one. Under the Cash Back scheme, merchants will get money back on every transaction using BHIM

World Bank approves \$375-mn loan for India's first waterway project

- The World Bank has approved a \$375 million loan to India's first waterway project.

- The National Waterway 1 project is to create a water transport fairway on a 1,360-km stretch of the Ganga river between Varanasi and Haldia.
- NW1 passes through one of India's most densely populated areas, and a sizeable 40 per cent of the country's traded goods either originate from this resource-rich region or are destined for its teeming markets.
- While the region generates about 370 million tonnes of freight annually, only about 5 million tonnes currently travels by water
- The project will help build the infrastructure needed to develop water transportation in the area. It will finance the construction of six multi-modal terminals, 10 RORO jetties, ship-repair facilities as well as passenger jetties along the river.
- It will also help modernise the ageing Farakka lock and add a new lock to allow for smoother passage of boats.
- The project will also help the Inland Waterways Authority of India acquire a state-of-the-art River Information System as well as navigation aids to make travel on the river safer and more reliable.
- The project will also support the design and development of a new fleet of low-draft barges capable of carrying up to 2,000 tonnes of cargo in these shallower depths.
- Where needed, temporary structures (bandals) made of natural materials such as bamboo will be erected to provide additional sailing depth.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched in Nagpur a cashless/less cash township model, developed by Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (GNFC), across 81 townships in 12 States.
- These townships will deliver 2.5 lakh cashless transactions per day, translating into 9 crore cashless transactions in a year. GNFC's township at Bharuch in Gujarat became India's first cent per cent cashless township after demonetisation.
- The 81 townships included 56 in Gujarat and 25 in other States that have chosen to follow the cashless or less cash model. GNFC facilitated the model across these States under the auspices of National Institution for Transforming India Aayog, said Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Managing Director, GNFC, here.
- National Institution for Transforming India Aayog had appreciated GNFC's initiative and model of cashless townships and advised the Central ministries and CMDs of 300-plus central PSUs for adopting this model quickly.

Canada's Liberal government goes 'bold' and 'risky' by legalization of marijuana

- The Liberal government of Canada is moving ahead with legalizing recreational marijuana use for those 18 and older.
- It's being called a "bold and risky social experiment" by many and would include tough laws against illicit dealers and those who break them.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said legalizing pot is the best way to keep the drug from being used by younger, impressionable children.

PM launches GNFC's cashless/less cash township model across 12 States

- The law change would become effective in July of next year and end the prohibition on marijuana use

U.S. unleashes 'mother of all bombs' for first time in Afghanistan

- The United States dropped "the mother of all bombs," the largest non-nuclear device it has ever unleashed in combat, on a network of caves and tunnels used by Islamic State in eastern Afghanistan
- The 21,600 pound (9,797 kg) GBU-43 bomb, which has 11 tons of explosives, was dropped from a MC-130 aircraft in the Achin district of Nangarhar province, close to the border with Pakistan
- The GBU-43, also known as the "mother of all bombs," is a GPS-guided munition and was first tested in March 2003. It is regarded as particularly effective against clusters of targets on or just underneath the ground. Other types of bombs can be more effective against deeper, hardened tunnels.

Infosys appoints Ravi Venkatesan co-chairman

- Infosys today appointed independent director Ravi Venkatesan co-chairman amid calls from founders to diversify the board.
- The board expansion comes against the backdrop of an ongoing tussle between the founders and the management over contentious issues such as CEO salary hike, severance package to former employees and corporate governance standards.
- Venkatesan, who has been on the Infosys board since April 2011, has made "valuable contribution to the development of strategic

direction of the company during his tenure"

IBM appoints a chief digital officer for India

- IBM has appointed a chief digital officer (CDO) for India, one of the first countries outside the US to have such a position, and marks the importance the country holds as IBM morphs into a platform company with the focus on cloud and cognitive.
- Mehrotra's mandate is to transform the way IBM engages and partners with startups, developers, investors, academia and businesses.
- One of the objectives of DBG is to make startups, developers, academia, investors and incubators embrace IBM's digital tools and platforms like Bluemix, Watson and its commerce platforms.
- A team is being set up to catalyse this.
- For businesses, Mehrotra's team will build proofs of concept around digital.

Jharkhand Police initiate Tare Zameen Par program for underprivileged kids

- With a motive to enlighten children in naxal-affected areas of Jharkhand's Palamau district, Jharkhand Police has initiated Tare Zameen Par program to encourage children to lead happy lives.
- Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Vipul Shukla appealed to locals to donate bags, shoes, books and clothes that would be distributed among poor children.
- People from all sections of society took part in the program held in Jharkhand's Daltongunj city, contributing basic amenities for children.

Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya takes charge as Whole Time Member, IBBI

- Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi
- Dr. (Ms.) Vijayawargiya will look after Administrative Law Wing. She will also look after Information Technology, Limited Insolvency Examination, National Insolvency Examination, Finance and Accounts and Communication.
- Dr. (Ms.) Vijayawargiya was a member of Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee (BLRC) based on which, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 has been framed.
- She played a key role in drafting the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 as Additional Secretary in the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which was passed by Lok Sabha on 5 May 2016.

Alia Bhatt makes it to the Forbes Under 30 Asia list

- Alia Bhatt is undoubtedly one of most loved actress of the current generation. After debuting in Bollywood with the 2012 super hit Student of the Year under Karan Johar's direction, Alia has indeed come a long way. In

just a span of five years, the gorgeous lady has made it to the prestigious Forbes list.

- Alia has made it to the Forbes Under 30 Asia list that was released today. The list comprises of 300 names from Asia, who made it big in different fields. Alia Bhatt is one of them.
- Alia Bhatt has acted in over 20 high-grossing Bollywood movies.
- At least six of the films she has acted in grossed well over \$15 million worldwide in opening weeks. With a huge fan-following in India and overseas, she has been recognized multiple times for her acting, including winning the 2016 Filmfare Award for best Actress.
- In 2012, she got her first leading role as an 18-year-old in the movie 'Student of The Year'. Bhatt also launched own eponymous fashion-label, for Indian e-commerce portal Jabong.

Madhya Pradesh to ban polythene bags from May 1

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a total ban on polythene bags in the state from May 1.
- Instead of polythene which is harmful for the environment, paper and cloth will be used,
- One of the prime obstacle in keeping cities clean is the use of polythene and that is the reason it will be banned from the month of May, said Chouhan, adding anybody caught using polythene will be penalised.
- Earlier, in December, the chief minister had said that ban on polythene will be enforced with effect from January 1 at tourist destinations and holy cities of Ujjain, Amarkantak, Khajuraho, Pachmarhi, Maheshwar, Omkareshwar and Orchha.

The Other Indian States where plastic bags are banned

- Bengaluru /Bangalore (Ban on plastics in Bengaluru was imposed from mid march 2016)
- Maharashtra,
- Delhi,
- Punjab,
- Rajasthan,
- Himanchal Pradesh,
- Goa and
- West Bengal
- **State first banned the use of Plastic Bags in India - Himachal Pradesh**
- **The first state Banned the Plastic in India - Sikkim**

Himachal celebrated 70th 'Himachal Day on 15th April

- Himachal Pradesh is celebrating 70th "Himachal Day" function. The hill state came into existence after the merger of 30 odd princely states in 1948.
- when state was formed only 6 villages had electricity and 331 villages had drinking water facility. But today all the villages have piped water facility and every household has electricity.

Announcements

- Unemployment allowance scheme and distributed cheques of Rs1,000 each to 10 beneficiaries under the scheme
- Period of regularisation of contract employees now would be three years instead of five.
- A passenger lift to be installed at Bhadrakali Bhalei Mata Temple in Bhalei sub-tehsil of Chamba district.

- The classes in the Chamba medical college would be started soon

Bhopal to have India's first privately run railway station

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has said that for the first time in Indian Railways' history, Habibganj station in Bhopal has been handed over to a private firm to be operated by it.
- The station building will be developed in line with airport terminals, he added.
- However, Prabhu clarified that trains at the station will still be run by the Railways.
- A consortium of Bansal Construction Works and Prakash Asphaltting and Toll Highways has formed a special purpose company- Bansal Pathways Habibganj Private Ltd to implement the project.
- As per the agreement signed between the Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) and the developer, the latter will provide modern amenities like escalators, lifts, parking lot, landscaping, concourse, walkway, travelators, parcel corridor, subways as part of the redevelopment of the station.
- Apart from Habibganj, IRSDC will also develop Chandigarh, Surat, Shivaji Nagar, Brijwasan, Anand Vihar, Mohali and Gandhinagar stations.

Rongali bihu 2017 began in Assam

- Bihu Festival is celebrated in three times in a year with different farming phases. These are Bohag Bihu, Kongali Bihu, and Magh Bihu.
- Bohag Bihu, also known as Rangoli Bihu is a seven-day long festival as per the traditional

Assamese New year Calendar and starts from 15th April 2017 and goes on to 21st April 2017.

- This time of the year is when farmers start plowing their fields. Each of the seven days of the Bohag Bihu is called as Chot Bihu, Goru Bihu, Manuh Bihu, Kutum Bihu, Senehi Bihu, Mela Bihu and Chera Bihu.

Supreme Court recognizes transgenders as 'third gender'

- In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court on Tuesday created the "third gender" status for hijras or transgenders. Earlier, they were forced to write male or female against their gender.
- The SC asked the Centre to treat transgender as socially and economically backward.
- The apex court said that transgenders will be allowed admission in educational institutions and given employment on the basis that they belonged to the third gender category.
- The SC said absence of law recognizing hijras as third gender could not be continued as a ground to discriminate them in availing equal opportunities in education and employment.
- This is for the first time that the third gender has got a formal recognition.
- **The third gender people will be considered as OBCs.**
- The SC said they will be given educational and employment reservation as OBCs.

Maharashtra staged special drive for transgenders to register as voters

- Maharashtra became the first state to launch a special awareness drive to ensure that

transgenders in the state register as voters in greater numbers.

- The state branch of the Election Commission of India (ECI) launched the drive on April 15, celebrated as Third Gender Day.
- According to ECI officials, despite the approximate population of third genders in Maharashtra being pegged at more than 10 lakh, only about 1,700 are registered voters.
- The ECI prepared a two-and-a-half-minute film, slated to run in 400 theatres four times a day over the next week.
- The commission also put up posters on two 12-rake locals asking transgenders to register as voters.
- Maharashtra was one of two states to approve a welfare board for transgenders in 2013, but no one has been appointed to the body yet

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Sagarmatha Friendship-2017: Nepal-China Begin Joint Military Drill

- The first ever joint military drill between Nepal and China -- Sagarmatha Friendship-2017 -- kicked off at Nepal Army's Para Training School in Maharajgunj in Kathmandu
- The Chinese Army's squad is participating in the military exercise that will focus on counter terrorism and disaster response. The 10-day exercise will conclude on April 25.
- DGMO of Nepal Army General Binod Kumar Shrestha inaugurated the exercise.
- Highlighting the historic ties between Nepali and Chinese armies, Colonel Yang Shumeng, leading the Chinese side, said such exercise would help understanding on counter terrorism and strengthening military ties.

- The joint training with China marks the Nepali Army's extension of military diplomacy.
- The exercise is taking place at the Maharajgunj-based training school where Yuddha Bhairab, Mahabir and Bhairabnath Battalions are located

BANKING

Govt begins to walk the talk on governance in PSU banks

- To prime public sector banks (PSBs) to hold their own against nifty private sector rivals and also prepare them for possible mergers in the future, the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has drawn up an elaborate Governance, Reward and Accountability Framework (GRAF).
 - The GRAF seeks to ensure that corporate governance at PSBs is in keeping with various pieces of legislation, including the Companies Act, 2013, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and Securities and Exchange Board of India (listing obligations and disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015.
 - Further, the framework abides by the guidelines of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision on corporate governance principles for banks. Among others, the principles deal with the board's overall responsibilities, board qualifications and composition, senior management, risk management function, compliance, internal audit and compensation.
 - The BBB was set up last year to make recommendations for selection of the chiefs of PSBs and financial institutions and help them develop strategies and capital-raising plans.
- The Bureau has evolved a code of conduct and ethics that can be enforced across all PSBs to ensure the right behaviour.
 - It has also come up with compensation reforms so that best practices can be introduced in PSBs on the lines already prevalent in Central Public Sector Enterprises.
 - The BBB has evolved a relative performance rating system to assess the performance of PSBs, its directors and employees; and performance evaluation system based on which decision-making for the extension/termination of a whole-time director can be undertaken objectively.
 - The BBB's GRAF move comes in the context of PSBs facing challenges on various fronts, including competition from new entrants, aggressive private banks and NBFCs eating into their market share on the loans front, and jump in bad loans.
 - The Bureau was operationalised after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley called for PSBs to be competitive, in his Budget speech of 2016-17. He had also said that a roadmap

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Hanchinal receives M.S. Swaminathan Award

- The sixth prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award for contribution in the field of agriculture was on Friday given to R.R. Hanchinal, Chairperson of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, government of India.
- He received the award for his contributions and sustained support to the areas of crop improvement for hot and very hot dry

environments, seed production technology and intellectual protection rights in plant varieties.

- The award is instituted and given under the aegis of Retired ICAR Employees Association (RICAREA) in association with the Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd (NSL).

San Francisco Film Fest Honoured Shah Rukh Khan

- Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan was honored at the 60th San Francisco Intl. Film Festival at the Castro Theater.
- "King" Khan as he is known to his millions of fans will participate in a conversation onstage with Brett Ratner followed a screening of his 2010 hit "My Name Is Khan."
- Khan is the star of such hits as "Dilwale dulhaniya le jayenge," "Devdas," "Chennai Express" and "Kabhi khushi kabhie gham." His latest film, "Raees," gave the Bollywood industry a good start to 2017 after a lackluster year.
- SFFILM is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a private invite-only gala April 7 at The Forum in the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.
- The festival, which runs April 5-19 at various venues in the Bay Area, will unspool 200 films and include live events. The fest will bestow juried awards, including \$40,000 in cash prizes, and more than 100 participating filmmaker guests.

Indian engineer Trupti Jain wins 'Cartier Women's Initiative award'

- An Indian environmental engineer has won this year's prestigious 'Cartier Women's Initiative Awards' for providing women

working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash floods.

- Trupti Jain was one among the six winners chosen for the Asia-Pacific laureate from a pool of nearly 1,900 applicants from over 120 countries and were selected by an independent international jury.
- Each recipient receives a USD 100,000 prize money as well as a year of mentoring. Jain, an Indian government employee for two decades in the rural development, has worked for women farmers whose work frequently go unrecognised
- Jain was presented the award at a function held at the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall.
- It was the first time the awards ceremony was held outside France since it began in 2006 to supports women entrepreneurs around the world who want to kick-start their business
- Five other winners, representing Latin America, North America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa, were also honoured at the awards ceremony.

Indian-born engineer gets American Helicopter Society award

- An Indian-born aeronautics engineer from Australia has been honoured with the 'World's Outstanding Aerospace Engineer Leadership Award' by the American Helicopter Society (AHS) International.
- AHS is the world's premier professional institution dedicated to vertical flight technology and advancement. It selected Lt Col Dr Arvind Sinha (retd) for his distinguished career in vertical flight technology.

- Sinha, who received the award recently in the US, was also bestowed the title of AHS Honorary Fellow in May 2016.
- The title is granted to Society members who have shown "exceptional leadership, or made innovative or other meritorious contributions, that have significantly advanced AHS International and the vertical flight community."
- Sinha is recipient of several awards, spanning military operations, design projects and academia. The AHS honour is considered a benchmark for leadership excellence in vertical flight technology
- He is currently the Director of Engineering, Helicopter Systems Division, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), at the Department of Defence, Australia.

SPORTS

Praneeth clinches maiden Super Series title at Singapore Open

- Promising Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth clinched his maiden Super Series title at the Singapore Open after defeating compatriot K Srikanth in a historic all-Indian final
- World No.30 Praneeth, who had won the Canada Open Grand Prix last year and reached the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold final this year, outmaneuvered Srikanth 17-21, 21-17, 21-12 in the summit clash of the \$350,000 event.
- It was the first time in the history of international badminton that two Indians were playing a Super Series final and it turned out to be a thrilling contest.

- the bronze medal at the World Junior Championships in 2010, Praneeth has managed to outwit some accomplished shuttlers such as former All England Champion Muhammad Hafiz Hashim of Malaysia, former Olympic and World champion Taufik Hidayat and World No.1 Lee Chong Wei.

Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri wins twin crowns in Jakarta

- National badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri Pullela has bagged both the singles and doubles crown at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix in Jakarta.
- Gayatri eked out a hard-fought 21-11 18-21 21-16 win over her doubles partner Samiya Farooqui to win the girls U-15 singles title.
- Gayatri later teamed up with Samiya to clinch the U-15 doubles title with a straight game 21-17 21-15 win over Indonesian pair of Kelly Larissa and Shelandry Vyola.
- Both Gayatri and Samiya train together at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad.
- Pankaj Advani beats Sourav Kothari to win Asian Billiards Championship
- Pankaj Advani, 16-time world champion, won his seventh Asian title by defeating Sourav Kothari 6-3 in an entertaining final of the Asian Billiards Championship
- The other title being 6-red snooker which he won last year.
- Advani now returns home to Bangalore for four days to switch to snooker before taking off for Doha to compete in the Asian Snooker Championship which begins on the April 22.
- Pankaj Advani defeated Sourav Kothari

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

ASCI Releases Guidelines For Celebrities In Advertising

- Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has developed a set of guidelines to protect consumers' interest while encouraging celebrities and advertisers to refrain from endorsing misleading advertisements.
- At a time when the Consumer Affairs Ministry is intending to review the Consumer Protection Act and may have a provision to deal with misleading advertisements featuring celebrities, these guidelines by ASCI could serve as a good reference for advertisers.
- The ASCI's guidelines help in ensuring that claims made in advertising are not misleading, false or go unsubstantiated.
- Advertisers following these guidelines will protect the interests of the consumers, especially for products or services, which can cause serious financial loss or physical harm.

Highlights of the Guidelines

- All advertisements featuring Celebrities should ensure that it does not violate any of the ASCI code in letter and spirit. Celebrities are expected to have adequate knowledge of these Codes and it is the duty of the Advertiser and the Agency to make sure that the Celebrity they wish to engage with is made aware of them.
- Testimonials, endorsements or representations of opinions or preference of Celebrities must reflect genuine, reasonably current opinion of the individual(s) making such representations, and must be based upon adequate information about or experience with the product or service being advertised.

- Celebrity should do due diligence to ensure that all description, claims and comparisons made in the advertisements they appear in or endorse are capable of being objectively ascertained and capable of substantiation and should not mislead or appear deceptive.
- Celebrities should not participate in any advertisement of a product or treatment or remedy that is prohibited for advertising under The Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954 as updated from time to time The Drugs & Cosmetic Act 1940 and Rules 1945: (Schedule J) as updated from time to time
- A product which by law requires a health warning ".....is injurious to health" on its packaging or advertisement.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Manipur CM launched DARPAN web applications to check corruption

- Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh today launched two web applications to check corruption and keep track of government activities.
- The two web applications were Anti-Corruption Cell and Digital Application for Review by Public And Nation (DARPAN), an official release said here.
- The two web applications would monitor all government funded projects and ensure transparency and accountability, Biren said launching the applications.
- DARPAN would upload details of projects right from the initial stage till sanction of fund, progress of work and photos the work sites

- Recently launched Anti-Corruption Cell has received a series of complaints of corruption and that the web applications would augment in the government's efforts to end corruption in the state.

Depression in Bay of Bengal turns into tropical cyclone 'Maarutha'

- The depression over East-central Bay of Bengal has turned into the tropical cyclone 'Maarutha' prompting the Met office to advise distant warning signal No. 2 for maritime ports in Bangladesh.
- The advisory means a storm with wind speeds between 62 and 88 kilometres per hour has formed in the distant deep sea and ships may fall into danger if they leave the harbour.
- All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay and deep sea have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice

OBITUARY

Emma Morano: World's oldest person dies at age 117

- The world's oldest person has died at age 117 in her home in northern Italy.
- Emma Morano was born on November 29, 1899. She was also believed to have been the last surviving person in the world who was born in the 1800s.
- The eldest of eight children, Morano outlived all of her younger siblings.
- Morano went on to support herself by working in a factory making jute bags, then at a hotel, working way beyond the usual retirement age.

Internet, computer pioneer Robert W Taylor dies aged 85

- Robert W Taylor, who was instrumental in creating the internet and the modern personal computer, has died at the age of 85.
- While working for the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) in 1966, Mr Taylor shepherded the creation of single computer network ARPANET — which evolved into the internet — after becoming frustrated he had to use three separate terminals to communicate with researchers around the country.
- In 1961, Mr Taylor was a project manager for NASA when he directed funding to Douglas Engelbart at the Stanford Research Institute, who helped develop the modern computer mouse.

Naval ship INS Chennai dedicated to Chennai

- Naval ship 'INS Chennai' was formally dedicated to the city today in the presence of Chief Minister K Palaniswami and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Vice-Admiral HCS Bisht.
- Named after the city, the ship is commanded by captain C R Praveen Nair and has 45 officers.

Govt considers merging 26 banks into six big lenders

- SBI, PNB, Canara Bank, Union Bank, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India said to be leading merger, as per a government proposal

- As a part of the proposal, Syndicate Bank, IOB and UCO Bank will be merged with Canara bank.
- Central Bank and Dena Bank will be merged with Union Bank, the official said.
- Other banks like Andhra Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Vijaya Bank will be merged with Bank of India.

Supreme Court orders auction of Aamby Valley as Sahara fails to deposit Rs 5k crore

- Supreme Court on Monday ordered auction of its prime Aamby Valley township near Lonavala in Pune for failing to deposit Rs 5,000 crore of the Rs 14,000-crore due towards refund to investors.
- In August 2012, the court had ordered group companies Sahara Real Estate and Sahara Housing to refund Rs 25,000 crore illegally raised through one-time fully convertible debentures from nearly three crore investors.

Philippine Prez wins Time 100 Reader Poll

- Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world
- Modi had been named among the probable contenders for the annual list of the most influential people in the world.
- However Modi had not garnered any "yes" votes at the close of the voting, with the polls showing he had got "zero per cent" votes.

UAE Billionaire To Invest Rs 1000 Cr To Make 'Mahabharata'

- UAE-based billionaire B R Shetty will invest Rs 1,000 crore (\$150 million) to produce a two-part film 'Mahabharata'
- The film will be directed by ad filmmaker V A Shrikumar Menon and is scheduled to be released in early 2020.

Amitabh Chaudhry to represent BCCI at ICC

- The Supreme Court on Monday said BCCI'S acting Secretary Amitabh Chaudhry will attend the ICC meeting on April 24, accompanied by the apex cricketing body's CEO Rahul Johri.

'Advanced Farming – Enriched Farmer' Announced by Maharashtra Government

- Amid demands for farm loan waiver in the state, the government has announced 'Advanced Farming – Enriched Farmer' scheme, with an aim to increase farmers' income by cutting production cost and increasing the output. The scheme will be launched in the upcoming kharif season.
- Under the initiative, the government has declared each tehsil in the state as a unit where planning will be done for agri-development.
- The major tasks that would be undertaken are: raising production of major crops (up to the level of its genetic yield potential), diversification of crops, introducing marketing techniques, uniting farmers through farm producers' companies and making them financially stable
- The district agricultural department is asked to coordinate with farmers and their societies about the target of production.

- They will plan for the crop according to the soil, water conservation, loans being distributed in tehsils, etc.

Australia scraps 457 visas used largely by Indians

Australia will abolish a popular work visa used by over 95,000 foreign workers, a majority of them Indians, to tackle the growing unemployment in the country and replace it with a new programme requiring higher English-language proficiency and job skills.

- The programme known as 457 visa allows businesses to employ foreign workers for a period of up to four years in skilled jobs where there is a shortage of Australian workers.
- Australian workers must have priority for Australian jobs, so we are abolishing the 457 visa, the visa that brings temporary foreign workers into our country.
- The majority of the visa holders under this category were from India, accounting for almost a quarter of the intake, followed by the UK and China at 19.5% and 5.8 % respectively
- The new visa will include mandatory criminal checks and tighter English language requirements. The new "Temporary Skill Shortage Visa" programme will comprise two streams—Short Term and Medium Term—and will be underpinned by more focused occupation lists that are responsive to genuine skill needs and regional variations across Australia.
- Short-term visas will be issued for two years, while medium-term visas will be issued only for more critical skills shortages and for up to four years.

- Both streams will include mandatory labour market testing with limited exemptions, a new non-discriminatory workforce test; mandatory criminal history checks, a market salary rate assessment and a new two-year work experience requirement.

RUSA Portal, Mobile App For Higher Education Launched

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar today launched the unique portal and mobile app of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a body under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Under the concept of RUSA the quality of education can go up by improving the research labs infrastructure and creating smart class rooms and various other programmes by which the quality enhancement and value addition to the students happen
- The portal is a one-stop for States' Higher Education Plans, decision of the States' Higher Education Councils and details of the resources under this scheme. Also, the gallery is a rich repository of the projects initiated under RUSA.
- The detailed information regarding the projects can be had from the RUSA website rusa.nic.in.
- RUSA is the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Department of Higher Education, MHRD which aims to provide strategic central funding to State Higher Education Departments and Institutions and achieve the broad objectives of access, equity and excellence.

Dr. P. Gururaja Bhat Award' for Prof. A.V. Narasimha Murthy

- Prof. A.V. Narasimha Murthy, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru and former Head, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, has bagged the prestigious P. Gururaja Bhat Award instituted by Udupi-based Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Memorial Trust.
- Prof. Murthy has been selected for the award in consideration of his contribution to Indian Archaeology, Ancient History and Numismatics.
- His name was selected by a 3-member panel of scholars constituted by the Trust.

Visually impaired Indian runner Sagar Baheti completes historic Boston Marathon

- In a watershed moment for Indian sport, as well as a triumph in overcoming the odds, Bangalore-based Sagar Baheti has become the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete the historic Boston Marathon, the world's oldest, most competitive and the hardest marathon to qualify for.
- Supported by the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MABVI), the 31-year-old Baheti travelled to the USA and became the first visually impaired Indian to participate in the famous marathon.
- With assistance from an old college friend, Boston-based Devika Narain Aerts, Baheti finished the 121st Boston Marathon as one of 30,000 runners on a blisteringly hot Monday.

- The 2017 Boston Marathon has been recorded as the second hottest in a decade.
- Baheti completed the approximately 42.16 km distance in just over four hours

BRABO: First Made in India industrial robot

- TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has launched India's first industrial-articulated robot and it goes by the name "BRABO".
- The robot is indigenously developed for micro, small and medium enterprises in India.
- The robot is available in payloads of 2 kilos and 10 kilos and is priced competitively between Rs 5 to 7 lakh.
- The company took three years in R&D before launching the robot and spent nearly Rs 10 crore in the process.
- This is the first time that an industrial robot has been conceptualised, designed and manufactured in India, the company said.
- BRABO is meant to complement the human workforce and perform repetitive, high volume, dangerous and time-consuming tasks from raw material handling to packaging of finished products

Shambhavi Puraskar for Hari Shankar Rout

- The prestigious Shambhavi Puraskar, 2017 was presented to Hari Sankar Rout for his outstanding contribution towards social change.
- The award carrying a trophy, citation and a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh was presented by Union Minister of state for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Pratap Rudy

- The Shambhavi Puraskar was instituted in 2014 by Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF).
- His significant contribution is installation of a 7.5 KW micro-hydroelectric project, diverting water from a stream through pipeline to Dangarpadar village of Tumudibandha Block. This ensures 24 hour electricity supply, water for domestic use and diversion based irrigation

Govt bans use of red beacons on vehicles

- Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to ban the use of red beacons on all VIP vehicles, including those of the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister, from May 1.
- From May 1, no person in the country will be able to put a red light on their vehicles. There is no exception to this
- Emergency services, like ambulances and fire brigade, will be allowed to use blue beacons.
- Earlier, the Supreme Court had also asked all state governments to restrict the list of VIPs who are allowed beacons on their vehicles.
- Some state governments like Punjabi. Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have already barred the use of red beacons.
- The government will bring about the necessary amendment to the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, in this regard.
- "Rule 108 deals with the use of red, white and blue lights on vehicles. Rule 108-1 (III) says the Centre and states can specify dignitaries who can use beacons on their (official) vehicles. It is a central rule and is being abolished from the rule book,

Vistadome, India's First Train With Glass Ceiling

- Aiming to provide a delightful travelling experience to the picturesque Araku valley in Visakhapatnam, the Railways introduced a see-through Vistadome coach on its Visakhapatnam-Kirandul passenger train.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged-off the train through a video link from Bhubaneswar.
- The specially-designed Vistadome air-conditioned coach, claimed to be a first-of-its-kind in Indian Railways, has large glass windows and an observation lounge that offer passengers a panoramic view of the sites along the 128-km rail route from Visakhapatnam to Araku valley hill station.
- The coach also has a glass-domed ceiling, automatic sliding doors and a multi-tier luggage rack

Yogi Govt Renames Gorakhpur and Agra Airports

- Uttar Pradesh cabinet, that was held on Tuesday, the Yogi government changed the name of Gorakhpur and Agra Airports as well as the name of the department of welfare of the differently abled.
- The Gorakhpur Airforce Station has been renamed as Mahayogi Goraknath Airport after the founder of the Nath monastic movement. Likewise, the Agra Airport will be renamed after RSS ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport.
- The Department of Disabled Welfare will now be known as 'Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment'.
- The Yogi Government decided to name the Civil Terminal, named Mahayogi Goraknath, at Gorakhpur Air Force Base.

Cabinet clears Election Commission's proposal to buy VVPAT machines

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared the Election Commission's proposal to buy new Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines.
- Ahead of the 2019 General Elections, the EC has been given the go ahead to procure 16,15,000 units, at an estimated base price of Rs. 3,173.47 crore.
- A VVPAT machine dispenses a slip — called a 'Ballot Slip' — with the serial number, name and symbol of the chosen candidate which a person has voted for.
- The voters see the voter-verifiable paper audit trail slip for seven seconds after which it drops into a sealed box, which would be proof of the party he or she has voted for.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

India jumps to 8th place on Global FDI Confidence Index

- India has jumped one spot to rank 8th in the 2017 AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index with 31 percent of the surveyed respondents being more optimistic on economic outlook over the next three years.
- Investor confidence in India has been growing steadily over the last two years, making it one of the top two emerging market performers on the FDI Index,
- Among the investors surveyed, over half said a successful GST implementation would cause them to significantly or moderately increase their investment in India.

- More broadly, 70 percent of the respondents plan to maintain or increase their FDI in India in the coming years
- For the second year in a row, India appears in the top 10. The country has the world's fastest-growing major economy, and the government is seeking to loosen FDI regulations to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative.
- **Top Five: United States, Germany, China, United Kingdom, Canada**

Pakistan Hindu boy selected for Emerging Young Leaders Award

- A Hindu youth from Pakistan has been selected for the prestigious Emerging Young Leaders Award given by the US State Department for the positive role played by youngsters in building sustainable peace.
- Raj Kumar, from Pakistan, was among 10 youths from across the world who have been selected for the second edition of the 'Emerging Young Leaders Award' given by the State Department.
- Kumar became an active member of the Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) following his participation in the State Department-sponsored Global Undergraduate Exchange Programme in 2013

APPOINTMENTS

Devendra Kumar Sharma appointed new BBMB chairman

- Devendra Kumar Sharma, managing director of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation

Limited, will be the new chairman of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

- The BBMB manages the release of water in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan as it controls Bhakra, Pong and other dams.
- The post of chairman had been lying vacant since September 2015 and its temporary charge was given to member, irrigation, SK Sharma
- DK Sharma has been associated with the power sector for over 30 years. Serving in the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, he was instrumental in implementing and commissioning Tata Hydro Power Station in Bhutan.
- He was also associated with the industrial giant Larsen & Toubro for a long time in its infrastructure development projects.

Odisha's B.N.Mohapatra takes over as the New Financial Commissioner FC of Railways

- B.N.Mohapatra has been appointed as the new Financial Commissioner (FC) (Railways) and ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India
- An officer of Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) of 1980 examination batch, Shri B.N.Mohapatra completed his post graduation in Political Science and graduation in LLB.
- During his career, Sh. Mohapatra has worked on various higher and middle level management posts on the Indian Railways like DRM/ Tinsukhia, NFR, Assistant General Manager (AGM) on East Coast Railway.
- In Railway Board he has worked in various directorates like Pay Commission, Establishment, Expenditure and Accounts as Executive Director and Advisor.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Sahitya Akademi award for translation of Perumal Murugan's 'Maadhorubaagan'

- Aniruddhan Vasudevan's "One Part Woman", a translation of Perumal Murugan's controversial Tamil novel "Maadhorubaagan"
- He will be awarded along with the other winners of the same award in 23 languages.
- Sahitya Akademi has instituted an annual prize for translation from 1989 to be given to outstanding translations in the 24 languages recognised by it.
- The Translation Prize which carried Rs.10,000 in 1989 was increased to Rs.15,000 in 2001 and is Rs.20,000 from 2003, and is now Rs.50,000 from 2009.

BEML bags Hindustan PSU award

- BEML, a defence public sector, has received the Hindustan PSU Award under the category 'Fastest Growing Organisation – Miniratna' BEML has been bestowed with Hindustan PSU Award under the category 'Fastest Growing Organisation - Miniratna'. The award is instituted by Hindustan Media Ventures.
- BEML is a Public Sector Mini Ratna Category-I Company under the Ministry of Defence and the premier manufacturer of Metro Cars. The company is the leading rolling stock supplier in the Country.

Saira Banu, Jackie Shroff get Raj Kapoor awards

- Veteran actress Saira Banu was today named for the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime

achievement award of the Maharashtra Government.

- Actor Jackie Shroff was selected for the Raj Kapoor Special contribution award.
- Noted Marathi actors Vikram Gokhale and Arun Nalawade were selected for the coveted V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement and V. Shantaram Special Contribution annual awards, Tawde said in an official communication issued by his ministry.
- Both the lifetime achievement awards carry a citation and cash of Rs five lakh each, while both the special contribution awards carry a citation and Rs three lakh cash

BANKING AWARENESS

ICICI Bank data centre becomes country's first CII-IGBC Platinum rated project

- The ICICI Bank Data Centre in Hyderabad has achieved the distinction of becoming the country's first Platinum rated project under IGBC Green Data Centre Rating System.
- IGBC Green Data Centre Rating System would facilitate in providing tremendous tangible and intangible benefits. Tangible benefits include: 20 to 25 per cent reduction in Power Usage Effectiveness, 25 to 30 per cent reduction in water consumption.
- Intangible benefits include enhanced air quality, excellent daylighting, health and well-being of the staff operating such facility.
- ICICI Bank would continue to partner with IGBC in taking forward the green building movement in the country.
- Today, more than 150 professionals from ICICI Bank are now IGBC Accredited Professionals

and equipped to manage the green building facilities of ICICI Bank

- Some of the green features incorporated in ICICI Bank's Data Centre power saving, wheeling of 15 MW off-site renewable energy (9000 units to offset grid energy), photovoltaic installed at façade for on-site renewable energy generation and LED based energy efficient lighting fixtures and procurement of green certified products and materials

SPORTS

Chris Gayle becomes first to score 10,000 T20 runs

- Chris Gayle, the brutal and entertaining Jamaican hard-hitter, is now in an elite club of his own – one for those with 10,000 T20 runs.
- Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB's) Gayle became the first entrant of the exclusive club as he reached 3 against the Gujarat Lions in their 2017 Indian Premier League (IPL) match
- It was at Indore that Sachin Tendulkar became the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs in One-Day Internationals in 2001. Also, Sunil Gavaskar became the first person to score 10,000 Test runs in Ahmedabad against Pakistan in 1987.

IMPORTANT DAYS

April 21: Civil Services Day

- CSD is celebrated on 21st April every year since 2006.
- Why 21st April ? Because it was on this day that Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, addressed the first batch of civil servants in Independent

India at the Metcalf House where he referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.

- **"Making New India" will be the theme for Civil Services Day, 2017**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will honour bureaucrats for effectively implementing key programmes of the central government
- The PM's awards for excellence will be based primarily on excellence in implementation of five priority programmes --Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), e-National Agriculture Market (eNAM) and Standup India, Startup India.

NATIONAL EVENTS

National Surveillance System for antimicrobial resistance set up

- Health ministry of India has taken a slew of measures against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) like setting up a **National Surveillance System.**
- the ministry has also enacted regulations to regulate the sale of antibiotics and brought out National Guidelines for the use of antibiotics.
- AMR is the ability of a microorganism (like bacteria, viruses, and some parasites) to stop an anti-microbial (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials) from working against it.
- As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

China announces 'standardised' names for 6 places in Arunachal

- China has for the first time announced "standardised" official names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh
- Civil affairs ministry had standardised in Chinese characters, Tibetan and Roman alphabet the names of six places in South Tibet, which India calls 'Arunachal Pradesh', in accordance with the regulations of the State Council
- The official names of the six places using the Roman alphabet are Wo'gyainling, Mila Ri, Qoidêngarbo Ri, Mainquka, Bümo La and Namkapub Ri
- Wo'gyainling is likely to be the new name for Ugyen Ling monastery
- Qoidêngarbo Ri is likely to be Choten Karpo Ri, Mainquka is likely to be Mechuka in West Siang district and Bümo La is likely to be Bumla, located a short distance from Tawang.

SPORTS

PV Sindhu climbs to World No 3

- PV Sindhu has jumped two places to stand at World No 3 in the latest BWF Rankings
- This comes on the back of her quarterfinal finish at the Singapore Open Superseries where she lost to Carolina Marin. Just two weeks earlier, she had achieved World No 2 ranking with the India Open win and then dropped to World No 5 with a first round exit in Malaysian Open.
- On the men's side **B Sai Praneeth achieved his career best ranking of World No 22** after jumping eight spots.

- **Nehwal has risen one place to World No 8** despite not playing the Singapore Open to work on her fitness. Third best Indian in the ranking charts is Rituparna Das at World No 46 and Tanvi Lad is 53rd.
- List is topped by Tai Tzu Ying in women's charts and Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia is at the top with Viktor Axelsen and Jan O Jorgensen forming the top three.

Video gaming to be featured at 2022 Asian Games

- Video gaming will be featured as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games, with competitors in electronic sports set to receive medals for their digital prowess.
- The Olympic Council of Asia will introduce esports to the official program of the Asian Games at Hangzhou, China.
- It will also be a demonstration sport at the 2018 Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia.
- The decision reflects "the rapid development and popularity of this new form of sports participation among the youth.
- The Asian Games features a wide range of traditional Olympic sports along with others containing more regional appeal.
- Some of the more obscure sports include sepak takraw, which combines features from soccer and volleyball, and kabaddi, a contact team sport that evolved in and is dominated by India.
- The sports program has also included a variety of martial arts, contract bridge, jet-ski racing and sport climbing.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Aamir Khan, Kapil Dev to get Dinanath Mangeshkar Award

- Actor Aamir Khan and cricket icon Kapil Dev will receive the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Awards
- Amir Khan will be honoured with the Vishesh Puraskar for Best Film "Dangal", while Dev for his outstanding contribution to Indian Cricket.

Other Awardees

- **Vyjayanthimala Bali:** Master Dinanath Vishesh Puraskar for her achievements in Hindi cinema
- **Sunil Barve for "Amar Photo Studio Subak Sanstha":** Mohan Wagh Award
- **Kishore Deshpande:** Anadmayee Puraskar for social services
- **Vishwashanti Kendra:** Samarpit Jeevan Puraskar
- **Vijaya Rajadhyaksha:** Vagvilasini Puraskar for her work in literature

GNFC wins the Golden Peacock Award for Innovation of Cashless Township

- Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model.
- Cashless Township Innovation was conceived and implemented following the clarion call of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to transition to a cashless society.
- The award recognizes the company's contribution to innovative frameworks that will be the key for business success in the new millennium.
- The award was conferred upon cashless township innovation, as it enables

corporations with integrated townships to succeed by adapting swiftly in the digital era.

- GNFC emerged as the first fertilizer company in India to transition to cashless economy successfully. Company's township in Bharuch, Gujarat became the first 100% cashless township of India.
- The Golden Peacock Awards, has been established by the Institute of Directors (IOD) in India in 1991. They are now widely acknowledged as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.

APPOINTMENTS

Vinay Shah joins LIC Housing Finance Limited as MD and CEO

- Life insurance Corp of India has appointed Vinay Shah as the new managing director and chief executive director of its mortgage loan arm and listed entity LIC Housing Finance, after government elevates Sunita Sharma to managing director of LIC earlier this week. Shah was executive director.
- Shah has been with LIC since 1983.
- Prior to this assignment, he was executive director marketing. He took over the business as ED in April 2015.
- He has looked after areas of new product launches in the last two years. He was zonal manager western zone.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Newly discovered 'super-Earth' could host alien life

- A temperate, rocky 'super-Earth' planet has been discovered transiting in front of a small

star located about 39 light years away from Earth.

- The planet is around 1.4 times the size of Earth but is more than seven times heavier, suggesting it is probably made of rock with a dense iron core.
- This super-Earth, dubbed LHS 1140b, may be astronomer's best candidate yet in the search for alien life
- The LHS 1140 system might prove to be an even more important target for the future characterisation of planets in the habitable zone than Proxima b or TRAPPIST-1
- The small size of the host star and its proximity to us mean that telescopes might be able to search for specific gases in the planet's atmosphere if it has one.
- LHS 1140b orbits in the habitable region or 'Goldilocks zone' around a faint red dwarf star named LHS 1140.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Earth Day: 22 April

- Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22.
- Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day events in more than 193 countries are now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network
- Google today celebrates Earth Day with a doodle. It encourages people across the world to be more environmentally friendly.
- Today's Doodle describes the story of a sleeping fox who dreams about an Earth that's been polluted and adversely affected by

climate change. Determined to save mother earth, the fox makes small lifestyle changes. Along the way, it enlists friends - including Momo the cat, and Google Weather's favorite frog - to join its quest to protect and nurture the environment.

- The Doodle has tried to guide us on small ways through which we could contribute to mother earth. Efforts like using less electricity, riding bicycle instead of buses, use of wind turbines and solar panels, and plant greenery.
- **The theme of World Earth Day 2017 is "Environmental and Climate Literacy".**

NATIONAL EVENTS

Alimony to Be 25% of Husband's Net Salary: Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court has set a limit on how much alimony a man is to pay his estranged wife, and it should be 25 per cent of his net salary
- A Bench of justices R Banumathi and MM Santanagoudar made the observation when directing a man from West Bengal to pay his ex-wife Rs 20,000 out of a monthly salary of Rs 95,527. They turned down his plea that the amount was excessive.
- The court noted that the amount given as alimony must be sufficient that a woman lives in dignity after separation from her husband.
- Twenty-five per cent of the husband's net salary would be just and proper to be awarded as maintenance to the (former) wife.
- The amount of permanent alimony awarded to her must be befitting the status of the parties and the capacity of the spouse to pay

maintenance, which is always dependant on the factual situation of the case

Law ministry launches 3 legal aid services for poor

- Aiming at extension of legal aid to marginalised, poor and vulnerable communities, the law ministry launched three initiatives—pro bono legal services, a tele law service and 'Nyaya Mitra' scheme
- using technology for providing access to justice is in tandem with the Digital India initiative, the primary focus being transparency, good governance and digital delivery of services.
- **Pro bono** legal services is a web-based initiative which can be accessed through the website www.doj.gov.in using which litigants from marginalised communities who cannot afford legal services can apply for legal aid and advice from pro bono lawyers.
- **Tele law'**, aims to facilitate legal advice for marginalized communities through an expert panel of lawyers stationed at State Legal Services Centres (SLCA).
- **Nyaya Mitra** scheme aims to reduce pendency of cases across selected districts, with a special focus on those pending for more than 10 years.
- This scheme would play a pivotal role in assisting litigants who are suffering due to delay in investigation or trial, by actively identifying such cases through the National Judicial Data Grid, providing legal advice and connecting litigants to government agencies and civil society organizations.

INTERNATION EVENTS

Modi to inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo on May 12,
- Mr Modi will also hold meetings with the Sri Lankan leadership.
- The two countries are likely to finalise development cooperation agreements, besides discussing key issues, including the Palk Bay fisheries conflict.
- The specifics of Mr. Modi's visit and travel plans are being firmed up, say Colombo based sources.
- Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Poornima, is a traditional holiday commemorated by Sri Lanka's majority Sinhala Buddhists.
- This year's celebration, with the theme 'Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace', will be marked through a series of programmes from May 12-14, in which leaders from the region are expected to participate.

China to host BRICS Film Festival in June

- The 2017 BRICS Film Festival will be held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province from June 23 to 27.
- There will be 30 films from BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) screened during the festival, including an anthology by five directors from the aforementioned countries, Where has the time gone
- The feature film consisting of five 18-minute shorts on the same theme is a joint work by Walter Salles from Brazil, Aleksey Fedorchenko

from Russia, Madhur Bhandarkar from India, Jahmil X. T. Qubeka from South Africa, and Jia Zhangke from China, state-run Xinhua news agency reported today.

- The emotions from all five stories can be shared by anyone in any country. The film would be a successful demonstration of the deep communication and cooperation in the film industry among BRICS countries.
- The first BRICS Film Festival was held in New Delhi, India, last September.

Narendra Modi & Paytm CEO Make It To Time Magazine's '100 Most Influential People' List

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been featured in Time's magazine's 100 most influential people list.
- Along with the Prime Minister, who is a regular on the Time list, Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma too has made the cut.
- They were featured in the 'Leaders' and 'Titans' categories respectively.
- US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Theresa May have also been featured in the 100 most influential people list.
- Time's 100 most influential people list features pioneers, artists, titans, leaders and icons from around the world honoured for "the power of their inventions, the scale of their ambitions, the genius of their solutions to problems that no one before them could solve.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Malaysia Airlines Becomes First to Use Space-Based Aircraft Tracking

- Malaysia Airlines — which lost a jetliner with 239 people on board in 2014 in one of aviation's greatest mysteries — has become the first carrier to adopt a satellite flight-tracking system.
- The airline will use a soon-to-be-launched satellite network to monitor its fleet in areas where there is currently no surveillance, including polar regions and remote areas of the oceans
- The airline reached a deal for the service provided by US-based Aireon, FlightAware and SITAONAIR.
- Planes deviating from a flight path will be able to be identified more quickly with the system
- The Prime Minister gave away 12 awards for implementation of the government's programmes to mark the Civil Services Day. Palnar was awarded in the category of innovation.
- For implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Mizoram's Sialha district was awarded in the Northeast and Hill States category, while Banaskantha district of Gujarat was honoured under the category of other states.
- The award for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana went to Gomati district of Tripura and Jalna district of Maharashtra.
- Solan district of Himachal Pradesh and Nizamabad district of Telangana were awarded for implementing the e-National Agriculture Market(e-NAM).
- Sivasagar district of Assam and Bihar's Nalanda district were felicitated for their performance under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

Dantewada village without mobile network awarded for going cashless

- Palnar, a small village in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district grabbed an award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for going 100 per cent "cashless".
- District Collector Sourabh Kumar received the award
- District administration built the infrastructure for digital transactions from scratch. State-owned BSNL installed wi-fi zones for which Essar, which is engaged in mining operations in the region to provide 10 Mbps optic-fibre connection for free under their corporate social responsibility funds
- People had Aadhaar cards, so the new Aadhaar-enabled payment system machines were installed to authenticate payments by using fingerprints. Soon, villagers had started teaching others.

Italian mayor wins Unesco Peace Prize

- The Unesco has awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees,
- Nicolini was bestowed with the honour for her effort that saved thousands who fled across the Mediterranean often on unseaworthy boats to find a better and peaceful life
- Since becoming Mayor in 2012, Nicolini has been an outspoken defender of refugee and migrant rights.

- The Unesco Peace Prize jury "recognised (Nicolini) for her boundless humanity and unwavering commitment to refugee crisis management and integration in response to the arrival of thousands of refugees on the shores of Lampedusa and elsewhere in Italy."

Minister of State (IC), Labour & Employment Gave Away NSCI Safety Awards

- The 'NSCI Safety Awards' for the year 2016 were presented by the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Labour & Employment Shri Bandaru Dattatreya
- The NSCI Safety Awards are coveted national level awards in the field of Workplace Safety, Health and Environment and given in recognition of establishing effective Safety Management System and excellent safety & health performance by the organizations in Manufacturing, Construction and MSME Sectors during the relevant assessment periods.
- These Awards are adjudged and declared every year by the National Safety Council. For the Awards- 2016, total 434 organisations comprising 307 factories from manufacturing sector; 87 establishments from construction sector and 40 MSME units participated in the contest.
- Altogether 70 organisations have been selected for the award in four categories – Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar and Prashansa Patra. Besides, 12 client organizations from Construction Sector will also be awarded.

BANKING & FINANCE

Fino Paytech to help Nabard digitise rural banks across 5 states

- Payments technology company and soon-to-be-launched payments bank Fino Paytech to facilitate NABARD to help the rural bank digitization drive in the states of Haryana, MP, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Fino will provide over 5000 Aadhaar enabled micro ATMs and financial inclusion gateway services to district central cooperative (DCC) banks and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across these states.
- Payments Banks are planning to utilise the large nation-wide UID (Aadhaar) coverage, to help rural masses with Aadhaar enabled micro ATMs as they facilitate eKYC, paperless and instant banking.
- Customer authentication and verification through eKYC helps in faster opening of bank accounts and enabling cashless transactions either by using RuPay cards or Aadhar Enabled Payments System (AEPS).

APPOINTMENTS

R Sridhar joins IndoStar Capital as Executive VC, CEO

- IndoStar Capital announced that Sriram Group chief R Sridhar has joined as Executive Vice Chairman and CEO as the Everstone Group-backed NBFC sees strong growth and aims to grow its retail lending business.

- Sridhar, who has worked with the Sriram Group since 1985, will be taking over from Vimal Bhandari who led the firm since 2011.
- Bhandari will remain on the board of IndoStar and stay as a shareholder
- Sridhar, will oversee IndoStar's growth across its lending businesses, including corporate lending, SME lending and a 100 per cent-owned housing finance subsidiary, IndoStar Home Finance and other asset financing businesses.
- The country garnered the most number of votes in the Asian group, with 49 out of 50 members of ECOSOC voting in its favour.
- The 13 members elected for three-year terms, beginning January 2018, include Burkina Faso, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the United Kingdom and United States.
- The CPC is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.

OBITUARY

Veteran journalist Nora Chopra died

- Senior journalist and columnist, Nora Chopra passed away on Thursday following a period of illness. She was actively engaged in her work till her premature demise. Chopra was widely respected for being a passionate, spirited and combative journalist.
- President Pranab Mukherjee condoled Nora's death, saying the nation has lost a veteran journalist who was inspiration to many.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

India wins elections to two UN subsidiary bodies

- India has won elections to two subsidiary bodies of a UN organ focussed on social and economic issues.
- India along with 12 other members was elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

SPORTS

Cricket removed from 2018 Asian Games programme

- One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang is cricket. Apart from cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing are among the other sports which have been removed from the programme in order to reduce the burden on Indonesian organisers.
- This measure was taken as a part of the series of changes aimed at reducing the total number of events from 493 to 431. Also omitted from the list are kurash and belt wrestling events
- No changes, however, have yet been made to any of the other 28 permanent Summer Olympic sports due to be contested.
- This includes those, like handball, which remains low profile in the south-east Asian nation.

17-yr-old Washington Sundar becomes 3rd youngest to play IPL

- Aged 17 years and 199 days, Rising Pune Supergiant spinner Washington Sundar has become the third youngest cricketer to play in IPL.
- Sundar was picked by the franchise as a replacement for injured Ravichandran Ashwin. Royal Challengers Bangalore's Sarfaraz Khan, who played his first IPL match aged 17 years and 177 days, was the youngest to play in the league.

Science And Technology

India Enters Select Club As Navy Successfully Test-Fires Land-Attack Brahmos Missile

- Indian Naval ship for the first time fired a land-attack BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.
- Land attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was fired for the first time from an Indian Navy's stealth frigate, off the eastern coast, at a land target
- This puts India in a select club of nations with such capability.
- The land-attack version of BrahMos has been operationalised in the Indian Army since 2007.
- The BrahMos missile, with a range of 290 km and a Mach 2.8 speed, is capable of being launched from land, sea and sub-sea pads against sea and land targets.
- BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is considered the only supersonic cruise missile in the world. The missile was first inducted in the India Navy in 2005.
- India is developing 450 km and 800 km range BrahMos missiles and an air launched version,

designed to be delivered from Su-30 jets. It is also in the development phase.

National Events

Andhra Pradesh set up welfare board for transgenders

- Andhra Pradesh has now followed in Tamil Nadu and Kerala's footsteps to establish a welfare board for transgender persons in the state.
- They launched the 'Andhra Pradesh Hijra Transgender Welfare Board' on Thursday at the Sri Venkateshwara University in Tirupati, and the move was welcomed by the trans community in Andhra.
- Rachana Mudraboyini, a transgender rights activists who was part of the inauguration ceremony, said she hopes that the board would help the community fight for their rights.
- The welfare board will be run by direct democracy by the community, with special voting rights for the minorities.
- The board is also expected to help the members of the transgender community have access to the government welfare schemes.
- The move comes years after the Supreme Court in the NALSA case ordered that transgender persons have a right to self identify, and also ordered the Centre and state governments to take steps for protecting their rights.
- While other states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have set up welfare boards and policies for transgender persons, this is the first time that Andhra has formulated a policy to help transgender persons get education

and jobs, and also provide economic assistance to them.

World Bank to extend \$375 mn loan for National Waterway-1 on Ganga

- The World Bank has approved a loan of \$375 million for capacity augmentation of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) on the river Ganga under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- The financial assistance from the World Bank would help to develop the Rs 5,369-crore NW-1 from Haldia to Varanasi.
- The project will enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1,500-2,000 deadweight tonnes along a 1,390-km stretch.
- NW-1 is a waterway of national significance passing through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, serving the cities of Allahabad, Varanasi, Ghazipur, Bhagalpur, Patna, Howrah, Haldia and Kolkata, and their industrial hinterland including several industries located in the Ganga basin. The rail and road corridors in this region are already saturated.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won Dadasaheb Phalke Awards 2017

- Chitra Productions in association with Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2017 celebrated the 148th birth anniversary of the father of Indian Cinema, the respected Dadasaheb Phalke.
- This year, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won the award for the best actress female for her stellar performance in the film "Sarabjit".
- Hema Malini won the Award in the category of Kala Shree.

- Veteran Zeenat Aman walked the stage to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. On the other hand, Sircar bagged Creative Director Award for "Pink", along with Rohit Roy, who bagged the Best Negative Role in Film for "Kaabil".
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award is given to a film personality for his or her outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award was introduced in 1969 by the government to recognise the contribution of film personalities towards the development of Indian Cinema.
- The first recipient of this award was Devika Rani.

NATIONAL EVENTS

India replaces Japan as no 2 LPG importer

- India has replaced Japan as world's number two importer of liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, thus giving a push to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a 'safer kitchen', according to a report in Bloomberg.
- In India, a substantial number of households that particularly in rural parts of the country use fuels that increase the level of air pollution and also expose people to life-threatening diseases.
- According to data from Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, country imported 23 per cent more LPG in financial year 2016-17, a figure that stands at 11 million tonnes.
- The report added that Japan recorded a drop of 3.2 per cent in LPG imports during the period under review to 10.6 million tonnes.

- China continues to occupy numero uno position as world's largest LPG importer.

Coffee scented stamps released in Bengaluru

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha on Sunday released coffee scented postage stamps at the General Post Office, Bengaluru.
- The stamps, which are being printed at the India Security Press, will be priced at Rs. 100.
- These stamps will be made available at the Philately Bureau, Bangalore General Post Office, and all other head post offices.
- Bhutan was the first country to release aromatic stamps in 1973. New Zealand, Thailand and Switzerland joined in later.
- In 2006, India introduced its first aromatic stamp, with a Rs. 15 sandalwood-scented stamp where 30 lakh of these sold out within two weeks.
- In 2007, rose-scented stamps were released in four varieties of flower- Jawahar, Neelam, Delhi Princess and Bhim- each priced at Rs. five and a jasmine fragrance in 2008.

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Pakistan's Gwadar port leased to Chinese company for 40 years

- A state-run Chinese company will handle the operations of Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port for a period of 40 years
- China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) would carry out all the development work on the port on the Arabian Sea.
- The COPHC has 91 per cent share of revenue collection from gross revenue of terminal and marine operations and 85 per cent share from gross revenue of free zone operation
- Gwadar forms the southern Pakistan hub of the USD 57 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure and energy project that Beijing announced in 2014.
- Last year, Pakistan welcomed the first large shipment of Chinese goods at Gwadar, where the COPHC took over operations in 2013. It plans to eventually handle 300 million to 400 million tonnes of cargo a year.
- The route through Gwadar offers China its shortest path to the oil-rich Middle East, Africa, and most of the Western hemisphere, besides promising to open up remote, landlocked Xinjiang.

1st India Indonesia Energy Forum held in Jakarta

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Mr. Ignasius Jonan, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia met on 20th April, 2017 for the 1st India Indonesia Energy Forum, held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The Energy Forum was preceded by 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) on Oil and Gas, 4th Joint Working Group on Coal and 1st Joint Working Group on New and Renewable Energy. The reports of three Joint Working Groups were presented to two Ministers during the Energy Forum.
- Both sides agreed to focus on Capacity building, Exchange of Scientific and Technological information and data, Transfer of Technology on Non-commercial basis in bio

fuel and geothermal area, Development on Joint Research or Technical Projects on subject of Mutual interest, Encouragement and promotion of investment and Encouragement of policy Dialogue in solar park.

- India is third largest importer of coal from Indonesia. India imports of coal from Indonesia amounted to US\$ 3.5 billion in 2016. Several Indian companies have invested in coal mines in Indonesia.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Kilkari app for awareness on pregnancy, childcare launched

- Haryana has launched a new mobile based application namely 'Kilkari' to create awareness among pregnant women, parents, and field workers about the importance of antenatal care, institutional delivery, postnatal care and immunisation
- this mobile application would deliver free, weekly, time appropriate 72 audio messages about pregnancy, child birth and child care from the second trimester of pregnancy until the child attains the age of one year directly to the registered mobile numbers. New modified data elements were added to thematic areas of healthcare delivery
- The app was launched during the concluding day of three-day state level orientation workshop at state Institute of Health and Family Welfare at Panchkula on Friday where new data elements in Health Management Information System (HMIS) were also launched.

AWARDS & HONOURS

TripAdvisor presents Bali with 2017 Travellers' Choice Awards

- Travel planning and booking website TripAdvisor has bestowed on Bali an award as the "best destination," after the island was named the global winner of the 2017 Travelers' Choice Awards in March.
- Bali is a tourist destination that has a lot to offer to its visitors, from culture, nature and even the culinary scene
- The 2017 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards were determined using an algorithm that took into account the quantity and quality of reviews and ratings for hotels, restaurants and attractions in destinations worldwide, gathered over a 12-month period, as well as traveler booking interest on TripAdvisor. The awards honor 418 outstanding destinations across the globe.
- According to the website, Bali improved in three main categories from 2015 to 2016: Accommodation, attractions and restaurants.

Aditi Ashok, SSP Chawrasia win Golf Industry Awards

- SSP Chawrasia and Aditi Ashok were among the winners at the second Golf Industry Association (GIA) Awards.
- Aditi, who finished second in the Ladies European Tour (LET) order of merit last year with the help of two victories, expectedly bagged Outstanding Achievement as a Player award.
- Chawrasia, who successfully defended his Indian Open title earlier this year and had two victories of on tour last year, bagged the Award for the Men's Player of the Year.

- Ali Sher, the Delhi Golf Club caddy-turned-pro-golfer, was feted for an Outstanding Playing Career.
- Ali Sher won the Indian Open back in 1991 and was honoured with an Arjuna Award that year. He went on to win the Indian Open again in 1993.

91-year-old woman doctor handed over Padma Shri in Indore

- Nonagenarian gynaecologist Dr Bhakti Yadav was handed over the Padma Shri award by district collector P Narahari at her house
- Ninety-one-year-old Dr Yadav is Indore's first woman MBBS graduate and was conferred the Padma Shri award this year.
- Dr Yadav has been offering free treatment for the last 68 years and is known for her close association with her patients.
- Born on April 3, 1926 in Mahidpur town of Ujjain district, Dr Yadav completed her primary education in Garoth town. She completed her school from Ahilya Ashram school in Indore
- Dr Yadav went on to become the first woman doctor in Indore when she passed out as part of the first batch of MGM Medical College here in 1948. She was the only woman in the batch.

SPORTS

Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas win Monte Carlo Masters doubles crown

- India's Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas lifted the men's doubles crown at the Monte Carlo Masters after registering a hard-fought three-set win over

Spain's Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez in Monaco

- The crown is the first of the season for Bopanna and Cuevas pair and the third for the Indian.
- Bopanna had earlier won the Chennai Open in January with Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan.
- He lost in the final of the Dubai Tennis Championships, in which he teamed up with Poland's Marcin Matkowski.

IMPORTANT DAYS

25 April: World Malaria Day 2017

- World Malaria Day is all about celebrating the successes there have been in the drive to eradicate malaria from the world as well as raising awareness of the disease and its prevention.
- This year the World Health Organisation (WHO) has made 'ending malaria for good' its theme for World Malaria Day 2017.
- For its theme WHO is demonstrating prevention methods including using nets and spraying insecticide indoors.
- A tropical disease which is spread by infected female anopheles mosquitoes. It only takes one bite from the insects to get the bug.
- Around 400,000 die from the disease every year. Worldwide there are around 212 million cases.

24 April 2017: National Panchayati Raj Day

- National Panchayati Raj Day (National Local Self-Government day) is the national day of India celebrated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 24 April annually.

- Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh inaugurated the first National Panchayati Raj Day in 2010.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 April 2015 called for an end to the practice of "husbands of women sarpanches" or "sarpanch pati" exercising undue influence on the work of their wives elected to power
- Under the 14th Finance Commission, Centre will be releasing more than 2 lakh crore rupees to Gram Panchayats for 5 years to undertake physical and social infrastructure projects in the villages.
- On National Panchayati Raj Day the national awards viz., Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar were conferred upon Panchayati Raj Institutions and e-Panchayat Puraskars to State Governments

NATIONAL EVENTS

India becomes world's fifth-largest military spender

- India's military expenditure grew around 8.5 per cent in 2016, making it the world's fifth largest spender at \$55.9 billion, figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)
- As per the figures, the US remains the world's largest military spender registering a growth of 1.7 per cent between 2015 and 2016 to \$611 billion.
- China is second on the list spending \$215 billion, an increase of 5.4 per cent.

- Russia increased its spending by 5.9 per cent to \$69.2 billion, making it the third largest spender.
- Saudi Arabia, the third largest spender in 2015, dropped to the fourth position in 2016 with its spending dropping by 30 per cent in 2016 to \$63.7 billion, despite its continued involvement in regional wars.

In a first, Uttarakhand monitors forest fires with drones

- In a first, the Uttarakhand Forest Department has launched a drone for real-time monitoring of the forest fire and to take preventive measures,
- The drone was launched by the state's Forest and Wildlife Minister Harak Singh Rawat from a remote location in Nainital district that falls under the western circle -- a big part of the vast Terai region of the state located outside the tiger and forest reserves.
- The Forest Department has dedicated three drones for monitoring the forest fire
- Using drones for real-time monitoring of the forest fires is the first time in India
- Uttarakhand faces maximum incidents of forest fires in the country.

India's First Sea Ropeway to Link Mumbai, Elephanta Island

- India's first and longest ropeway to connect Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust
- The 8-km ropeway will begin from Sewri in Mumbai's east coast and end at Raigad district's Elephanta Island, globally renowned

for Elephanta Caves, a Unesco World Heritage site.

- The approximately 40-minute ride by a 20-seater cable car, with a transit station midway will prove to be a major boost to tourism
- Accessible only by ferries from the mainland or motor launches from the Gateway of India, it takes around an hour for the 10-km cruise from Mumbai and vice versa.
- For nearly three decades, the island hosts the famed two-day Elephanta Cultural Festival in winters, organised by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, attracting the best of performers

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

India to export mangoes to Australia for the first time

- India may export mangoes that meet biosecurity standards to Australia for the first time following revision of protocols to allow them in the Australian economy.
- Robert Gray from Australian Mango Industry Association, said the Indian mangoes would be for sale outside of the Australian mango season.
- However, the fruit has to meet biosecurity standards including irradiation before they are exported
- Mexico, the Philippines and Pakistan have previously exported mangoes to Australia over the years.
- All shipments to Australia would be sent by air, and the company would initially focus on exporting the Alphonso and Kesar varieties of mango.

- Alphonso is slightly tricky but handled well it is one of the best varieties in India
- Kesar is the best commercial variety because it has a good price, good flavour, and it handles very well

SPORTS

Nadal wins historic 10th Monte Carlo title

- Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record-breaking 10th time with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas
- It was Nadal's first title in almost a year and further cemented his place in history as he became the first man in the Open era to win the same event 10 times.
- He won eight Monte Carlo titles in a row from 2005 to 2012 but then lost to Novak Djokovic in the 2013 final. He won the title again last year
- Nadal's 50 clay titles breaks the record he shared with Guillermo Vilas since April last year when he lifted his ninth trophy in Barcelona.

Haryana emerges champion at National Youth Athletics Meet

- Haryana beat arch rivals Kerala after six years to win the team championship at the National Youth Athletics Meet
- Haryana emerged champions with 166.5 points. Kerala, which stood at the top place in the last five years, could manage only 134.75 points to finish runners-up.
- However, they retained the team crown for girls (100 points) while Haryana boys tops with

108.5 points at the end of the three-day Kerala pole vaulter Nivya Antony equaled her national youth record by scaling to 3.32 m at Hyderabad, a height she first recorded at Coimbatore last November during the junior nationals. meet.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Kailash Satyarthi given P.C. Chandra award

- Nobel laureate and social activist Kailash Satyarthi was on Sunday presented the P.C. Chandra Purashkar (award) for his global crusade against child slavery and exploitative child labour.
- The 63-year-old Satyarthi was handed over a citation, a trophy and a cheque of Rs 10 lakh at an awards ceremony
- Satyarthi, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 with Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan, urged everyone to work towards making India a "child-friendly country".

Goldman Prize for Prafulla Samantra, the activist who blocked Vedanta's Niyamgiri mine

- Social activist Prafulla Samantra was announced one of six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize, in San Francisco
- The prize citation was for his historic 12-year legal battle that affirmed the indigenous Dongria Kondh's land rights and protected the Niyamgiri Hills from a massive, open-pit aluminium ore mine."
- Mr. Samantra was one of the key leaders responsible for rallying tribes, indigenous to Odisha's Niyamgiri region, and using legal provisions to thwart mining-to-metals

conglomerate, Vedanta. The company has been forced to suspend plans to mine bauxite.

- Other winners this year include Mark Lopez, United States; Uroš Macerl, Slovenia; Rodrigo Tot, Guatemala; Rodrigue Katembo, Democratic Republic of Congo; and Wendy Bowman, Australia.
- Since 1990 when the awards were first instituted, five Indians — Medha Patkar, M.C. Mehta, Rasheeda Bi, Champaran Shukla and Ramesh Agrawal — have won the prize. Mr. Samantra will be the sixth.

Rajkummar Rao's Newton Wins Jury Prize For Best Film at Hong Kong International Film Festival

- After starting off on the right note at the 67th Berlin International Film Festival, actor Rajkummar Rao's film Newton has won the Jury Prize for Best Film at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.
- Newton" is Amit Masurkar's second film after "Sulemani Keeda" in 2014.
- The film had its world premiere at Berlinale, and won the Art Cinema award for the Forum section there. The film also went to 16th Annual Tribeca Film Festival.
- Also starring Anjali Patel, Newton, a political black comedy, revolves around a clerk placed on election duty in a conflict-ridden area of Chhattisgarh.
- The film is produced by Manish Mundra of Drishyam Films, company best known for bankrolling critically-acclaimed projects such as Masaan, Ankhon Dekhi and Umrika.

Veteran actor K. Viswanath wins Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016

- Renowned filmmaker and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath, best known for his award-winning

movies in Telugu, Tamil and Hindi, has won the Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2016 for his outstanding contribution to the film industry.

- He will be the 48 recipient of the award, the highest recognition in Indian cinema, which consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a shawl.
- Swati Mutyam, a National Award-winning film, was India's official entry to the 59 Academy Awards in the best foreign film category.
- He won the Padma Shri in 1992 and the Andhra Pradesh government has honoured him with 20 Nandi awards.

APPOINTMENTS

Himanta Biswa Sarma becomes interim BAI president

- BJP leader and Assam Badminton Association President Himanta Biswa Sarma was on Sunday appointed Badminton Association of India's interim head during its executive council meeting.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma has been unanimously given the charge to become the acting president till the next elections in 2018. It was a consensual decision.
- The post of president was left vacant after the sudden demise of former president Akhilesh Das Gupta and within a few days, Sarma emerged as the front-runner to become the interim head after he got support from the senior members of the association.
- An executive council meeting was called and Sarma was appointed as the interim president.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Northeast India's largest IT hub opens in Tripura

- Northeast India's sixth and largest Information Technology (IT) hub was inaugurated here on Monday to boost employment and e-governance besides to export software technology.
- Northeast India's sixth and largest Information Technology (IT) hub was inaugurated to boost employment and e-governance besides to export software technology.
- it would help the state to bring famous IT companies of India to set off their business and services taking the facilities of this newly set-up IT hub.
- "Tripura last year got the award from the central government for its performance in IT and e-governance. Many e-governance based facilities and services already extended up to gram panchayat level in Tripura.

Conference on Dara Shikoh draws experts from 6 countries

- The international conference on "Dara Shikoh: Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India", organised by the Indian Council Of Cultural Relations (ICCR), will be held on April 27 and 28 at ICCR's Azad Bhavan
- the objective of the conference is to present Dara Shikoh's contribution and initiatives in bringing about spiritual homogenisation of Hinduism and Islam and thereby building a cohesive social and cultural edifice of India.
- An upcoming conference on the spiritual legacy of Mughal Prince Dara Shikoh here will see the participation of eminent scholars,

academics and historians from the US, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and India.

- Dara Shikoh documented the Quranic terms and their Sanskrit equivalents from Upanishads. He aspired to build a cultural model for India which, if it prevailed, would have saved South Asia from many tragedies which it faced in the future.
- The event by ICCR will also stage a 90-minute theatre production in Hindustani without any intermission, directed by Tripurari Sharma on April 27 at the National School of Drama.

M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 47th Foundation Day of HUDCO

- Union Minister for Urban Development & Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu, inaugurated the function and addressed the august gathering to commemorate the 47th Foundation Day of HUDCO. M Venkaiah Naidu congratulated HUDCO on completing 47 glorious years of service to the nation. Highlighting the noteworthy role of HUDCO, Naidu urged the organization to realize the vision of "Housing for All" – "Sabka Sapna, Ghar ho Apna".
- HUDCO as one of the Central Nodal Agencies (CAN), is channelizing the subsidy, through its Retail Finance Window i.e. HUDCO Niwas and is making sincere efforts to 'Reach the Unreached'. HUDCO has executed 51 MoUs with various Banks and has conducted 28 Regional Workshops for CLSS to sensitize bank officials on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- The Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) is a

government-owned corporation in India. One of the public sector undertakings, it is wholly owned by the Union Government and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It is mandated with building affordable housing and carrying out urban development.

GIC Re sets up base in financial hub GIFT City

- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) has become the first re-insurer to open an office at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- Wholly-owned by the government, GIC Re, which supported the growth of general insurance business in the country through its four wholly-owned subsidiaries for about 30 years, was designated as the national reinsurer in 2001. It provides reinsurance support to life and non-life insurers in India and abroad.
- Alice G Vaidyan, Chairman and Managing Director, GIC Re, said the company has also decided to be a part of the Indian effort in building an offshore financial centre at GIFT City. GIC Re's experience of working in other global IFSCs could be shared with GIFT IFSC,
- India's first IFSC at GIFT City embodies the vision of making India a financial services hub.
- GIC Re's foreign and domestic premium composition now stands at 45:55.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

VARUNA 15 - Indo-French Naval Exercise

- Fourteenth (14th) edition of Indo-French naval exercise (VARUNA) started with the arrival of four French naval ships at Goa.
- Representing the French Navy is Aircraft Carrier Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers Chevalier Paul and Jean de Vienne, replenishment tanker Meuse and a maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique 2.
- The Aircraft Carrier Charles de Gaulle is carrying its complement of fighter aircraft Rafale M, Strike Aircraft Super Etendard, E2C Hawkeye AWACS and helicopters Dauphin and Alouette 3.
- Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat, destroyer Mumbai, stealth frigate Tarkash, guided missile frigate Gomati, replenishment tanker Deepak, submarine Shankul and a few Fast Attack Craft are participating from the Indian side.
- Aviation assets of the Indian Navy participating in VARUNA-15 include carrier-borne fighter aircraft Sea Harriers, maritime reconnaissance aircraft P-8 I and Dorniers along with integral helicopters Seaking 42B and Chetak.
- The scope of Exercise VARUNA includes the entire gamut of maritime operations from Aircraft Carrier Operations, Anti-Submarines Warfare Exercises, Maritime Interdiction Operations to multi-ship replenishment exercise

Freight train connects Russia with China

- A freight train connecting Russia with China has arrived in an inland city bringing goods from Moscow to the former revolutionary heartland of the Communist Party
 - The train connecting Russia with Jiangxi province arrived on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported. The train was expected to bring resources from Europe and boost local development.
- The journey started from Kansk, where buses first transported 38 containers more than 260 km to Bazaiha, followed by a train journey of more than 7,000 km, before reaching Ganzhou in eastern China.
 - Ganzhou, an inland area with a complex landscape, was important in early revolutionary activities due to its remote mountain ranges.
 - However, its wartime geographical advantages became a stumbling block in development.
 - The government tried to push regional development in the past few decades, but Ganzhou won no major projects or key investment due to its geography, resulting in slow, sometimes nonexistent, industrial growth.

TERI, French firm sign MoU for 'Clean India'

- A Delhi-based green body, a French waste company and a Geneva-based innovation foundation have joined hands to further strengthen India's waste management capabilities.
- the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the Innovative Finance Foundation (IFF) and 3WAYSTE company signed an MoU to collaborate on the rollout of a breakthrough technology for municipal solid waste management. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Ambassador of France to India, Alexander Ziegler.
- The technology is capable of treating all household waste, including unsegregated

waste, while converting more than 90 per cent of it into residue fuel to produce clean energy, pure compost for agriculture and valuable raw material

- "The process introduced by 3WAYSTE and TERI proposes to work mixed waste while recovering 90 per cent of resources from it, including for clean energy and quality compost

SPORTS

Manpreet Kaur wins shot put gold at Asian Grand Prix, leads world rankings

- Shot putter Manpreet Kaur's outstanding performance in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix in Jinhua, China, helped her take No 1 spot in the world rankings.
- Manpreet's gold medal winning performance of 18.86m turned out to be a world leading throw. She pushed Olympic champion Michelle Carter of USA to second spot, whose best throw this season was 18.54m recorded on April 15, in Austin.
- The national champion in fact set the right rhythm for the Indian camp, which overall won seven medals including four silver and two bronze.
- India's world junior champion in javelin throw Neeraj Chopra was among five athletes to win silver. His best throw was 82.11m, far off from his personal best of 86.48m, which he set last year.
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101-year-old wins sprinting gold medal at the World Masters Games in Auckland

- The most popular medal at the World Masters Games has gone to the oldest competitor - 101-year-old Indian sprinter Man Kaur.
- She was heartily cheered when a gold medal was draped around her neck after winning her one-woman 100m race at the Waitakere's Trusts Arena athletics stadium
- Man Kaur - sporting her special number, 10001 - crossed the line in 1min 14.58sec - almost 1min 4sec short of the women's world record for the distance.
- Kaur was guaranteed victory as the only participant in the 100-years-and-over category at the New Zealand event, which has attracted 25,000 competitors.
- Participation, not racing the clock, is the priority for Kaur, who has been dubbed the "miracle from Chandigarh" in New Zealand media.
- Kaur only took up athletics eight years ago, at the tender age of 93. She had no prior sporting experience before her son Gurdev Singh suggested she join him in competing on the international masters games circuit.

MCC offers life membership to former India captain Sandhya Agarwal

- The 'Marylebone Cricket Club' has offered honorary life membership to Sandhya Agarwal, former captain of the Indian women's Test team.
- A resident of Indore, Agarwal has played 13 Tests and 21 ODIs from 1984 to 1995.
- Agarwal is being honoured in recognition of her distinguished service to the game.

- After her retirement, she continued to contribute to the game as a selector and coach, besides being a member of the BCCI's women's committee.
- Presently, she is the chairperson of girl's U-19 and senior women's team of MPCA.
- Marylebone Cricket Club is the world's most active cricket club, the owner of Lord's Ground and the guardian of the laws of the game.
- Founded in 1787, it has been recognised as the sole authority on the laws of cricket since its foundation. MCC has awarded honorary life membership to many finest cricketers.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA's Super Pressure Balloon Takes Flight From New Zealand

- NASA successfully launched its football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB) from Wanaka
- While validating the super pressure balloon technology is the main flight objective, the International Extreme Universe Space Observatory on a Super Pressure Balloon (EUSO-SPB) payload is flying as a mission of opportunity.
- Also flying on the payload is a poppy in commemoration of Anzac Day, a national day of remembrance in New Zealand and Australia similar in spirit to the U.S. observance of Memorial Day.
- EUSO-SPB's objective is to detect ultra-high energy cosmic rays from beyond our galaxy as they penetrate the Earth's atmosphere.
- As these high-energy particles enter the atmosphere, they interact with nitrogen molecules in the air and create a UV fluorescence light.
- From its high-altitude vantage point, EUSO-SPB will look downward observing a broad swathe of the Earth's atmosphere to detect the UV fluorescence from these deep space cosmic rays coming in from above.
- The 18.8-million-cubic-foot (532,000-cubic-meter) Super Pressure Balloon lifted off from NASA's new launch pad adjacent to Wanaka Airport carrying a suspended payload of 5,500 pounds (2,495 kilograms).
- The new pad along with a recently established 10-year lease with Queenstown Airport Corporation are key developments for enhancing NASA's mid-latitude, long-duration balloon flight operations in New Zealand. According to Fairbrother, future investments include a payload processing facility on-site

Caterpillar found to eat shopping bags, suggesting biodegradable solution to plastic pollution

- Scientists have found that a caterpillar commercially bred for fishing bait has the ability to biodegrade polyethylene: one of the toughest and most used plastics, frequently found clogging up landfill sites in the form of plastic shopping bags.
- The wax worm, the larvae of the common insect *Galleria mellonella*, or greater wax moth, is a scourge of beehives across Europe. In the wild, the worms live as parasites in bee colonies. Wax moths lay their eggs inside hives where the worms hatch and grow on beeswax
- Around a hundred wax worms were exposed to a plastic bag from a UK supermarket. Holes started to appear after just 40 minutes, and

after 12 hours there was a reduction in plastic mass of 92mg from the bag.

- Scientists say that the degradation rate is extremely fast compared to other recent discoveries, such as bacteria reported last year to biodegrade some plastics at a rate of just 0.13mg a day.
- Polyethylene is largely used in packaging, and accounts for 40% of total demand for plastic products across Europe - where up to 38% of plastic is discarded in landfills. People around the world use around a trillion plastic bags every single year.

AWARDS & HONOURS

GNFC wins Golden Globe Tigers award

- State-owned Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) has won the prestigious Golden Globe Tigers Award for Excellence and Leadership in CSR in the category of 'E-Payment Leadership' for the implementation of digital transactions in its township at Bharuch, Gujarat.
- The award recognises "Tigers" in marketing, branding CSR and social innovation, education and academic across leadership levels in an individual and organisation, the company said in a statement here.
- This is the second award for GNFC in this category. A week ago, it had won the Golden Peacock Award in the category of Innovative Product/Service for its cashless innovation.
- GNFC won from among 214 applicants, including SMEs, public, private, government enterprises and NGOs for the year 2017. The Golden Globe Tigers CSR Award was given to

GNFC at Golden Globe Tigers Night 2017 organised at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event was attended by global CSR leaders from over 43 countries.

- The Golden Globe Tigers Award was established by World CSR Institute. About 30 applications were shortlisted from which GNFC was selected as the winner.
- GNFC emerged as the first fertiliser company in India to transition to a cashless economy successfully. Its township in Bharuch, Gujarat, became the first 100 per cent cashless township of India after demonetisation in November 2016.

IMPORTANT DAYS

April 26: World Intellectual Property Day

- World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on 26 April.
- The event was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000 to "raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life" and "to celebrate creativity, and the contribution made by creators and innovators to the development of societies across the globe.
- 26 April was chosen as the date for World Intellectual Property Day because it coincides with the date on which the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization entered into force in 1970. WIPO aims to look at how the IP system supports innovation by attracting investment, rewarding creators and encouraging them to develop their ideas

- The theme for this year's event is to **"explore how innovation is making our lives healthier, safer, and more comfortable, turning problems into progress"**.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Agriculture Ministry comes up with model APMC Act to integrate agri markets

- The Agriculture Ministry has come up with a new model Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act proposing single-point levy of market fee across a State and a united single trading licence for cost-effectiveness of transactions.
- It has also suggested abolition of fragmentation of market with the State/Union Territory by removing the concept of notified market area insofar as enforcement of regulation by the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee (APLMC) is concerned.
- To meet the marketing sector challenges, the Agriculture Ministry has formulated APMC Act 2017 and it is being shared with the States for implementation,
- The Centre has already asked States to modify their APMC Acts in order to have a single licence and single point of levy of market fee at the State level and then gradually move towards a single licence and single point of levy of market fee at the national level.
- The idea is to remove disincentives for farmers and traders to trade across the country as they will not have to shell out more money.
- Other proposals in the model APMC Act include promotion of national market for

agriculture produce through provisioning of inter-State trading licence, grading and standardisation and quality certification, rationalisation of market fee and commission charges, provision for special commodity market yard and promotion of e-trading to increase transparency.

- The model Act also calls for full democratisation of market committee and State/UT Marketing Board.

Somnath Temple, Charminar among new places chosen for Swachh iconic places initiative

- The government has announced the names of ten new Iconic places under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative.
- Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The ten new iconic places that will be undertaken in Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative are: Gangotri, Yamunotri.
- Mahakaleshwar Temple (Ujjain), Char Minar (Hyderabad), Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi (Goa), Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, Baijnath Dham (Devghar), Gaya Tirth (Bihar) and Somnath temple in Gujarat.

India to host 18th World Road Meeting

- India is set to host the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) on November 14
- The WRM, the biggest global platform for road engineers, safety and transport experts and companies engaged in road safety products,

will be attended by over 4,000 delegates from across the world

- The theme of this year's edition is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.
- The WRM, which is held every four years, gives a platform to come together, meet and discuss issues relevant to road infrastructure and mobility and to exhibit and showcase their products,
- The WRM includes a conference, an exhibition, a young professional lab and an innovation cafe and will also provide an outlet for sharing cutting-edge research, best practices and experiences, from across the world.

e-SOT, e-PRAN cards launched for Atal Pension Yojana users

To benefit and digitally empower over 45 lacs Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers, the facility of online viewing of the statement of transaction (e-SOT) and e-PRAN cards were launched

To improve the quality of service for the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers, the APY/PRAN acct details and savings bank account number details, can now be viewed on one's APY Account Statement.

Even for the APY subscriber who does not have his APY PRAN number readily available can also avail these facilities by providing one's Date of Birth and Savings Bank Account number details.

This online tool enables the subscribers to view his complete details of APY account like transaction details, pension amount, pension commencement date, nominee name, associated bank name etc.

The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme is being implemented through 235 APY-Service Providers all over the country consisting of 27 Public Sector

Banks (PSBs), 19 private banks, one foreign bank, 56 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), 109 District Cooperative Banks (DCBs), 16 State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), six Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and the Department of Posts.

AIIMS Becomes India's First Public Hospital For Eye Tumours

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is India's first public hospital to start plaque brachytherapy facility for the treatment of eye tumours
- The facility is a form of local radiation delivered to the eye through a radioactive device which is attached to the eye for a temporary period of time.
- The facility at the Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences will treat children suffering from a type of cancer called Retinoblastoma and adults who suffer from melanoma.
- Plaque brachytherapy is a form of local radiation delivered to the eye via a radioactive device that is stitched onto the eye. The move is expected to benefit children suffering from retinoblastoma, which is a form of eye cancer, and adults suffering from ocular melanoma.

Haryana's Ballabgarh renamed as Balramgarh

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that Ballabgarh would now be known as Balramgarh. He also announced a number of projects for the development of Ballabgarh and NIT Faridabad Assembly constituencies.
- The government had earlier renamed Gurgaon as Gurugram and Mewat as Nuh. It had accepted requests from villagers to rename several villages.

Belgium opens honorary consulate in GIFT City

- Belgium has become the first country to open an honorary consulate office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- Besides the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi, two Consulates-General in Mumbai and Chennai, and an honorary consulate in Kolkata, Belgium has expanded its diplomatic representation in India with this new office in Gandhinagar, according to a press release here on Wednesday.
- The consulate was inaugurated by Belgian Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Pieter De Crem, at an event where Ajay Pandey, Managing Director and Group CEO, GIFT City, and members of a high-level delegation from Belgium were also present.
- Hari Sankaran was nominated as Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Belgium to the state of Gujarat.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

China launches aircraft carrier, boosting military presence

- China has launched a new aircraft carrier in the latest sign of its growing military strength.
- It is the country's second aircraft carrier, after the Liaoning, and the first to be made domestically.
- The as-yet-unnamed ship was transferred into the water in the north-eastern port of Dalian, state media said. It will reportedly be operational by 2020.

- It comes amid heated rhetoric between the US and North Korea and ongoing tensions in the South China Sea.
- China has had only one operational aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, which it bought from Ukraine and refitted.
- The US has deployed warships and a submarine to the Korean peninsula, prompting an angry reaction from North Korea. China has urged calm.

SPORTS

India wins 16 medals at US Open Karate Championship

- India finished with a rich haul of three gold, two silver and 11 bronze medals at the US Open Karate Championship held in Las Vegas.
- Shaifali Agarwal, Abhishek Sengupta won a gold medal, a silver in two different individual events. India also won a gold medal in the team event.
- The Indian team was led by Sensei Yashpal Singh Kalsi and Members of the Indian contingent — Abhishek Sengupta, Rantej Singh, Harcharan Singh Chowhan and Shaifali Agarwal were trained under Sensei Kalsi.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

YES BANK awarded Golden Peacock Award 2017 for innovative mobile technology product SIMsePAY

- Adding another feather to its cap, India's fifth largest private sector Bank, the YES BANK has won the prestigious 'Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award 2017' for its innovative mobile technology product,

SIMsePAY at the Dubai Global Convention 2017 for the 27th World Congress on Leadership for Business Excellence & Innovation and Presentation of Golden Peacock Awards.

- The Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991, are regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.
- The Golden Peacock Awards Secretariat receives over 1,000 entries per year for various National and Global awards, from India and over 25 countries worldwide.

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Wins the Prestigious 'Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award 2017'

- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL), which operates Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad has announced that it has won the coveted Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award (GPBEA) 2017 in the large scale industry-
- Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award seeks to characterize validated best management practices, as a basis for accelerating the rate of organizational improvement.
- s.The Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award Scheme seeks to encourage Business Excellence improvements in both manufacturing as well as service organizations in India

Srishti Kaur wins Miss Teen Universe pageant

- Srishti Kaur from India has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017, beating out 25 other

contestants from around the world in the annual beauty pageant.

- Samantha Pierre from Canada and Ary Trava from Mexico were the runners-up in the event held at the Ruben Dario National Theater in Nicaragua's capital Managua yesterday.
- Kaur also won the prize for best national costume.
- Xirelle Agustin from the Philippines won in the Teen Popularity category, while Nicole Obando from Costa Rica won the award for Teen Charm.
- The six-year-old beauty pageant for teens aged 15 to 19 is held by the Miss Universe Organisation.

APPOINTMENTS

Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar appointed new Director General of CRPF

- Senior IPS officer Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar was appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Wednesday. His appointment comes two days after the CRPF lost 25 jawans in the deadly Sukma attack.
- Bhatnagar will be replacing acting DG Sudeep Lakhtakia.
- Currently, Bhatnagar serves as DG of the Narcotics Control Bureau - an ADG rank post which has temporarily been upgraded to a Special DG rank.
- Bhatnagar belongs to the 1983 batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS).
- In another key appointment, R K Pachnanda was appointed as DG of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He'll be taking over from

Krishna Chaudhary, who is set to retire in June this year.

- Pachnanda is serving as DG of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), India's specialized force for responding to natural disasters and CBRN emergencies.

Nita Ambani Made Member of IOC's Olympic Channel Commission

- India's first woman International Olympic Committee member Nita Ambani has made it to two important commissions of the global sports governing body, including the prestigious Olympic channel.
- Besides the Olympic Channel, the 53-year-old Ambani has also been made a member of Olympic education Commission as IOC announced the composition of 26 commissions for 2017.
- She is one of the 16 members of the Olympic Channel Commission headed by United States Olympic Committee Chairman Lawrence Francis Probst.
- Ambani is also named in the 24-member Olympic Education Commission, which is headed by New Zealander Barry John Maister, an IOC member and a 1976 Olympic hockey gold medalist.

BANKING & FINANCE

MFIN launches financial literacy app for microfinance clients

- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), a self-regulatory organisation and an industry association of microfinance, has launched a

financial literacy mobile app 'MFIN Connect for microfinance clients.

- MFIN Connect' is the first financial literacy app in India for microfinance education. MFIN is a self-regulatory organisation and industry association of the microfinance industry.
- The financial literacy app has been released on Android platform and will be available in six languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil and English.
- It is aimed to help microfinance clients in understanding the dynamics involved in microfinance, including credit history, interest rates, repayment cycles and their rights as a borrower.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day For Safety & Health At Work: 28 April

- The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.
- It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries.
- The ILO's campaign theme for the 2017 World Day for Safety and Health at Work - **Optimise the collection and use of OSH data** - focuses on the critical need for countries to improve their capacity to collect and utilize reliable occupational safety and health (OSH) data.
- The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on

September 25, 2015 encompasses a global plan of action with specific targets to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

- With its adoption, the capacity to collect and utilize reliable OSH data has also become indispensable for countries to fulfil their commitment to implement and report on some of the agenda's 17 sustainable development goals and their targets.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Niti Aayog's vision: Houses, vehicles, ACs for all by 2032

- Government think tank Niti Aayog has envisaged a new India in which all citizens in 15 years will have houses with toilets, two-wheelers or cars, power, air conditioners and digital connectivity.
- This is a glimpse of Vision 2031-32 presented by the Niti Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya to the body's Governing Council, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- The India 2031-32: Vision, Strategy and Action Agenda also visualises a fully literate society with universal access to health care.
- It also calls for having a much larger and modern network of roads, railways, waterways and air connectivity and a clean India where citizens would have access to quality air and water.
- It is envisions that per capita income would increase three fold to Rs 3.14 lakh in 2031-32 from Rs 1.06 lakh in 2015-16. Besides, it states that the country's gross domestic product or economy would rise to Rs 469 lakh crore in

2031-32 from Rs 137 lakh crore level in 2015-16.

Bengal drops Pradhan Mantri tag from central scheme

- The West Bengal government has decided to drop the tag "Pradhan Mantri" from "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna" and rename it as "Bangla Fasal Bima Yojna",
- The reason behind the decision to drop the Pradhan Mantri tag, taken at a state Cabinet meeting earlier this month, was that the Centres share in such schemes had come down to 50:50
- As per the norm, the farmer had to pay one-third of it while the remaining two-thirds was borne by the Centre and the state government.
- Earlier, the Centres contribution was either 90 per cent or around 75 per cent, which now came down to 50 per cent or below in several schemes.
- **The state has already renamed some of the central government schemes like Swachh Bharat has become Nirmal Bangla.**
- It was also learnt that the Centre has sent a letter to the state Panchayat department seeking the reason behind dropping "Pradhan Mantri" tag from the schemes.

Narendra Modi flagged off first flight under UDAN regional connectivity scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first flight under the Regional Connectivity Scheme Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (Udan) by flagging off the Alliance Airlines flight on

Shimla-Delhi sector from Jubbar Hatti airport near Shimla.

- Simultaneously, he will also flag off the inaugural Udan flight on Nanded-Hyderabad and Kadapa-Hyderabad sectors.
- This gains significance as Shimla lacked air connectivity and a petition demanding recommencement of lights was suspended in 2012.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Press freedom rankings: India slips 3 places to 136

- India slipped three places in the 2017 world press freedom rankings to 136th among 180 countries
- In the index released on Wednesday, India was ranked just three places above Pakistan and was one notch below violence-torn Palestine. India's neighbours Bhutan and Nepal were placed at 84th and 100th rank, respectively.
- **Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark took the first four positions** in the rankings. The United States was at the 43rd position.

Indian Oil to build new terminal at Motihari to supply fuel to Nepal

- The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to build a new oil terminal at Motihari in Bihar to supply fuel to neighbour Nepal through the planned pipeline up to Amlekganj in Nepal. The old terminal at Raxaul, also in the same Indian state, will be closed
- The Nepal government has accorded the pipeline project a national priority status and is looking to get clearances from various authorities. Simultaneously, IOC has started

the process of tendering for procuring mainline pipes

- as per the initial agreement, a new 200-km pipeline at a cost of `700 crore is being laid between Patna and Motihari and will be used in case the new terminal at Motihari is not operational by the time the pipeline to Nepal is ready.
- A pipeline between Barauni, having a refinery from where fuel can be pumped, and Patna already exists. IOC is in the process of acquiring environmental clearances for the Motihari terminal.

Indian short film to be screened by Unesco in Indonesia

- Rahul V. Chittella's short film "Azaad", starring Atul Kulkarni and Sakshi Tanwar, will be screened by Unesco as part of a World Press Freedom Day event on May 3 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Apart from directing, Chittella, who was mentored by filmmaker Mira Nair for the film, has also written "Azaad". It tells the story of the dysfunctional relationship between a father and his son.
- Every year, 3 May is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.
- The international day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 following a Recommendation adopted at the 26th Session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991.

- This in turn was a response to a call by African journalists who in 1991 produced the landmark Windhoek Declaration on media pluralism and independence.
- **Theme: Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Solar Calculator App Launched to Calculate Solar Energy Potential

- Indian Space Research Organisation's Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC) has developed an Android app, named Solar Calculator, for computing the solar energy potential of any location.
 - Developed at the behest of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the ISRO Solar Calculator app is considered to be a "very useful" tool for installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels that is used for tapping solar energy,
 - ISRO's Solar Calculator app provides monthly and yearly solar potential in kWh/m² and the minimum and the maximum temperatures at any location.
 - The Solar Calculator app also displays the location of a place on the satellite image as well as the day's length there during different periods in a year, and offers minimum and maximum temperature to calculate realistic solar potential.
 - The new ISRO Solar Calculator app can provide solar energy potential of any given location by typing the name of the required location; the location can also be obtained through GPS.
- ISRO says the Solar Calculator also gives monthly and yearly solar potential processed using Indian Geostationary Satellite data (Kalpana-1, INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR), and also offers monthly minimum and maximum temperature to calculate the realistic solar potential.

Scientists Create 'Revolutionary' Artificial Womb-Biobag

- Extremely premature babies could be kept alive in future using an "artificial womb" that scientists plan to test in humans after a successful study involving unborn lambs.
- A plastic bag filled with artificial amniotic fluid – the nutrient-rich liquid that sustains a foetus in the womb – allowed foetal lambs to develop at an age equivalent to 23 weeks in humans.
- Human infants born at 23 weeks have just a 15 per cent chance of survival, according to pregnancy research charity Tommy's. This rises to 55 per cent at 24 weeks, while babies born at 25 weeks have an 80 per cent chance of survival.
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- This rises to 55 per cent at 24 weeks, while babies born at 25 weeks have an 80 per cent chance of survival.
- Inside the device, the infant's own heart circulates blood through the umbilical cord into an external gas-exchange machine taking the place of the mother's placenta, while synthetic amniotic fluid enriched with nutrients flows in and out of the temperature-controlled, near-sterile "biobag".

AWARDS & HONOURS

RDPR bags e-Puraskar Award

- The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department has bagged e-Puraskar Award for the best performance in empowering panchayats by using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, for 2016-17.
- Kerala bagged the second prize, while West Bengal secured third prize in the category of ICT tools. The cash prize for the first position is Rs. 2 crore, Rs. 1 crore for second position and Rs. 50 lakh for third position.
- The State bagged the award for its Ganshi Sakshi Kayak GPS-enabled ICT tool.
- The Kodagu Zilla Panchayat bagged the Deendayal Award for empowering panchayats.
- In the taluk panchayat category, Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district and Puttur Taluk Panchayat of Dakshina Kannda district have bagged prizes.
- In the gram panchayat category, the Malige Gram Panchayat of Theerthahalli taluk of Shivamogga; Siraguppi GP of Athani taluk in

Belagavi district; Palibetta GP of Virajpet taluk in Kodagu; and Sampaje GP of Madikeri taluk, bagged the awards.

Indian businessman wins Queen's Enterprise Award

- A prominent Indian businessman's food processing plant in Britain has won the prestigious Queen's Enterprise Award 2017 for its exceptional contribution to the UK's trade, industry and economy.
- Yusaffali MA, 61, said the recognition for his Birmingham-based Y International (UK) Ltd will spur his Abu Dhabi headquartered Lulu Group International to further expand business interests in the UK.
- The Queen's Award for Enterprise is conferred annually by Queen Elizabeth II on her birthday, April 21, upon businesses that display great enterprise across the fields of innovation, international trade, promoting opportunity through social mobility and sustainable development.

Bhubaneswar becomes 1st Indian city to win Pierre L'enfant Awards-2017

- Odisha's capital city, Bhubaneswar, the first Indian city has won Pierre L'enfant Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards-2017 instituted by the American Planning Association.
- The association selected five excellence award recipients, which will be honoured at an awards luncheon at the association's National Planning Conference in New York on May 8.
- The number one, smart city Bhubaneswar received this award for good and advanced

town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process.

- Notably, the American Planning Association honours comprehensive planning efforts and inspiring individuals to recognize outstanding community plans, planning programs and initiatives, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on planning issues.
- In a tweet message, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expressed his happiness on becoming the first Indian city to receive Pierre L'enfant Planning Awards-2017.

Vani Jairam gets Ghantasala national award

- Versatile playback singer Vani Jairam was presented the Ghantasala national award instituted by the Ghantasala National Art Academy
- She is known in the North as Meerabai for her rendition of songs sung by the medieval poet in praise of Lord Krishna.
- Her unique ability to sing at this ripe age as during her heyday has won her the North American Film Award for Best Singer for the Malayalam film Pookkal Panineer this year.
- The award was instituted in the memory of the legendary singer Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao who ruled the roost for over three decades the Telugu tinsel world.

Youngest Indian chancellor bags Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Foundation award

- The youngest ever chancellor of any university in the nation, Dileep K Nair, has added another feather to his cap of achievement after

bagging the award for excellent performance in the field of education in Trivendurum, Kerala.

- The 38-year-old academician, who currently is the Chancellor of the North East Frontier Technical University (NEFTU) in Arunachal Pradesh, received Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Foundation Kerala State award for the year 2016-17.
- An eminent educationist, Nair has around 12 years of experience in various Educational Projects in different parts of the country.

BANKING & FINANCE

SEBI makes P-Note norms stricter to curb black money in markets

- In yet another move in India against black money, markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday barred resident as well as non-resident Indians (NRIs) from making investments through participatory notes (P-Notes).
- An express provision shall be inserted in the regulations to prevent resident Indians/NRIs or the entities which are beneficially owned by resident Indians/NRIs from subscribing to Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODIs),
- P-notes are mostly used by overseas individual investors, hedge funds and foreign institutions to invest in the Indian securities markets through registered foreign institutional investors (FIIs).
- This investment instrument constitutes a major portion of the total FIIs' investments into the key domestic indices.
- P-Notes have also been associated with 'round-tripping' of domestic black money back into the Indian economy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Dance Day: 29 April

- International Dance Day was introduced in 1982 by the International Dance Council (CID, Conseil International de la Danse), a UNESCO partner NGO, and is celebrated yearly, on April 29.
- The date is not linked to a particular person or a particular form of dance, although it's also the day when the French dancer and ballet master Jean-Georges Noverre was born.
- The main purpose of Dance Day events is to attract the attention of the wider public to the art of dance.

NATIONAL EVENTS

E-taxi trial run to begin in Nagpur from May

- The first electric taxi trial in the country is going to be launched in Nagpur from May 24
- Mahindra and Mahindra will be providing 200 taxis for the project
- Electric car taxi is one of the ambitious projects of the NDA government as it is part of UNDP millennium goals and also to tackle increasing pollution in the country.
- The road ministry for last one year has been trying to work on pollution reduction technologies for vehicles.
- An electric bus for Members of Parliament is also being run by the ministry.

All-woman battalion to take on Kashmir women pelters of stones

- In a bid to counter the women who throw stones at security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union government plans to raise an all-woman India Reserve Battalion (IRB) in the State
- The Centre has also given directions to the State government to not use Special Police Officers as "chowkidaars (guards)" at the houses of politicians and government officials and to use them in active policing instead.
- The Centre asked the State government to build as many football fields and sports facilities as possible in rural Kashmir to engage the youth
- The decision to raise an all-women battalion comes after it was observed that girl students were throwing stones at security forces in Srinagar.
- The all-women contingent will be among the five IRBs sanctioned by the Centre for the State last year.

Kerala hosts country's first-ever athletics meet for transgender persons

- At least 132 people participated in the first-ever athletics meet for transgender persons organised by the Kerala government at Trivandrum's Central Stadium.
- The first-of-its-kind tournament saw them taking part in popular track and field events such as sprint, relay race, shot put and long jump.
- Each district council in Kerala appointed a coach and allotted a ground for the participants to train for three days before the tournament

Kazakhstan opens consulate in Chennai

- This week the Government of Kazakhstan opened its consulate in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The consular district will include the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and will be headed by well-known businessman and Chairman of Kirtilals Mr. Suraj Shantakumar.
- the establishment of the consulate in Tamil Nadu, which is known for its developed IT industry, engineering, tourism and transport infrastructure, as well as agricultural production, will promote cooperation in these areas.
- A consulate is a small official office of a country in another country. The main office is called an Embassy, and is in the capital city.
- Consulates are in other large towns and cities and usually do not do all of the jobs of the embassy.
- India and Cyprus signed four agreements, including on air services and merchant shipping, following delegation-level talks headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades
- The two sides signed an executive programme on culture, education and scientific cooperation for the years 2017 to 2020.
- Both sides signed a work plan under a programme of cooperation in agriculture for the period 2017-2018.
- Another agreement was signed on cooperation in the area of merchant shipping.
- A fourth agreement was signed to boost air services between the two countries.
- Ansastasiades conferred Cyprus's highest civilian honour, the Grand Collar of the Order of Makarios III, on President Pranab Mukherjee

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

El Salvador bans metal mining in world first

- El Salvador became the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in what campaigners called a landmark move for environmental protection.
- The law bans "prospection, exploration, exploitation, extraction or processing of metallic minerals in El Salvador
- The new law entered into force after being signed by President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.
- El Salvador says it will protect poor rural communities threatened by proposed mining projects.

India, Cyprus ink four agreements

US places India yet again on IPR 'priority watch' list

- Expressing its disappointment with India for not making adequate changes in its IP laws and regulations despite announcing its National IPR policy last year, the US Trade Representative's (USTR) office has once again placed the country in the 'priority watch' list in this year's edition of the Special 301 report.
- Being placed in the 'priority watch' list means that India continues to figure among countries that the USTR feels have "serious intellectual property rights deficiencies" and do not give adequate protection to American companies.
- While the US does not threaten action against countries on the 'priority watch list', US laws say that retaliatory measures may be taken if a country slips further and is listed as a

priority country — which is the worst categorisation.

- The US 301 report further said that the US will continue to encourage the Indian government to address the biggest gaps in its IP protections, including “uncertainties and challenges in the patent system (with particular regard for computer-related inventions (CRI) and Section 3(d) of the Patent Act), the need to modernise copyright laws, and the need for regulatory data protections.”

Shah Rukh Khan becomes first Indian actor to speak at TED Talks in Canada

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan addressed the audience in a conference at TED Talks (Technology, Entertainment and Design talks) in Canada.
- The actor has become the first Bollywood actor to grace the stage delivering TED talks to a large audience base.
- The 50-year old, who is known for his articulate speech, attended 'Ted 2017 - The Future You' conference
- TED talks is a prestigious platform which has been earlier graced by the likes of remarkable people namely former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, astronaut Mae Jemison, Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page to name a few.

Poland backs India's bid for NSG membership, UNSC seat

- Poland assured India of its support to New Delhi's bid for membership in the elite Nuclear

Suppliers Group (NSG) and a permanent seat in the expanded UN Security Council.

- This was conveyed by Polish Prime Minister Beata Syzdlto to Vice President Hamid Ansari when the two leaders met here to discuss issues of bilateral and mutual interests.
- The two countries signed an agreement in the agriculture sector and agreed that there was much scope to increase cooperation in railway and defence sectors as well as in areas like food processing, solar energy, clean coal, treatment of solid waste.
- Poland is a member of the 48-nation NSG, a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- India has close economic ties with Poland. Indian investments in Poland amount to around USD 3 billion and Polish investments in India are of about 600 million USD.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Paytm launches digital gold with MMTC-PAMP

- Mobile payment and commerce platform Paytm announced that it has collaborated with MMTC-PAMP to launch digital gold, which will enable its customers to buy gold online and store it in MMTC-PAMPs secure vaults free of charge.
- The customers can also request for their gold to be delivered home in the form of minted coins or sell it back online instantly,
- As per World Gold Council estimates. Indians currently hold more than 24,000 tons of gold worth \$ 900 billion and Indian households

bought more gold in 2016 than any other financial asset. The digital gold service will also allow users to sell purchased gold online anytime.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Infosys unveils new artificial intelligence platform Nia

- IT major Infosys has launched its new artificial intelligence platform 'Nia', which can help businesses forecast revenues, understand customer behaviour as well as deep dive into content of contracts and deal with compliance and fraud.
- The new platform builds on Mana, the first AI platform introduced by Infosys last year.
- It also includes the end-to-end robotic process automation capabilities of AssistEdge (another Infosys solution) to enable a wide set of industry and function-specific solutions.
- Infosys Nia tackles break-through business problems such as forecasting revenues, forecasting what products need to be built, understanding customer behaviour, deeply understanding the content of contracts and legal documents, understanding compliance, and fraud

AWARDS & HONOURS

President of India presents CII presidents Award for Lifetime Achievement

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented CII Presidents Award for Lifetime Achievement to Mr. Rahul Bajaj and CII foundation Woman Exemplar Award

- The CII Foundation was set up by CII in 2011 to undertake a wide range of developmental and charitable activities and initiatives pan India by enabling Industry for infusing inclusive development.
- CII Foundation works towards inclusive development by providing a meaningful bridge between marginalised communities and donors, specially corporates by providing strategic guidance on CSR and developing and managing high impact programmes.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated International Basava Convention

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled translated volumes of Vachana, penned by 12th century social reformer Basavanna and other saints in 23 Indian languages, on the social reformer's birth anniversary.
- The Prime Minister will also release the digital version of the work at the first ever celebration of Basava Jayanthi at the national level in New Delhi.
- Vachana is a prosaic form well known in the Kannada literature which propagates values of universal brotherhood.
- This style of writing was used by Basavanna for spreading social awareness and brings equality in the society in the 12th century.
- The 23 Vachana volumes, edited by esteemed literary scholar late M M Kalburgi and translated by more than 200 people, was commissioned by the Bengaluru based Basava Samithi at a cost of 2.5 crore rupees of which, the Karnataka government contributed 1 crore rupees.

India's Forex Reserves Surge by \$1.25 Billion: RBI Data

- India's foreign exchange (Forex) reserves rose by \$1.25 billion as on April 21, 2017 as per the data released by RBI
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, the overall Forex reserves increased to \$371.13 billion from \$369.88 billion
- India's Forex reserves comprise of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold, special drawing rights (SDRs) and the RBI's position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

India's first book village to come up in Maharashtra's Bhilar

- A hamlet in Sataradistrict of Maharashtra, popular for its strawberries is all set to embrace the tag of India's first 'village of books', a concept inspired by Britain's Hay-on-Wye, a Welsh town known for its book stores and literature festivals.
- Bhilar village located near picturesque hill station Panchagani will see this state government initiative being inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on May 4.
- Around 15,000 books (in Marathi) would be made available in the village premises. Chief

Minister Devendra Fadnavis will inaugurate the initiative 'pustakanche gaon' on May 4

- Also, the state has provided several facilities such as chairs, tables, decorated umbrellas and glass cupboards to local villagers to help them enhance the reading experience of literary connoisseurs visiting there

Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas on May 02, 2017

- National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) will be observing Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas on May 02,2017 at 12 locations, namely- Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Bhagalpur, Sahibganj, Kolkata, Raj Ghat (Hardoi), Bithoor, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), Vidhur Kuti (Bijnor) and Devprayag.
- The event would also be organized at more than 30 other locations through Ganga Vichaar Manch, local NGOs and volunteer support.
- The objective of the Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas is to spread awareness and evoke active involvement of the masses through Ganga Swachhta Sankalp (Pledge) reiterating their commitment to Swachh Ganga through a series of events like Swachhta sandesh rally, Shram daan, plantation, Swachhta sankalp etc. to develop a sense of pride and ownership among citizens to engender support for Namami Gange programme.

Full Forms of Bank Names

Abbreviation

Full Form

Indian Banks	
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
SBI	State Bank of India
SBBJ	State bank of Bikaner and Jaipur
SBM	State bank of Mysore
SBH	State bank of Hyderabad
SBI	State bank of Indore
SBS	State bank of Saurashtra
SBT	State bank of Travancore
SBP	State bank of Patiala
IDBI	Industrial Development Bank of India
HDFC	Housing Development and Finance Corporation
ICICI	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited
PNB	Punjab National Bank
BOI	Bank of India
UBI	United Bank of India
BMB	Bharatiya Mahila Bank
UOB	Union Bank of India
BOB	Bank of Baroda
BOM	Bank of Maharashtra
IOB	Indian Overseas Bank
UCO	United Commercial Bank
CBI	Central Bank of India
OBC	Oriental Bank of Commerce
BOR	Bank of Rajasthan
CUB	City Union Bank

CSB	Catholic Syrian Bank
KVB	Karur Vysya Bank
LVB	Lakshmi Vilas Bank
SIB	South Indian Bank
TMB	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
EXIM	Export-Import Bank
IIBI	Industrial Investment Bank of India
SIDBI	Small Industries Development Bank of India
NHB	National Housing Bank
Foreign Banks	
BOA	Bank of America
AE	American Express
HSBC	Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
DBS	The Development Bank of Singapore
ADB	Asian Development Bank
RBS	Royal Bank of Scotland
BOC	Bank of Ceylon
ACB	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank

List of Lakes In The World

Name	Location	Area	Fish
Lake Baikal	Siberia, Russia	31,722 km ²	Omul, Arctic grayling, Baikal sturgeon
Lake Superior	North America	82,103 km ²	Burbot, Trout, Northern pike, Muskellunge,

			Walleye
Lake Huron	North America	59,600 km ²	Northern pike, Walleye, Smallmouth bass, Lake trout
Lake Tanganyika	Bujumbura, Kigoma, Kalemie	32,900 km ²	Lamprichthys, Lake Tanganyika sardine, Tanganyika lates
Caspian Sea	Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia	371,000 km ²	Caspian kutum, Round goby, Brown trout, Wels catfish, Alosa braschnikowi
Lake Malawi	Africa	29,600 km ²	Kampango, Redbreast tilapia
Great Bear Lake	Northwest Territories	31,153 km ²	Arctic char, Trout, Lake trout, Arctic grayling, Lake whitefish
Lake Michigan	Chicago, Milwaukee, Traverse City, Ludington, Holland	58,000 km ²	Bowfin, Largemouth bass, Smallmouth bass, Lake trout, Yellow perch
Great Slave Lake	Northwest Territories	27,200 km ²	Northern pike, Lake trout, Arctic grayling, Lake whitefish
Crater Lake	United States	53.35 km ²	Rainbow trout, Sockeye salmon
Lake Victoria	East Africa	68,800 km ²	Nile perch, Nile tilapia
Lake Titicaca	Puno, Copacabana	8,372 km ²	Titicaca orestias
Lake Erie	North America	25,744 km ²	Rainbow trout, Smallmouth bass, Walleye, Common

			carp, Brown trout, Yellow perch, Alewife, White perch, Rainbow smelt
Peyto Lake	Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada	5.2 km ²	---
Aral Sea	Kazakhstan - Uzbekistan, Central Asia	17,160 km ²	Common carp, Zander, Common bream, Ide
Lake Tahoe	The Sierra Nevada of the U.S, along the state border of California and Nevada	496.2 km ²	Mosquitofish, Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Largemouth bass
Dead Sea	Israel; Jordan; Palestine	605 km ²	None
Great Salt Lake	Utah, United States	4,400 km ²	Brine Shrimp
Lake Ontario	North America	18,960 km ²	Chinook salmon, Walleye, Coho salmon
Lake of the Woods	North America	4,349 km ²	Walleye, Northern pike, Muskellunge, Largemouth bass, Smallmouth bass, Lake trout, Lake sturgeon

List of Volcanos In The World

Name	Location	Elevation	Last Date of Eruption
Mount Vesuvius	Italy	1,281 m	March 1944
Krakatoa	Indonesia	813 m	31 March 2014

Mount Etna	Italy	3,350 m	16 March 2017
Mount St. Helens	Washington	2,550 m	10 July 2008
Mauna Loa	Hawaii	4,169 m	15 April 1984
Kīlauea	Hawaii	1,247 m	January 3, 1983
Popocatépetl	Mexico	5,426 m	2005 to 2016 (ongoing)
Mount Tambora	Indonesia	2,850 m	1967
Mount Pinatubo	Philippines	1,486 m	1993
Mayon	Philippines	2,463 m	18 September 2014
Sakurajima	Japan	1,117 m	5 February 2016
Mount Fuji	Japan	3,776 m	16 December 1707
Taal Volcano	Philippines	311 m	1977
Mount Merapi	Indonesia	2,930 m	10 March 2014
Mount Nyiragongo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	3,470 m	2016
Mount Pelée	Martinique	1,397 m	1932
Cotopaxi	Ecuador	5,897 m	August 2015
Eyjafjallajökull	Iceland	1,666 m	April 2010
Santa María	Guatemala	3,772 m	22 August 2013
Mount Kilimanjaro	Tanzania	5,895 m	Between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago

List of Renamed Cities, Airports & Railway Stations

Old Name of City	New Name of City	Name of the State	Changed Since
Jubbulpore	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	1947

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Cawnpore	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	1948
Simla	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	1948
Tanjore	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	1948
Calicut	Kozhikode	Kerala	1949
Benares	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	1956
Allepey	Alappuzha	Kerala	1957
Panjim	Panaji	Goa	1961
Trichinapoly	Tiruchirapalli	Tamil Nadu	1971
Baroda	Vadodara	Gujarat	1974
Poona	Pune	Maharashtra	1978
Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam	1983
Waltair	Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	1987
Trivandrum	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	1991
Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra	1996
Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	1996
Cochin	Kochi	Kerala	1996
Calcutta	Kolkata	West Bengal	2001
Pondicherry	Puducherry	Union Territory	2006
Bangalore	Bengaluru	Karnataka	2006
Belgaum	Belagavi	Karnataka	2014
Mysore	Mysuru	Karnataka	2014
Mangalore	Mangaluru	Karnataka	2014
Trichur	Thrissur	Kerala	2014
Tumkur	Tumakuru	Karnataka	2014
Hubali	Hubbali	Karnataka	2014
Bellary	Ballari	Karnataka	2014
Gulbarga	Kalaburagi	Karnataka	2014
Bijapur	Vijapura	Karnataka	2014

Gurgaon	Gurugram	Haryana	2016
Mewat	Nuh	Haryana	2016

List of Railway Stations - Names of which Altered/Changed by Government

Old Name of Railway Station	New Name	Name of State	Changed Since
Bangalore City	Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna	Karnataka	2015
Oshiwara	Ram Mandir	Maharashtra	2016
Elphinstone Road	Prabha Devi	Maharashtra	2016

List of Airports - Names of which Altered/Changed by Government

Old Name of Airport	New Name	Location	Changed Since
Bangalore International Airport (BIA)	Bengaluru Nadaprabhu Kempegowda International Airport.	Bengaluru, Karnataka	2013
Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	2016
Indian Air Force Airport, Gorakhpur	Mahayogi Gorakhnath Airport	Gorakhpur, U.P.	Proposed on 18.04.2017
Indian Air Force Airport, Agra	Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Airport	Agra, U.P.	Proposed on 18.04.2017

Awards and Achievements in April 2017

Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura chosen for Krishi Karman Awards, 2015-16

- **Tamil Nadu** has been chosen in **large category food production**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** in **medium category food production**
- **Tripura** in **small category food production**
- Krishi Karman awards were instituted by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to reward the best performing States in the production of food grains and individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses and Coarse Cereals.

Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Award conferred on historian A.V. Narasimha Murthi

- Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Award 2017 has been conferred for Prof. A.V. Narasimha Murthy. Murthy was selected for the award in consideration of his contribution to Indian Archaeology, Ancient History and Numismatics.
- Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Award 2017 The award was instituted by Udupi-based Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Memorial Trust. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of history, archaeology, sociology, and other social sciences.

Malala Yousafzai is the youngest UN Messenger of Peace

- The highest honor UN Messenger of Peace for Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai
- She was described as a symbol of the most important thing in the world-education for all. With this she became youngest ever UN Messenger of Peace.

- The UN Messenger of Peace title is given by UN and are selected from the fields of art, literature, music and sports or other fields of public life.
- The messengers of peace are appointed directly by the Secretary-General of the UN and to promote the work of the United Nations in general.

2017 Pulitzer Prize Winners Letters, Drama, Music

Fiction: The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead.

Drama: Sweat by Lynn Nottage.

History: Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy, by Heather Ann Thompson.

Autobiography: "The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between", by Hisham Matar.

Poetry: Olio, by Tyehimba Jess (Wave Books)

General Nonfiction: Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Matthew Desmond.

Music: Angel's Bone, by Du Yun.

Aamir Khan, Kapil Dev to get Dinanath Mangeshkar Award

Actor Aamir Khan and cricket icon Kapil Dev will receive the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Awards. Aamir Khan will be honoured with the Vishesh Puraskar for Best Film "Dangal", while Dev for his outstanding contribution to Indian Cricket.

Vijayanthimala Bali: Master Dinanath Vishesh Puraskar for her achievements in Hindi cinema

Sunil Barve for "Amar Photo Studio Subak

Sanstha": Mohan Wagh Award

Kishore Deshpande: Anadmayee Puraskar for social services

Vishwashanti Kendra: Samarjit Jeevan Puraskar

Vijaya Rajadhyaksha: Vagvilasini Puraskar for her work in literature

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **SBI** gets new logo and enters in the league of top 50 Global banks.
- American singer and songwriter **Bob Dylan** accepts **Nobel Literature Award**.
- **Asia's longest tunnel 9.2km** long on Jammu – Srinagar Highway.
- **IISc Bengaluru** ranked best educational institution by HRD Ministry.
- Nobel laureate, the **youngest person** to address Canadian parliament- **Malala Yousafzai**.
- Short film '**Avyakta**' by 26 year old Omkar Modgi made it to the much acclaimed **Cannes Film Fest 2017**.
- **India ranks 3rd** for the 3rd year in a row in **WADA doping Charts**.
- **Geetha Johri** is the **1st Woman Police Chief in Gujarat**.
- **M S Dhoni** Indian cricketer named as **CEO of Gulf Oil** for 1 Day.
- India ranks **7th in world's largest tourism economy** in terms of GDP.
- **Virat Kohli** crowned Wisden's "**king of the willow**" for 2016.
- **PV Sindhu** has jumped two places to stand at **World No 3** in the latest BWF Rankings
- India's **1st transgender Police Officer** appointed in Tamil Nadu is **K Prithika Yashini**.
- India ranks **40th in WEF's global travel** and tourism competitive index.
- British Indian educationalist **Asha Khemka** named "**Asian Business Woman of the Year**".
- Atu Zumvu becomes **1st Nagaland Cop** to receive "**Shaurya Chakra**" award in Rashtrapati Bavan.
- Actor honoured with **Living Legend Lifetime award** from Punjab Association is **Dilip Kumar**.
- Person honoured with **Young Scientist Award of National Geoscience Awards 2016** is Dr. **Abhishek Saha**.
- **Haldia Port** tops list in 1st ever ranking of **Ports on Sanitation Parameters**.
- **India** won 5th edition **Asian School Hockey Champ 2017**.
- Indian Billionaire who became the **2nd largest shareholder in Anglo-American** after acquiring 11.44% of British Mining Group is **Anil Agarwal**.
- Indian environmental engineer who won the **2017 Cartier Women's Initiative Award** is **Trupti Jain**.
- **BREL** bags Hindustan PSU award.
- **India** jumps to **8th place on Global FDI Confidence Index**.
- Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious **Golden Peacock Award** in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model

List of Mountain Ranges In The World

Name	Location	Elevation	Highest Peak
Andes	Peru, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia	6,961 m	Aconcagua
Himalayas	Asia	8,848 m	Mount Everest
Hindukush	South-Central Asia	7,690 m	Tirich Mir
Rockies	British Columbia; Alberta; Idaho; Montana; Wyoming; Utah; Colorado; New Mexico	4,401 m	Mount Elbert
Great Dividing Range	Australia	2,228 m	Mount Kosciuszko
Sierra Nevada	United States	4,421 m	Mount Whitney
Caucasus	Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Abkhazia	5,642 m	Mount Elbrus
Alaska	USA	6,190 m	Denali
Alps	Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia	4,810 m	Mont Blanc
Apennines	Italy	2,912 m	Corno Grande
Ural	Russia	1,895 m	Mount Narodnaya
Pennines	UK	893 m	Cross Fell
Pyrenees	France, Spain	3,404 m	Aneto
Appalachian	North America	2,037 m	Mount Mitchell
Atlas	Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia	4,167 m	Toubkal
Carpathian	Romania, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary,	2,655 m	Gerlachovský štít

	Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia		
Karakoram	Gilgit-Baltistan, Ladakh, Xinjiang and Badakhshan	8,611 m	K2
Tian Shan	China	7,439 m	Jengish Chokusu
Eastern Ghats	Eastern India	1,680 m	Jindhagada Peak
Western Ghats	Western India and Southern India	2,695 m	Anamudi

State-wise List of Important Dams in India

Name of The Dam	River	Power Generation Capacity
Andhra Pradesh		
Nizam Sagar Dam	Manjira	815.6 MW
Somasila Dam	Pennar	
Srisaillam Dam	Krishna	770MW
Singur Dam	Manjira	
Ramagundam Dam	Godavari	
Dummaguden Dam	Godavari	
Arunachal Pradesh		
Subansiri Lower HE (Nhpc) Dam	Subansiri	2,000 MW
Bihar		
Nagi Dam	Nagi	
Chhattisgarh		
Minimata (Hasdeo) Bango Dam	Hasdeo	
Gujrat		

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Ukai Dam	Tapti	300 MW.
Dharoi	Sabarmati river	
Kadana	Mahi	240 MW
Dantiwada	West Banas River	
Himachal Pradesh		
Pandoh	Beas	990 MW
Bhakra Nangal	Sutlej	1325 MW
Nathpa Jhakri Dam	Sutlej	1,500 MW
Chamera Dam	Ravi	540 MW
Pong Dam	Beas	360 MW
J & K		
Bagihar Dam	Chenab	900 MW
Dumkhar Dam	Indus	45 MW
Uri Dam	Jhelam	480 MW
Pakal Dul Dam	Marusudar	1,000 MW
Jharkhand		
Maithon Dam	Maithon	60 MW
Chandil Dam	Subarnarekha River	
Konar Dam	Konar	
Panchet Dam	Damodar	80MW
Tenughat Dam	Damodar	
Tilaiya Dam	Barakar River,	4 MW
Karnataka		
Linganamakki Dam	Sharavathi river	55 MW
Kadra Dam	Kalinadi River	
Supa Dam	Kalinadi	100 MW
Krishna Raja Sagara Dam	Kaveri	
Harangi Dam	Harangi	

Narayanpur Dam	Krishna River	
Kodasalli Dam	Kali River	
Basava Sagara	Krishna River	
Tunga Bhadra Dam	Tungabhadra River,	127MW
Alamatti Dam	Krishna River	290 MW
Kerala		
Malampuzha Dam	Malampuzha River	
Peechi Dam	Manali River	
Idukki Dam	Periyar River	780 MW
Kundala Dam		
Parambikulam Dam	Parambikulam River	
Walayar Dam	Walayar River	
Mullaperiyar Dam	Periyar River	180 MW
Neyyar Dam	Neyyar River	
Madhya Pradesh		
Rajghat Dam	Betwa River	45 MW
Barna Dam	Barna River	
Bargi Dam	Narmada River	100 MW
Bansagar Dam	Sone River	435 MW
Gandhi Sagar Dam	Chambal River .	115 MW
Indira Sagar	Narmada River	1,000 MW
Maharashtra		
Yeldari Dam	Purna river	
Ujjani Dam	Bhima River	12 MW
Mulshi Dam	Mula river	25MW
Koyna Dam	Koyna River	1,920 MW
Jayakwadi Dam	Godavari river	12 MW
Bhatsa Dam	Bhatsa river	

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Wilson Dam	Tennessee River	
Tansa Dam	Tansa river	
Panshet Dam	Ambi river	
Mula Dam	Mula river	
Kolkewadi Dam	Vashishti River	320 MW
Girna Dam	Girna river	
Vaitarna Dam	Vaitarna river	
Radhanagari Dam	Bhogawati river	
Manair Dam	Manair River	
Khadakwasla Dam	Mutha River	
Gangapur Dam	Godavari river	
Odisha		
Jalput Dam	Machkund River	120 MW
Indravati Dam	Indravati River	600 MW .
Hirakud Dam	Mahanadi River	347.5 MW
Punjab		
Damsal Dam	Damsal River	
Ranjit Sagar Dam	Ravi River	
Sikkim		
Rangit III Dam	Ranjit River	60 MW (
Teesta Dam-III, IV V	Teesta River	
Tamil Nadu		
Sholayar Dam	Chalakkudi River	
Pillur Dam		
Upper Kodayar Dam		
Upper Aliyar Dam		
Upper Bhavani Dam		
Peruchani Dam	Paralayar River,	

Mettur Dam	Kaveri River	
Uttar Pradesh		
Rihand Dam	Rihand River	
Patharai Dam		
Rajghat Dam	Betwa River	5 MW
Maudaha (Swami Brahmanand) Dam	Birma	
Uttrakhand		
Tehri Dam (Highest dam in India)	Bhagirathi River	600 MW
Maneri Dam	Bhagirathi River	90 MW
Koteshwar Dam	Bhagirathi River	400 MW
Kishau Dam	Tons River	660 MW
Ramganga Dam	Ramganga River	198 MW
West Bengal		
Mukutmonipur Dam	Kangsabati River	
Bindu Dam	Jaldhaka River.	

Foreign Banks in India and their Country (PDF Version)

Bank	Country
AB Bank Ltd.	Bangladesh
ABN AMRO Bank	Netherland
Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	UAE
American Express Banking Corporation	USA
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.	Australia
Bank of America	USA
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC	Bahrain

Bank of Ceylon	Sri Lanka
Bank of Nova Scotia	Canada
Bank International Indonesia	Indonesia
Berclays Bank	UK
BNP Paribas Bank	France
China Trust Commercial Bank	Taiwan
Citi Bank	USA
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	Australia
Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank	France
Credit Suisse A.G	Switzerland
CTBC Bank Co. Ltd.	Taiwan
DBS Bank	Singapore
Deustsche Bank	Germany
Doha Bank	Qatar
FirstRand Bank Ltd	South Africa
HSBC Ltd	Hong Kong
Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd.	China
Industrial Bank of Korea	South Korea
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank N.A	USA
JSC VTB Bank	Russia
KBC Bank NV	Belgium
Korea Exchange Bank	South Korea
Krung Thai Bank Public Co. Ltd.	Thailand
Mashreq Bank PSC	UAE
Mizuho Bank Ltd.	Japan
National Australia Bank	Australia
National Bank of Abu Dhabi PJSC	UAE

Rabobank International	Netherlands
Royal Bank of Scotland	UK
Sberbank	Russia
Scotia Bank	Canada
Shinhan Bank	South Korea
Societe Gednerale	France
Sonali Bank Ltd.	Bangladesh
Standard Chartered Bank	UK
State Bank of Mauritius	Mauritius
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation	Japan
The Bank of Tokyo- Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd	Japan
The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V.	Netherlands
UBS AG	Switzerland
United Overseas Bank Ltd	Singapore
Westpac Banking Corporation	Australia
Woori Bank	South Korea

Important Ranges, Volcanoes, Deserts & Lakes in the World

Important Mountain Ranges:

- Andes : South America
- Himalayas : Karakoram :Hindukush :South Central Asia
- Rockies : North America
- Great Dividing Range : East Australia
- Western Ghats : Western India
- Caucasus Europe : Asia
- Alaska : USA
- Alps : Europe
- Apennines : Europe
- Ural : Asia
- Pennines : Europe

- Pyrenees : Europe
- Appalachian : North America
- Atlas : Africa
- Kilimancharo : Africa
- Appalechian : America
- Ural : Europe
- Alps : Europe
- Karpathyan : Europe
- Mount Eribus : Antartica

Important Volcanos:

- Vezuvius : Italy
- Etna : Italy

- Stromboli : Italy
- Barren : India (Andaman Nicobar)
- Kilimancharo : Tanzania
- Krakathove : Indonesia
- Pina thubo : Philippense
- Ring of fire : Pacific
- Lighthouse of the Pacific : Ezalko
- Lighthouse of the Mediteranian : Stromboli

Important Deserts:

- Fozil desert : Kalahari
- Little Sahara : Australia
- Death desert : Thakkala Makkan
- Painted desert : North America
- Coldest desert : Gobi
- Warmest desert : Sahara
- Driest desert : Attakkama
- Great Indian desert : Thar
- Roob Asavali : Asia
- Attakkama : South America
- Sahara : Africa
- Kalahari : Africa
- Nameeb : Nameebia
- Great Sandy : Australia

- Great Victoria : Australia
- Thakkala Makkan : China
- Sahel : China
- Thar : India

Important Lakes:

- Superior : North America
- Ladol : Europe
- Caspian : Asia
- Victoria : Africa
- Ayar : Australia
- Marakkoiba : South America
- Vozthok : Antartica
- Azad : Syria
- Nazar : Egypt
- Land of ten thousand lakes : Minazotta
- Land of thousand lakes : Finland
- Oldest lake, Deepest lake : Baikkal (Russia)
- Largest Island Lake : Manitollin
- Largest freshwater lake : Superior
- Largest salt water lake : Caspian sea
- Largest artificial lake : Volta (Ghana)

India's Ranking in Various Lists Released in 2017

101st in the world in World's Men's Football teams

- India has jumped 31 places from its previous position of 132, and is now ranked 101st in the world in World's Men's Football teams. Currently, India shares this spot with three other countries — Nicaragua, Lithuania, and Estonia.
- It is ranked as 11th best Asian nation.

- This is the highest ever ranking that India has achieved in the last two decades. The ranking has been given by International Federation of Association Football" (FIFA).
- Brazil holds the 1st rank. Iran holds the 1st rank in Asia and 28th rank in the worldwide list.

40th position in tourism rankings worldwide

- According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) report, India stood at 40th position in 2016 in tourism rankings worldwide.
- It has improved from 52nd rank in 2015 and 65th rank in 2013.
- Spain is at the top of the list. Japan is the topper among Asian countries whereas Japan holds 4th rank worldwide.

9th in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses- EY Europe

- India ranks 9th among top 41 countries of the world – based upon 2016 data - in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses as per the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017.
- In fact, the ranking has improved by three steps from the 6th rank in 2015. South Africa holds the top position.

1st in the ICC Test rankings

- India has finished at the top of the ICC Test rankings for the second successive year.
- South Africa, Australia, England and Pakistan have been placed at 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

90th in "Global Energy Architecture Performance Index"

- India's rank improved three places from 90th in the last year to 87th place this year based on "Global Energy Architecture Performance Index" comprising of 18 specific indicators to measure the energy system performance of 127 countries.
- Bahrain is ranked the lowest at rank 127. Switzerland tops the list.

131 in Human Development Index

- India ranks at 131 on Human Development Index, Norway No.1 as per the list issued by UN Human Development Report 2016 issued from Stockholm.
- The list comprises of 188 countries and is based on the calendar year 2015 data.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, per capita income indicators, and gender equality - which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development.

122nd in World Happiness Report 2017

- India ranks 122nd in World Happiness Report 2017.
- In the previous year, the rank of India was 118. The report containing a list of 155 countries was released by the United Nations at an event on March 20, 2017 celebrating International Day of Happiness.
- World Happiness Data consists of economic, health and polling data compiled by economists that are averaged over three years from 2014 to 2016.
- As per the report, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and Finland are the top five happiest countries of the world respectively.

Hyderabad is at 144 in Global Ranking- Mercer's Quality of Living Rankings 2017.

- Hyderabad has best Quality of Living in India, with global rank of 144.
- New Delhi has been ranked 161.
- Vienna (Capital of Austria) occupies first place for overall quality of living for the eighth year

running - according to Mercer's Quality of Living Rankings 2017.

130th- World Bank's Ease of "Doing Business" Rankings

- World Bank's Ease of "Doing Business" Rankings places India at a lowly 130th position among 190 countries of the world surveyed.
- The World Bank every year publishes its "Doing Business" report on how easy it is for companies in terms of doing business, as well as following certain regulations based on ten parameters such as starting a business, getting electricity, dealing with construction permits, getting credit, paying taxes, protecting minority investors, resolving insolvency and more.
- New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark - have been accorded top three positions respectively.

8th in the 2017 AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index

- India has jumped one spot to rank 8th in the 2017 AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index with 31 percent of the surveyed respondents being more optimistic on economic outlook over the next three years.
- For the second year in a row, India appears in the top 10. The country has the world's fastest-growing major economy, and the government is seeking to loosen FDI regulations to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" initiative.
- Top Five: United States, Germany, China, United Kingdom, Canada

List of Sports Stadiums in World

Sri Lanka		
R.Premadasa Stadium-	Colombo	Cricket
Sinhalese Sports Club Ground- Colombo (Cricket)	Colombo	Cricket
Colombo Cricket Club Ground- Colombo (Cricket)	Colombo	Cricket
Galle International Stadium- Galle (Cricket)	Galle	Cricket
P.Saravanamuttu Stadium- Colombo (Multipurpose)	Colombo	Multipurpose

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Bangladesh		
Chittagong Stadium	Chittagong (Cricket)	Cricket
Bangabandhu National Stadium	Dhaka	Multipurpose
Pakistan		
Ayub National Stadium-	Quetta	Multipurpose
Gaddafi Stadium-	Lahore	Cricket
Australia		
Manuka Oval-	Canberra	Cricket
Marrara Cricket Ground-	Darwin	Cricket
Melbourne Cricket Ground-	Melbourne	Cricket
Adelaide Oval-	Adelaide	Cricket
Bundaberg Rum Stadium-	Cairns	Multipurpose
Telstra Dome-	Melbourne	Multipurpose
Sydney Cricket Ground-	Sydney	Cricket
W.A.C.A. Ground-	Perth	Cricket
New Zealand		
Jade Stadium-	Christchurch	Rugby
John Davies Oval	Queenstown	Multipurpose
McLean Park-	Napier	Cricket
Basin Reserve-	Wellington	Cricket
Eden Park-	Auckland	Multipurpose
England		
Lord's- L	London	Cricket
Etihad Stadium-	Manchester	Football
St Lawrence Ground-	Canterbury	Cricket
The Brit Oval-	London	Cricket
Old Trafford-	Manchester	Football
Sophia Gardens-	Cardiff	Cricket

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Trent Bridge-	Nottingham	(Cricket)
Edgbaston- Birmingham (Cricket)	Birmingham	Cricket
Headingley-	Leeds	Cricket
Stamford Bridge	Chelsea	Football
South Africa		
Newlands-	Cape Town	Rugby
St George's Park	Port Elizabeth	Cricket
Kingsmead	Durban	Cricket
New Wanderers Stadium	Johannesburg	Cricket
Centurion Supersport Park-	Pretoria	Cricket
West Indies		
Guyana Cricket Stadium Georgetown-	Guyana	Cricket
Kensington Oval Bridgetown	Barbados	Cricket
Mindoo Phillip Park Castries-	St Lucia	Multipurpose
Sabina Park Kingston-	Jamaica	Cricket
Antigua Recreation Ground St John's	Antigua	Cricket and Football
Albion Sports Complex Berbice-	Guyana	Cricket
Zimbabwe		
Kwekwe Sports Club-	Kwekwe	Cricket
Queens Sports Club-	Bulawayo	Cricket
Bulawayo Athletic Club-	Bulawayo	Cricket
Harare Sports Club-	Harare	Multipurpose
United Arab Emirates		
Sheikh Zayed Stadium	Abu Dhabi	Cricket
Sharjah Cricket Stadium-	Sharjah	Cricket

List of Popular Awards in Various Fields

National Awards	
Award	Field
Dada Saheb Phalke Award	Performance in films.
Shankar Award:.	Contribution in Indian Philosophy, Culture and Art
Kabir Samman	For Socio – communal Harmony
International Gandhi Peace Prize	For economic, social and political contribution by following methods of Gandhi.
Bharat Ratna	Highest civilian award given to the person who serves the nation.
Padma Bhushan	It is the third-highest civilian award, third in rank in the country.
Padma Vibhushan	It is the second highest award in the country. It is awarded to people from fields including Govt. service to distinguish extraordinary service for the nation.
Padma Shri:	For people who have made contribution in Industry, Social Service, Education, Literature, Arts, Science, Medicine, Sports and Public Affairs.
Dronacharya Award	For brilliance in sports coaching
Dhyan Chand Award	Lifetime achievement award in sports in the country.
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna	Highest honour given for accomplishment in sports
Jnanpith Award	For Literature
Vyas Samman	For literature in Hindi language.

Saraswati Samman	For literary works (prose and poetry) in any Indian language which is listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution.
Param Vir Chakra	Highest decoration Awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or prominent act of valor. It may also be awarded for self-sacrifice on land, air or sea.
Maha Vir Chakra	It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, air or sea.
Vir Chakra	It is the third in the order of awards for acts of gallantry in the face of the enemy on land, air or sea.
Ashok Chakra	Awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring act of valor or self-sacrifice on land, air or sea
Arjun Awards	In the field of Sports.
Kalinga Award	In the field of Science
Dhanwantri Award	In the field of Medical Science.
Bhatnagar:	In the field of Science.
Vachspati Samman	In the field of Sanskrit Literature.
International Awards	
Academy (Oscar) Awards	In the field of movies and films (From 1929).
Grammy Award	In the field of Music (From 1958)
Ramon Magsaysay Award	n the field of Govt. (Public) Service, Social Service, Journalism, Literature and communication (From 1957).
Borlaug Award	In the field of Agriculture (From 1992).
Pulitzer	In the field of Journalism and Literature.
Bowelay	In the field of Agriculture
Nobel Prize	In the field of Peace, Literature, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Medical

	Science.
Abel	In the field of Maths
Merlin	In the field of Magic
Man Booker	In the field of Literature

National Highways of India: Length, Route & Distance

TYPE	LENGTH (IN KMS)
Expressways	2000
Total National Highways	1,00,087
NH (4/6 laned)	22,900
NH (which are being 4 or 6 laned)	25,000
State Highways	1,54,522
District Roads	25,77,396
Rural & other roads	26,50,577
Total (approx.)	55,32,482

NATIONAL HIGHWAY	ROUTE	DISTANCE (KM)
NH-1	Jalandhar-Uri	663
NH-1A	New Delhi-Ambala- Jalandhar-Amritsar	456
NH-2	Delhi-Mathura-Agra- Kanpur-Allahabad- Varanasi-Kolkata	1465
NH-3	Agra-Gwalior-Nasik- Mumbai	1161
NH-4	Thane & Chennai via Pune	1235
NH-5	Kolkata-Chennai	1533
NH-6	Kolkata-Dhule	1949

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NH-7	Varanasi- Kanyakumari	2369
NH-8	Delhi-Mumbai-(via Jaipur, Baroda and Ahmedabad)	1428
NH-9	Mumbai-Vijayawada	841
NH-10	Delhi-Fazilka	403
NH-11	Agra-Bikaner	582
NH-12	Jabalpur-Jaipur	890
NH-13	Sholapur-Mangalore	691
NH-14	Morgram-Kharagpur	306
NH-15	Pathankot-Samakhiali	1526
NH-16	Kharagpur- Chennai	1448
NH-17	Panvel-Edapally	1269
NH-18	Gobindpur-Balasore	359
NH-19	Ghazipur-Patna	240
NH-20	Bakhtiyarpur-Panikholi	658
NH-21	Jabalpur-Agra	262
NH-22	Ambala-Shipkitr	459
NH-25	Barmer-Beawar	353
NH-26	Raipur- Vizianagaram	551
NH-27	Porbandar- Silchar	3507
NH-28	Lucknow-Barauni	570
NH-30	Sitarganj- Ibrahimpatnam	2040
NH-31	Barhi-Guwahati	1125
NH-32	Chennai-Nagapattinam	314
NH-33	Farakka-Arwal	443
NH-34	Gangotri Dham- Lakhnadon	1426
NH-37	Sutarakandi- Bhali	356
NH-40	Kurnool-Ranipet	424
NH-43	Katni-Chandil	806

NH-44	Srinagar-Kanyakumari	3745
NH-47	Bamanbore-Nagpur	1080
NH-48	Delhi-Chennai	2807
NH-49	Kochi-Dhanushkodi	440
NH-50	Bidar-Hospet	260
NH-52	Sangrur-Ankola	2317
NH-53	Hajira-Paradip Port	1781
NH-58	Badrinath-Ghaziabad	538
NH-61	Bhiwandi-Nirmal	652
NH-62	Abohar-Pindwara	748
NH-65	Pune-Machilipatnam	841
NH-66	Kanyakumari-Panvel	1622
NH-67	Hubli-Gooty	432
NH-75	Bantwal-Vellore	533
NH-81	Coimbatore-Bengaluru	340
NH-85	Cochin-Tondi point	413
NH-105	Pinjore-Swarghat	67
NH-150	Aizawl-Kohima	700
NH-200	Raipur-Chandikhal	740
NH-205	Ananthpur-Chennai	442
NH-209	Dindigul-Bengaluru	456
NH-211	Solaphur-Dhule	400
NH-217	Raipur-Gopalpur	508
NH-220	Kollam-Teui	265

List of Ports in India With Key Facts

Introduction

India has about 7516.6 kilometres of seashore & it is one of the biggest peninsulas in the world. It has 12 major ports & around 200 notified minor &

intermediate ports. Maharashtra with 48 docks has the maximum number of non-major ports trailed by Gujarat with 42 docks & Andaman & Nicobar Islands with 23 docks.

The Central government's shipping ministry will take care of all the major ports. The Minor & Intermediate ports will be taken care by the relevant departments in the coastal states.

MAJOR PORTS:

PORT NAME	STATE	BUILT IN	COAST
Kandla	Gujarat	1950	Western
Mumbai	Maharashtra	1870	Western
Jawaharlal Nehru	Maharashtra	1989	Western
Mormugoa	Goa	1888	Western
Mangalore	Karnataka	1974	Western
Cochin	Kerala	1926	Western
Haldia	West Bengal	1967	Eastern
Paradip	Odisha	1962	Eastern
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	1933	Eastern
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	1881	Eastern
Ennore	Tamil Nadu	2001	Eastern
Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu	1974	Eastern

SOME INTERESTING FACTS:

- **Kandla Port** is situated on the Gulf of Kutch. It is the biggest port of India by volume of freight handled.
- **Mormugoa port** is the foremost iron ore exporting port.
- **Panambur** is the location of sea port called New Mangalore Port. It is an all-season port.
- **Paradip port** is an artificial & deep water port.
- **Ennore Port** is also known as Kamarajar Port Limited & is the only major port registered as a company.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** port is previously known as Nhava Sheva Port & is the largest container port in India.
- **Tuticorin** or Thoothukudi Port is an artificial deep-sea dock & is officially known as VO Chidambaranar Port

List of Important Days - Month Wise

January

Date	Important day
4 January	World Braille Day(207th birth anniversary of Louis Braille)
9 January	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day)
10 January	World Hindi Day
12 January	National Youth Day
15 January	69 th Indian Army Day
24 January	National girl child day
25 January	National Voters Day
26 January	International Customs Day
26 January	68 th Republic Day
27 January	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust
29 January	World Leprosy Day (last Sunday of January)

February

Date	Important day
2 February	World Wetlands Day
4 February	World Cancer Day
6 February	International day of Zero Tolerance to female genital mutilation
7 February	Safer Internet Day
10 February	National Deworming Day
11 February	International day Women and girls in Science

12 February	National Productivity Day
13 February	World Radio Day
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
21 February	International Mother language day
22 February	World Thinking day
24 February	Central Excise Day
28 February	National Science Day

March

<i>Date</i>	<i>Important day</i>
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
3 March	World Wild Life Day
4 March	World Hearing Day
8 March	International Women's Day
12 March	World Kidney Day
13 March	Commonwealth Day
15 March	World Consumer Rights Day
20 March	International Day of Happiness
21 March	International Day of Forests
21 March	World Down Syndrome Day
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day
24 March	World TB Day
27 March	World Theatre Day

April

<i>Date</i>	<i>Important day</i>
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1 April	Prevention of Blindness Week
2 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Autism Awareness Day▪ International Children's Book Day
4 April	National Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in mine action
5 April	National Maritime Day
6 April	International Day for Sports Development and Peace
7 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ World Health Day▪ Handloom Week
8 April	International Romani Day
10 April	World Homeopathy Day
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight
13 April	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
14 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti▪ Customs Day
17 April	World Hemophilia Day
18 April	World Heritage Day
21 April	Civil Services Day
22 April	World Earth Day
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day
24 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Panchayati Day▪ Women's Political Empowerment Day, India
25 April	World Malaria Day
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day
29 April	International Dance Day
30 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Internattional Jazz Day▪ Anti-Child Labour Day

May

<i>Date</i>	<i>Important day</i>
1 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Labour Day ▪ May Day ▪ Maharashtra Day
2 May	World Asthma Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
4 May	International Firefighters Day
5 May	International Midwives Day
7 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Athletics Day ▪ World Laughter Day ▪ Rabindra Nath Tagore Jayant
8 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mother's Day ▪ World Redcross Day ▪ Road Safety Week
10 May	World Migratory Bird Day
11 May	National Technology Day
12 May	International Nurses Day
15 May	International Families Day
16 May	National Dengue Day
17 May	World Telecommunication Day
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day
20 May	World Metrology Day
21 May	Anti-Terrorism Day
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23 May	World Turtle Day
25 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Missing Children's Day ▪ World Malaria Day
26 May	Gunners Day- New Zealand
28 May	Maharana Pratap Jayanti
29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
30 May	Goa Statehood Day
31 May	World No Tobbacco Day

June

Date	Important day
1 June	World Milk Day
2 June	International Sex Workers' Day
4 June	International Day for Innocent Children Victims of Aggression Cancer Survivors Day
5 June	World Environment Day
8 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coal Miners Day ▪ World Ocean Day
12 June	Anti-Child Labour Day
14 June	World Blood Donor Day
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
16 June	International Day of Family Remittances
17 June	Word Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
19 June	International Day for the elimination of Sexual Violence and Conflict
20 June	World Refugee Day
21 June	International Yoga Day
23 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Service Day ▪ International Widow's Day ▪ International Olympic Day
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking
29 June	National Statistics Day

July

Date	Important day
1 July	National Doctor's Day
2 July	World Sports Journalists' Day

4 July	American Independence Day
7 July	Global Forgiveness Day
11 July	World Population Day
12 July	Malala Day
15 July	World Youth Skill Day
17 July	International Justice Day
18 July	International Nelson Mandela Day
26 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem ▪ Kargil Vijay Diwas
28 July	World Hepatitis Day
29 July	International Tiger Day
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

August

Date	Important day
1 August	World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August)
6 August	Hiroshima Day & Anti-Nuclear Day
7 August	Handloom Day
9 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kranti Diwas (Quit India Movement) ▪ International Day of the world's indigenous peoples
10 August	World Bio-Fuel Day
11 August	National Daughter's Day
12 August	International Youth Day
13 August	Organ Donation Day
15 August	Independence Day of India
19 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Photography Day ▪ World Humanitarian Day
20 August	Sadbhawana Diwas/ Harmony Day
29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sanskrit Day ▪ International Day Against Nuclear Test

	▪ National Sports Day
30 August	National Small Industry Day

September

Date	Important day
1 September	National Nutrition Week (1-7 September)
2 September	World Coconut Day
4 September	National Labour Day USA
5 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Teachers Day ▪ International Charity Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
10 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World First Aid Day ▪ World Suicide Prevention Day
12 September	International Day for South-South Cooperation
13 September	World Chocolate Day
14 September	Hindi Diwas
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer
20 September	Railway Police Force Foundation Day
21 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Peace Day ▪ World Alzheimer Day
22 September	World Cancer Free Day
25 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Rivers Day ▪ World Pharmacists Day
26 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Environmental Health Day ▪ World Contraception Day
27 September	World Tourism Day
28 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Rabies Day ▪ Gunners Day India ▪ World Maritime Day
29 September	World Heart Day
30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Deaf Day ▪ International Translation Day

October

Date	Important day
1 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for Older Persons ▪ World Vegetarian Day
2 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Habitat Day ▪ World Habitat Day (First Monday of October) ▪ International Day of Non-Violence/Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti
4 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Space Week (4-10 October) ▪ World Animal Day
5 October	World Teachers Day
6 October	World Smile Day (First Friday of October)
8 October	Airforce Day
9 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Columbus Day ▪ World Post Day
10 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Mental Health Day ▪ World Day Against Death Penalty
11 October	International Girl Child Day
13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Sight Day ▪ International Day for Disaster Reduction
14 October	International Standards' Day
15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day of Rural Women ▪ World Students Day ▪ Safe Motherhood Week (15-21 October)
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	Anti-Poverty Day
20 October	World Statistics Day
21 October	Police Commemoration Day
24 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Day ▪ World Development Information Day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Polio Day
27 October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
28 October	National Ayurveda Day
29 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Internet Day World Stroke Day
31 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Unity Day World Savings Day World Cities Day Vigilance Awareness Week (31-5 November)

November

Date	Important day
1 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Tobacco Day World Vegan Day Karnataka Formation Day
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day
8 November	International Radiology Day
9 November	World Quality Day
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
11 November	National Education Day
12 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Pneumonia Day Public Service Broadcasting Day
13 November	World Kindness Day
14 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Day World Diabetes Day
16 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Tolerance World Philosophy Day
20 November	Universal Children's Day
21 November	World Television Day
25 November	International Day For the Elimination of Violence Against Women
26 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional Day-India

	▪ National Milk Day
28 November	Raising Day of National Cadet Corps

December

Date	Important day
1 December	World AIDS Day
2 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for Abolition of Slavery ▪ National Pollution Control
3 December	International Day for the Persons with Disabilities
4 December	Indian Navy Day
5 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development ▪ World Soil Day
7 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Civil Aviation Day ▪ Armed Forces Flag Day- India
8 December	Plastic Free Day
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 December	Human Rights Day
11 December	International Mountain Day
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day
14 December	World Energy Conservation Day
16 December	Vijay Diwas
18 December	International Migrants Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day
22 December	National Mathematics Day
23 December	Kisan Diwas
24 December	National Consumers Day

Awards and Honours in India 2016-17

Recent National and international awards 2017

Name of the Award	Recipient
Lifetime Achievement Award at Dubai International Film Festival	Rekha (Veteran actress)
The world's third largest startup base	India (US and UK stands in the first and second position respectively)
Rio Paralympics silver medalist, who honored with Rs. 4 crore cash reward by P Narendra Modi	Deepa Malik
German Green Talent Award	Shamik Chowdhury (Indian researcher)
Prestigious award for outstanding work in the field of e-governance at the 'State of the States Conclave 2016'	Haryana government
The highest-paid woman in music for 2016 in Forbes' annual list.	Taylor Swift
Rashtriya Kalidas Samman by Madhya Pradesh Government	Raj Bisaria and Banshi Kaul
Australian of the Year Local Hero' award 2017	Tejinder Pal
La Liga's best player for 2015-16 season	Cristiano Ronaldo
Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award	Amitav Ghosh
Reporters without Borders (RSF)-TV5 Monde prize'	Hadi Abdullah
Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Governance for year 2016	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award at the ATP awards	Roger Federer
Uttarakhand Ratna award	Harish Rawat (Uttarakhand Chief Minister)
Goldsmiths Prize	Mike McCormack (Solar Bones author)
'Doodle 4 Google' 2016 contest	Anvita Prashant Telang (fromPune)

Global Citizen Award	Imtiaz Sooliman
Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate Award 2016	Gulzar (Lyricist-writer)
World's best airline for the 4th consecutive year	Air New Zealand
The oldest woman to Space	Peggy Whitson (NASA astronaut, at an age of 56 years)
Winner of SumitraCharat Ram Award for lifetime achievement in the field of Indian classical music.	Pt Hari Prasad Chourasia (Noted flautist)
Winner of the prestigious Mother Teresa International Award	Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, by the Mumbai-based NGO Harmony Foundation.)
'Artist of the Year' at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs)	Ariana Grande (Singer)
'Favorite Female Artist - Pop/Rock' at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs)	Selena Gomez
'Video of the Year' award at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs)	Justin Bieber (for his track 'Sorry')
first World Sanskrit Award	Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Princess of Thailand)
International Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea	Captain Radhika Menon
International Press Freedom Award	Malini Subramaniam (Indian Journalist, for her reporting from the Naxal-infested Bastar area)
Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize	Akshaya Mukul (Senior journalist, for his book "Gita Press and the Making of Hindu India")
Winner of 10th Asia Pacific Screen Award in Best Actor Category	Manoj Bajpayee (Bollywood actor)
Winner of at the prestigious UNESCO Salon Youth Video Competition 2016	'Magical Piano', a short film by the Toonz Media Group (Dr Avaneesh, Head of Development, Toonz Media Group)

	received the award from Salon Films Chairman Fred Wang)
Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) 'Distinguished Indologist' Award	Prof. Yu Long Yu (Chinese professor)
Golden Peacock award at the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	Iranian film "Daughter" (directed by Reza Mirkarimi)

List of Arjuna Awards Winners 2016

Name	Sports
Ajinkya Rahane	Cricket
Amit Kumar	Wrestling
Apurvi Chandela	Shooting
Gurpreet Singh	Shooting
Sandeep Singh Maan	Para Athelitics
Shiva Thapa	Boxing
Sourav Kothari	Billiards & Snooker
Soumyajit Ghosh	Table Tennis
Ritu Rani	Hockey
Subrata Pal	Football
Rajat Chauhan	Archery
Raghunath Vokkaliga	Hockey
Lalita Babar	Athletics
Virender Singh	Wrestling
Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling

List of Dhronacharya Awards Winners 2016

Name	Sports
Shri Nagapuri Ramesh	Athletics

Shri Sagar Mal Dhayal	Boxing
Shri Raj Kumar Sharma	Cricket
Shri Bishweshwar Nandi	Gymnastics
Shri S. Pradeep Kumar	Swimming (Lifetime)
Shri Mahabir Singh	Wrestling (Lifetime)

Padma Vibhushan

Awardee	Field of Prominence
Sharad Pawar	Public Affairs
Murli Manohar Joshi	Public Affairs
P.A. Sangma (posthumous)	Public Affairs
Sunder Lal Patwah (posthumous)	Public Affairs
K.J.Yesudas	Art - Music
Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev	Others - Spiritualism
Udipi Ramachandra Rao	Science & Engineering

Padma Bhushan

Awardee	Field of Prominence
Vishwa Mohan Bhatt	Art - Music
Devi Prasad Dwivedi	Literature & Education
Tehemton Udawadia	Medicine
Ratna Sundar Maharaj	Others-Spiritualism
Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati	Others-Yoga
H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner)	Literature & Education
Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous)	Literature & Education – Journalism

Padma Shri

Awardee	Field of Prominence
Basanti Bisht	Art-Music
Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair	Art-Dance
Aruna Mohanty	Art-Dance
Bharathi Vishnuvardhan	Art-Cinema
Sadhu Meher	Art-Cinema
T K Murthy	Art-Music
Laishram Birendrakumar Singh	Art-Music
Krishna Ram Chaudhary	Art-Music
Baoa Devi	Art-Painting
Tilak Gitai	Art-Painting
Aekka Yadagiri Rao	Art-Sculpture
Jitendra Haripal	Art-Music
Kailash Kher	Art-Music
Parassala B Ponnammal	Art-Music
Sukri Bommagowda	Art-Music
Mukund Nayak	Art-Music
Purushottam Upadhyay	Art-Music
Anuradha Paudwal	Art-Music
Wareppa Naba Nil	Art-Theatre
Tripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary	Civil Service
T.K. Viswanathan	Civil Service
Kanwal Sibal	Civil Service
Birkha Bahadur Limboo Muringla	Literature & Education
Eli Ahmed	Literature & Education
Narendra Kohli	Literature & Education
G. Venkatasubbiah	Literature & Education
Akkitham Achyuthan Namboothiri	Literature & Education
Kashi Nath Pandita	Literature & Education

Chamu Krishna Shastry	Literature & Education
Harihar Kripalu Tripathi	Literature & Education
Michel Danino	Literature & Education
Punam Suri	Literature & Education
VG Patel	Literature & Education
V Koteswaramma	Literature & Education
Balbir Dutt	Literature & Education- Journalism
Bhawana Somaaya	Literature & Education- Journalism
Vishnu Pandya	Literature & Education- Journalism
Subroto Das	Medicine
Bhakti Yadav	Medicine
Mohammed Abdul Waheed	Medicine
Madan Madhav Godbole	Medicine
Devendra Dayabhai Patel	Medicine
Harkishan Singh	Medicine
Mukut Minz	Medicine
Arun Kumar Sharma	Others-Archaeology
Sanjeev Kapoor	Others-Culinary
Meenakshi Amma	Others-Martial Art
Genabhai Dargabhai Patel	Others-Agriculture
Chandrakant Pithawa	Science & Engineering
Ajoy Kumar Ray	Science & Engineering
Chintakindi Mallesham	Science & Engineering
Jitendra Nath Goswami	Science & Engineering
Daripalli Ramaiah	Social Work
Girish Bhardwaj	Social Work
Karimul Hak	Social Work
Bipin Ganatra	Social Work
Nivedita Raghunath Bhide	Social work

Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	Social Work
Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal	Social Work
Virat Kohli	Sports-Cricket
Shekar Naik	Sports-Cricket
Vikasa Gowda	Sports-Discus Throw
Deepa Malik	Sports-Athletics
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Sports-Athletics
Dipa Karmakar	Sports-Gymnastics
P. R. Shreejesh	Sports-Hockey
Sakshi Malik	Sports-Wrestling
Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu	Trade & Industry
Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO)	Art-Music
Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education
H.R. Shah (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education- Journalism
Suniti Solomon (Posthumous)	Medicine
Asoke Kumar Bhattacharyya (Posthumous)	Others-Archaeology
Dr. Mapuskar (Posthumous)	Social Work
Anuradha Koirala (Foreigner)	Social Work

National Bravery Awards 2016

Name	Award
Abhijit KV	General National Bravery Award
Bhimsen	General National Bravery Award
Beedhovan	General National Bravery Award
Joena Chakbraborty	General National Bravery Award
Chongtham Kuber Meitei	General National Bravery Award
Maurice Yengkhom	General National Bravery Award
Sarwanand Saha	General National Bravery Award

Muhammad Shamnad	General National Bravery Award
Shivampet Ruchitha	Geeta Chopra Award
Mohit Mahdenrda Dalvi	General National Bravery Award
Vaibhav Ramesh Ghangare	General National Bravery Award
Nilesh Revaram Bhil	General National Bravery Award
Sai Krishna Akhil Kilambi	General National Bravery Award
Dishant Mehndiratta	General National Bravery Award
Anandu Dillep	General National Bravery Award
Kashish Dhanani	General National Bravery Award
Nithin Philip Mathew	General National Bravery Award
Shivansh Singh	Bharat Award
Gaurav Kawduji Sahastrabuddhe	Bharat Award
Abinash Mishra	General National Bravery Award
Angelica Tynsong	General National Bravery Award
Arjun Singh	Sanjay Chopra Award
Aromal SM	Bapu Gaidhani Award
Ramdinthara	Bapu Gaidhani Award
Rakeshbhai Shanabhai Patel	Bapu Gaidhani Award

The Asian Awards 2016

Name	Award
Mother Teresa	Founder's Award
Anil Agarwal	Entrepreneur of the Year
Shri Prakash Lohia	Business Leader of the Year
Son-Heung-Min	Outstanding Achievement in Sports
Naughty Boy	Outstanding Achievement in Music
Kunal Nayyar	Outstanding Achievement in Television
Shuji Nakamura	Outstanding Achievement in Science and Technology

Asif Khapadia	Outstanding Achievement in Cinema
Osman Yousefzada	Outstanding Achievement in Art & Design
Rami Ranger	Outstanding Contribution to the Community
Vikram patel	Chivas Social Entrepreneur of the Year

Dada Saheb Phalke Awards 2016

Name	Award
Sikander Kher	Best Actor Male for Tere Bin Laden- Dead or Alive
Richa Chaddha	Best Actress Masaan
Sooraj Barjatya	Best Memorable film "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo
Shabana Azami	Best Supporting actress "Neerja")
Annu Kapoor	Best R.J.
Indra Krishnan	Best Actress Female T.V.
Sameer Dharmadhakari	Best Actor Male T.V
Deepak Dobriyal	Best Supporting Actor "Tanu Weds Manu Returns
Shoojit Sarkar	Best director 'Piku'
Amitabh Bhattacharya	Best Lyrics "Dilwale"
Pritam	Best Music "Dilwale"
Kamini Kaushal	Life Time Achievement award
Bappi Lahiri	Life Time Achievement award
Palak Muchal	Best Singer Female
Rashmi Sharma	Best Producer T.V.
Swaraj Singh	Best Stage Actor
Sooraj Pancholi & Athiya Shetty	Best Pair- Debut
Amit Khanna	Best Photographer- Still Photography
Ganesh Acharya	Best Choreographer

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2016

Name	Award
Sharodi Saikia	Dance - Sattriya
Smt. Suguna Varadachari	Carnatic Music - Vocal
Vidwan Lalgudi GJR Krishnan	Carnatic Music - Instrumental (Violin)
Manoj Joshi	Theatre - Acting
R.N. Tharanathan	Carnatic Music - Vocal
Ranganayaki Jayaraman	Dance - Bharatanatyam
K Kunhiraman Nair	Dance - Kathakali
Mandakini Trivedi	Dance - Mohiniattam
R.N. Thyagarajan	Carnatic Music - Vocal
Brij Narayan	Music - Instrumental (Sarod)
G Padmaja Reddy	Dance - Kuchipudi
Mashkoor Ali Khan	Hindustani Music - Vocal
Sadashiva Pradhan	Dance - Chhau
Himani Shivpuri	Theatre - Acting
Kartik Kumar	Hindustani Music - Instrumental (Sitar)
Khuman Lal Saav	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
Mushtaq Kak	Theatre - Direction
Parvez Akhtar	Theatre - Direction
Krishna Bisht	Hindustani Music - Vocal
Chhaya khutegaonkar	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
Gangmei Aluna Kabuini	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
Maya Khutegaonkar	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
S R D Prasad	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / D

Ramchandra Singh	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
Ustad Sayeed Sabri- Jaipuri	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
Pammi Bai	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre
Khem Raj	Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music /

Nobel Prize 2016

Field	Name	Contribution
Physics	David J. Thouless; Duncan Haldane; and John M. Kosterlitz	Theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter
Chemistry	Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa	Design and synthesis of molecular machines"
Physiology or medicine	Yoshinori ohsumi	Discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy
Literature	Bob dylan	new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition
Peace	Juan manuel santos	Resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end.
Economics	Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmström	Contract theory

58th Annual Grammy Awards 2016

Category	Name
Record of the Year	Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars,

	"Uptown Funk"
Album of the Year	Taylor Swift, 1989
Best New Artist	Taylor Swift, 1989
Best Rock Performance	Alabama Shakes, "Don't Wanna Fight"
Best Musical Theater Album	Hamilton
Song of the Year	Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud"
Best Country Album	Chris Stapleton, Traveller
Best Rap Album	Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance	Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars, "Uptown Funk"
Best Rap/Sung Collaboration	Kendrick Lamar feat. Bilal, Anna Wise & Thundercat
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album	Tony Bennett & Bill Charlap, The Silver Lining: The Songs of Jerome Kern
Best Pop Solo Performance	Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud"
Best Rap Song	Kendrick Lamar, "Alright"
Best Alternative Music Album	Alabama Shakes, Sound & Color
Best Rock Album	Muse, Drones
Best Rap Performance	Kendrick Lamar, "Alright"
Best Rock Song	Alabama Shakes, "Don't Wanna Fight"
Best R&B Album	D'Angelo and the Vanguard, Black Messiah
Best Urban Contemporary Album	The Weeknd, Beauty Behind the Madness
Best R&B Performance	The Weeknd, "Earned It (Fifty Shades of Grey)"
Best R&B Song	D'Angelo and The Vanguard, "Really Love"
Best Traditional R&B Performance	Lalah Hathaway, "Little Ghetto Boy"
Best Dance/Electronic Album	Skrillex and Diplo, Skrillex and Diplo Present Jack Ü
Best Dance Recording	Skrillex and Diplo With Justin Bieber, "Where Are Ü Now"

Best Music Video	Taylor Swift feat. Kendrick Lamar, "Bad Blood"
Best Country Duo/Group Performance	Little Big Town, "Girl Crush"
Best Country Song	Little Big Town, "Girl Crush"
Best Music Film	Amy Winehouse, Amy
Best Rap/Song Collaboration	Common & John Legend, "Glory"
Best Pop Vocal Album	Taylor Swift, 1989
Best Country Solo Performance	Chris Stapleton, "Traveller"
Best Contemporary Christian Music Album	Tobymac, This Is Not a Test
Best Roots Gospel Album	The Fairfield Four, Still Rockin' My Soul
Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album	Pitbull, Dale
Best Latin Pop Album	Ricky Martin, A Quien Quiera Escuchar (Deluxe Edition)
Best Comedy Album	Louis C.K., Live at Madison Square Garden
Best Spoken Word Album	Jimmy Carter, A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety
Score Soundtrack for Visual Media	Birdman
Best Gospel Album	Israel & Newbreed, Covered: Alive Is Asia [Live] (Deluxe)
Best Gospel Performance/Song	Kirk Franklin, "Wanna Be Happy?"
Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song	Francesca Battistelli, "Holy Spirit"
Best Contemporary Classical Composition	Stephen Paulus, Paulus: Prayers & Remembrances
Best Classical Solo Vocal Album	Joyce DiDonato and Antonio Pappano, Joyce & Tony – Live From Wigmore Hall
Best Classical Instrumental Solo	Augustin Hadelich, "Dutilleux: Violin Concerto, L'Arbre Des Songes"
Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance	Eighth Blackbird, "Filament"

Best Choral Performance	Charles Bruffy, "Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil"
Best Opera Recording	Saito Kinen Orchestra; SKF Matsumoto Chorus & SKF Matsumoto Children's Chorus, "Ravel: L'Enfant Et Les Sortilèges; Shéhérazade"
Producer of the Year, Classical	Judith Sherman
Best New Age Album	Paul Avgerinos, Grace
Best Surround Sound Album	Roger Waters, Amused to Death
Best Orchestral Performance	Boston Symphony Orchestra, "Shostakovich: Under Stalin's Shadow - Symphony No. 10"
Best Classical Compendium	Giancarlo Guerrero, Paulus: Three Places of Enlightenment; Veil of Tears & Grand Concerto
Best Regional Roots Music Album	Jon Cleary, Go Go Juice
Best Folk Album	Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn
Best Blues Album	Buddy Guy, Born to Play Guitar
Best Bluegrass Album	The Steeldrivers, The Muscle Shoals Recordings
Best Americana Album	Jason Isbell, Something More Than Free
Best American Roots Song	Jason Isbell, "24 Frames"
Best American Roots Performance	Mavis Staples, "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean"
Best Tropical Latin Album	Rubén Blades With Roberto Delgado & Orchestra, Son De Panamá
Best Regional Mexican Music Album (Including Tejano)	Los Tigres Del Norte, Realidades - Deluxe Edition
Best Children's Album	Tim Kubart, Home
Best World Album	Angélique Kidjo, Sings
Best Reggae Album	Morgan Heritage, Strictly Roots
Best Latin Jazz Album	Eliane Elias, Made in Brazil

Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album:	Maria Schneider, The Thompson Fields
Best Jazz Instrumental Album	John Scofield, Past Present
Best Jazz Vocal Album	Cécile McLorin Salvant, For One to Love
Best Surround Sound Album	James Guthrie and Joel Plante, Amused To Death
Best Remixed Recording, Non-Classical	Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars, "Uptown Funk (Dave Audé Remix)"
Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical	Alabama Shakes, Sound & Color
Best Historical Album	Various artists; The Basement Tapes Complete: The Bootleg Series Vol. 11
Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package	Various Artists, The Rise & Fall Of Paramount Records, Volume Two (1928-32)
Best Album Notes	Joni Mitchell, Love Has Many Faces: A Quartet, A Ballet, Waiting To Be Danced
Best Recording Package	Sarah Dodds, Shauna Dodds & Dick Reeves; Asleep at the Wheel, Still the King: Celebrating the Music of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys
Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals	Maria Schneider, "Sue (Or In A Season Of Crime)"
Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella	Avi Kaplin, Kirstin Taylor, Kevin K.O. Olusola; "Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy"
Best Instrumental Composition	Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, "The Afro Latin Jazz Suite"
MusiCares Person of the Year	Lionel Richie

59th Annual Grammy Awards:

Award	Awardee
Album of the year:	25 – Adele
Record of the year:	Hello – Adele

Song of the year:	Hello – Adele
Best rap album:	Chance the Rapper – Coloring Book
Best urban contemporary album:	Beyonce – Lemonade
Best country solo performance:	My Church – Maren Morris
Best rock song:	Blackstar – David Bowie
Best pop duo/group performance:	Stressed Out – Twenty One Pilots
Best new artist:	Chance the Rapper
Best pop vocal album:	Adele – 25
Best pop solo performance:	Hello – Adele
Best Rhythm and Blues (R&B) performance:	Solange – Cranes in the Sky
Best R&B song:	Maxwell – Lake by the Ocean
Best rap performance:	Chance The Rapper featuring Lil Wayne & 2 Chainz – No Problem
Best rap/sung performance:	Drake – Hotline Bling
Drake –	Hotline Bling
Best R&B album:	Lalah Hathaway – Lalah Hathaway Live
Best rap song:	Drake – Hotline Bling
Best metal performance:	Megadeth – Dystopia
Best rock performance:	David Bowie – Blackstar
Best dance recording:	The Chainsmokers – Don't Let Me Down
Best dance/electronic album:	Skin – Flume
Best music video:	Beyonce – Formation
Best country song:	Humble and Kind – Tim McGraw
Best country duo/group performance:	Pentatonix Featuring Dolly Parton – Jolene

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS WINNER LISTS 2016

The Sahitya Akademi has announced the lists of name of the Author. The award was given for the contribution in 24 Languages. It Includes the books of 5 Novels, 8 Poetry , 2 Criticism ,7 Short Stories , 1 Play and 1 Essays.

Winner Lists of Sahitya Akademi Award 2016

Name of the Author	Title	Contribution	Language
Gita Upadhyay	Janmabhumi Mero Swadesh	Novel	Nepali
Jerry Pinto	Em and the big Hoom	Novel	English
Nasira Sharma	Paarijat	Novel	Hindi
Boluwaru Mohammad Kunhi	Swatantryada Ota	Novel	Kannada
Edwin J.F.D'souza	Kale Bhangar	Novel	Konkani
Papineni Sivasankar	Rajanigandha	Poetry	Telegu
Nand Javeri	Akhar Katha	Poetry	Sindhi
Jnan Pujari	Meghmalar Bhraman	Poetry	Assamese
Gobinda Chandra Majhi	Nalha	Poetry	Santali
Anju (Anjali Narzary)	Ang Maboroi Dong Dasong	Poetry	Bodo
Prabha Varma	Shyamamadhavam	Poetry	Malayalam
Kamal Vora	Anekek	Poetry	Gujarati
Sitanath Acharya	Kavyanirjhari	Poetry	Sanskrit
Aziz Hajini	Aane Khane	Criticism	Kashmiri
Nizam Siddiqui	Mabad-e-Jadidiat Se Naye Ahed Ki Takhliqiyat Tak	Criticism	Urdu
Shyam Darihare	Barki Kaki at Hotmail Dot Com	Short Stories	Maithili
Paramita Satpathy	Prapti	Short Stories	Odia
Moirangthem Rajen	Cheptharaba Eshingpun	Short Stories	Manipuri
Chhatrapal	Cheta	Short stories	Dogri
Vannadhasan	Oru Siru Isai ()	Short Stories	Tamil
Bulaki Sharma	Muradhat Ar Dujee Kahaniyan	Short Stories	Rajasthani
Asaram Lomate	Aalok	Short Stories	Marathi

Swarajbir	Masia Di Raat	Play	Punjabi
Nrasinghaprasad Bhaduri	Mahabharrater Astadashi	Essays	Bengali

62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017

Award	Awardee
Best Actor (Male):	Aamir Khan for 'Dangal'
Best Actor (Female):	Alia Bhatt for 'Udta Punjab'
Best Film:	'Dangal'
Best Director:	Nitesh Tiwari for 'Dangal'
Filmfare Critics Award for Best Film:	'Neerja'
Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Male):	Shahid Kapoor for 'Udta Punjab' and Manoj Bajpayee for 'Aligarh'
Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Female):	Sonam Kapoor for 'Neerja'
Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film:	Manoj Bajpayee for 'Taandav'
Best Short Film People's Choice:	Khamakha
Best Short Film (Fiction):	'Chutney'
Best Short Film (Non-fiction):	'Matitali Kusti'
Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film:	Tisca Chopra for 'Chutney'
Best Debut Director:	Ashwini Iyer Tiwari for 'Nil Battey Sannata'
Best Male Debut:	Diljit Dosanjh for 'Udta Punjab'
Best Female Debut:	Ritika Singh for 'Saala Khadoos'
Best Dialogue:	Ritesh Shah for 'Pink'
Best Screenplay:	Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
Best Story:	Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male):	Rishi Kapoor for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female):	Shabana Azmi for 'Neerja'
Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award:	Shatrughan Sinha
Best Music Album:	Pritam for 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
Best Lyricist:	Amitabh Bhattacharya for 'Channa Mereya' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
Best Playback Singer (Male):	Arijit Singh for 'Ae dil hai mushkil' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
Best Playback Singer (Female):	Neha Bhasin for 'Jag Ghoomeya' from 'Sultan'
Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent:	Amit Mishra for 'Bulleya' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
Best Visual Effects:	Red Chillies for 'Fan'
Best Editing:	Monisha Baldawa for 'Neerja'
Best Costume:	Payal Saluja for 'Udta Punjab'
Best Action:	Shyam Kaushal for 'Dangal'
Best Background Score:	Sameer Uddin for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
Best Choreography:	Adil Shaikh for 'Kar Gayi Chull' in 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
Best Cinematography:	Mitesh Mirchandani for 'Neerja'

Best FIFA Football Awards

Award	Awardee
The Best FIFA Men's Player 2016:	Cristiano Ronaldo
The Best FIFA Women's Player 2016:	Carli Lloyd
The Best FIFA Men's Coach 2016:	Claudio Ranieri
The Best FIFA Women's Coach 2016:	Silvia Neid

70th Annual British Academy Film Awards

Award	Awardee
Best Film:	'La La Land'

Best British Film:	'I, Daniel Blake'
Best Director:	Damien Chazelle, 'La La Land'
Best Actor:	Casey Affleck, 'Manchester by the Sea'
Best Actress:	Emma Stone, 'La La Land'
Best Supporting Actor:	Dev Patel, 'Lion'
Best Supporting Actress:	Viola Davis, 'Fences'
Best Film Not in the English Language:	'Son of Saul'
Best Documentary:	'13th'
Best Animated Film:	'Kubo and the Two Strings'
Best Cinematography:	Linus Sandgren, 'La La Land'
Best Original Screenplay:	Kenneth Lonergan, 'Manchester by the Sea'
Best Adapted Screenplay:	Luke Davies, 'Lion'
Best Editing:	John Gilbert, 'Hacksaw Ridge'
Best Production Design:	Stuart Craig and Anna Pinnock, 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'
Best Costume Design:	Madeline Fontaine, 'Jackie'
Best Makeup and Hair:	J. Roy Helland and Daniel Phillips, 'Florence Foster Jenkins'
Best Sound:	Claude La Haye, Bernard GariÄ©py Strobl and Sylvain Bellemare, 'Arrival'
Best Special Visual Effects:	Robert Legato, Dan Lemmon, Andrew R. Jones and Adam Valdez, 'The Jungle Book'
Best British Short Animation:	'A Love Story'
Best British Short Film:	'Home'
The EE Rising Star Award:	Tom Holland
Best Original Music:	Justin Hurwitz, 'La La Land'

MOVIES

Award	Awardee
Best Supporting Actor:	Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Nocturnal Animals
Best Original Score:	La La Land
Best Original Song, Motion Picture:	"City of Stars," La La Land
Best Supporting Actress:	Viola Davis, Fences
Best Actor, Musical or Comedy:	Ryan Gosling, La La Land
Best Screenplay:	Damien Chazelle, La La Land
Best Animated Film:	Zootopia
Best Foreign-Language Film:	Elle
Best Director:	Damian Chazelle, La La Land
Best Actress, Musical or Comedy:	Emma Stone, La La Land
Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy:	La La Land
Best Actor, Drama:	Casey Affleck, Manchester by the Sea
Best Actress, Drama:	Isabelle Huppert, Elle
Best Picture, Drama:	Moonlight

TELEVISION

Award	Awardee
Best Actor, Television Drama:	Billie Bob Thornton, Goliath
Best Actress, Television Series Comedy or Musical:	Tracee Ellis Ross, Black-ish
Best Television Series Comedy or Musical:	Atlanta
Best Performance by an Actress In A Mini-series or Motion Picture Made for Television:	Sarah Paulson, The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story
Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television:	The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story
Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for	Hugh Laurie, The Night Manager

Television:	
Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television:	Olivia Colman, The Night Manager
Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television:	Tom Hiddleston, The Night Manager
Best Actress, Television Drama:	Claire Foy, The Crown
Best Television Drama:	The Crown , Netflix
Best Actor, Television Series Comedy or Musical:	Donald Glover, Atlanta

89th Academy Awards:

Award	Awardee
Best Picture:	Moonlight
Best Actress:	Emma Stone, La La Land
Best Actor:	Casey Affleck, Manchester by the Sea
Best Director:	Damien Chazelle, La La Land
Best Supporting Actress:	Viola Davis, Fences
Best Supporting Actor:	Mahershala Ali, Moonlight
Original Screenplay:	Manchester by the Sea
Best Adapted Screenplay:	Moonlight
Best Animated Feature:	Zootopia
Best Animated Short Film:	Piper
Best Live Action Short Film:	Sing
Best Foreign Language Film:	The Salesman
Best Documentary Feature:	Ezra Edelman and Caroline Waterlow, OJ Made in America
Best Cinematography:	Linus Sandgren, La La Land
Best Original Song:	City of Stars , La La Land
Best Original Score:	La La Land
Best Visual Effects:	The Jungle Book

Best Production Design:	La La Land
Best Sound Editing:	Arrival
Best Sound Mixing:	Hacksaw Ridge
Best Makeup And Hairstyling:	Suicide Squad
Best Costume Design:	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Award	Awardee
March 16, 2017:	Indian-American teenager Indrani Das won the top prize of \$2, 50,000 (Rs. 1.63 crore) in the Regeneron Science Talent Search competition in the U.S. for her research on treating brain injury and disease.
March 08, 2017:	Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has won the 2017 IEEE Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society Award for its solar-direct current (DC) inverter system.
March 09, 2017:	Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel Hawthan. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.
March 01, 2017:	<u>The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Annual Awards:</u> The BCCI Annual Awards Committee consisting N Ram, Ramachandra Guha and Diana Edulji announced the winners for the prestigious awards for the 2015-16 season. The complete list of winners is as follows:
Col. CK. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award:	Rajinder Goel, Padmakar Shivalkar
BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women:	Shantha Rangaswamy
BCCI Special Award:	VV Kumar, Late Ramakant Desai

Polly Umrigar Award:	Virat Kohli
Dilip Sardesai Award (For India's best cricketer in the West Indies series 2016):	Ravichandran Ashwin
Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16:	Jalaj Saxena of Madhya Pradesh.
Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in domestic limited-overs competitions, 2015-16:	Axar Patel of Gujarat
Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest scorer in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16):	Shreyas Iyer of Mumbai
Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16):	Shahbaz Nadeem of Jharkhand
M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest scorer in (U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16):	Jay G. Bosta of Mumbai
M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest wicket-taker in (U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16):	Satyajeet Bachhav of Maharashtra
NKP Salve Award (Highest scorer in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16):	Arman Jaffer of Mumbai
NKP Salve Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16):	Ninad Rathva of Baroda
Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest scorer in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16):	Abhishek Sharma of Punjab
Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16):	Abhishek Sharma of Punjab
Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Sr.) of 2015-16):	Mithali Raj of Railways
Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Jr.) of 2015-16):	Deepti Sharma of Uttar Pradesh
Best Umpire in Domestic cricket in 2015-16:	Nitin Menon

Best performance in BCCI Domestic tournaments of 2015-16:

Mumbai Cricket Association

64th National Film Award winner:

Feature Films Awards

Award	Awardee
Best Actor	Akshay Kumar (Rustom)
Best Actress	Surabhi Lakshmi (Minnaminungu)
Best Director	Rajesh Mapuskar (Ventilator)
Best Film on Social Issues	'Pink'
Best Supporting Actor	Manoj Joshi (Dashkriya)
Best Supporting Actress	Zaira Wasim (Dangal)
Best Debut Film of a Director	Deep Chaudari (Alifa)
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	'Sathamanam Bhavathi'
Best Stunt Choreography	Peter Hein (Pulimurugan)
Best Children's Film	'Dhanak' (Hindi)
Best Child Artist	Adhish Praveen (Kunju Daivam), Saj (Noor Islam), Manohara (Railway Children)
Best Male Playback Singer	Sundara Iyer (Joker)
Best Female Playback Singer	Iman Chakraborty (Praktan)
Best Screenplay (original)	Syam Pushkaran (Maheshinte Prathikaaram)
Best Screenplay (adapted)	Sanjay Krishnaji Patel (Dashakriya)
Best Editing	Rameshwar S. Bhagat (Ventilator)
Best Special Effect Award	'Shivaay'
Sound Designer	Jayadevan (Kaadu Pookkunna Neram)
Best Production Design	24
Best Costume Designer	Sachin (Cycle)
Best Environmental film including	The Tiger Who Crossed The Line

agriculture	
Best Make-up Artist	MK Ramakrishna
Best Music Direction	Babu Padmanabha (Allama)

Special Mention

Award	Awardee
Kadvi Hawa	(Hindi
Mukthi Bhavan	Hindi
Majirathi Keki	Assamese
Neerja	Sonam Kapoor

Best Feature Films in Regional Languages

Award	Awardee
Madipur	Tulu
Joker	Tamil
Wrong Side Raju	Gujarati
Pelli Choopulu	Telugu
Dashakriya	Marathi
Bisarjan	Bengali
Maheshinte Prathikaaram	Malayalam
K Sera Sera	Konkani
Reservation	Kannada
Neerja	Hindi