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**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

<b>NAME OF THE AWARD</b>	<b>AWARD WINNER</b>	<b>KEY POINTS TO NOTE</b>
PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award	Ahmed Naji	Ahmed Naji, an imprisoned Egyptian author and journalist
Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour	PM Narendra Modi	World leaders who have received the honour include Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, British PM David Cameron, Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.
Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award	Vishwanathan Anand	Maharashtra Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao presented the award in Mumbai
UK's prestigious Founders Award	Mother Teresa	
UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016	Khadija Ismayilova	He is an investigative journalist from Azerbaijan
Officer of the Legion of Honour (highest French civilian honour)	Ex-Army Chief Gen JJ Singh	Officier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur' is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic
prestigious Saraswati Samman 2015	Padma Sachdev	She is Jammu-born poet. This award for for her autobiography in Dogri language
Global Indian of the Year award	Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan	
Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for March	India's SSP Chawrasia,	
Laureus World Sports Awards 2016	Djokovic and Serena won Sportsman & Sportswoman of the Year	
The highest awards of Cyprus	Amitav Banerji	He is an Indian diplomat in the UK
George Grierson prize Hindi Sevi Samman awards'	Chinese professor Ge Fuping	

## CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – APRIL 2016

New York Festivals Medal	Miditech's <i>Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale</i>	Documentary film Got bronze medal at the New York Festivals World's Best Film & TV Awards in the Social Issues category.
Best actress award at Tribeca Fest	Radhika Apte	
FPAI Player of the Year	Mohun Bagan and Jeje Lalpekhlua	
International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award	IIT scholar K Ashok Kumar	He is a food engineering research scholar from IIT Kharagpur
International sand art championship	Sudarsan Pattnaik	He made sand art — "Mahatma Gandhi sculpture for non-violence and peace" — in the contest.
Mongolia confers highest civilian honour "North Star"	Lokesh Chandra and Mansura Haider	This honour given for their Mongolian studies

### PADMA VIBHUSHAN Award Winners

- Girija Devi
- V. K. Aatre
- Dhirubhai Ambani
- Ramoji Rao
- V Shanta
- Avinash Dixit
- Jagmohan
- Ravi Shankar
- Yamini Krishnamurthy
- Rajinikant

### Time released list of most influential people in India

<b>Dr. Raghuram Rajan,</b>	<b>RBI Governer</b>
<b>Sunita Narain,</b>	New Delhi-based environmentalist
<b>Sania Mirza</b>	Tennis player

## CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – APRIL 2016

<b>Priyanka Chopra</b>	Bollywood actress
<b>Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal.</b>	Founders of the e-commerce website Flipkart

### **Nandu Natekar – First non-cricketer to become a member of CCI's Legend Club**

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

## APPOINTMENTS

NAME OF THE PERSON	DEPARTMENT /POST
Rajiv Gauba	Secretary of Urban Development Ministry
Kallol Roy	CMD of Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam
Sharad Agarwal	Head of Lamborghini India Pvt Ltd
CP Gurnani	Chairman of Nasscom
Virat Kohli	Brand ambassador of Futsal league
Tran Dai Quang	9th President of Vietnam
PC Thakur	as Director General, Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards
Deepak Mishra	Additional Director General in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
Rahul Johri	First CEO of BCCI
Meeran Borwankar	Director General in the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D)
Susmita Pande	chairperson of National Monument Authority
Justice PK Mishra	Lokayukta, Goa
Salman Khan named	Indian contingent's Goodwill Ambassador for 2016 Rio Olympics
Bhupendra Kainthola	Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)
Durga Thakur	International Hockey Umpire
Lobsang Sangay	prime minister of Tibetan government-in-exile
Ban Ki-moon	UN University Council
Surender Kumar Bhagat	DG of Railways Protection Force

### **BANKING AND FINANCE**

#### **Nifty launches new index for mid and small cap stocks**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) added a new index to its broad market indices —**Nifty Mid Smallcap 400** — to represent the mid and small market capitalisation segments.

- The new index will comprise of 400 companies which are the constituents' of *Nifty Midcap 150* and *Nifty Smallcap 250 indices*.
- The Nifty MidSmallcap 400 is a well-representative index consisting of 150 midcap and 250 smallcap stocks across 18 sectors.
- The new index joins the family of restructured broad-based Nifty indices, which will facilitate introduction of investment products.
- IISL will initially publish value of the Nifty MidSmallcap 400 at end of the day's trade and subsequently disseminate it online along with existing indices.

#### **Banks adopt new rate formula**

**Consumer loans became cheaper** with banks moving to a new way of setting lending rates following RBI's diktat to ensure faster and effective transmission of its policy rate cuts to borrowers.

- A number of banks, including ICICI, Bank of India, IDBI today joined their peers like SBI, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank to make a shift to lending rates based on marginal cost of funds.
- Other banks that have adopted new methodology for calculating lending rates include Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce.
- Banking major SBI, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, among others would move to new methodology for setting lending rates from April 1.
- RBI had asked banks to **price fixed rate loans of up to three years** based on marginal cost of funds from April 1.

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

In a first for any domestic bank, small-sized lender **DCB Bank** has started an **Aadhaar-based ATM** usage facility wherein a customer can transact using his biometric details instead of the PIN.

- The user can key-in the **12-digit Aadhaar number** or swipe the card at an automated teller machine (ATM) to start a transaction, but at the stage of confirming the identity, it requires biometric details rather than the PIN.
- Seeding the bank account with the Aadhaar number will be essential before a customer can use the facility.
- The solution has been developed in-house and involves connecting up with the Aadhaar server to authenticate the identity of the customer every time a transaction is initiated.

### **RBI cuts repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.5%**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its key policy rate, the **repo rate** — the rate at which it lends to banks — by 25 basis points to a five-year low of **6.50 per cent** while indicating a further cut in the offing.

- **RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan** said that ensuring that current and past policy rate cuts transmit to lower lending rates was more important. What he implied was that despite the central bank lowering rates by 125 basis points since 2015, banks have reduced rates only by close to 60 basis points.
- The RBI appears keen to ensure that the benefits of a rate cut translates into lower borrowing costs for firms and individuals and also assess the prospects of the monsoon before committing to an aggressive cut in rates.
- Rajan also took a host of measures on the liquidity front, starting with the narrowing of the policy rate corridor to 0.50% from the earlier 1 percentage point, which resulted in the reverse repo rate – at which banks can park excess funds with the RBI – being reset at 6%.
- RBI also retained its GDP growth forecast at 7.6%, on the assumption of a normal monsoon and a boost to consumption through the implementation of the Seventh Pay panel recommendations.

### **Bharti Airtel get payments bank licence from RBI**

- **Airtel M Commerce Services Ltd (AMSL)**, a unit of **Bharti Airtel Ltd**, said it secured a payments bank licence. . Payments banks will offer basic savings, deposit, payment and remittance services to people without access to the formal banking system. **Bharti Airtel** will set up the payments bank in partnership with **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, which holds 19.9% stake in AMSL.
- **AMSL** was incorporated in April 2010. It is in the business of providing the service of semi-closed prepaid instrument and offers services under the ‘**Airtel Money**’ brand

name. Total revenue of AMSL in 2014-15 was Rs.121.4 crore, up from Rs.42.6 crore in the previous financial year, according to disclosures made by Kotak Mahindra in February when the purchase of stake in AMSL was concluded.

### **ICICI Bank open to investing in startups**

Country's largest private sector lender **ICICI Bank** has said it is open to investing in **instartups** in the financial technology space even though it has not earmarked a dedicated corpus for the investments.

- In September last year, its smaller rival, South-based **Federal Bank**, announced a dedicated Rs 25 crore fund to invest in startups.
- Since this January, when the government launched 'Startup India' initiative, a slew of lenders have announced plans for startups, even as the most successful startups have seen an erosion in valuations.
- The lenders' initiatives revolve around having dedicated branches and products with a focus on financial advisory for new-age entrepreneurs.

### **GOI renamed Department of Disinvestment as DIPAM**

The **Department of Disinvestment** has been renamed as **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management** or '**Dipam**', a decision aimed at proper management of Centre's investments in equity including its disinvestment in central public sector undertakings.

- The new department has been mandated to "advise the government in the matters of financial restructuring of central public sector enterprises and for attracting investment through capital markets.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced renaming of the Department of Disinvestment in his budget speech for 2016-17.
- The Dipam will work under Finance Ministry and it will deal with "all matters relating to management of central government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in central public sector undertakings.

### **RBL Bank became first private sector bank to open dedicated branch for Start-ups in India**

**RBL Bank** announced the launch of an exclusive branch for start-ups. RBL Bank will be the first private sector Bank to open a specialized branch for start-ups offering a bouquet of banking products to service the end-to-end needs of the emerging entrepreneurial eco-

system. The branch was inaugurated at **Koramangala, Bengaluru**, by **Nandan Nilekani**, noted entrepreneur and former chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India.

- The branch will assist entrepreneurs in setting up new companies or enterprises and offers a host of banking products including, foreign exchange services, remittances and cash management.
- The Branch will also provide a range of value added services including registration, legal and tax formalities etc. through its affiliates and partners.
- The bank is also focusing on industry-wise specialists in wholesale lending, e-commerce and new-tech business.

### India replaces China as top FDI destination in 2015: FDI Intelligence Report

- **India** has replaced **China** as top destination for **foreign direct investment** by attracting **\$63 billion** worth FDI projects in 2015. Also there was an 8 per cent increase in project numbers to 697. Major companies such as **Foxconn** and **SunEdison** have agreed to invest in projects valued at \$5 billion and \$4 billion, respectively, in India in 2015. Of the top 10 destination states for FDI in 2015, India claims five places, with the top place going to **Gujarat**, which attracted \$12.4 billion. **Maharashtra** has been one of the strongest performers across the years attracting \$8.3 billion, respectively, in 2015.
- The report said the **Make in India** campaign and the resultant boost in FDI has resulted in a whopping increase in FDI job creation from 1.16 lakh new jobs in 2013 to 2.25 lakh in 2015 – the highest number in the world. Investments in sectors that are not under the automatic route require **FIPB** approval. Currently 98 per cent FDI into India comes through automatic route.

### India may surpass China in attracting FDI: Nomura

According to **Nomura**, the trend of rising inflows to India and moderating inflows to **China** began in 2013 and **FDI** inflows to **India** can surpass those into China this year. According to the Japanese financial services firm, the trend of rising inflows to India and moderating inflows to China began in 2013 and FDI inflows to India can surpass those into China this year. FDI inflows to India are picking up. They rose from 1.7 per cent of GDP in 2014 to 2.1 per cent in 2015, narrowing the gap with China (2.3 per cent of GDP in 2015).

- These trends of rising inflows to India and moderating inflows to China are likely driven by a mix of pull and push factors, such as divergent growth outlooks, ongoing FDI liberalisation/economic reforms in India and rising labour costs in China.



- Rising FDI inflows not only provide a stable source of financing the current account deficit, they also bring in technical know-how, which can boost India's productivity growth in coming years.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### India expects \$500M AIIB loan for solar power projects in 2016

- India is hopeful of receiving the first loan issued by the newly formed **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** in the second half of the year.
- The country is looking for funds on lower interest rates for its ambitious solar power project that intends to scale the capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2022. The loan amount is expected to be approximately **\$500 million**.
- India needs **\$100 billion** for its ambitious solar power projects over next six to seven years India is the second biggest shareholder in the investment bank after China.

### India becomes fourth largest spender on defence

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

- According to IHS analysis, short-term pressures, caused by increases to military pay and the introduction of one rank, one pension (**OROP**) are the main reasons for the higher rate of growth in budget allocation to defence.

- The Indian defence budget is expected to reach \$64.8 billion by 2020 with procurement expenditure expected to grow faster than overall spending, according to IHS.

### **“Vidyut PRAVAH” App for common people to demand power**

Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy launched a mobile application ‘Vidyut PRAVAH- Electricity, Price Availability and Highlights’. The mobile application provides highlights of the power availability in the country on real time basis.

- The Web / Mobile App provides a wealth of information pertaining to the current demand met, shortages if any, surplus power available and the prices in the Power Exchange.
- The Web application can be accessed through [vidyutpravah.in](http://vidyutpravah.in). The mobile version will be freely available for download from the Playstore for both Android and iPhones

### **Union Government releases Indian Intellectual Property Panorama**

Union Government has released Indian Intellectual Property (IP) Panorama to increase awareness and build sensitivity towards IP in the SME sector, academia and researchers. The IP Panorama is a single window interface for information on IP and guidance on leveraging it for competitive advantage. It can be accessed at [IP Panorama](#).

- The Indian IP Panorama is a customized version of IP Panorama Multimedia toolkit developed by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA).
  - **Modules of the Indian IP Panorama**
    - (i) Importance of IP for SMEs
    - (ii) Trademark
    - (iii) Industrial design
    - (iv) Invention and Patent
    - (v) Patent Information.

### **Reliance Industries launches e-fashion portal Ajio**

**Reliance Industries Ltd**, the oil to yarn conglomerate launched its online **fashion portal Ajio.com** with the preview of its collection at the ongoing **Lakme Fashion**

week in Mumbai. Isha Ambani, director on the board of Reliance Retail, has been closely associated with the online fashion venture from its conceptualization.

### **Maharashtra first state to join National Cancer Grid**

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Tata Trusts chairman Ratan Tata signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for this collaboration at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai.

- On the lines of a similar grid developed in the United States, the Tata Trusts has established a national cancer grid that links all existing and proposed cancer care centres to create a uniform line of treatment for cancer patients across the country.
- Maharashtra is the country's first state to join the initiative.
- The CM said the target was to have 50,000 bone marrow donors in the next three years.

### **GOI launches 'Startup India' web portal and app**

The Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched a portal and a mobile application for Startup India initiative of the Union Government. The portal and mobile application will provide all the related information to start ups across the Ministries of the Government of India at one stop. It would also provide certificates and documents required by the Government for such startup digitally.

- The Hub will be operational from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM on working days and can be reached via the toll free number: 1800115565 or the email ID: dipp-startups@nic.in

### **Cigarette production halted over health warnings**

The Tobacco Institute of India (TII), a lobby group that represents 98% of India's cigarette industry, said in a statement that they have "unanimously decided to shut all their cigarette factories with effect from April 1 owing to ambiguity on the policy related to revision of Graphic Health Warnings on tobacco product packs."

### **India ranked 6th in top 10 largest manufacturers list: UN report**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization in its report has placed India at 6th among the world's top 10 largest manufacturing countries. India previously held the 9th rank. The Yearbook, published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), found that in India, the Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) grew by 7.6% in 2015 compared to the previous year.

### Government to halve Christian Couples' separation time

The government plans to amend a law to reduce the separation period for **Christian couples** seeking to file for divorce by mutual consent, a move which comes against the backdrop of a Supreme Court ruling and demands by the community.

- The separation period under **Hindu Marriage Act, Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act and the Special Marriage Act** is one year.
- Section 10A(1) of the Divorce Act, added through an amendment in 2001, says that a couple seeking divorce should be living separately for a period of “two years or more”.

### IIT Madras and IIM Bangalore top the list of best Indian universities

**IIT Madras** and **IIM Bangalore** have topped the list of top educational institutes unveiled by the **Ministry of Human Resource and Development**.

- The HRD ministry released first-of-its-kind **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**.
- According to the list, IIT Madras is the top engineering college followed by IIT Mumbai and IIT Kharagpur. IIM Bangalore is the top management college followed by IIM Ahmedabad at rank no. 2 and IIM Calcutta at rank no. 3.
- The Indian Institute of Science Bangalore is the best university in India.
- Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences is the top pharmacy institute in the country.

### Mehbooba Mufti sworn in as Jammu and Kashmir's First Woman CM

**Mehbooba Mufti**, president of the **People's Democratic Party**, took the oath as the first woman Chief Minister of **Jammu and Kashmir**. A leader with grassroots-level popularity, Mehbooba Mufti turned Peoples Democratic Party into a regional force and emerged from the shadow of her illustrious father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to head Jammu and Kashmir, the first woman Chief Minister of the state.

### World's first sanctuary for white tigers opens in MP

**Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the world's maiden '**White Tiger Safari**' at **Mukundpur** in Satna district in the state's Vindhya region where the feline was first discovered more than 100 years ago. The first of its kind safari has cost Rs. 50 crore and is spread over an area of 25 hectares.

### India's fastest train Gatimaan Express launched

India has launched its “fastest train” capable of running at a maximum speed of 160km (100 miles) an hour. **Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu** flagged off the **Gatimaan Express**, which connects Nizamuddin station in the capital, **Delhi**, with the northern town of Agra. The train covered the 200 km distance in 100 minutes. Until now, India's fastest train was the Rajdhani Express which could travel at a maximum speed of **130 km/hr**. The passengers will have options of different kinds of cuisine, free wifi and on-board entertainment.

### Snapdeal launches donation program ‘Sunshine’

**Snapdeal** has partnered with 9 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to launch **Snapdeal Sunshine**, a platform where users can make donations to causes under education, health, sports, women empowerment, disaster relief and old age care. These organisations include Magic Bus, Akshaya Patra, Care India, Teach For India and HelpAge India, which will list required products for ongoing projects.

### Union Cabinet's Approvals

- Union Cabinet gives nod to MoU between India and Sweden on Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector.
- Union Cabinet gives nod to Revised Policy on crude oil import for oil PSUs
- Union Cabinet gives nod to implementation of One Rank One Pension Scheme
- Union Cabinet approved to implement National Hydrology Project
- Union Cabinet approved Funding of exports to Iran through Export Development Fund of Exim Bank
- Cabinet approves recommendations of 14th Finance Commission on fiscal deficit targets and additional fiscal deficit to States during 2015-20.
- Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a MoU between India and Bhutan on technical cooperation in the field of capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Exchange Programmes with foreign countries
- Operationalisation of new Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Tirupati
- Expansion of India – Chile Preferential Trade Agreement

- MoU between the MSDE, NSDC and WOF of USA in the fields of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

### **ECoR becomes largest freight loading railway zone**

**East Coast Railway (ECoR)** has emerged as the largest freight loading railway zone of **Indian Railways** in 2015-16. ECoR loaded 173.49 million tonnes of freight compared to 161.91 million tonnes achieved in the corresponding period previous year and registered an increase of 7.1 per cent. On the earnings side, ECoR earned about Rs 15,978.28 crore which is 14.13 per cent more than the corresponding period of previous financial year. In coal loading, ECoR carried 79.4 rakes per day from its jurisdiction against 72.7 rakes per day in last fiscal.

### **PM Narendra Modi launches Stand up India scheme for SC/ST, women**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the ‘**Start Up India**’ initiative aimed at boosting entrepreneurship in India. **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** was also present at the event held in Noida. Through ‘Stand Up India’ initiative, we intend to turn job seekers into job creators, said Modi.

### **National Summit on Family Planning 2016 concluded in New Delhi**

**The National Summit on Family Planning** concluded in **New Delhi**. The summit was held for two days with the theme **New Choices, New Horizons**.

#### **Initiatives launched during the Summit**

- The new revamped logo for Family Planning media awareness campaign.
- A 360 degree **information, education and communication (IEC) plan** for enhanced awareness regarding various issues surrounding family planning in the country.
- The new packaging of contraceptive Nirodh.
- Techno-Managerial guidelines for injectable contraceptives.
- Mobile app for Mission Indradhanush.

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

- The **Nitish Kumar** government declared **Bihar** a dry State while imposing total prohibition on the sale and consumption of liquor, both country-made and **Indian-Made Foreign Liquor**, with immediate effect.

### Odisha Government launches Adarsh Vidyalaya Project

- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** launched the **Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV)** project at **Sasan Ambagaon** village in his home constituency **Hinjli** in **Ganjam** district. The aim of the project is to provide modern schools on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the underdeveloped rural pockets of the State.
- These schools will have teacher-pupil ratio of 1:25 and classroom-student ratio of 1:40. Around 50 per cent of total seats would be reserved for the scheduled categories and girls.

### Uma Bharti inaugurates Water Films Festival

- **The Water Film Festival**, a part of the India Water Week celebrations, was inaugurated by **Uma Bharti**, Union Minister for Water Resources, **River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation** in **New Delhi**.

### Establishment of First Horticulture University in Haryana

- Union Agriculture and farmers Welfare Minister, **Radha Mohan Singh** laid the Foundation stone of **Haryana State University of Horticultural Sciences** at **Karnal, Haryana**.  
This university is expected to help in improving productivity levels and to adopt appropriate crop diversification to suit the agro climatic conditions of the region

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

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

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

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted high-level committee to suggest ways to tighten security along India-Pakistan border. The committee will be headed by former Union Home Secretary **Madhukar Gupta**

### **SIR Features in the Thomson Reuters Top 50 Indian Innovator Companies**

- **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** features in the **Thomson Reuters top 50 Indian Innovator companies and research organizations** for the year 2015. The Top 50 Indian Innovators lead the country in innovation output.
- Maharashtra will be launching a mobile application and digital payment gateway by the end of the year to facilitate this. The initiative was announced by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis**.

### **Sajibu Cheiraoba festival celebrated in Manipur**

- The traditional festival of **Sajibu Cheiraoba** was celebrated in **Manipur** to mark the beginning of a new year with cultural gusto and religious fervor. The festival is mainly observed on the first lunar day of the lunar month Sajibu (March/April) by the Meiteis community, a majority ethnic group of Manipur. On this day, people arrange a joint family feast in which traditional cuisines are offered to local deities at the entrance gates of the houses.

### **Rajasthan becomes the first state to pass land title Bill**

- **Rajasthan** has become the first state to pass **land title bill**. State Assembly passed the **Rajasthan Urban Land (Certification of Titles) Bills 2016**. It means the state residents living in urban areas, which are governed by the municipalities or state development authorities, can seek a certificate of ownership of their lands by paying a nominal fee to the state government.

### **Govt activates Aadhaar based IT appeal e-filing**

**Income Tax department** has activated the **Aadhaar** and net banking-based e-filing verification system for taxpayers to file the first appeal before a tax officer, on similar lines of online ITR filing.

### **World bamboo conference: GOI to promote bamboo cultivation**

The **World Bamboo Conference** in Indore, **Madhya Pradesh**. The Government has planned to encourage bamboo cultivation in the country through various measures

### **India becomes the member of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network**

The Union Cabinet gave its nod for India adopting the statute of the **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)** which will help in checking cross border wildlife crimes.



### **PM Modi Ji to launch online agri-market platform on April 14**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch an online national agricultural products market platform that will integrate 585 wholesale markets across India

### **Gurgaon is now Gurugram**

The Manohar Lal Khattar-led Haryana government has renamed its largest city Gurgaon to “Gurugram“. The neighbouring Mewat district will now be known as “Nuh“.

### **Indo German Agreement on Namami Gange Signed**

Ganga Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange Programme was signed between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and German International Cooperation (GIZ) of Germany.

### **India and South Korea sign MoU for Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Development of Ports**

An MoU was signed by Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road, Transport and Highways and Shipping, Government of the Republic of India and Mr. Kim Young Suk, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Government of the Republic of Korea in Mumbai.

### **MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of Fisheries**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was apprised about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Bangladesh in September, 2011 on bilateral cooperation in the field of Fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities.

### **MoU between India and UAE on cooperation in preventing and combating of Human Trafficking**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of an MoU between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in preventing and combating of Human Trafficking.

### **India, US agree on 2 new ‘pathfinder’ projects**

India and the US have identified two new “pathfinder” projects under the Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI) for the joint production of a helmet-mounted digital display and a biological tactical detection system.

### **Maritime India Summit 2016 : India holds first-ever maritime summit**

Maritime India Summit (MIS) 2016 has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Summit is being organised from April 14-16, 2016 at Mumbai.

### **Nuclear-capable K-4 ballistic missile & Akash Missile System successfully test fired**

Nuclear capable undersea ballistic missile, code named K-4, was successfully test fired from an undisclosed location in the Bay of Bengal. The test was conducted nearly 45 nautical miles away from Vishakhapatnam coast in Andhra Pradesh.

### **Social boycott now a crime in Maharashtra**

The state legislature unanimously passed the **Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2016**. Under this Act, anyone found guilty of imposing any social boycott on an individual or a group of individuals can be imprisoned up to three years and can be fined Rs 1 lakh.

### **India ranks 44th in 2016 Global Connectivity Index**

**Huawei** has released its third **Global Connectivity Index** report during the **Global Analyst Summit 2016** in Shenzhen, China. The report sheds light on various global improvements in the field of connectivity.

### **ONGC took over Tapti gas field infrastructure to boost Daman gas Production**

**Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)** took over the infrastructure of abandoned **Tapti gas field** in western offshore from its joint venture partners **Reliance Industries** and **BG**. This transfer of assets in India is first of its kind.

### **PM Narendra Modi launches National Agriculture Market portal eNAM**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched India's first electronic trading portal to allow farmers to sell their goods across the country, in move aimed at improving livelihoods of struggling growers and boosting the rural economy.

### **PM Narendra Modi launches Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan**

Commemorating the 125th Birth Anniversary of **Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Gram Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyan**, from Dr

Ambedkar's birth place Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. It is a program that will last till 24th April 2016, which is Panchayati Raj day, with the aim of building social harmony.

### **'Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana' For Widows Launched**

**Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das** has launched the '**Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana**' for widows, the 125th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar.

### **Foreign Ministry suspends Mallya's diplomatic passport**

The External Affairs Ministry has suspended the validity of Mr. Mallya's diplomatic passport with immediate effect for four weeks, under Section 10 A of the Passports Act.

### **India joins G20 in fighting tax evasion, terror funding**

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has joined the G20 leadership in fighting money laundering, tax evasion and terror financing while calling upon tax havens to become transparent in this regard and share information

### **Google extends free internet service through WiFi to 10 railway stations**

Google has extended free internet service through WiFi to 10 railway stations as part of its tie up with Railtel, the internet provider arm of Indian Railways. The high speed wireless broadband service now covers stations in Pune, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Ranchi, Raipur, Vijayawada, Kacheguda (Hyderabad), Ernakulum Jn (Kochi) and Vishakhapatnam, providing internet to over 1.5 million people.

### **Wada revokes accreditation of Moscow lab**

The Moscow Anti doping Centre has had its accreditation revoked by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada). The revocation means the lab will continue to be prevented from carrying out the testing of doping control samples on behalf of Wada or any testing authority.

### **EU Parliament cleared joint system for sharing air passenger data to fight terror**

The **European Parliament** approved a joint system for **Police and Justice Officials** to access airline passenger data on all flights to and from the EU. The measure was passed by 461 votes to 179 against.

### **BRICS bank okays first loans, \$811 million for green energy**

The **New Development Bank** (NDB), formed by the **BRICS** group of emerging nations, has approved its first loans – **\$811 million** for renewable energy projects in **Brazil, China, India and South Africa**.

### **Japan earthquake: Rescue under way after 7.3 tremors**

On April 14 a weaker magnitude 6.5 earthquake in the same region of Kumamoto brought down buildings, killed nine people and injured about 800.

### **Indian Army Conducts Battle Exercise ‘Shatrujeet’ In Rajasthan**

With about 30,000 soldiers in action, the Indian Army is conducting a major Exercise SHATRUJEET by the elite STRIKE 1 in deserts of Rajasthan near to the border with Pakistan. The sole purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the capability of the Indian Army and fine tune its proactive war strategy to respond swiftly to any threat to nation’s security.

### **Delhi Government has banned sale of all forms of Chewable Tobacco for 1 year**

The Delhi Government has banned the sale, purchase and storage of all forms of chewable tobacco, including “gutkha, pan masala, khaini and zarda for one year. The Department of Food Safety issued a notification in this regard which says that unpackaged products of chewable tobacco, too, are covered under the ambit of the ban

### **Maneka Gandhi inaugurates Regional Conference of North Eastern States on Child Adoption**

The Minister of Women & Child Development, **Maneka Gandhi** will inaugurate tomorrow a major **One Day Regional Conference** with **North Eastern States** in **Shillong** on the issues relating to **Child Adoption**. The Ministers In-charge of Social Welfare and Women & Child Development in the North Eastern States of *Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura* will participate in the conference.

The conference has been organised with a view to:

- (i) Familiarise the stakeholders with the adoption programme in North Eastern States about the provisions relating to adoption under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

(ii) Orient them about the provisions of Adoption Guidelines – 2015 as well as the online adoption process through Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS).

### **GOI released Commemorative Coin and Circulation Coin on Tatya Tope**

The NDA Government has released a **Rs.200 commemorative coin** and a **Rs.10 circulation coin** on the occasion of the Martyrdom day of Tatya Tope, one of the outstanding Indian leaders of the 1857 revolt against the British. Union Minister of State for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mahesh Sharma issued the coins.

- Ramachandra Pandurang Tope (1814 – 18 April 1859) was one of its notable generals of the 1857 revolt.
- He is better known by his nickname Tatya Tope, which is also transliterated as Tantya Tope or Tantia Topi.

### **Maharashtra government banned digging of bore wells beyond 200 ft**

**Maharashtra** government has decided to restrict digging of **borewells** beyond **200 feet**. The action was taken to check the steep decline in ground water level in the state, which at present is facing recurring droughts and severe water crisis in Marathwada and Vidarbha region. The violators of the rule would face fine or/and imprisonment, as the action will be considered as a punishable offence.

### **India ranked 133rd in 2016 World Press Freedom Index**

- **India** ranks **133rd out of 180** countries listed in the **World Press Freedom Index 2016**, released by NGO **Reporters without Borders**. India jumped three places compared with last year's ranking. Published annually, the rankings are based on freedom allowed to journalists in countries around the world.
- The index has been topped by *Finland* followed by the *Netherlands*, *Norway*, *Denmark* and *New Zealand* at second, third, fourth and fifth position respectively. Pakistan was ranked 147th and China 176th.

### **World's first sanctuary for white tigers opens in MP**

**Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the world's maiden 'White Tiger Safari' at **Mukundpur** in Satna district in the state's Vindhya region where the feline was first discovered more than 100 years ago. The first of its kind safari has cost Rs. 50 crore and is spread over an area of 25 hectares.

### **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan Rechristened as Khelo India**

The government of India has merged **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan** (RGKA), launched by the previous UPA government, with the **Khelo India programme** for development of sports, thereby dropping former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's name from it. The move left the Congress fuming as this is not the first time that Rajiv Gandhi's name is being dropped from a scheme after the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power. The RGKA was launched by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in February 2014 to replace Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA).

### **Google most influential brand in India, Flipkart 7th**

According to the study by global research firm Ipsos, **Google** ranks on the top and is followed by **Facebook**, **Gmail**, **Microsoft** and **Samsung** in the top five — all of which are foreign brands. While another foreign brand WhatsApp is sixth on the India's top 10 most influential brands, **Flipkart** is the top ranked Indian brand at seventh place. The other two Indian brands on the list – **SBI** and **Airtel**– are ninth and tenth, US based Amazon is placed at number eight.

### **PM to launch Rs 8K cr scheme for free LPG connections to poor**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will on May 1 launch an ambitious **Rs 8,000 crore scheme** to provide **5 crore free LPG connections** to BPL families using the money saved from 1.13 crore cooking gas users voluntarily giving up their subsidies. Modi will launch the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** at **Ballia** in **Uttar Pradesh** on May 1 and do a repeat function at **Dahod** in **Gujarat** on May 15. Though 'Give-it-Up' campaign seeking the well-heeled to voluntarily surrender cooking gas subsidies for one year was launched in January, 2015, Modi on March 27 last year officially launched the programme.

### **Mahindra became first Indian company to join EP100 campaign**

Automobile giant **Mahindra & Mahindra** has become the first Indian company to join a global energy campaign led by an international non-profit group that will work with the world's most influential businesses in setting commitments to double their energy productivity. By signing up to 'EP100' campaign led by 'The Climate Group', the world's largest manufacturer of tractors has committed to doubling their energy productivity by 2030, a core requirement for any business signing on to the campaign..

### **Tata Trusts signs pact with Odisha for Malaria elimination**

**Tata Trusts** has signed a pact with the **Odisha government** to achieve elimination of **Malaria** from the state by 2030. As per the MoU, Tata Trusts will be taking mass screenings twice a year in 557 villages in five selected blocks including Bissamcuttack and Muniguda blocks of Rayagada district, Lanjigarh, Thuamulrampur blocks of Kalahandi district and Kotgarh block of Kandhamal district in southern Odisha.

### **GOI notifies new rules to revamp SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act**

The **Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry** has notified new rules to give effect amended **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was amended by Parliament in 2016.

The amendments made stronger provisions for the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from atrocities against them.

### **India's first online interactive heritage portal Sahapedia launched**

The **Government of India** has launched country's first online interactive heritage portal named **Sahapedia** in **New Delhi**. The web portal is a collaborative knowledge resource on the arts, culture and heritage of India.

- **Sahapedia** is a not-for-profit society headed by former **TCS chairman S. Ramadorai**, who currently helms the **National Skill Development Agency**.
- The major objective of the portal is to inform, educate and act on subjects such as knowledge traditions, visual and material arts, performing arts, literature and languages.

### **Operation Sulaimani to eradicate Poverty in Kozhikode District**

In an initiative to eradicate poverty from the district, the **Kozhikode** district administration is all set to implement a project named '**Operation Sulaimani**' to ensure food for the needy in its jurisdiction. Operation Sulaimani is being implemented in association with the state Hotel and Restaurants Association. Following the implementation of the project, the needy will get food free of cost.

### **Lok Sabha passed Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016**

The Lok Sabha has passed the **Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016**. The Bill seeks to establish a **Regional Centre for Biotechnology**, an institution of education, training and research, under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the **National Capital Region** and declare it to be an institution of national importance. The Regional Centre for Biotechnology will take up research and innovation and impart education and training in the new areas of Biotechnology at the interface of multiple disciplines of science creating a hub of technology expertise.

### **BPCL got environmental clearance for 694 crore rupees LPG project in WB**

**Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** has got green nod for its 694-crore rupees project at **Haldia Dock Complex** in **West Bengal**. This is the project of developing LPG import terminal as well as storage, bottling and bulk distribution facilities. The proposed project aims to boost supply and help achieve the government's target of making LPG available to each household by 2018. The domestic production of LPG is around 12.38 million metric tonne per annum (mmtpa) which is much lower than the estimated demand of 18.65 mmtpa in 2016.

### **Madhya Pradesh, ICMR and Sun Pharma joined hands for research in preventive health**

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and pharmaceutical major **Sun Pharma** have entered into a public-private partnership (PPP) to eradicate **malaria**.

- The partners will jointly set up management and technical committees to provide oversight for malaria surveillance and elimination.
- In its first phase, the project will be launched at **Mandla district** of Madhya Pradesh, covering 1,200 villages over three to five years.
- As part of this corporate social responsibility initiative, Sun Pharma will launch an independent not-for-profit foundation.

### **Buddhist Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

The **Ministry of Tourism** has launched the **Swadesh Darshan scheme** in the year 2014-15 with a vision to develop theme based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment



opportunities. The Ministry has identified **Buddhist Circuit** as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the **Swadesh Darshan** scheme.

### **New naval detachment launched at Lakshadweep's Androth Island**

A new naval detachment was inaugurated at the **Androth Island of Lakshadweep** that will help India have better surveillance and reach in the Arabian Sea.

- The naval detachment was inaugurated by **Vice Admiral Girish Luthra**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command.
- The setting up of a naval detachment will extend India's naval presence at Androth Island, provide communication network connectivity with the mainland, enable monitoring of Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOC) and function as an observance and reporting organisation, besides helping in radar surveillance.

### **Cabinet Approvals**

- i) MoU between Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and the Insurance Authority, UAE
- ii) Installation of Solar Power Plant of 200 MW or more Capacity at the Central State Farm at Jetsar, Rajasthan
- iii) Government decides to allow States to impose and enforce stock limits to check the price rise in sugar
- iv) Cabinet approves MoU between India and Papua New Guinea on cooperation in the field of health area and medical science.
- v) Enhancement of Investment by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in Bharat Oman Refineries Limited

### **MoU Between Railways and ISRO**

Railways have recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for developing applications in the field of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System. The aims and objectives of the MoU is to develop applications and services in tune with the requirements of Indian Railways such as:-

- i) Develop an advance warning system at Unmanned Railway Crossings for road users.
- ii) Mapping of Indian Railway assets through Geospatial technology.

- iii) Develop paperless unreserved ticketing solution based on geo-fencing of station area.

### **Tourism Ministry launched NOAPS web portal of National Monuments Authority**

**Union Tourism Ministry** has launched **NOC Online Application and Processing System or NOAPS Web Portal of National Monuments Authority**. The Portal was developed through the technology and expertise of **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**, who are in the process of mapping of 3686 ASI protected monuments and sites.

- One of the tasks mandated to NMA is to consider the impact of large scale development projects, including public projects proposed in the regulated area; to make recommendations to the Competent Authority for grant of NOC for construction of residential/commercial building in the regulated area of Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites.

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

The **Heart of Asia (HoA) conference** began on 26 April 2016 in **New Delhi**. The conference was attended by officials of a number of countries including Pakistan Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry. Earlier, Pakistan hosted the fifth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Islamabad on 9 December 2015.

- The key elements of HoA process have been to devise a sustained, incremental approach to implementation of the confidence building measures (CBM) in Afghanistan.
- It will also seek to speed up reconstruction in Afghanistan with a focus on enhancing investment and connectivity to the country.
- Energy, infrastructure and investment deals to shore up economic growth of Afghanistan may figure in the talks.

### **Shyam Benegal panel submitted report on Censor Board functioning**

The **Shyam Benegal-headed committee** constituted by the **Information and Broadcasting ministry** to look holistically into the functioning of the censor board submitted its report to I&B minister **Arun Jaitley**. The panel was set up on January 1 to take a relook at the functioning of the controversy-ridden board, headed by Pahlaj Nihalani.

### **GOI constitutes Ashok Dalwai committee for doubling farmers' income by 2022**

The central government has set up a panel to suggest ways to **double farm incomes by 2022**, as promised by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. The task of the inter-ministerial committee will prepare a blueprint to transition farm policies from being production oriented to based on incomes or value addition. The committee will look into ways to examine the potential of Indian agriculture and where investments are required, and will identify segments with potential for growth.

### **'Panic Button and GPS in Mobile Phone Handsets Rules 2016' notified**

The **Department of Telecommunications** has notified the **"Panic Button and Global Positioning System in Mobile Phone Handsets Rules 2016"**. The Ministry of Women and Child Development had taken up the issue of installation of a physical panic button on mobile phones as one of the initiatives in June 2014.

It was observed that in order to provide safety to women in distress situation, it is important to enable them to send out distress signal to a family member or the police authorities so that they can be rescued.

### **Lok Sabha passed the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2016**

The Lok Sabha has passed the **Sikh Gurdwara (Amendment) Bill, 2016**. With this, the Bill — already having been passed by Rajya Sabha — has been approved by Parliament and now awaits the President's sanction.

#### **Here key facts on the bill:**

- The amendment brings the inclusion of **Sahjdhari Sikhs** to vote in the elections to the **Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC)**
- Sahjdhari Sikhs are the people from the Sikh religion who cut/trim their beard or hair
- Sahjdhari Sikhs were not allowed to vote in the SGPC since 1944

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

- The **Election Commission** has launched an innovative mobile application with comprehensive details about the coming May 16 assembly polls in Kerala. Titled **e-voter**, the app is envisaged for voters' facilitation for search in electoral roll, location of polling station, information regarding candidates, affidavit filed by them, filing of complaint and so on.

- The app, developed by the state **IT Mission**, is aimed at ensuring great transparency and conduct of free and fair elections. The ‘**know your candidate**’ option in the app would provide constituency wise details of candidates, while ‘**constituency list**’ option would give segment wise details of voters (number of male voters, female voters and total number of voters) and total polling stations.

### India ‘corruption’ building to be razed

- The top court in **Mumbai** has ordered the demolition of an apartment building that has been at the centre of a corruption scandal. It said the **Adarsh Society** building had become a “symbol of political corruption”. The **31-storey** building was originally planned as a **six-storey housing project** for war widows. But flats were sold to politicians and military officers, allegedly at prices far below the market rate.
- The building, in an exclusive part of central Mumbai, also exceeds the maximum height for buildings near the coast.

### India asks UK to deport Vijay Mallya

- The Indian government has asked the UK to deport **Vijay Mallya**, the former head of **Kingfisher Airlines**, as part of an investigation into money laundering. The businessman, who is said to have debts of about \$1bn, left India in March and is believed to be in the UK. Recently authorities in India revoked his diplomatic passport after a court issued a warrant for his arrest. Mr Mallya, who is a member of the Indian parliament, has denied any wrongdoing.

### RS passed Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016

- **Rajya Sabha** has passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016** to include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Castes (SC) from 4 states. The bill seeks to amend Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to include certain communities from **Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala and West Bengal** in the list. It also carries provisions for exclusion of certain communities from Odisha and removal of area restriction in respect of certain communities.
- With this, both the houses of parliament passed the bill. **Lok Sabha passed the bill** on 15 March 2016 after it was introduced by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot.

### **Gujarat Govt announced 10% reservation for EBCs in general category**

- **Gujarat** government has announced 10% reservation for **economically backward classes** (EBCs) in general category. EBCs in the upper castes, include Patidars, with a family income cap of 6 lakh rupees a year that is 50000 rupees per month can avail the benefit.
- This decision will breach the Supreme Court set reservation limit of 50 percent as the government is already providing 50 percent reservation to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. But, **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** led government of Gujarat is serious on the issue and declared that it would fight it out legally.

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **US, Saudi Arabia impose joint sanction on fundraising for terrorists**

The US and Saudi Arabia on imposed sanctions jointly on four individuals and two organisations, aiming to disrupt terrorism fundraising operations in South Asia and the Middle East. The joint action targeted James Alexander McLintock and his Pakistan-based Al-Rahmah Welfare Organisation, Abdul Aziz Nuristani and his Pakistan-based Jamia Asariya Madrassa.

### **Nuclear Security Summit 2016 : Points to Note**

Nuclear Security Summit 2016 took place in Washington DC on April 1st, 2016. Leaders include Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, French President François Hollande, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, Argentine President Mauricio Macri, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye attended the Summit.

- World Leaders underline the importance of the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment and the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts

of Nuclear Terrorism and will continue to work toward their universalization and full implementation.

- Reaffirm the commitment to our shared goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

### **Greece passes asylum law needed for EU-Turkey migrants deal**

- **Greek** lawmakers have passed an **asylum amendment bill** needed for the implementation of a **European Union agreement** with **Turkey** for the return of refugees and migrants from Greek islands to Turkey. The deal aims to end the uncontrolled influx of refugees and other migrants after more than one million people crossed into Europe last year.
- Both Greece and Turkey had to amend their legislation to permit the start of the scheme – denounced by the U.N. refugee agency and rights groups for lacking legal safeguards – to send back all migrants who reached Greece after March 20.

### **Vietnam Police Chief Tran Dai Quang sworn in as 9th President**

- **Tran Dai Quang**, Minister of Public Security, sworn in as the 9th President of **Vietnam**. Among the 481 valid votes, 452 out of the total 494 members of the unicameral house, elected Quang, as the president. A resolution approving Quang's presidency was also backed 93.12 per cent of the NA deputies at the plenary session. **Truong Tan Sang** was the 8th President of Vietnam

### **World's first public dengue vaccination programme launched in Philippines**

- The world's first public **dengue vaccination programme** was launched in the **Philippines** as nurses began injecting the first batch of a million children with a French drug to combat the sometimes deadly disease.

### **Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson named as new PM of Iceland**

- **Iceland's** government named a new prime minister and called for early elections in the autumn, a day after Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson quit to become the first global politician brought down by the "**Panama Papers**" leaks.

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### **Armenia and Azerbaijan declare ceasefire**

- **Azerbaijan** and **Armenian** separatists in the breakaway region of **Nagorno-Karabakh** have said they are halting hostilities after four days of intense fighting between them, which had prompted warnings the conflict could spiral into all-out war.
- The ceasefire announcement came as several European countries urged an end to the fighting, worried that an escalation could cause instability in a region that serves as a corridor for pipelines taking oil and gas to world markets.
- The fighting has been the bloodiest in years, and has claimed at least 64 lives in total since it erupted.

### **China offers Sri Lanka 500 Million Yuan**

- **China** has offered **Sri Lanka** 500 million Yuan to provide assistance to improve investment zones and speed up the industrialization process in the country.
- China's **Prime Minister Li Keqiang** made this offer during bilateral discussions with the visiting Sri Lankan Prime Minister **Ranil Wickremesinghe** in **Beijing**.

### **Saudi Arabia and Egypt to build bridge over the Red Sea**

- **Saudi Arabia's** king has announced that a bridge linking the country to **Egypt** will be built over the **Red Sea**. **King Salman** said that the bridge would boost commerce between the two allies.
- A Red Sea bridge linking the two countries has been proposed several times before but has failed to become a reality.

### **WTO cuts 2016 global trade forecast to 2.8%**

- **The World Trade Organization** has revised its **2016 global trade forecast** downward by more than **one percentage point**, warning that a slowdown in **China** and broad market volatility continued to threaten growth.
- In September, the WTO estimated that global trade would rise by **3.9 per cent** this year, but lowered that projection to **2.8 per cent**, in an updated forecast



### World Bank launches ambitious Climate Change Action Plan

- The **World Bank** has unveiled an ambitious **climate action plan** that will help developing countries add 30 gigawatts of **renewable energy**, bring early warning systems to a hundred million people and develop climate-smart agriculture investment plans for at least 40 nations.
- **International Finance Corporation**, a member of the **World Bank Group**, aims to expand its climate investments from the current \$2.2 billion a year to a goal of \$3.5 billion a year, and leverage an additional \$13 billion a year in private sector financing by 2020.

### Pakistan successfully test-fires anti-ship Zarb missile

- **Pakistan Navy** has successfully test-fired shore-based anti-ship missile ‘**Zarb**’, bolstering its defence mechanism. The missile was launched from a coastal site and successfully hit the surface target in the Arabian Sea. **Naval chief Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah** said the launch of new missile system was part of Pakistan Navy’s continuous effort to enhance its capabilities.

### Polio can be eradicated in 12 months: WHO

- Despite challenges in **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan**, where the **polio virus** is still endemic, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** is confident that polio could be eradicated within 12 months. If wiped out, the polio virus will become the only second human-hosted virus to be eradicated since smallpox ended in 1980.

### G7 Hiroshima Declaration calls for world without nuclear weapons

- Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized countries at a meeting in Japan have called for a world without nukes. US Secretary of State **John Kerry** and G7 foreign ministers called for a “world without nuclear weapons”, citing North Korea’s sabre-rattling as a key challenge to achieving that goal. The top diplomats cited deteriorating security conditions in Syria, Ukraine and particularly the Korean Peninsula as key challenges to achieving the goal.

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

- South Pacific island nation **Nauru** has become the 189th member of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank**. Nauru applied for membership in the Washington-based IMF and World Bank in April 2014, after joining the United Nations in 1996 as the world’s smallest independent republic.

### MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga appointed as member of US cybersecurity body

- **The White House** released a list of names that **US President Barack Obama** has appointed to the new Commission on Enhancing **National Cyber security** panel. The panel was formed earlier this year as part of Obama's \$19bn (£13bn) proposal to boost the US government's cyber security system.

### Pepsi-Cola sign got historic landmark designation in New York

- An immense Pepsi-Cola sign on the banks of New York's East River has been declared a historic landmark after 25 years of discussion. The red neon sign was built in 1936 and installed atop a Pepsi bottling plant in an industrial area bordering the East River in Long Island City.
- The 60 feet high and 120 feet long, its steel and porcelain letters and giant Pepsi bottle have long been part of the view from the East Side of Manhattan. The sign was restored in 1993 after being damaged in a winter storm.

### Bronze bust of Aryabhata unveiled at UNESCO Headquarters

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development **Smriti Irani** unveiled a bronze bust of the ancient Indian mathematician-astronomer **Aryabhata**, which is a gift from India, at **UNESCO Headquarters** in **Paris**. Smriti Irani was attending the high-level segment of the '**International Conference on the Zero**'.

### Wada revokes accreditation of Moscow lab

- The Moscow Anti-doping Centre has had its accreditation revoked by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada). The revocation means the lab will continue to be prevented from carrying out the testing of doping control samples on behalf of Wada or any testing authority.

### EU Parliament cleared joint system for sharing air passenger data to fight terror

- The **European Parliament** approved a joint system for **Police and Justice Officials** to access airline passenger data on all flights to and from the EU. The measure was passed by 461 votes to 179 against.
- Counter-terrorism officials have lobbied for years for the introduction of Passenger Name Records (PNR), arguing that sharing data will help them trace suspicious itineraries. EU countries will have two years to turn it into national law

### **BRICS bank Offered first loans, \$811 million for green energy**

- The **New Development Bank (NDB)**, formed by the **BRICS** group of emerging nations, has approved its first loans – **\$811 million** for renewable energy projects in **Brazil, China, India and South Africa**.
- The BRICS bank, with authorised capital of \$100 billion, started work last year on funding initiatives for infrastructure projects in emerging markets and in its initial foray has lent \$300 million to Brazil, \$81 million to China, \$250 million to India and \$180 million to South Africa.

### **Japan earthquake: Rescue under way after 7.3 tremors**

- On April 14 2016 a weaker magnitude 6.5 earthquake in the same region of Kumamoto brought down buildings, killed nine people and injured about 800. More than 100 aftershocks followed until the ultimately bigger quake on Saturday morning that led to the earlier, smaller event being reclassified as a foreshock.

### **India, Afghanistan and Iran finalize draft of Chabahar Trilateral Agreement**

- The second technical meeting on Chabahar Transit and Transport Agreement was held in India and provided the draft for the tripartite agreement among **Iran, India and Afghanistan**. This was a very tight matter for Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** diplomacy as it involved two rival Islamic nations, both rich in energy resources.
- Aiming to form international transport and transit corridors among the **Republic of India, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran**, the second technical meeting on Chabahar Transit and Transport Agreement dealt with incomplete issues of the first meeting held in **Tehran** in September 2015

### **US court slaps 940 million dollars fine on two Tata group companies**

- A Wisconsin federal jury has slapped a \$940 million penalty, including \$700 million in punitive damages, on **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** for allegedly stealing healthcare software from an American company, **Epic Systems**. The verdict is one of the most adverse handed down to an Indian company abroad. The software giant said it would appeal against it, as it can within 30 days of the trial judgment under US law.

### **A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake in Ecuador**

- A major earthquake hit Ecuador's central coast, killing at least 77 people as it buckled homes and knocked out power in a city hundreds of miles away. Northwestern coastal areas nearest the quake were worst affected, including Pedernales, a tourist spot with beaches and palm trees, and nearby Cojimies. Information was scant from there due to poor communications and transport chaos.

### **The 13th Islamic Summit Conference concluded in Istanbul**

- The 13th session of the **Islamic Summit Conference** was concluded in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The Islamic Summit, which commenced on 10 April 2016, was held under the theme **Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace**. It also discussed the current situation in *Syria, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan, Somalia, Mali, Jammu and Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Armenia's aggressions on Azerbaijan*, as well as other Member States afflicted by conflicts and unstable security situations.

### **World Bank Group to Invest \$2.5 Billion in Education Projects Benefiting Adolescent Girls**

- **World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim** has announced that the World Bank Group would invest \$2.5 billion over 5 years in education projects that directly benefit adolescent girls, whose empowerment is central to the Bank Group's development efforts.
- The announcement, made at the **Let Girls Learn** event during the World Bank Group-IMF Spring Meetings, was followed by a call to action from the **First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama**, urging key policymakers and influencers from around the world to commit to urgent action in support of adolescent girls.

### **TCS in UK's Times Top 50 employers for women list**

- India's largest IT services firm **TCS** has been recognised as one of the UK's leading employers for women in a list published by **The Times**. **Tata Consultancy Services(TCS)** had a formal Diversity & Inclusion corporate function since 2010 designed to provide strategic guidance and support for diversity programmes across the globe. TCS employs over 1,00,000 women globally, a third of its total workforce.

- The Times Top 50 Employers for Women recognizes organisations that are spearheading gender equality in the workplace and making a conscious effort to even out the playing field for men and women. TCS' rank in The Times Top 50 is recognition of its continued drive to make gender equality a central part of its business strategy.

### **Xi Jinping is 'commander in chief' of China's military**

- **China's President Xi Jinping** has taken on a new military title, in his latest move to exert greater control over the armed forces. Mr Xi is now commander in chief of the military's **Joint Operations Command Centre**. China's foreign policy has become increasingly assertive in recent years, especially on its claims to disputed territories in the South China Sea. Mr Xi is already General Secretary of the Communist Party, and chair of the Central Military Commission, which manages the People's Liberation Army.
- Since taking office, Xi has sought to increase his authority over the People's Liberation Army, which is technically the armed force of the Communist party rather than the Chinese state.

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

- **Europe** has become the world's first region to wipe out malaria, with zero cases reported last year. The number of indigenous malaria cases dropped to zero in 2015 from 90,712 in 1995, and the last cases were reported in Tajikistan in 2014. Ahead of **World Malaria Day 2016**, WHO announces that the European Region hit its 2015 target to wipe out malaria, thus contributing to the global goal to "End malaria for good".
- **The 2005 Tashkent Declaration** "The Move from Malaria Control to Elimination", endorsed by malaria-affected countries in the Region, was a turning-point in achieving a malaria-free Europe. The Declaration led the way to the new Regional Strategy 2006–2015, which guided affected European countries to reduce the number of indigenous malaria cases to zero.

### **UN, IMF, World Bank and OECD formed Platform for Collaboration on Tax**

- **Four international organizations** have joined hands to form the **Platform for collaboration in Tax Matters**. The Platform has been created as their step to boost

global cooperation in tax matters. **The International Monetary Fund, World Bank, United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, announced a joint platform for collaboration on tax issues, a beginning step to design and implement international standards.

- The announcement regarding this was made just within two weeks after the release of the “**Panama Papers**” that stirred outrage at the widespread use of tax haven countries and shell companies by wealthy global elites and corporations to hide assets and avoid paying taxes.

### **Idriss Deby elected as Chadian President for the fifth time**

Chad’s President **Idriss Deby** has been re-elected for a fifth term in office in a landslide first-round victory. Mr. Déby earned 61.5 percent of the votes cast on Election Day. The announcement came one day after a visit by Samantha Power, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, and by top American military officials that highlighted Chad’s prominence in the fight against Islamic extremist groups like **Boko Haram**.

### **WADA suspends Beijing anti-doping lab**

The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** has suspended the accreditation of **Beijing’s National Anti-Doping laboratory**, weeks after launching a probe into drugs allegations in Chinese swimming. The laboratory, suspended for a maximum of four months, has 21 days to appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

### **Anti-slavery activist Harriet Tubman to replace Jackson on \$20 bill**

Anti-slavery crusader **Harriet Tubman** will become the first African-American on the face of **US paper currency**, and the first woman in more than a century, when she replaces former President Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill. The US Treasury Department said that Tubman, who was born into slavery in the early 1820s and went on to help hundreds of slaves escape, would take the center spot on the bill, while Jackson, a slave owner, would move to the back.

### **Solar Impulse lands in California after Pacific crossing**

The solar-powered aeroplane **Solar Impulse** has landed in **Silicon Valley, California**, after a three-day flight over the Pacific Ocean from **Hawaii**. High winds delayed the landing at Moffett Airfield, Mountain View, as pilot **Bertrand Piccard** flew in a holding pattern off the coast. Piccard and fellow Swiss pilot **Andre Borschberg** have been taking turns flying the plane on an around-the-world trip since taking off from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United

Arab Emirates, in March 2015. It made stops in Oman, Myanmar, China, Japan and Hawaii. The trans-Pacific leg was the riskiest part of the plane's global travels because of the lack of emergency landing sites.

### **China, Pakistan ink agreement to launch satellite to monitor CPEC projects**

China and Pakistan have signed an agreement for the launch of a special satellite to monitor the development of the multi-billion dollars **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** projects. Pakistan and China are working closely and wholeheartedly to implement the CPEC projects in the speediest manner. In this regard, both countries have decided for development and launch of the **Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1) System** and launch a satellite in June 2018. The first phase of multibillion dollars CPEC framework will be completed by 2018. The production of 10,000MW under this important initiative will also help overcome the energy crisis by 2018.

### **India ratified Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO**

**India** has formally ratified the **World Trade Organization's (WTO)** trade facilitation agreement, which aims at easing customs procedures to boost commerce. Commerce and industry minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said the move would supplement India's ongoing reforms to bring in simplification and enhanced transparency in cross-border trade in goods. India's WTO ambassador **Anjali Prasad** has handed over the instrument of acceptance to WTO director-general **Roberto Azevêdo**.

### **India, France launch \$1 Trillion Potential Solar Programme**

**India** and **France** have launched a programme with **\$1 trillion potential** to help developing countries harness fully their solar resources for a clean energy. **Power Minister Piyush Goyal** and French Environment Minister **Segolene Royal** announced that the solar finance programme that aims to lower the cost of finance and facilitate the flow of more than \$1 trillion investment to members of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.

Ministers and Representatives from over 25 countries, including *Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Namibia, Uganda, Nigeria, Peru, Djibouti, Surinam, Zambia, Bolivia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Mali, India, USA and France* participated in the ISA event.

### **Former Finance Minister Clement Mouamba appointed as PM of Congo**

**Mouamba Clement**, the former Congolese Finance Minister, has been appointed as the **Prime Minister of Congo**. He was appointed to the post by Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso. Clement will be responsible for forming a government in consultation with the president in accordance with the 25 October 2015 constitution.

### **Saudi Arabia unveiled Vision 2030 cutting reliance on oil**

The **Cabinet of Saudi Arabia kingdom** has approved the **Vision 2030**, a broad-based economic reform plan. The Vision charts out the roadmap for diversifying the Saudi economy in next 14 years and to ensure that Saudi Arabia can live without oil by 2020.

### **India may surpass China in attracting FDI**

India may surpass China this year in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), as the gap in inflows between the two has been narrowing with the reforms being implemented by India, according to Japanese financial services firm Nomura.

The trend of rising inflows to India and moderating inflows to China are likely driven by a mix of pull and push factors like divergent growth outlooks, ongoing FDI liberalisation and economic reforms in India, compared to rising labour costs in China, the report added.

### **Russia launches first rocket from new Vostochny Cosmodrome**

**Russia** has launched the first rocket from its new **Vostochny cosmodrome**. The unmanned rocket is carrying three satellites. The new space port was built to reduce dependency on the Baikonur launch site in **Kazakhstan**. An unmanned **Soyuz-2.1A rocket**, carrying three satellites, roared into a clear blue sky from the launchpad at Vostochny cosmodrome in the remote Amur Region near China's border.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

### **Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)**

INS *Karmuk*, an indigenously built Missile Corvette based at the Andaman and Nicobar Command, along with a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, are participating in the 22nd **Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)**, scheduled from 19-27 Apr 16 in the Andaman Sea.



Maritime interaction between **India** and **Thailand** has been growing steadily with frequent port visits, participation in multilateral exercises and training exchanges. Under the broad ambit of this strong maritime relationship, the two navies have been carrying out CORPATs along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2005, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.

### **India, Lanka sign MoU to supply 150 boats to Mullaitivu fishermen**

**India** and **Sri Lanka** have signed an MOU to supply 150 boats and fishing equipment to the fishermen of **Mullaitivu**. Indian High Commissioner Y.K. Sinha and Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development W.M.M.R. Adikari signed the MoU in the presence of Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Mahinda Amaraweera at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development.

### **PM Modi discusses bilateral links with Justin Trudeau**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** met his Canadian counterpart **Justin Trudeau** and discussed bilateral ties, their first meeting after the latter swept to power last year. Modi and Trudeau met here on the sidelines of the **Nuclear Security Summit**.

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

**India** and **Saudi Arabia** have vowed to substantially boost investments and their trade ties as **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** invited cash-rich Saudi firms to invest in infrastructure and form joint ventures for oil exploration. Saudi Oil giant **Aramco**, the world's largest oil firm with crude reserves of about 265 billion barrels, plans to make major investment in India's petroleum sector as it considers India the most preferred destination to invest at a time when the global economy is in a crisis.

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

Union Minister of Human Resource Development **Smriti Irani** unveiled a bronze bust of the ancient Indian mathematician-astronomer **Aryabhata**, which is a gift from India, at **UNESCO Headquarters** in **Paris**. Smriti Irani was attending the high-level segment of the '**International Conference on the Zero**'. The event was held at UNESCO headquarters to celebrate the rich and remarkable history of mathematics in collaboration with India.

### **North East-ASEAN Business Summit kicks off in Imphal**

The first-ever **North East-ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) **Business Summit** kicked off in **Imphal**, Manipur with the focus on road connectivity, trade and tourism.

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

**India** and **Maldives** have signed six agreements in different sectors including avoidance of double taxation, conservation and restoration of ancient mosque, tourism and defence.

The agreements were signed after comprehensive talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Maldives President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom.

The two sides inked a pact for avoidance of double taxation of income derived from International Air Transport. The agreement seeks to avoid double taxation of income derived from international air transport. Both sides signed an agreement for the exchange of information with respect to taxes.

### **India, US agree for logistics exchange to enhance military cooperation**

**India** and the **US** have agreed “in principle” to a logistics exchange agreement to enable both militaries to use each other’s assets and bases for repair and replenishment of supplies, an issue which did not find favour with the previous UPA government. Ramping up bilateral defence ties, both sides agreed to set up a new bilateral Maritime Security Dialogue between officials from their respective defence and foreign affairs ministries.

### **Indo German Agreement on Namami Gange Signed**

An Implementation Agreement for Ganga Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange Programme was signed between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and German International Cooperation (GIZ) of Germany. The objective of the agreement is to enable responsible stakeholders at National and State level to apply integrated river basin management approach for the rejuvenation of the river Ganga. This will be based on Indo-German Knowledge exchange and practical experience on strategic river basin management issues, effective data management system and public engagement.

### **India and South Korea sign MoU for Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Development of Ports**

An MoU was signed by Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road, Transport and Highways and Shipping, Government of the Republic of India and Mr. Kim Young Suk, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Government of the Republic of Korea in Mumbai. The South Korean delegation led by Minister Kim is in Mumbai to participate in the Maritime India Summit, 2016 (MIS, 2016). This MoU is for cooperation and mutual assistance between India and Republic of Korea in port related matters. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Shipping for signing of this MoU on 06.04.2016.

### **MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of Fisheries**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was apprised about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Bangladesh in September, 2011 on bilateral cooperation in the field of Fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities. The MoU has strengthened the friendly relations between India and Bangladesh and promote development of cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture and allied sectors through mutually agreed activities and procedures.

### **MoU between India and UAE on cooperation in preventing and combating of Human Trafficking**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of an MoU between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in preventing and combating of Human Trafficking. The MoU will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and increase the bilateral cooperation on the issues of prevention, rescue, recovery and repatriation related to human trafficking especially women and children expeditiously.

### **India, US agree on 2 new ‘pathfinder’ projects**

India and the US have identified two new “pathfinder” projects under the **Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI)** for the joint production of a helmet-mounted digital display and a biological tactical detection system. The Americans also formally pitched two proposals for the manufacture of fighter jets under the ‘**Make in India**’ initiative. Visiting **US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter** and his Indian counterpart Manohar Parrikar also welcomed the finalisation of four government-to-government project agreements in the

area of science and technology cooperation — Atmospheric Sciences for High Energy Lasers, Cognitive Tools for Target Detection, Small Intelligent Unmanned Aerial Systems, and Blast and Blunt Traumatic Brain Injury

### **GOI imposes anti-dumping duty on N-Butyl Alcohol**

The government of India has imposed an **anti-dumping duty** of up to \$149 on imports of a chemical used in fermentation of sugar from five countries, including the European Union, Malaysia, Singapore and the U.S. An anti-dumping duty of \$46.27 a tonne was imposed on imports from the EU while the same from Singapore and South Africa was put at \$35.66 and \$13.24, respectively

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

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

### **ICMR and National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan sign Letter of Intent**

**Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and Department of Bacteriology, **National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID)** of Japan signed a Letter of Intent on the sidelines of the meeting of the **Health Ministers from WHO South East Asia Region and Western Pacific Region countries** at **Tokyo**, in the presence of **JP Nadda**, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare.

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

**India** has signed an MoU with **Mauritius** on cooperation in the field of **traditional system of medicine** and **Homoeopathy**. The MoU was signed during the recent visit of Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Health & Family Welfare, **Shripad Yesso Naik** to Mauritius. It also aims at promotion and popularization of the various Indian traditional systems which fall under AYUSH.

### **India, China agree for peaceful negotiations to settle border issue**

**India** and **China** have agreed to adhere to “**peaceful negotiations**” to settle the vexed border issue and reach a “fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution”. The decision was taken during the annual 19th round of boundary talks here between **National Security Advisor Ajit**

**Doval** and his **Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi** to discuss the way forward to resolve the dispute which has bedevilled the relations between the two countries.

### **Nomadic Elephant – Indo-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise**

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, which will culminate on May 8, aims to develop synergy and inter operability between the armies to battle in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment under the UN mandate.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Scientists reveal Zika structure for first time**

Researchers from **Purdue University** announced a major breakthrough, becoming the first team to determine the structure of the **Zika virus**. The groundbreaking discovery reveals insights that are critical to finding an effective antiviral treatment or vaccine for the virus. The team, which published a paper on their findings in the journal Science, also identified regions within the Zika virus that set it apart from other insect-borne viruses such as dengue, **West Nile**, and yellow fever.

### **Google launches Android Auto in India**

- **Android Auto**, Google’s in-car operating system, is now available in **eighteen** new countries, including **Brazil** and **India**. It is launched in Puerto Rico. This is Android Auto’s biggest international roll out so far and increases the number of countries it is available in from 11 to 29.

### **HP unveils world’s thinnest laptop**

Personal computers and printing major **HP Inc** launched eight new personal products including the world’s thinnest laptop at 10.4 mm thickness, a calling device and a business notebook. According to the company ‘**Spectre**’ is the world’s thinnest laptop and has a battery life of up to nine and a half hours. The new calling device, HP Elite x3, is built-for-business mobile device and runs on Windows 10.

### **New planet with triple-star system found**

Scientists have discovered a rare **triple-star system** with a gas giant planet similar in size to **Jupiter**. Researchers at the **Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics** in US found that a binary system once thought to be a single star was actually a pair of stars orbiting one another, and are a part of the triple-star system.

### **China launches SJ-10 retrievable space science probe**

China has put a retrievable scientific research satellite into the space in a fresh bid to aid scientists back on Earth in studying microgravity and space life science. In a cloud of brown smoke, the satellite, **SJ-10**, roared into the air on the back of a **Long March 2-D** rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwestern China's gobi desert.

### **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launches inflatable room to ISS**

- The US aerospace company **SpaceX** has successfully landed a reusable rocket on an ocean platform, after four previous attempts failed. Mission controllers cheered as the **Falcon 9** rocket remained upright on the platform off Florida. It was returning from delivering an inflatable habitat into space for **Nasa**.

### **Scientists discovered traces of Iron Isotopes of Supernova on Moon**

- A recent discovery by scientists at the **Technical University of Munich (TUM)** found traces of iron isotopes in samples from the moon, similar to those found on our ocean floor, leading them to believe that it came from the same supernova explosion. A unique iron isotope,  $^{60}\text{Fe}$ , was found in samples of deep-sea crusts and ocean sediments from the Pacific Ocean. Now, scientists said they detected high concentrations of  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  on lunar samples as well.

### **Supercomputer Param Kanchenjunga unveiled at NIT Sikkim**

- The supercomputer, named '**Param Kanchenjunga**', was formally unveiled by **Sikkim Governor Shrinvas Patil** at the NIT Sikkim campus at Ravangla in South Sikkim District. The **National Institute of Technology (NIT) Sikkim** has clinched a rare distinction of having a supercomputer, which is said to be the most powerful and fastest among all the 31 NITs.
- Pune-based, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing '**C-DAC**' and the NIT Sikkim have jointly established the supercomputer at a cost of Rs. Three crore. The

supercomputer is expected to help achieve excellence in engineering education and research in the north-east region.

### **Infosys co-founder launched app 'Itihaasa' chronicling Indian IT journey**

- **Infosys** co-founder **S Gopalakrishnan** has launched a new app **itihaasa** that chronicles the “fascinating journey” of the Indian IT industry since the 1950s.
- The app follows the installation of the country’s first modern computer in 1955 to crystal gazing on Indian IT in 2040. The app, which took about eight months to develop, will be maintained by a team sitting at **IIIT-Bengaluru**.
- The app contains 600 short videos, over 37 hours of footage, 350 archived photographs and articles and easy browsing with 12,000 tags.

### **ISRO Scientists made world’s lightest material ‘Silica Aerogel’**

Scientists at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre**, Thiruvananthapuram, India’s premier rocket lab recently manufactured the world’s lightest material called **silica aerogel** or ‘**blue air**.’

- This material has excellent thermal resistance and if used as a filler in soldiers’ uniforms it can possibly help save many lives at the Siachen glacier.
- The material has uses both in space and on Earth.
- So light weight that it can be delicately placed on a flower head, ISRO has made the world’s lightest known material, sometimes also called ‘frozen smoke.’ Scientists hope it can be used to insulate rocket engines.

### **Accenture opens cyber centre in Bengaluru**

To expand its security presence, Global consulting and technology services firm **Accenture** has set up a cyber center in **Bengaluru**. The new facility brings together interdisciplinary capabilities, ranging from innovation, incubation and development of new solutions to strategic consulting and transformation and the managed delivery of a broad range of cyber defense services.

### **Japan successfully tested its first stealth fighter X-2 jet**

**Japan** joined the exclusive stealth jet club with the successful test flight of its first radar-evading aircraft — a prototype called the **X-2**. The twin-engine jet — painted in the national red and white colors — took off from Japan’s Nagoya airport and completed various test maneuvers including climbing, descent and circling.

According to **Mitsubishi**, the X-2 prototype took off on April 22 from Nagoya Airport under the command of a company test pilot. After carrying out a series of basic flight maneuvers, such as climbing, descent, and circling, it landed at the Japan Air Self-Defense Force's Gifu Air Base, where the pilot described the flight as "extremely stable."

### Launching of GSAT-11 Spacecraft

India has plan to release **GSAT-11** spacecraft for launch during the end of 2016 or first quarter of 2017. GSAT-11 is a first generation high throughput **communication satellite** with a lift-off mass of about 5600 kg, operating in Ka/Ku bands. It is a multi-beam satellite with 32 user beams and 8 hub beams over India. It is planned to launch GSAT-11 spacecraft using procured launch services. At present, the indigenous capability to launch this weight class of satellite is not available. The in-orbit testing of GSAT-11 satellite is planned to be conducted from the Master Control Facility (MCF) in Hassan, Karnataka and other suitable locations of **ISRO**Centres. The spacecraft capability includes providing broadband connectivity to rural areas with higher bandwidth as compared to traditional communication satellites.

### China successfully launched Kumpeng-1B Sounding Rocket

**China** has successfully launched the **Kumpeng-1B** sounding rocket from a launch pad in **Danzhou** City in the southern Chinese **Hainan** Province. The research rocket, which is due to take measurements in the upper atmosphere and help with high-speed flight and space tourism research, was launched by China's **National Space Science Center** (NSSC) of the **Chinese Academy of Sciences** (CAS).

### India successfully launches IRNSS-1G navigation satellite

With the launch of **IRNSS-1G** satellite, ISRO's **Indian Regional Navigation Spacecraft System** (IRNSS) which is India's own version of the **Global Positioning System** (GPS), is in place! The flawless launch of IRNSS-1G, the seventh satellite in the navigation system, marks a big milestone for the Indian Space Research Organisation. When the IRNSS-1G becomes operational in about a month's time, the system would offer services like terrestrial and marine navigation, disaster management, vehicle tracking and fleet management, navigation aide for hikers and travellers, visual and voice navigation for drivers.



**China developed world's first graphene electronic paper**

In a major breakthrough, **China** has developed the world's first **graphene electronic paper** which will catapult the material to a new level. The new material has been heralded as "the world's first graphene electronic paper," by **Chen Yu**, general manager of Guangzhou OED Technologies, which developed it in partnership with a company in Chongqing Province.

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – APRIL 2016

Winner	Title	Sport/ Venue
Russia	World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship	Lofbergs Lila Arena
Barcelona Open Men's Doubles title	Bob and Mike Bryan	Tennis
Rafael Nadal	Barcelona Open	Tennis
Garcia-Mladenovic	Stuttgart Grand Prix tournament	Tennis
Mairaj Ahmed Khan	India's first skeet medal	Shooting
Deepika Kumari	Archery World Cup	Archery
Lee Chong Wei	Malaysian Open title of Badminton 2016	Malaysia
Indian Grandmasters Sethuraman and K Sasikiran	Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament	
Riyad Mahrez	PFA Player of the Year	Football
Kento Momota Intanon	Yonex Sunrise India men's single Open badminton titles 2016	Japan
Ratchanok Intanon	Yonex Sunrise India women's single Open badminton titles 2016	Japan
Gideon Markus Fernaldi and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo	Yonex Sunrise India men's double Open badminton titles 2016	Indonesia
Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi	Yonex Sunrise India women's double Open badminton titles 2016	Japan
Kai Lu and Huang Yaqiong	Yonex Sunrise India mixed double Open badminton titles 2016	China
Nico Rosberg	Chinese Grand Prix 2016	Formula One
Rafael Nadal	Barcelona Open	Spain
Australia	Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Hockey

**IMPORTANT SPORTS RELATED NEWS**

**Wrestler Sandeep Tomar qualified for Rio Olympics**

Wrestler **Sandeep Tomar** secured an Olympic quota place for India in the men's 57 kg freestyle category with a bronze-medal finish on the final day of the first **World Olympic Qualifying tournament** in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia

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**Mairaj wins India's first skeet medal at a shooting WC**

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

**India to host 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships**

**India** will be hosting the **2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships** in **Jaipur**, besides organising the Asian Cadet and Asian Junior Judo Championships in September in Kerala this year. The Commonwealth Judo Championships was allotted to India, by the Commonwealth Judo Congress held on April 23rd at Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

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

**Riyad Mahrez** has become the first African footballer to win the **Professional Footballers Association's (PFA) Player of the Year** award for the 2015–16 season.

**ICC suspended Cricket Association of Nepal**

The **Cricket Association of Nepal** has been suspended by the **International Cricket Council** due to a 'vacuum of cricket leadership' in the country and also in view of government interference in the board. The ICC Board held its second meeting of the year at the ICC Headquarters in Dubai on Sunday and called for the suspension of the CAN among many other outcomes.

### **Indian rower Dattu Bhokanal qualifies for Rio Olympics**

Indian rower **Dattu Baban Bhokanal** has qualified for the **Rio Olympics** after winning a silver in the men's single sculls event at the **FISA Asian and Oceania Olympic Qualification Regatta** at Chung-ju in South Korea. The 25-year-old army man clocked 7 minutes, 7.63 seconds in the 2 km course to finish second. The top seven in the finals qualify for the Rio Games.

### **Iraq Thomas made fastest ever century in cricket history**

Tobago batsman **Iraq Thomas** has created a record by scoring 21-ball century in the **Tobago Cricket Association's** T20 tournament at Louis D'or. Chasing Speyside's target of 152,

### **Mary Kom named AIBA ambassador for Women's World Championship**

**Mary Kom** has been named as one of the eight ambassadors for the upcoming **World Championships** by the **International Boxing Association (AIBA)**.

### **ICC and Emirates Airline renewed deal for additional seven years**

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** and **Emirates** have renewed a deal for an additional seven years which sees the Dubai-based airline become a global partner for all events from 2016-2023.

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

India's **Durga Thakur** has been promoted to international outdoor umpire by the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** following her good performance at the recently-held Hawkes Bay Cup in Hastings, **New Zealand**.

### **Wrestler Sandeep Tomar qualified for Rio Olympics**

Wrestler **Sandeep Tomar** secured an Olympic quota place for India in the men's 57 kg freestyle category with a bronze-medal finish on the final day of the first **World Olympic Qualifying tournament** in Ulaanbaatar in **Mongolia**.

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Tobago batsman **Iraq Thomas** has created a record by scoring 21-ball century in the **Tobago Cricket Association's T20** tournament at Louis D'or. Chasing Speyside's target of 152, Thomas bludgeoned 131 off 31 balls to finish off the contest in just eight overs. Thomas hit 15 sixes and five fours in his hurricane innings that put to shade Gayle's 30-ball century for Royal Challengers Bangalore in a 2013 Indian Premier League match against now defunct Pune Warriors India owned by the Sahara group. He slammed 15 sixes and five boundaries during his knock.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Asia may face severe water shortage by 2050: Study Suggests**

Countries in Asia, including India, may face severe water shortage by 2050 due to rising economic activity, growing populations and climate change, **MIT scientists** have warned.

- There is a “high risk of severe water stress” in much of an area that is home to roughly half the world’s population, scientists said.
- Having run a large number of simulations of future scenarios, the researchers found that the median amounts of projected growth and climate change in the next 35 years in Asia would lead to about 1 billion more people becoming “water-stressed” compared to today.
- While climate change is expected to have serious effects on the water supply in many parts of the world, the study underscores the extent to which industrial expansion and population growth may by themselves exacerbate water-access problems.
- The study was published in the journal **PLOS One**.

### **Arvind Kejriwal launched Phase I of Green Delhi initiative**

**Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** launched the first phase of the **Green Delhi initiative** by planting trees at the Triangular Park near ITO Chowk. The plan deals with steps to improve air quality in the National Capital Region. The initiative was launched in line with a detailed action plan submitted by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to the Supreme Court after it demanded information on steps being taken to improve air quality and reduce air pollution in the Capital.

### **India signed Paris climate agreement along with other 174 nations at UN**

**Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar** has signed the historic **Paris climate agreement** along with other 174 nations at a high-level ceremony hosted by **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** in **New York**. The agreement will mark as a significant step that brings developing and developed nations together to combat global warming by working to cut down greenhouse gas emissions.

## **MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS**

- Flikart acquired mobile payment startup PhonePe
- Future Group acquired FabFurnish
- JK Tyres acquired Cavendish Industries for 2200 crore rupees
- Xiaomi makes first investment in India in Hungama

**OBITUARY**

<b>Name of the Person</b>	<b>Who is He / She?</b>
Babu Bharadwaj	Journalist
Zaha Hadid	Architect
Gato Barbieri	Jazz saxophonist
MHP Rao	Architect of Madras Atomic Power Station
C Silvera	Former Union Minister
Yogendra Bali	Journalist
Satyanand Munjal	Hero group co-founder
Malick Sidibe	Malian photographer
Bill Campbell	Legendary Silicon Valley Mentor
Victoria Wood	Comedian
Doris Roberts	Star of 'Everybody Loves Raymond
Guy Hamilton	the director of four James Bond films
Papa Wemba	Congo music star
Banharn Silpa-archa	Thailand former Prime Minister
VT Thomas	Kerala cartoonist
Harry Wu	Chinese human rights activist
Arnold Wesker	British playwright passes away

**OBSERVED DAYS IN APRIL**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day Observed</b>
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight
April 17	World Hemophilia Day

## CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – APRIL 2016

April 22	World Earth Day
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day
April 24	Panjayat Raj day
April 25	World Malaria Day
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day
April 28	World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2016 observed globally
April 29	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
April 30	International Jazz Day

THANK YOU 😊 😊 😊

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