

Current Affairs Magazine (April 2017)

Reg No:- AR1124/2016-SD001

(Registered Office- Kanpur, UP)

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Five Associate Banks, Bharatiya Mahila Bank Merge With SBI.

Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank became part of the State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday, catapulting the country's largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT), besides Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB), merged with SBI with effect from April 1.

SBI gets Rs 1,400 crore loan from European Investment Bank.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has okayed Rs 1,400 crore (EUR 200 million) loan to State Bank of India BSE 0.90 % to fund solar power projects.

RBI to set up separate Enforcement department.

RBI will set up a separate enforcement department to oversee possible breaches of rules and take punitive actions against those who violate them.

Bihar to pay power bill subsidy to consumers.

The Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar announced that the state government would be providing a subsidy on power bill to the consumers instead of power

companies from the 2017-18 fiscal year.

India declares its Association status with International Energy Agency.

India declared its 'Association' status with the International Energy Agency (IEA). In this regard, Union Minister of Power & Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal handed over the formal letter to Fatih Birol, Executive Director of IEA.

Japan commits 371 bn yen assistance for infra projs in India.

Japan has committed an "official development assistance" (ODA) of 371 (point) 345 billion yen (about Rs 21,590 crore) under 2016-2017 for various infrastructure projects, including the dedicated freight corridor, in India.

2nd unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power plant starts in Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, the second unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power plant started commercial generation of power yesterday. The second unit attained its full power generation capacity of 1000 Mega watt in January. Tamil Nadu is getting 562 megawatt Telangana 50 MW, Karnataka 221 MW and Kerala 133 MW Puduchery 33 MW from the first unit. Tamil Nadu is expected to get 562 Mega watt from second unit also. The nuclear power generation has gone up to 6,780 mega watt in the country with power generation in the

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second unit. The 1000 Mega watt Kudankulam nuclear power plant is built with Russian expertise.

Asia's largest Tulip Garden opens for tourists.

Asia's largest tulip garden has opened for tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar. It is a spectrum of colours featuring thousands of tulips, which have blossomed in the lap of Zabarwan hills along the banks of Dal lake. Other than the 46 varieties of 1.5 million tulips, many other species of flowers - hyacinths, daffodils and ranunculus - have been added this year to bring more variety in the garden.

Hyundai launches The World's First Car delivery service by Drone.

Hyundai Motor UK today launched the world's first car delivery service by drone - Click to Fly. The service builds on the success of the online purchasing website, Click to Buy, and gives customers the option to have their brand new Hyundai delivered within two hours by the company's in-house developed drones provided the car is in stock.

Tamil Nadu to go digital, Smart Cards replacing ration cards launched.

Ration cards in Tamil Nadu are all set to go fully digital with Chief Minister K Palaniswami launching a smart family card scheme to replace 1.89 crore cards in the state at a cost of Rs 330 crore. "Completion of

distribution of smart cards has been planned to be done by May across the State.

Trent names Marks and Spencer Reliance India MD Venu Nair as its new commercial officer.

Trent LtdBSE 4.03 % has appointed Venu Nair, managing director of Marks & Spencer Reliance, India, as the new chief commercial officer for the Tata Group's retail arm that operates Westside department chain and Star Bazaar supermarket network.

Mangaluru International Airport offering e-Visas from today.

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) on 1 April 2017 started offering e-Visa services to flyers, becoming the second airport in the state to introduce the facility. E-Visa services was being provided only at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru till now.

Vanaja Sarna appointed as CBEC's new Chairman.

Vanaja N. Sarna was appointed as the new chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). She has replaced Najib Shah after his retirement. Prior to becoming Member of the CBEC, she held the charge of Director General of Vigilance and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Department.

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Government launched two mobile apps- echallan and mParivahan.

The government has launched two mobile apps, echallan and mParivahan, that provide access to various services and information, and enable citizens to report any traffic violation or road accident. 'eChallan' is an integrated enforcement solution to manage traffic violations. 'mParivahan' is an empowering app for the citizen which provides access to various services, information and utilities related to the transport sector.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak Visits India.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is on a 6-day visit to India. This year marks the 60th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations. Malaysia's father of independence, Tunku Abdul Rahman, visited India in 1962.

World Autism Awareness Day 2017 observed across the world.

The World Autism Awareness Day 2017 was observed across the world on 2 April 2017. The 2017 theme for the day is Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination.

PM Narendra Modi opens Asia's longest tunnel.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 9.2 km long Chenani-Nashri all-weather road tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The road tunnel will reduce the travel time between the two state capitals of Jammu and Srinagar by approximately two hours. The two-lane Chenani-Nashri tunnel is Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel, which will cut the distance between Jammu and Srinagar to around 250 km from the current 350 km.

2nd Annual Meeting of New Development Bank begins in New Delhi.

The second Annual Meeting of the New Development Bank began on 31 March 2017 in New Delhi. The meeting will be held for three days till 2 April 2017.

President Mukherjee lays foundation stones of Rabindra Bhavan, Haj House in Ranchi.

President Pranab Mukherjee today laid the foundation stone of Rabindra Bhavan and Haj House at Jaipal Singh stadium complex in Ranchi.

Leander Paes wins first title of season in Challenger tournament.

Leander Paes on 2nd April won his first title of the season, combining with Canadian Adil Shamasdin to lift the Leon Challenger Tour tennis tournament's men's doubles trophy after a straight-set win in Mexico.

P V Sindhu becomes Womens singles champion of India Super Series tournament.

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Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu on 2nd April produced a superlative performance to beat reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain 21-19, 21-16 to lift her maiden India Open Super Series title.

IISc Bangalore best university, Miranda House top college: HRD ministry rankings

Delhi's Miranda House and Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science are India's best college and university. Loyola College in Chennai and Shri Ram College were the second and third-best colleges in India. Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University – which was at the centre of a storm on nationalism last year – was ranked second among universities while Banaras Hindu University secured third position. Seven IITs were among the top 10 in the overall ranking category. Indian Institute of Technology-Madras was the top engineering school while Jamia Hamdard was judged the best pharmacy institute. Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad was adjudged the finest management institute. Kolkata's Jadavpur University – whose students have also faced criticism for being “anti-national” – was ranked fifth among universities.

The institutes were marked on 20 parameters under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Top colleges:

1) Miranda House, Delhi

2) Loyola College, Chennai

3) Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi

Top universities:

1) IISc, Bangalore

2) JNU, New Delhi

3) BHU, Varanasi

19th commonwealth forestry conference to begin in Uttarakhand.

19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference (CFC) 2017 will begin on 3rd April at Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand Governor Dr. K.K. Paul will inaugurate the 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference at the FRI in Dehradun. The 5-day conference is being organized on the theme 'Forests for Prosperity and Posterity'.

Union Textiles Minister launches PowerTex India Scheme.

The Government has launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive scheme for power loom sector development, simultaneously at over 45 locations in the country. The Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani Launched the scheme in Bhiwandi, Thane district,

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Maharashtra. The scheme will especially benefit small powerloom weavers. The Minister and CMs interacted with various states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and others through video conference, as PowerTex India scheme was launched nationwide.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches 'MP e-nagarpalika' app.

The Madhya Pradesh government has launched an app named 'MP e-nagarpalika' to provide various municipal services online. The mobile app was launched by state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. This app would offer 378 services like online payment of property tax, seeking building permission, birth/ marriage/death certificates etc. It will also register complaints related to garbage, water, streetlights etc. Online payment gateway would be available on this app. This mobile app would encourage the cashless transaction.

Mizoram signs MoU to join in UDAY.

Mizoram has become the 27th State to join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY). Mizoram signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the scheme on March 31 for operational improvement of the State's Power Distribution Department.

Rajiv Kumar Chander appointed as India's Ambassador and permanent

representative to the UN.

Rajiv Kumar Chander has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Offices in Geneva. Mr. Chander belongs to the Indian Foreign Services batch of 1983. He is currently the consul general of India in Vancouver since August 2015. He was the deputy permanent representative with the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, Geneva, between 2006 and 2009.

Indira Banerjee appointed as new Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

Justice Indira Banerjee, a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

Roger Federer wins Miami Open 2017.

Roger Federer (Switzerland) defeated Rafael Nadal (Spain) to win Miami Open 2017 Singles title. Miami Open 2017 was held in Florida, USA. A fourth straight win over Nadal was his longest winning streak in their 13-year professional rivalry which makes Federer the oldest winner of the Miami Open. The victory was Federer's 26th ATP Masters 1000 title, only Novak Djokovic with 30 and Rafael Nadal with 28 have won more titles than Federer.

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International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action 2017 observed.

International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was observed on 4 April 2017 across the world. The theme of the year 2017 is Needs driven. People Centred.

Senior IPS Officer Geeta Johari appointed as Gujarat DGP.

A 1982 batch senior IPS Officer Geeta Johari has been appointed as new Director General of Police of Gujarat. She will replace P.P. Pandey - acting DGP of the state who had resigned from the post yesterday, after a petition in Supreme Court. Mrs. Johari- presently working as Head of Gujarat Police Housing Corporation will become the first woman Director General of Police of Gujarat. She will retire in November 2017.

Malaysia Open Badminton tournament begins at Kuching in Sarawak.

Malaysia Open Badminton tournament has begun in Kuching, Sarawak. Rio Olympics Silver medalist PV Sindhu, who won her first India Open recently, and Saina Nehwal will lead the Indian challenge.

FIFA bans former Guatemala FA president Brayan Jimenez for life.

FIFA today banned Guatemala's former football chief Brayan Jimenez for life over corruption, bribery and

other offences, making him the latest former executive thrown out of the sport in disgrace.

Computer programmer not to qualify as specialist for US H-1B visa.

The US has ruled that being a simple computer programmer would no longer qualify as a specialist profession, which is a must for the issue of a H-1B work visa. Through a new policy memorandum issued on March 31, superseding and rescinding its previous guidelines of December, 2000, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has ruled that an entry level computer programmer position would not generally qualify as a position in a specialty occupation.

J&K bans polyethene manufactured below 50 microns.

Jammu and Kashmir government on 3 April 2017 imposed a blanket ban on the use of polyethene bags manufactured below fifty (50) microns.

B P Kanungo takes over as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

B P Kanungo on 3 April 2017 took over as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Kanungo was appointed to the position of the Deputy Governor for a period of three years by the Union Government on 11 March 2017. Prior to that, he was holding the position of Executive Director of RBI.

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Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passes away.

Kishori Amonkar, the renowned Hindustani classical vocalist, passed away in Mumbai on 3 April 2017. She was 84.

UP Govt forms committee to implement farm loan waiver decision.

The Uttar Pradesh government has set up a six-member committee to implement its decision of waving off farmers' agricultural loan. The committee will be headed by Chief Secretary Rahul Bhatnagar.

Over two crore LPG connections released to BPL women under PMUY.

The government today said, public sector oil marketing companies have released more than two crore LPG connections to the eligible adult woman of the BPL households under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) till 3rd of this month.

Malala to become the youngest person to address Canadian Parliament.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau announced on 3 April 2017 that the youngest Nobel laureate, Malala Yousafzai, will be addressing the country's parliament on 12 April 2017.

Aliza Knox, Twitter's head of Asia-Pacific, quits.

Aliza Knox, Twitter's head of Asia-Pacific business, in the first week of April 2017 announced her retirement from the company.

Jhargram becomes 22nd Bengal district.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared Jhargram as the 22nd district of West Bengal.

SASEC's Finance Ministers Meeting held in New Delhi.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley chaired the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Finance Ministers meeting in New Delhi. It was attended by the seven Finance Ministers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the Asian Development Bank as a supporting SASEC in this endeavor. Myanmar has joined the SASEC program as its seventh member.

BS-IV Grade Fuel launched by Central Government after BS-III ban.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas officially launched the low emission Bharat stage (BS)-IV Grade fuel in Bhubaneswar.

Amazon.in launches 'Classroom' for new sellers.

To make on-boarding easy for new sellers, Amazon India has launched an initiative called 'Amazon

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Classroom', a virtual training program to help teach them the nuances of online selling.

Gionee India ties up with Royal Challengers Bangalore for IPL 10.

Handset maker Gionee India announced its association with the 'Royal Challengers Bangalore', as their presenting sponsors for the tenth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Gionee is already the principal sponsor of the Kolkata Franchise — 'Kolkata Knight Riders'. Gionee has become the first brand ever to sponsor front jerseys of two IPL teams in the same edition and will have its logo feature on the front jersey of both the teams. The smartphone manufacturer had signed Captain Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador in November 2016.

Berhampur Thakurani Yatra festival begins in Odisha.

The famous Berhampur Thakurani Yatra, one of the biggest festivals of southern Odisha, has been celebrated with pomp and gaiety.

Indian Cricketer MS Dhoni named CEO of Gulf Oil for 1 day.

The former Indian cricket team skipper MS Dhoni became an acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gulf Oil India just for a day. He took charge of Gulf Oil India at the Mumbai head office. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was also named as the brand

ambassador for Gulf Oil in the year 2011.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of multi-modal terminal on River Ganga in Jharkhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stones of several development projects including a multi-modal terminal and a four-lane bridge over River Ganga at Sahebganj in Jharkhand.

RBI maintains status quo on repo rate.

The Reserve Bank left its benchmark lending rate, Repo rate, unchanged at 6(point)25 per cent for the fourth monetary policy review in a row today citing upside risk to inflation.

Repo Rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.25%.

The Reverse Repo Rate (RRR) under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) has been hiked to 6% from 5.75%.

The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate are at 6.50% decline from 6.75%.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at 4% and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) also remains unchanged at 20.50%.

Lok Sabha passes Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2017.

The Lok Sabha today passed the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2017

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which seeks to amend the Customs Act 1962, the Customs Tariff Act 1975, the Central Excise Act 1944, the Finance Act, 2001 and the Finance Act, 2005 and to repeal certain enactments.

Ban on cash transactions of over Rs 2 lakh not applicable for bank, post office withdrawals.

The Income Tax department has clarified that the ban on cash transaction in excess of 2 lakh rupees will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts.

Indian Navy deploys INS Shardul for surveillance in the Indian Ocean .

The Indian navy has deployed its warship Indian Naval Ship (INS) Shardul for two months in the South Indian Ocean to provide surveillance support in the region.

First Air services agreement between India and Georgia approved by Union Cabinet .

The Union Cabinet on 5 April 2017 approved the signing of air services agreement (ASA) between India and Georgia. According to an official press release, the agreement will not only help in establishing air connectivity between the two countries but it will also contribute to the expansion of trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two.

Raman Roy appointed Chairman of NASSCOM for 2017-18.

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) on 5 April 2017 announced the appointment of Raman Roy its Chairman for 2017-2018. He will take on the new role from 6 April 2017. Roy takes over the position from C P Gurnani, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra.

5 April: National Maritime Day

India on 5 April 2017 observed the 54th edition of the National Maritime Day.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: 06th April

6 April was declared as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) by the UN General Assembly. On the occasion of the 2017 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP), the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) launches the digital campaign #WePlayTogether to encourage organizations and individuals

Aditya Birla Group gets RBI licence to start payments bank.

Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd becomes the seventh entity to receive a final licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up

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a payments bank. ii. Except Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd, all payment bank licence holders have received the final approval.

India's ranks 7th in world's largest tourism economy in terms of GDP.

India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to a new report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), 2016. The USA topped the list followed by China and Germany at the second and third positions, respectively.

Japan Officially Recognises Bitcoin as Currency .

Bitcoin has finally gained the recognition of a mainstream currency along the lines of other fiat currencies.

PV Sindhu reaches career-best World No.2 ranking.

Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu jumped three places to achieve a career-best world number two ranking in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings released on 6th April 2017.

Vijay Goel approves appointment of Foreign Coaches in Athletics.

Sports Minister Vijay Goel has approved appointment of two foreign coaches and two support staff for

athletics. Mr Goel said appointments Dave Smith, Galina P. Bukharina, Dmitry Kislev and Elmira Kisleva have been made upto 2020 Olympics.

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

India's ace batsman Virat Kohli on 5 April 2017 was named the Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016. The announcement was made in the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, which is also often referred to as the 'Bible of the Cricket.' Kohli also features on the cover of the 2017 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. It shows the cricketer playing a reverse sweep in a Test match.

India, Bangladesh sign 22 agreements; PM Modi announces \$4.5 billion line of credit to Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh today signed 22 agreements and four agreements were exchanged in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina. Mr Modi announced Line of Credit of 500 million dollars to Bangladesh for defence purchases.

Sex ratio in Haryana touches 950 mark for first time: Khattar.

In Haryana, the sex ratio has touched the 950 mark for the first time in the history of the State. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that the sex ratio at birth stood at 950 girls to 1,000 boys in March this year.

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India's foreign exchange surges to 369.95 billion US dollars.

India's foreign exchange surged by a whopping 2.02 billion US dollars to 369.95 billion US dollars in the week that ended on 31st of March 2017. A RBI press release has informed that foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves rose by 2.08 billion US dollars to 346.32 billion US dollars. In the previous week too, the reserves had shot up by 1.15 billion US dollars to 367.93 billion US dollars. Gold reserves, on the other hand moved down by 45 million US dollars to 19.87 billion US dollars.

Malala to become youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace.

The youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai will be appointed as the youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace on 10 April 2017. The appointment would be carried out by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Yousafzai's new role will include helping in the promotion of girl's education across the world.

Defence Ministry to launch innovation organisation.

Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) is to be launched as a non-profit company later this month to foster technology development and innovative products with commercial potential for the defence sector.

Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka Bus service inaugurated in Kolkata.

The Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka Bus service was been inaugurated on April 8 in Kolkata on the wake of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India. The trial runs for the bus service was conducted last year on October 30-31. The bus service will be further extended to Dhaka as per the request by Bangladesh. Along with the new bus service running between the two countries, a Khulna-Kolkata Maitree Express was also inaugurated today that will run from Khulna (Bangladesh) to Kolkata via Petropole-Benapole (Bangladesh).

IOA grants affiliation to Boxing Federation of India.

The Indian Olympic Association, IOA, has granted affiliation to the Boxing Federation of India, BFI. The affiliation ends a logjam that goes back to September last year when BFI took charge of the sport after elections conducted in the presence of International Boxing Association, AIBA, and Sports Ministry observers. With this, the BFI now becomes the fully recognised body for Indian boxing, having already been granted affiliation by AIBA and the Sports Ministry.

Boxer Shyam Kumar wins gold at Thailand International.

Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar won a gold medal in the 49- kilogram

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category at the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok.

First UK rail freight service to China to depart.

The first rail freight service from the UK to China will depart on a 7,500 mile journey from Essex today. The train will travel over 7,500 miles to reach Yiwu, a famed wholesale market town in the eastern province of Zhejiang, 17 days later. 30 containers will carry British goods including pharmaceuticals.

Indian-origin Anuja Ravindra Dhir becomes first non-white judge at London Court.

Indian-origin Anuja Ravindra Dhir on 9 April 2017 became the first non-white judge of the Old Bailey Court of London. She is also the youngest circuit judge currently to sit at the court.

Paytm Mall launches QR code feature.

The Digital wallet company Paytm in April 2017 announced the launch of new feature QR code on its Paytm Mall application. This QR code will allow consumers to place online orders at physical stores. With this launch, Paytm becomes the first company to invest in QR codebased payment solution.

Mukta Dutta Tomar appointed as India's Ambassador to Germany.

Mukta Dutta Tomar was appointed as India's Ambassador to Federal Republic of Germany. She is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

Smita Sandhane appointed MD of Saraswat Bank.

Saraswat Bank, the largest lender in the co-operative space, has appointed Smita Sandhane as its Managing Director (MD) with effect from 01st April 2017. She is the first woman chief of India's largest urban co-operative bank. Prior to her elevation, Sandhane was the Joint Managing Director of the bank. She has been with the bank since 1982. Sandhane has taken over from S.K. Banerji, who retired from the services of the bank on March 31, 2017.

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

A transaction of Rs 1,590 has bagged a Central Bank of India customer a lucky bounty of Rs 1 crore under the Modi government's promotional scheme to popularise digital payments. In the consumer section, the first mega prize of Rs 1 crore went to a customer of Central Bank of India, while the second prize of Rs 50 lakh went to a Bank of Baroda customer. A customer of Punjab National Bank is the winner of third prize of Rs 25 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Lucky Grahak Yojana.

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British-Indian educationist named 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year'.

Indian-origin Asha Khemka was named 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year' at an event in Birmingham, England. Khemka was also honoured with one of the UK's top civilian awards Dame, the female equivalent of knighthood in 2014 and has since won several accolades for her work in education in Nottingham.

Literary critic M Achuthan passes away.

Literary critic M Achuthan passed away on 9 April 2017 following age-related illness at a private hospital in Kochi. He was 87. He is survived by his wife and daughters.

India ranks 40th in Travel and Tourism Competitive Index of World Economic Forum.

The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2017 was released on 5 April 2017 by the World Economic Forum (WEF). India was ranked 40th among the 136 economies across the world in the Index. The position of India has improved over 52nd rank in 2015 and 65th in 2013.

Manipur govt to hold People's Day on 15th of every month.

The new BJP-led government in Manipur state has decided to hold People's Day on the 15th of every month. The announcement was made

by the state's Chief Minister, N Biren Singh during a function held at Khwairamband Bazar in Manipur's capital city, Imphal on 9 April 2017.

Tim Berners-Lee wins 2016 ACM A M Turing Award.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee in the first week of April 2017 was honoured with the 2016 ACM A M Turing Award. Berners-Lee received the 2016 Turing Award "for inventing the World Wide Web, the first web browser, and the fundamental protocols and algorithms allowing the Web to scale".

North India to get DNA bank for wildlife.

The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh is going to set up a DNA bank for wildlife, first of its kind in North India. Researchers at the institute are in the process of collecting the DNA of all wild animals. They have up until now collected samples of around 140 species.

Flipkart acquires eBay India after \$1.4 billion funding round.

Flipkart, India's largest online retailer today announced two major pieces of news. Firstly, it raised a mammoth \$1.4 billion from Tencent, eBay, and Microsoft, along with previous investors in the country, like Tiger Global, Naspers Global, Accel Partners, and DST Global. This round

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values the company at \$11.6 billion, and is the 11th the company has raised, not including two angel rounds. But perhaps most exciting, it also announced that it was to acquire eBay India.

World Homeopathy Day: International Convention Organised in New Delhi.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the National Convention on World Homeopathy Day on 10 April 2017 at New Delhi. The theme of the convention is "Enhancing Quality Research in Homeopathy through scientific evidence and rich clinical experiences".

Deendayal Rasoi Yojna launched in Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh government kick-started its ambitious 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojana' under which subsidised meals will be available at Rs 5 per plate to people, especially the economically disadvantaged sections of society. The initiative is on the lines of state run Amma Canteens, started by the former chief minister J Jayalalithaa, which served subsidised food at low prices. Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the scheme at Gwalior. In the first phase, the scheme would be inaugurated in 49 districts.

Rajnath Singh launches Akshay Kumar's portal 'Bharat Ke Veer'.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the website and app named 'Bharat Ke Veer', to facilitate the monetary contribution to the kin of soldier personnel killed in action. The Home Minister launched the website on the occasion of the 'Shaurya Diwas', which was organized to facilitate the CRPF with bravery awards and medals. The amount so donated will be credited to the account of 'Next of Kin' of those Central Armed Police Force/Central Para Military Force soldiers. Actor Akshay Kumar was the Guest of Honour during the function.

Venkaiah Naidu launches 352 housing projects in 53 cities.

Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu launched 352 projects in 53 cities in 17 States across the country with an investment of Rs 38,003-cr to build 2,03,851 affordable houses. These housing projects would be implemented by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) across the country in the first major private investment in affordable housing.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2017 Chinese Grand Prix.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton on 9 April 2017 won the 2017 Chinese Grand Prix ahead of Sebastian Vettel and Max Verstappen. Ferrari driver Vettel came second, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen stood third in the race.

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On 100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha, PM inaugurates Swachhagraha exhibition.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated an exhibition titled “Swachhagraha – Bapu Ko Karyanjali – Ek Abhiyan, Ek Pradarshani” in the national capital on 10-04-2017 to mark the 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi’s first experiment of Satyagraha in Champaran. He also launched an ‘Online Interactive Quiz’ at the event which is being organized by the National Archives of India.

Malala Yousafzai receives Highest United Nations Honour to Promote Girls Education.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai a United Nations Messenger of Peace on 10 April to promote girls education, more than four years after a Taliban gunman shot her in the head on her school bus in 2012. At 19, Yousafzai is the youngest Messenger of Peace, the highest honour given by the United Nations for an initial period of two years. She was also the youngest person to win the Nobel peace prize in 2014 when she was 17.

Zeta ties up with RuPay for broader acceptance network.

Zeta, which offers digital employee benefits for tax optimisation, has tied up with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) payment platform - RuPay to push for a more

inclusive adoption of Zeta’s meal voucher solution to be accepted at RuPay enabled terminals as well. With RBL Bank as its banking partner, Zeta’s pre-paid card called the Zeta Super Card will now be available on the RuPay platform.

Federal Bank crosses \$ 200 mn in total business at IFSC banking unit.

Kerala-based Federal Bank has crossed \$200 million in total business at its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gift City, Gujarat. Federal Bank commissioned its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in India's first International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City (Gujarat) in November 2015.

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

India's first ever micro-drama festival, named Thespis, was held on 9 April 2017 in New Delhi. The longest play of the festival ran for not more than 10 minutes and the shortest one lasted for only 42 seconds. The day-long event saw screening of 28 independent plays at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Art.

Colson Whitehead's “Underground Railroad” wins 2017 Pulitzer Prize.

2017 Pulitzer Prizes were announced on 10 April 2017 by Pulitzer Prize Administrator Mike Pride in at Columbia University in New York. The announcement marks the 101st year of prizes. The awards were

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announced in 21 categories and they include Letters, Drama & Music and Journalism.

Union Minister launches 'nakshe' portal to celebrate Survey of India's 250 Anniversary .

The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan launched a new web portal called 'nakshe' in New Delhi on 10 April 2017. The launch commemorates the 250th anniversary of Survey of India (Sol).

Gandhi in Champaran, authored by DG Tendulkar, launched.

Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, on 10 April 2017 released a book titled Gandhi in Champaran at National Mahatma Gandhi Museum in New Delhi. The book was launched on the day that marks the 100th year of Champaran Satyagraha. The book is authored by noted writer Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar. The book is printed by Publications Division.

Nokia partners with Airtel and BSNL to bring 5G Services in India.

Finnish mobile giant Nokia on 10 April 2017 signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Airtel and BSNL to work on 5G technology and connected devices in India. The MoU signed among the three involve introduction of 5G services in India, as well as infrastructure development that would be required to set it up.

National Hindi Sevi Samman Awards for the year 2015 announced.

N.K. Pandey, Director of the Central Hindi Institute, on 10 April 2017 announced the names of 26 writers from different categories for the prestigious Hindi Sevi Samman Awards for the year 2015. The Hindi Sevi Samman Awards were instituted by Central Hindi Institute, Agra in 1989.

The awardees in different categories include:

Ganga Sharan Singh Award: For work in the field of promotion and training of Hindi

- S. Shesharatnam
- M. Govind Rajan
- Harmahendra Singh Bedi
- H. Subadani Devi

Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award: For work in the field of journalism and creative literature

- Baldev Bhai Sharma
- Rahul Dev

Atmaram Award: For work in the field of Science and Technology literature and Machinery growth

- Girish Chandra Saxena
- Phani Bhushan Das

Subramanyam Bharti Award: For work for promotion of Hindi in constructive or criticism way

- Surya Prasad Dixit
- Chandrakanta

Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award: For work in the field exploration and research as well as for description on its journey

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- Chitra Mudgal
- Jai Prakash Kardam

Dr. George Grierson Award: Awarded to people of foreign origin for promotion and training of Hindi outside India

- Fujii Takeshi (Japan)
- Gabriela Nik Ilieva (New York)

Padmabhushan Dr. Moturi Satyanarayan Award: Awarded to people of Indian origin for promotion and training of Hindi outside India

- Pushpita Avasthi (Netherlands)
- Padmesh Gupta (London)

Malvika Sinha appointed RBI Executive Director.

The Reserve Bank has appointed Malvika Sinha as Executive Director following the appointment of B P Kanungo as Deputy Governor.

Ajit Kumar Srivastava, Shabri Bhattasali named new CBDT members.

Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were appointed members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex policy making body of the Income Tax department.

Atu Zumvu becomes first Naga cop to receive 'Shaurya Chakra' award.

For the first time since Nagaland officially gained recognition as a state, a state Police Officer Atu Zumvu has been awarded one of the nations' military honour, 'Shaurya

Chakra' award at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Nagaland attained statehood in 1963 and since then this is the first time a police officer from the state has been honored with this award.

Former Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh to head TDSAT.

The government has appointed retired Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh as the next chairman of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) after replacing of Justice Aftab Alam who was retired in June 2016. The appointment is for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office.

Kristin Davis appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist Kristin Davis as its Goodwill Ambassador. UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors are celebrity representatives of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who use their talent and fame to advocate for refugees.

Carme Chacon, Spain's first female defence minister, dies.

Carme Chacon, the first female defense minister of Spain and a prominent socialist party leader, has died aged 46.

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EPFO Extends Deadline For Submitting Aadhaar To April 30

Retirement fund body EPFO has extended the deadline for submitting Aadhaar number to April 30, 2017 for its over four crore members. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had set March 31, 2017 as the deadline for submitting Aadhaar number earlier. EPFO has also extended the deadline for submitting digital life certificates for its over 50 lakh pensioners till April 30 to link pension accounts with Aadhaar. "We have extended the deadline for submission of Aadhaar by subscribers to April 30, 2017. Besides, pensioners can also submit their life certificates till April 30," EPFO's Central Provident Fund Commissioner V P Joy told PTI.

EPFO had extended the deadline several times in the past.

It has also done away with the system of accepting life certificate manually through banks. Pensioners are required to provide life certificates digitally either through their mobile phones or at common service centres or bank branches providing such facility. The latest EPFO order provides that if a pensioner is not able to submit the life certificate in digital format, then the same can be submitted in physical form with valid reasons for not submitting it digitally. It also says that a pensioner would cease to receive payments from May if life

certificate is not submitted by April 30, 2017.

Government Identifies Six PSUs To List On Bourses

The government has identified six profit making PSUs, including four from defence sector, for accessing the capital market in the current fiscal and listing on stock exchanges. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is scouting for merchant bankers and legal advisors to advise the government on the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of MSTC, NEEPCO, Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. The government currently holds 100 per cent stake in all these six companies. The merchant bankers are required to submit their bids by May 2. MSTC, a miniratna PSU under the steel ministry, is a trading house and renders services to the steel and petrochemical sectors for raw material support and seamless e-commerce service. Its authorised share capital is Rs. 50 crore as on January 31, 2017, and profit-after-tax for FY 2015-16 is Rs. 59.88 crore. The company's net worth stood at Rs. 732.48 crore. Another miniratna PSU North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) is under the control of the power ministry and has a portfolio of hydro, thermal and renewable projects. The company has generated 5,220 MU of electricity in 2015-16 and provides

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about 40 per cent of the energy requirement of the North East region of India. The authorised share capital of the company is Rs. 5,000 crore and the profit-after-tax for the fiscal 2015-16 is Rs. 372.55 crore. Its net worth stood at Rs. 5,988.28 crore.

Miniratna PSU Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) is under the administrative control of the Defence Ministry. Established in 1970, the PSU is a manufacturer of guided missiles and allied defence equipment. The authorised share capital is Rs. 125 crore and the paid up equity capital is Rs. 122.19 crore as on January 31, 2017.

India Offers \$10 Billion In Investments, \$5 Billion In Loans To Bangladesh, Says Sheikh Hasina

India will invest up to \$10 billion in Bangladeshi sectors including infrastructure and medicine and will provide \$5 billion in loans, including \$500 million in military assistance, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Tuesday. Hasina returned to Bangladesh on Monday after a four-day state visit to India, leading a 280 member business delegation including 40 senior government officials and ministers. "The offers of investment and loans were given by the Indian government and private entrepreneurs during my visit to New Delhi," she told reporters during a news conference

Government reduces number of centrally sponsored schemes to 28

The government has reduced the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) to 28 umbrella schemes from 66, Parliament was informed today. "Based on the recommendation of the sub-group of Chief Ministers on rationalisation of centrally sponsored schemes, the government of India has rationalised centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) effective from the financial year 2016-17. "The schemes of CSS have been reduced from 66 to 28 umbrella schemes," Minister of State(Independent).

Govt sets up inter-ministerial panel to monitor UDAN

The government has set up an inter-ministerial committee to monitor the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN which seeks to make flying affordable by connecting unserved and under-served airports. Besides, the panel would be responsible for coordination among stakeholders, including state governments, for "time bound" implementation of the scheme. The Civil Aviation Ministry has already awarded 128 routes connecting 70 airports to five airlines, including SpiceJet and an Air India subsidiary, under the scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik). Chaired by Civil Aviation Secretary, the 'Inter-Ministerial Monitoring-cum-Coordination Committee' would have representations from the ministries of finance, defence, home as well as petroleum and natural gas, as per a notification. Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman, representatives

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from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) apart from officials of airlines and states concerned would also be part of the panel. If required, the panel's chairperson can co-opt any officer or expert, according to the notification issued by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

President Pranab Mukherjee confers Padma awards to eminent personalities.

President Pranab Mukherjee today conferred the Padma awards to 42 people at a Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Eminent Singer Yesudas, spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev were given Padma Vibhushan award. Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Sunder Lal Patwa was given Padma Vibhushan posthumously. Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Dr Devi Prasad Dwivedi were given Padma Bhushan. Eminent Journalist Cho Ramaswamy was given the award posthumously. Wrestler Sakshi Malik, Gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Paralympian Mariyappan Thangavelu, Discus Thrower Vikas Gowda and renowned chef Sanjeev Kapoor received Padma Shri. Media magnet H R Shah, Film critic Bhawna Somiya, Journalist Balbir Dutt, Singer Kailash Kher and surgeon Dr Mukut Minz were given Padma Shri.

EPFO members to get loyalty-cum-life benefit of up to 50K.

Retirement fund body EPFO's subscribers will get loyalty-cum-life benefit of up to 50 thousand rupees at the time of retirement for contributing to the scheme for 20 years or more.

Malala 6th person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship.

Youngest Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai on 12 April 2017 became the sixth person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship. Malala, 19, was bestowed with the title during an honorary citizenship ceremony held in Ottawa. The privilege was previously granted to five others namely Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, religious leader Karim Aga Khan IV and Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg (posthumously).

Karnataka launches campaign against H1N1.

Karnataka Government on 12 April 2017 announced to launch Awareness Campaign against H1N1 in high incidence districts of Bengaluru, Mysore and Chitradurga.

UN chief Guterres names Achim Steiner as new administrator of UNDP.

Achim Steiner was named as the new administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by the UN chief Antonio Guterres. Steiner, a German with extensive experience at the world organization,

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will succeed Helen Clark, a former New Zealand prime minister.

Actor Munshi Venu Dies At 63.

Veteran actor Munshi Venu, who is known for playing supporting roles in Malayalam films, died on 13 April in Thrissur. He was 63.

CBFC regional office film certification to go online.

In a move to bolster transparency in the certification of films, the regional office of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) here will go online and provide status updates about its officials and film producers.

PM Narendra Modi launches BHIM-Aadhaar Pay app.

Prime Minister Modi on 14 April 2017, the 126th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, launched BHIM-Aadhaar app for merchants in Nagpur. In addition to this, he also launched cash back and referral bonus schemes for BHIM and declared about 75 townships spread all over India as 'less-cash townships'.

[READ MORE ABOUT AADHAR APP \(THE CREDIT CARD KILLER APP\)](#)

Nation pays rich tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 126th birth anniversary.

Nation remembers Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, chief architect of Indian constitution, today on his 126th birth

anniversary. President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes at Babasaheb's Statue in the Parliament House Complex this morning.

President lays foundation stone for Dr Ambedkar School of Economics.

President Pranab Mukherjee lays foundation stone for Dr Ambedkar School of Economics at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

Delhi: 10 day Aajeevika Mela 2017 begins at Pragati Maidan.

The ten day Aajeevika Mela 2017 began today at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Secretary Rural Development Department Amarjeet Sinha inaugurated the fair. Villagers especially women will showcase their art as handicrafts in the Mela.

US drops largest ever non-nuclear bomb on Isis affiliate in Afghanistan.

American lawmakers have applauded the Trump administration after the US military dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb on Islamic State targets in eastern Afghanistan. The US military yesterday dropped a GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), nicknamed as "Mother Of All Bombs" on a tunnel complex of ISIS-Khorasan.

eNAM transacts record Rs.15,000 Cr business in one year.

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The national agriculture market-eNAM has transacted a record 15 thousand crore rupees business in one year. In April last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Agriculture Market portal eNAM to connect e-mandis in several States. In last 6 months eNAM recorded very good growth and more than 160 markets were added in the portal. Currently 417 markets are working in 13 states.

Haryana government launches Operation Durga for women's safety.

On the lines of the Anti-Romeo Squad of Uttar Pradesh, the Haryana Government on 13 April 2017 launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state.

Mukulita Vijayawargiya takes charge as Whole Time Member of IBBI.

Mukulita Vijayawargiya on 13 April 2017 took charge as Whole Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi.

Pioneering HIV/AIDS researcher Mark Wainberg passes away.

Renowned Canadian AIDS researcher and social activist Dr Mark Wainberg passed away on 11 April 2017 in Florida, USA. He was 71.

JNU Central Library Renamed After BR Ambedkar.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has officially renamed its central library after BR Ambedkar. A bust of Ambedkar was also unveiled by Milind Kamble, Founder Chairman of the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) on the occasion.

7th Junior National Hockey Championship begins in Bhopal.

The Seventh Junior National Hockey Championship begins in Bhopal today. 86 teams will take part in the one month long event, which is being held for under-19 boys and girls.

US launches qualification tests for upgraded nuke bomb.

Scientists at Sandia National Laboratories are claiming success with the first in a new series of test flights involving an upgraded version of a nuclear bomb that has been part of the U.S. arsenal for decades. Work on the B61-12 has been ongoing for years, and government officials say the latest tests using mock versions of the bomb will be vital to the refurbishing effort.

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

An Indian environmental engineer has won this year's prestigious 'Cartier Women's Initiative Awards' for providing women working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash

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floods. Trupti Jain, 46, was one among the six winners chosen for the Asia-Pacific laureate from a pool of nearly 1,900 applicants from over 120 countries and were selected by an independent international jury.

CARTIER WOMEN'S INITIATIVE AWARDS 2017: COMPLETE WINNERS LIST

I-T department launches 2nd phase of Operation Clean Money to probe 60000 people.

The Income Tax (IT) department on 14 April 2017 launched the second phase of 'Operation Clean Money' to detect black money post-demonetisation. Over 60000 individuals will be investigated in the second phase. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the policy-making body of the department, detected undisclosed income of over 9334 crore rupees between 9 November 2016 till 28 February 2017, that time of the Financial Year 2016-17 when old currency notes were banned by PM Narendra Modi.

Former J&K Governor Girish Saxena dies.

Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Saxena has passed away at the age of 90. Saxena was an Indian Police Service officer of the 1950 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

Sculptor S Nandagopal dies.

Renowned sculptor S. Nandagopal died of a massive heart attack at his home at the Cholamandalal Artists' Village on Friday. He was 71. He was the recipient of the National Award, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi in 1970.

UP, Centre govts. sign MoU for 'Power for All' scheme.

Uttar Pradesh government and the Centre have signed an MoU for the 'Power for All' scheme in the state. The aim of this scheme is to ensure 24-hour quality power supply in the state by October 2018 and electric connection to every house and agriculture field by 2019. The project will cost above rupees 40 thousand crore out of which 20 thousand crore will be spent till 2018.

Pankaj Advani beats Sourav Kothari to win Asian Billiards Championship title.

Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani on 14th April 2017 won his sixth Asian Billiards title and seventh overall Asian championship. The ace cueist defeated his compatriot Sourav Kothari 6-3 in an entertaining final of the Asian Billiards Championship in Chandigarh.

Virtual museums to be set up in 50 places across country: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 April 2017 said virtual museums would be set up at 50 places in the country to highlight the significant

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role of the tribals in the freedom struggle. PM Modi today felicitated the family members of 16 great freedom fighters including Raghu Dibakar, Laxman Nayak, Chakhi Khuntia, Bauxi Jagabandhu, Veer Surendra Sai, Nirmal Munda and others, who participated in the first mutiny against British rule known as Paika Rebellion.

CBI to get new online system to deal with black money cases.

The CBI will get a new online system to assist it in probing cases of illegal wealth or black money. It will be helpful in collating data from various agencies including banks, Income Tax, I-T, department and Financial Intelligence Unit, FIU, among others. The move comes after a multi-disciplinary committee formed by the Central Vigilance Commission.

MoU between NSFDC & Development Commissioner (Handlooms) signed.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) on 14 April 2017 in New Delhi. The MoU was signed between the NSFDC under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Development and Commissioner (Handlooms) under the Union Ministry of Textiles.

Telangana Assembly passes bill to hike Muslim quota to 12%.

The Telangana Legislature on 16 April 2017 passed the Bill enhancing the reservations for Muslims and Scheduled Tribes (ST) to 12% and 10% respectively for admission into educational institutions and for the State services. Currently, reservations for Muslims is at 4%, while for Scheduled Tribes, it is at 6%.

MoU signed between Indian Academy of Highway Engineers & University of New South Wales.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in April 2017 between the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers and the University of New South Wales. The MoU was signed in line with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highway's vision to influence and adopt global innovation into the transportation sector.

New species of 125 million-year-old herbivorous dinosaur discovered.

Scientists have discovered a new species of a herbivorous dinosaur that lived about 125 million years ago. The new species belongs to a group of herbivores known as sauropods, which includes giants such as Brontosaurus and Brachiosaurus, who had long necks and pillar-like legs, said researchers from the Brigham Young University (BYU) in the U.S.

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Nepal, China begin first ever joint Military Exercise in Kathmandu.

China and Nepal began their first-ever joint military exercises on 16 April 2017. The 10-day drill programme in Kathmandu, dubbed 'Sagarmatha Friendship 2017' referring to the Nepali name for Mount Everest, will focus on counter-terrorism.

Prakash Javadekar to launch RUSA Portal, Mobile App tomorrow.

The Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), will launch its own portal and mobile app tomorrow by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar here in New Delhi. The portal will act as a one-stop for States' Higher Education Plans, decision of the States' Higher Education Councils and details of the resources under this scheme.

Paytm partners with Genesis Luxury for payment gateways in India.

Digital wallet player Paytm has partnered with luxury brand distributor Genesis Luxury in India which markets and distributes global luxury and premium brands in the country.

Sai Praneeth wins Singapore open Badminton.

Sai Praneeth has won the title match of Men's singles at Singapore Open

Badminton beating his compatriot Kidambi Srikanth.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launches 17 RUSA projects.

A cluster university in Jammu and Kashmir and language laboratories in Jharkhand's Ghatsila College were among the 17 projects launched by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar. The projects spread across 14 states have been completed under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of HRD Ministry aimed at providing central funding to state higher education departments and institutions to achieve the broad objectives of access, equity and excellence. Javadekar also launched a portal with all details of resources facilitated under the scheme and a "Fund and Reform Tracker" mobile application.

PM Modi inaugurates many projects in Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated a series of projects during his visit of Gujarat. The projects inaugurated by Prime Minister include the Multi-speciality Hospital at Katargam, High Tech Diamond factory at Ichchhapur and various plants at SUMUL dairy in Bajipura- all in Surat district.

Nepal President arrives in Delhi on five-day visit.

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Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a five-day visit to India. This is her first state visit after assuming office of the President in October 2015.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte wins Time Magazine's Most Influential Person poll.

President [Rodrigo Duterte](#) claimed the top spot in TIME magazine's 100 most influential people poll for 2017. The feisty Philippine president received 5 percent of "yes" votes in the online poll that started in the last week of March and closed on 17 April 2017. US Sen. Bernie Sanders and Russian President Vladimir Putin won the reader poll in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

[Read more](#)

Patanjali opens its first vegetarian restaurant Postik in Chandigarh.

After super success in retail, Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's [Patanjali](#), it appears, has now entered the restaurant business. Postik restaurant in Chandigarh, 100 per cent vegetarian carries the logo of Ramdev's Patanjali. The restaurant is situated in Zirakpur.

[Read More](#)

IIT Bhubaneswar organises its first Alumni Meet.

To take a stroll down the corridors of nostalgia and to unite all the alumni,

the first alumni meet of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar was organized by from 14th of April to 16th April. The institute welcomed all passed-out graduates with warmth and vigour. It was the first time that they got a feel of their own new permanent campus at the foothills of the majestic Barunei Hills.

Supreme Court Bars N Srinivasan From Representing BCCI In ICC Meet.

The Supreme Court on 17 April barred for Indian cricket board president N. Srinivasan from representing the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the International Cricket Conference (ICC) meeting on April 24 and subsequently directed the BCCI's acting secretary Amitabh Chaudhary to represent the cricket board at the ICC meeting and directed BCCI CEO Rahul Johri to accompany him.

Internet pioneer Robert Taylor passes away.

Robert Taylor, a pioneer of Modern Computing and the Internet, passed away on 13 April 2017 following Parkinson's disease. He was 85. Taylor was instrumental in the creation of the internet and modern computer.

Guitar pioneer Allan Holdsworth passes away.

Progressive rock and jazz fusion guitar pioneer Allan Holdsworth

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passed away on 15 April 2017 in California, U.S. He was 70.

World's oldest person Emma Morano dies at 117.

World's oldest person Emma Martina Luigia Morano, believed to be the last known living individual to be born in the 19th century, passed away on 15 April 2017. She was 117.

Railways Ministry launches first ever train with glass roof coaches on Visakhapatnam-Araku route.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on 16 April 2017 flagged off first ever train with glass roof coaches on Visakhapatnam-Araku route through video conferencing from Bhubaneswar.

Sebastian Vettel wins 2017 Bahrain Grand Prix.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel on 16 April 2017 grabbed the first position in the 2017 Bahrain Grand Prix. The victory is Vettel's second of the season after the four-time world champion won the opener in Australia. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas finished second and third in the race, respectively.

Gayatri Pullela wins twin crown at Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix.

National Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri Pullela has bagged both the singles and

doubles crown at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix in Jakarta.

Rajasthan govt to sign reworked MoU with HPCL for Barmer refinery today.

In Rajasthan, the state government will sign a reworked MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited -HPCL today for the Rs 43,129 crore Barmer refinery in the presence of Union Minister of state for petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan and Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

SBI becomes India's most-valued Public Sector Company.

State Bank of India (SBI) on 18 April 2017 surpassed Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to become the country's most valued state-owned company in terms of market valuation.

President of India Inaugurates Global Exhibition on Services.

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the third edition of the Global Exhibition on Services (GES-2017) at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17 April 2017.

The World Hemophilia Day observed across the world on 17 April.

The World Hemophilia Day was celebrated across the world on 17 April 2017 with the theme "Hear Their Voices".

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World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) 2017 observed with theme Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism.

The 2017 World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) was observed across the world on 18 April 2017. The theme for the year is Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism.

World Bank released report Globalization Backlash.

The World Bank on 16 April 2017 released a report entitled Globalization Backlash. The report observed that despite possible protectionism, South Asia has an opportunity to increase exports and create jobs.

Vastu Shastra to be introduced in IIT Kharagpur.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur is all set to introduce Vastu Shastra classes for its architecture students from August 2017.

PM Modi inaugurated Link-II of SAUNI project in Botad, Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated phase-I of the Link-II pipeline canal of the ambitious Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana in Botad district of Gujarat.

BEML bags Hindustan PSU award.

Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) a defence public sector has received the Hindustan PSU Award under the category 'Fastest Growing Organisation – Miniratna'.

ISRO, BHEL tie-up for lithium-ion batteries.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to help develop low-cost lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles.

PNB launches three new products on foundation day.

On the occasion of its Foundation Day, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched three new products for its customers. The three new products are automated electronic toll collection to facilitate hassle-free toll payment/ collection, a credit card mobile App and a scheme for financing a grid connected Roof Solar Power Project.

BHEL commissions 2 units at Maharashtra thermal power project.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has successfully commissioned two units of 270 MW at RattanIndia Nasik Power Ltd's, Maharashtra.

RBI opens new banking ombudsman office in Jammu.

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The Reserve Bank has opened a new ombudsman office in Jammu as part of its efforts to expand banking grievances complaint cells across the country. Earlier, the banking services related complaints from entire Jammu & Kashmir used to fall under the jurisdiction of New Delhi-1 banking ombudsman office. There are two banking ombudsman offices in New Delhi.

Ayodhya Case: Supreme Court restores conspiracy charges against Advani and other BJP leaders

Senior BJP leaders LK Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti will face trial in the Ayodhya disputed structure case as the Supreme Court today allowed the CBI plea and restored criminal conspiracy charges against them. Vinay Katiyar, Sadhvi Ritambara, Satish Pradhan, Champat Rai Bansal and Late Giriraj Kishore are among others who will face criminal conspiracy in the case.

Govt bans red beacons on all VIP vehicles, including PM's, emergency services exempted.

Ministers and officials in the Central government will not be able to use red beacons on their official vehicles from 1st of next month. However, beacons will be allowed on vehicles dealing with emergency in relief services, ambulance and fire services.

US President Donald Trump signs executive order to tighten H-1B visa programme.

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to tighten the rules for technology companies seeking to bring highly skilled foreign workers to the United States. The order signed by Mr Trump on 18 April targets the H-1B visa programme.

Sagar Baheti becomes India's first visually impaired runner to complete Boston Marathon.

India's Sagar Baheti on 17 April 2017 became the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete the historic Boston Marathon. Supported by the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MABVI), Baheti completed a distance of 42.16 kilometres in just over four hours.

UP Government renames Gorakhpur and Agra Airports .

In the third meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, the state government renamed the Gorakhpur and Agra Airports as well as the name of the Department of Welfare of the Differently-abled. The Gorakhpur Airforce Station was renamed after the name of Mahayogi Gorakhnath. Likewise, the Agra Airport was renamed after RSS ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport.

First Made in India industrial robot BRABO unveiled .

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TAL Manufacturing Solutions in April 2017 unveiled India's first conceptualized, designed and manufactured articulated industrial robot called BRABO. BRABO stands for "Bravo Robot". It has been developed indigenously for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in India. TAL Manufacturing Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors.

Palladium Cinema site to be developed as heritage museum in Srinagar .

The Palladium Cinema site at Lal Chowk of Srinagar will be developed as a heritage museum soon. The cinema was once a popular hangout for movie buffs but fell victim to militancy. Palladium Cinema, which is located at the historic Lal Chowk, was closed down in 1989 after the eruption of militancy in the state.

Devendra Kumar Sharma appointed as Chairman of BBMB .

Devendra Kumar Sharma was on 18 April 2017 appointed as the Chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) for a period of three years. His appointment was approved by the Appointment Committee Of Cabinet.

B N Mohapatra takes over as Financial Commissioner of Railways .

B N Mohapatra on 17 April 2017 took over as the new Financial Commissioner (FC) (Railways) and

ex-official Secretary to the Government of India. The Financial Commissioner of Railways plays an important role in allocation of funds and for all expenses and revenues of the Railways.

Top Maoist leader Narayan Sanyal passes away.

Narayan Sanyal, a top leader of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist [CPI-Maoist], passed away on 17 April 2017 following a prolonged illness in a South Kolkata hospital. He was 78.

Historian A V Narasimha Murthy honoured with Gururaja Bhat Award.

Eminent historian Professor A V Narasimha Murthy on 17 April 2017 was presented with Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Award 2017.

Karnataka govt signs MoU with Aviation Ministry, AAI to promote regional air links.

Karnataka government on 20 April 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airport Authority of India to promote regional air links.

'One Stop Centre' set up at Tripura Commission for Women.

In Tripura, a 'One Stop Centre' (OSC) has been set up at Tripura Commission for Women (TCW)

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recently. The centre, sanctioned by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India has started functioning in the premises of TCW in Agartala.

Finance Ministry approves 8.65% interest rate on EPF for 2016-17: Labour Minister.

Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya on 20 April 2017 said that the Finance Ministry has approved 8(point)65 per cent interest rate on EPF for 2016-17.

Madhya Pradesh government, DMRC inked pact to supply power from Rewa project.

Madhya Pradesh government has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to supply 24 per cent of electricity generated from the Rewa ultra mega solar project to be set up in the state. The rest of the power will be supplied to the state.

China to host BRICS Film Festival in June, 2017.

The 2017 BRICS Film Festival will be held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province from June 23 to 27, 2017. There will be 30 films from BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) screened during the festival. The first BRICS Film Festival was held in New Delhi, India, in September 2016.

'One Part Woman' wins Sahitya Akademi Award for translation of Mathorubhagan.

The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan's novel Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman) has won the Sahitya Akademi's award for translation in English 2016. The translation was done by Aniruddhan Vasudevan and the book was published by Penguin.

R Sridhar joins IndoStar Capital as Executive VC, CEO.

Former Sriram Group chief R Sridhar has joined as Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of IndoStar.

BHIM app reaches near 20 million download mark.

Indigenous digital payments app BHIM has recorded close to 20 million downloads so far, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on 20 April said. On December 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the app for fast and secure cashless transactions using mobile phones. BHIM is a platform designed to make payment through UPI and USSD modes simpler.

Victoria Beckham appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Victoria Beckham on 19 April 2017 was appointed the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the fashion industry. Prince William presented the honour

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to the pop singer turned fashion designer at the Buckingham Palace in London.

United Nations Chinese Day 2017 observed.

The United Nations Chinese Day 2017 was observed globally on 20 April 2017. The Day is observed every year to promote the use of Chinese language in the United Nations.

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

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in April 2017 selected Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for the Krishi Karman Awards 2015-16. On the other hand, Meghalaya was chosen for commendation prize for total food grain production. The state would also be given a cash award of Rs 1 crore.

Italian mayor Giuseppina Nicolini wins UNESCO Peace Prize.

The UNESCO on 19 April 2017 awarded the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize to Giuseppina Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa and to the nongovernmental organization SOS Méditerranée (France).

World Earth Day 2017 observed across the world.

World Earth Day was observed on 22 April 2017 across the world. The theme for the year is Environmental & Climate Literacy.

1st India-Indonesia Energy Forum held in Jakarta.

The First Indian-Indonesia Energy Forum was held on 20 April 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Piyush Goyal and Indonesia's Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ignasius Jonan participated in the forum.

Snap Acquires Geofilter Patent for \$7.7 Million.

Snap Inc has acquired "Geofilters," or photo filters based on location, patent from photo-sharing platform Mobli for \$7.7 million.

China's First Cargo Spacecraft Docks With Orbiting Space Lab.

China's first cargo spacecraft docked successfully with the Tiangong-2 space lab on Saturday, the official Xinhua news agency reported, marking a major step towards Beijing's goal of establishing a permanently manned space station by 2022.

RBI signs MoU with the Bank of Guyana.

The Reserve Bank of India signed an MoU on "Supervisory Cooperation

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and Exchange of Supervisory Information” with Bank of Guyana.

UP govt to set up 40 Yoga wellness centres in 40 districts

Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up 40 Yoga wellness centres in 40 districts during current financial year. Of them 23 will be set up at Ayurvedic hospitals, 12 at homeopathic and 7 at Unani hospitals and colleges.

Former speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Ali Mohammad Naik passes away.

Senior National Conference (NC) leader and former speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Ali Mohammad Naik, passed away here. He was 87.

Veteran Journalist Nora Chopra passes away.

Veteran Journalist Nora Chopra passed away at 64 due to multi-organ failure.

Uttar Pradesh gets new DGP Sul Khan Singh.

In its first major bureaucratic reshuffle after coming into power in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government transferred twelve IPS and seven IAS officers. UP's DGP Javeed Ahmad has also been shunted out. 1980-batch IPS officer Sul Khan Singh who was DG (Training) is the new DGP of Uttar Pradesh.

GNFC wins Golden Peacock Award.

The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model. The Golden Peacock Awards were established by the Institute of Directors (IOD) in India in 1991. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, the managing director of the GNFC, was given the award at a ceremony at the 27th World Congress at the Dubai Global Convention.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launches Probono Services, Legal Aid Schemes, Nyaya

Mitra.

Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated three welfare initiatives of the Department of Justice. The services launched are- Pro-bono legal services- Through the Pro bono legal services, lawyers who want to provide legal services free of cost can register themselves on a web-based platform. Tele-law service- It aims to connect marginalized communities with lawyers through video conferencing facilities, to be set up at Common Service Centres (CSCs). Nyaya Mitra Project- It aims to reduce pendency in lower courts, with a special focus on cases which are more than ten years old.

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Food testing labs to be set up in every district: UP CM Yogi Adityanath.

Taking a serious note of adulteration in food items, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed setting up of laboratories for testing food samples in every district of the state.

Naval exercises between Japan & US begin in Western Pacific.

Naval exercises between Japan and the United States began in the Western Pacific near waters around the Korean peninsula.

World Book and Copyright Day 2017 observed.

The World Book and Copyright Day was celebrated on 23 April 2017 across the globe. To mark the occasion, special events were organised to promote reading, publishing and copyright across the world including India.

English Language Day observed across the world .

The United Nations English Language Day 2017 was observed globally on 23 April 2017. The Day is observed every year on the date that is traditionally observed as both, the birthday and the date of death of William Shakespeare.

Indian-American Named Dean Of Kansas College.

An Indian-American theoretical physicist with interests in soft matter and statistical physics has been named the dean of a top college in the US state of Kansas. Amit Chakrabarti was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences by the Kansas State University.

Himanta Biswa Sarma becomes interim BAI president.

BJP leader and Assam Badminton Association President Himanta Biswa Sarma was appointed Badminton Association of India's interim head. Himanta Biswa Sarma to succeed late Akhilesh Das Gupta as Badminton Association of India's interim president.

Embraer, Air India to set up MRO in Secunderabad.

Brazilian aerospace major Embraer has partnered with state-owned Air India to set up a maintenance and repair MRO facility to maintain its brand of private and business jets in the entire Southeast Asian region.

Bopanna, Cuevas lift title of Monte Carlo Masters tournament.

In Tennis, Rohan Bopanna and his team-mate Pablo Cuevas have lifted title of Monte Carlo Masters tournament in Monaco. The unseeded Indo-Uruguayan pair defeated seventh-placed Spanish team of Feliciano and Marc Lopez by 6-3, 3-6, 10-4.

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National Panchayati Raj Diwas being observed today.

Every year April 24 is being observed as National Panchayati Raj Diwas across India. This day marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993. The Kuthar Gram Panchayat of Himachal Pradesh will get the award for its best works. This Gram Panchayat was the first to become open defecation free (ODF).

Yogi Adityanath inaugurated National Panchayati Raj Diwas function.

The National Panchayati Raj Diwas was observed across India on 24 April 2017. The day is observed every year to mark the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, which came into effect on 24 April 1993. The day would be commemorated with a function in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The function would be inaugurated by the UP CM Yogi Adityanath and presided over by Birender Singh, the Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking water.

Newton wins Best Film at Hong Kong Film Festival.

Actor Rajkummar Rao-starrer film 'Newton' in April 2017 won the best film honour at the 41st Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF). The film has its world premiere at the 67th Berlin Film Festival where it won the International Federation of Art

Cinemas (CICAE) award in its Forum segment.

Saudi Arabia King's son Prince Khaled bin Salman bin Abdulaziz appointed as US Envoy.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman on 22 April 2017 issued a royal decree stating the appointment of one of his sons Prince Khaled bin Salman bin Abdulaziz as the Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States (US). Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki was removed as Ambassador to the US.

Kailash Satyarthi honoured with P C Chandra Puraskaar 2017.

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 23 April 2017 was presented the P C Chandra Puraskar. Satyarthi was honoured with the award for his global crusade against child slavery and exploitative child labour.

India Post releases commemorative postage stamp on coffee as fragrance stamp.

The India Post on 23 April 2017 released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Coffee as a Fragrance Stamp in Bengaluru. The stamp was jointly released by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha.

Google to introduce 'Copyless Paste' feature.

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Google on 23 April 2017 introduced the first code for its new feature 'Copyless Paste' in its Chrome app running on Android OS. The Copyless Paste feature will take data from Chrome usage and use that to improve the experience in other apps.

SC directs Kerala govt to reinstate former DGP TP Senkumar.

The Supreme Court has directed the Kerala government to reinstate former Director General of Police , DGP, T P Senkumar. He was removed from the post by the LDF government.

Pak Hindus allowed to worship at Shiva temple after 20 years.

A Pakistani court today allowed Hindus to worship at a Shiva temple in Abbottabad district which had been off limits to them for 20 years. The Peshawar High Court permitted Hindus to worship at the temple of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under section 20 of the Constitution.

BSNL launches commercial operation of 4G plus Wifi services in Hyderabad.

The BSNL has launched commercial operation of 4G plus Wifi services in Hyderabad. Telangana Chief General Manager Ananthram launched the 4.5 G Plus WiFi services at four spots in the city.

MCC offers honorary life membership to former captain of Indian women's Test team.

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

Bihar Legislative Assembly approves GST.

The Bihar Legislative Assembly today unanimously adopted the Goods and Services Tax (GST) bill along with the Bihar taxation (Amendment) Bill.

Veteran actor K. Viswanath wins Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016.

Veteran filmmaker and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath is the winner of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016.

Goldman Prize for Prafulla Samantra.

Social activist Prafulla Samantra was announced one of six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize, in San Francisco.

SBI, CREDAI ink MoU for concessional loan for housing projects.

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State-owned SBI and realtors' body CREDAI have signed an agreement to provide loans at a concessional rate to builders as well as customers for affordable housing projects. SBI and CREDAI have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate and work towards the development of the real estate sector, specifically through the affordable housing and green housing projects.

Haryana launches mobile app 'Kilkari' to create awareness among pregnant women.

The National Health Mission (NHM) in Haryana launched a mobile-based application named 'Kilkari' to create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers on the importance of ante and post natal care.

Moushumi Chatterjee gets BFJA lifetime achievement award.

Veteran actress Moushumi Chatterjee has received the lifetime achievement award, at the 80th Bengal Film Journalists' Association (BFJA) awards.

Cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing removed from 2018 Asian Games programme.

One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang is cricket. Apart from cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing are among the other sports which

have been removed from the programme in order to reduce the burden on Indonesian organisers.

Rafael Nadal wins Monte Carlo Masters Men's Singles title.

Rafael Nadal on 23 April 2017 defeated Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-1 6-3 to win the Monte Carlo Masters Men's Singles title. With the win, Nadal became the first man in the Open era to win the same event 10 times. He won eight Monte Carlo titles in a row from 2005 to 2012. He won the title again in the year 2016. Also, it is Nadal's first title of the season, having lost his previous three finals.

Mridul Gehlot elected president of kabaddi federation.

Mridul Gehlot and Dinesh Patel were elected unanimously president and general secretary of Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI).

Haryana emerge champion at National Youth Athletics Meet.

Haryana beat arch rivals Kerala after six years to win the team championship at the National Youth Athletics Meet, which concluded in Hyderabad.

World Malaria Day 2017 observed globally .

World Malaria Day (WMD) 2017 was observed globally on 25 April 2017

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with the theme Malaria prevention: let's close the gap.

Haryana: Ballabgarh renamed as Balramgarh.

Haryana Government has changed the name of Ballabgarh to Balramgarh. Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on 24 April 2017 announced this at Ballabgarh in Faridabad district.

Cuba and Morocco re-establish diplomatic ties after 37 years.

Cuba and Morocco in the third week of April 2017 signed an agreement to re-establish diplomatic ties after a gap of 37 years. The announcement was made by the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Morocco's King Mohamed VI has already ordered the opening of an embassy in Havana. Cuba is one of the few Latin American countries where Rabat was not represented to date.

Indo-French naval exercise "Varuna" commences.

The Indian Navy on 24 April 2017 began a joint maritime exercise Varuna with the French Navy at the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise will conclude on 30 April 2017.

Vani Jairam gets Ghantasala national award.

Vani Jairam, the versatile playback singer in the South Indian film industry, was presented with the

Ghantasala national award on 23 April 2017 at a function held in Andhra Pradesh. The award is instituted by the Ghantasala National Art Academy in Andhra Pradesh. The 71-year-old singer received the award from A. Ramalingeswara Rao, a High court judge in Andhra Pradesh and R Ananda Bhaskar, Rajya Sabha member from the congress party.

Aamir Khan receives Dinanath Mangeshkar Award 2017.

Superstar Aamir Khan was on 25 April 2017 honoured with the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award for his film Dangal, which was one of the biggest hits of 2016. The award was bestowed upon him by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Other awardees:-

- **Legendary actress Vyjayanthimala Bali was also honoured with Master Dinanath Vishesh Puraskar for her achievements in Hindi cinema.**
- **Mohan Wagh Award for best drama was presented to Sunil Barve for Amar Photo Studio Subak Sanstha.**
- **Uday Nirgudkar received an award for his editorial work while Kaushiki Chakraborty was awarded for her endeavour in the field of music.**
- **Kapil Dev was given the award for his outstanding contribution to the Indian cricket.**
- **Kishore Deshpande was presented with Anadmeye Puraskar for his work in social service.**
- **Vishwanath Karad, Founder of Vishwashanti Kendra, was presented**

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with Samarpit Jeevan Puraskar.
• Vijaya Rajadhyaksha was conferred with Vagvilasini Puraskar for her work in literature.

India becomes world's fifth largest military spender.

India on 24 April 2017 became the world's fifth largest military spender, as per the figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). India spent around USD 55.9 billion for its military in the year 2016. As per the data of SIPRI, the United States remains the world's largest military spender followed by China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia at 2nd, 3rd and 4th position respectively. The other prominent military spenders are Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

Yi Technology Partners With Google.

Coming first to the Yi Halo, the camera has been developed in partnership with Google and is especially targeted at professionals. Xiaomi-backed Chinese company Yi Technology earlier this year launched its Yi 4K+ action camera, which was claimed by the company to be the first in camera market to capture 4K videos at 60 fps.

Indians with US visas to receive visa on arrival in UAE.

Indian nationals who hold a valid US visa or a green card will get a two-week UAE visa on arrival in the country from May 1.

TERI, French firm "3WAYSTE" sign MoU for 'Clean India'.

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

Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates One Day National Consultation On Revised Accreditation Framework.

Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar today inaugurated the one day National Consultation on Revised Accreditation Framework here in New Delhi. At the event he emphasized the importance of quality education and said that accreditation process or any certification or assessment process must also take into account the final product of it. While subject knowledge is one end of the spectrum, the delivery of subject knowledge, infrastructure and building skill component in a student comprise the other spectrum.

India replaces Japan as no. 2 LPG importer.

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India has replaced Japan as world's number two importer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The result is an outcome of the rigorous effort of Nation's call for a 'safer kitchen'. According to data from Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, the country imported 23 percent more LPG in the financial year 2016-17, a figure that stands at 11 million tonnes. China continues to occupy the top position as world's largest LPG importer.

LVMH Bags Christian Dior Couture.

The world's top luxury company LVMH on 25 April took full control of Christian Dior in order to harness the "high growth potential" of "one of the world's most iconic brands," .

India's first sea ropeway to link Mumbai and Elephanta island.

India's first and longest ropeway to connect Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust.

Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur bags Gold at Asian Grand Prix Meet in China.

Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur has clinched a gold in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jinhua, China. Manpreet came up with a best throw of 18.86 metre, which was nearly one meter more than her earlier national record of 17.96 metre that she had set in 2015.

With the performance, Manpreet also qualified for the IAAF World Championships to be held in August in London.

India & Sri Lanka sign MoU on economic co-operation.

India and Sri Lanka today signed an MoU on economic co-operation. The agreement was exchanged in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi. Earlier, the two leaders held a meeting at Hyderabad House.

US military starts deploying THAAD missile defence system in South Korea.

US military has started deploying the THAAD missile defence system in South Korea, amid high tensions over neighbouring North Korea's nuclear and missile ambitions.

China's first home-built aircraft carrier hit water.

China's first home-built aircraft carrier hit the water today boosting its military presence amid rising tensions in the region. China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported that the Vice -Chairman of the Central Military Commission, Fan Changlong, attended the ship launching ceremony of 001A. It is the country's second aircraft carrier, after the Liaoning, and the first to be made domestically.

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Trump sends Indian-American's name to Senate for 'IP czar'.

President Donald Trump has sent to the Senate Indian-American Vishal J Amin's name to be the US' new Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.

White House names Randolph Ailes as new Director of Secret Service.

The White House has named a retired Marine major general Randolph Ailes as the new Director of the Secret Service. Ailes will oversee an agency that for years has been beset with a series of high-profile embarrassments. Ailes, who was in the Marine Corps for 35 years, has been the acting deputy commissioner of Customs and Border Protection and previously oversaw the agency's air and marine division. Ailes is replacing Joseph Clancy, who retired from the agency a second time in March.

MTDC inks pact with Etihad, Jet Air to promote tourism.

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) on 26 April said it has signed an agreement with Etihad and Jet Airways to attract more visitors to the state and to leverage on the airline's expanding international network.

NASA launches Super Pressure Balloon from New Zealand.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on 25 April 2017 successfully launched its football-stadium-sized and heavy-lift Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) from Wanaka, New Zealand.

China bans 'Muhammad', 'Jihad', and 'Medina' as baby names.

The Chinese government in April 2017 prohibited parents from choosing baby names like Islam, Medina, Jihad and Quran for their children, thereby strengthening its hold on Muslims living in western China.

World Intellectual Property Day 2017 observed globally.

The World Intellectual Property Day 2016 was on 26 April 2017 observed across the world with the theme Innovation – Improving Lives. The theme of the year explores how innovation makes lives healthier, safer and more comfortable.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2017 observed.

The International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2017 was observed across the world on 26 April 2017.

Indian businessman Yusaffali MA wins Queen's Enterprise Award.

A prominent Indian businessman's food processing plant in Britain has won the prestigious Queen's

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Enterprise Award 2017 for its exceptional contribution to the UK's trade, industry and economy.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announces electricity bill surcharge waiver scheme.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on 26 April 2017 announced launch of the Electricity Bill Surcharge Waiver Scheme 2017 to provide consumers another opportunity to clear their outstanding bills. Under this scheme, consumers whose electricity bills are outstanding and who have not been able to avail the benefit of the earlier surcharge waiver scheme, are being given another opportunity to pay their outstanding dues. The consumers can pay their outstanding power bill without surcharge, either in lump sum or six equal bi-monthly instalments along with current bills.

Unocoin partners with PayU Biz for simple buying of bitcoins.

Bitcoin and blockchain company Unocoin has partnered with PayU Biz, a payment gateway, to facilitate Unocoin users to buy Bitcoins using the net banking feature. The company expects that this will allow a frictionless buying experience for bitcoin users who can buy bitcoins through netbanking feature by using the PayU payment gateway.

England all-rounder Zafar Ansari quits cricket at 25.

Zafar Ansari, the England all-rounder who played three Tests and one one-day international, has announced a surprise retirement from all cricket at the age of 25. Ansari, who made his international debut for England in May 2015.

India wins 16 medals at US Open karate Championship.

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

PM flags off Shimla-New Delhi flight under UDAN scheme.

PM Narendra Modi on 27 April 2017 flagged off the first regional flights under the **Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** scheme from Shimla Airport, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The three inaugural flights were launched in the sectors of Shimla-Delhi, Kadapa-Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad.

See Also: [All you need to know about UDAN Scheme](#)

Bollywood actor Vinod Khanna passes away at 70.

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Veteran Hindi Cinema actor [Vinod Khanna](#) passed away at the age of 70, in Mumbai this morning. The actor was suffering from cancer.

[Read More about Vinod Khanna](#)

India test-fires Agni-III ballistic missile.

India carried out a fresh user trial of 3,000 kilometre range Agni-III ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast on 27 April 2017.

Gopal Rai appointed as new convenor of AAP Delhi Unit.

Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai has been appointed as the new convenor of party's Delhi Unit. This came after party Delhi chief Dilip Pandey resigned from the post owing the responsibility of AAP drubbing in the MCD polls.

Jharkhand assembly passes GST bill.

Jharkhand Assembly today passed the Jharkhand Goods and Services Taxes Bill, 2017 to pave the way for roll out of GST from July 1.

Aadhaar Card Becomes Mandatory For Bhopal Gas Victims.

The Aadhaar registration card has been made mandatory for Bhopal gas victims to receive any ex gratia payment or compensation.

India to host 18th World Road Meeting.

India is set to host the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) on November 13, 2017 according to the International Road Federation (IRF). The WRM is the biggest global platform for road engineers, safety and transport experts and companies engaged in road safety products. The theme of this year's edition is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'. The WRM is held every four years.

e-SOT and e-PRAN card launched for Atal Pension Yojana subscribers.

With a view to digitally empower the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers and improve the quality of service, the facility of online viewing of the statement of the transaction (e-SOT) and also the e-Permanent Retirement Account Number (e-PRAN card) have been launched. More than 45 lacs APY subscribers will be benefitted with this initiative.

Centre Takes 10 New Swachh Iconic Places under Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, was held recently at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, in Jammu & Kashmir. On this occasion, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar announced 10 new Iconic places to be taken under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative. These ten new iconic places which are to be brought to a higher standard of swachhta and

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visitors' amenities are-

1. Gangotri
2. Yamunotri
3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain
4. Char Minar, Hyderabad
5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa
6. Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam
7. Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola
8. Baijnath Dham, Devghar
9. Gaya Tirth in Bihar and
10. Somnath temple in Gujarat.

Srishti Kaur crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017.

Srishti Kaur was crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017 after beating 25 contestants from around the world at the annual beauty pageant. The event was held in Managua, the capital of Central American country Nicaragua. She also won the prize for best national costume. Samantha Pierre from Canada and Ary Trava from Mexico were the runners-up in the event. The pageant is organized by the Miss Universe organization for teens aged 15 to 19. It takes place once in a year.

The Tata Safari Storme beat the Mahindra Scorpio to become the Indian Army's official ride.

Tata Motors has bagged a contract of supplying 3,192 units of its Safari Storme 4x4 model to the Indian Army, under a new category of vehicles named G S800 (General Service 800).

Puducherry farmers to get free power.

The government of Pondicherry announced on 27 April 2017 that the farmers in the Union Territory will be getting free power supply from this month for pump sets used for irrigation purpose.

Union Government launches MSEFC Portal and MyMSME Mobile App.

Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu on 27 April 2017 launched Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal and MyMSME Mobile App.

UAE's first solar powered gas station opens in Dubai.

The Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) on 26 April 2017 opened United Arab Emirates' first solar-powered gas station. The service station lies on Dubai's main Sheikh Zayed Road thoroughfare. It is covered with solar panels that can generate up to 120 kilowatt hours.

Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar appointed as new CRPF chief.

Two days after Maoists killed 25 CRPF jawans in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, the Centre on Tuesday appointed [Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar](#) as the next Central Police Reserve Force chief. The post had been lying vacant for more than eight

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weeks because the central government could not agree on a name.

[Read More](#)

Senior IPS officer RK Pachnanda appointed as the DG of Indo-Tiben Border Police force.

Senior IPS officer RK Pachnanda was also appointed as the DG of Indo-Tiben Border Police force. Pachnanda is a 1983 batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work observed globally.

28 April: World Day for Safety and Health at Work The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2017 was observed across the world on 28 April 2017 with the theme 'Optimize the collection and use of OSH data'.

India, Cyprus sign 4 agreements.

India and Cyprus have signed four agreements after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The areas in which the MoUs have been exchanged are Air Services, Agriculture, Merchant Shipping and Culture Education.

21 lakh street lights installed across country under Street Light Programme.

Over 21 lakh LED street lights have been installed across India under Street Light National Programme across the country.

El Salvador becomes 1st country in world to ban metals mining.

El Salvador has become the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in what campaigners called a landmark move for environmental protection.

NASA's Cassini successfully executes dive in between Saturn, its rings.

NASA's Cassini spacecraft has successfully executed its historic first-ever dive through the narrow gap between the planet Saturn and its rings, marking the beginning of the 'Grand Finale' of the 20-year-long journey.

Chhattisgarh passes State GST Bill.

Chhattisgarh legislative assembly on 28 April 2017 passed the state Goods and Service Tax Bill 2017 by a voice vote after a three hour long debate.

President conferred Jnanpith Award to poet Sankha Ghosh.

Sankha Ghosh, eminent Bengali poet and literary critic was honoured with the 52nd Jnanpith Award on 27 April 2017 by President Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi.

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Uma Bharti has launched Water Conservation Programme for Bundelkhand.

Uma Bharti, the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation launched 'Jal Sanrakshan Karyakram-Bundelkhand', an extensive water conservation programme on 28 April 2017 at Bandri, Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

World Immunization Week 2017 observed with theme "VaccinesWork".

World Immunization Week 2017 is being observed across the globe between 24 April and 30 April 2017. The theme for the 2017 World Immunization Week is 'VaccinesWork.' The theme aims to raise awareness about the critical importance of full immunization throughout life, and its role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Tamil actor Vinu Chakravarthy passes away.

Veteran Tamil actor and scriptwriter Vinu Chakravarthy passed away on 28 April 2017 following a prolonged illness in Chennai. He was 71.

Shah Rukh Khan becomes first Indian actor to deliver Ted Talk.

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan on 27 April 2017 became the first Indian actor to deliver TED speech in

Vancouver, Canada. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design.

Jonathan Demme, Oscar-winning director of The Silence of the Lambs, dies

Jonathan Demme, the Oscar-winning director of The Silence of the Lambs, passed away on 26 April 2017. He was 73. The cause of Demme's death is said to be esophageal cancer.

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

Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha, on 27 April 2017 was selected for the Pierre L'Enfant Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards-2017. The city was selected for the award for good and advanced town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process.

Haryana Government appoints BS Sandhu as state's DGP .

The Haryana government on 27 April 2017 appointed senior IPS officer Baljit Singh Sandhu as the new Director General of Haryana Police. The 1984 batch IPS officer would be replacing K P Singh, who has been appointed as the Director General of Prisons.

First direct London-China train completes 12,000 km run.

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The first freight train linking China directly to the UK arrived in the eastern Chinese city of Yiwu today after a 12,000-kilometre trip, becoming the world's second-longest rail route. The journey is the latest effort in China's drive to strengthen trade links with western Europe along a "Silk Road" route. The world's top trading nation launched the "One Belt, One Road" strategy in 2013, and has since poured millions into constructing vast infrastructure links.

Two Indian-Americans Ritu Raju & Sundeep R Muppidi selected for ACE fellowship.

Two Indian-Americans are among 46 emerging college and university leaders selected by American Council on Education, ACE in Houston for its prestigious fellowship. Ritu Raju of Houston Community college in Houston Texas and Sundeep R Muppidi of the University of Hartford in Hartford (HCC) Connecticut were named Fellows as part of the ACE Fellows Programme 2017-18 class.

India's 1st book village to come up in Maharashtra.

A hamlet in Satara district of Maharashtra is all set to embrace the tag of India's first 'village of books'. The concept is inspired by Britain's Hay-on-Wye, a Welsh town known for its book stores and literature festivals. Bhilar village located near

picturesque hill station Panchagani is popular for its strawberries.

101-year-old Mann Kaur becomes world's oldest person to complete Auckland Sky Walk.

The 101-year-old athlete, Mann Kaur, on 27 April 2017 became the oldest person to sky walk around Auckland's famous landmark Sky Tower. Having set a new world record on the field, Kaur stepped out 192 metres above Auckland city to achieve the feat.

Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare 2017 observed.

The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare 2017 was observed on 29 April 2017 by the United Nations (UN).

Janalakshmi gets final small finance bank licence.

Janalakshmi Financial Services, India's largest microfinance company in terms of loan outstanding, has received the final approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up small finance bank.

[Read More](#)

North East's first small finance bank to start operations from June.

The North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB), which is the first small bank of North East India, is ready to start operations from the first week of

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June 2017. The Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi Microfinance Limited-- North East (RGVNMFL-NE), the promoter of North East Small Finance Bank, received the Small Finance Bank License from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 31, 2017. They received the inprinciple approval from RBI to set up a Small Finance Bank (SFB) in October 2015.

Indian Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik wins gold medal in Moscow competition.

Internationally renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik from Odisha won the jury prize gold medal at the 10th Moscow Sand art Championship. The competition was held between 22nd and 28th April at Kolomenskoye, Moscow in Russia. The theme for the competition was "The world around us". Pattnaik was the Indian representative in the competition, where twenty-five sculptors from different countries participated.

Jehan Daruvala becomes 1st Indian to take pole in FIA F3 European Championship.

Jehan Daruvala, in his rookie season at the FIA Formula 3 European Championship, is already making waves. The 18-year-old product of Force India Academy, became the first Indian to take pole in the F3 European series, securing the top spot on the starting grid for Race 1 of the second round of the championship in Monza, Italy. However, he was unable to translate

that into a race victory, and finished the hard-fought race in second place, behind his Carlin Racing teammate Lando Norris of the UK.

India to give Rs 35 cr to Bangladesh freedom fighters children under 'Muktijodha scholarship' scheme.

India will give 35 crore rupees to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh during the next five years under the new 'Muktijodha scholarship' scheme.

Telangana passes land acquisition act in special sitting.

Both Telangana Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council today passed amendments to the Land Acquisition Act amidst uproar during a short special sitting.

Assam got it first Shatabdi Train to run between Dibrugarh And Guwahati.

Assam on 30 April 2017 got its first Shatabdi Express with minister of state for railways Rajen Gohain flagging off the train from Dibrugarh. The new Shatabdi Express train (No 12085/12086) will run between Dibrugarh and Guwahati.

Rafael Nadal Wins 10th Barcelona Open Title.

Rafael Nadal romped to his 10th Barcelona Open title on 30 April 2017 as he swept aside Austria's Dominic Thiem 6-4, 6-1 for a 51st clay-court

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crowd. Nadal won in Barcelona between 2005-2009, 2011-13 and now in the last two years.

Russian Grand Prix 2017: Valtteri Bottas wins maiden race.

Mercedes' new recruit Valtteri Bottas managed to show top notch performance and took home his first ever GP win, 0.617 seconds ahead of Sebastian. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took third place.

Allan Donald new Bowling Coach of Sri Lanka.

Former South African fast bowler Allan Donald has been roped in by

Sri Lanka to be their temporary bowling coach ahead of the Champions trophy starting June 1. Donald, who is all set to join English County Kent for a coaching assignment next year will be the consultant bowling coach of Sri Lanka for the next two months.

Leander Paes wins Tallahassee Challenger title of men's doubles.

In Tennis, Leander Paes won the Tallahassee Challenger title of the men's doubles but Ramkumar Ramanathan had to be content with a runner-up finish in the singles' event in Florida.

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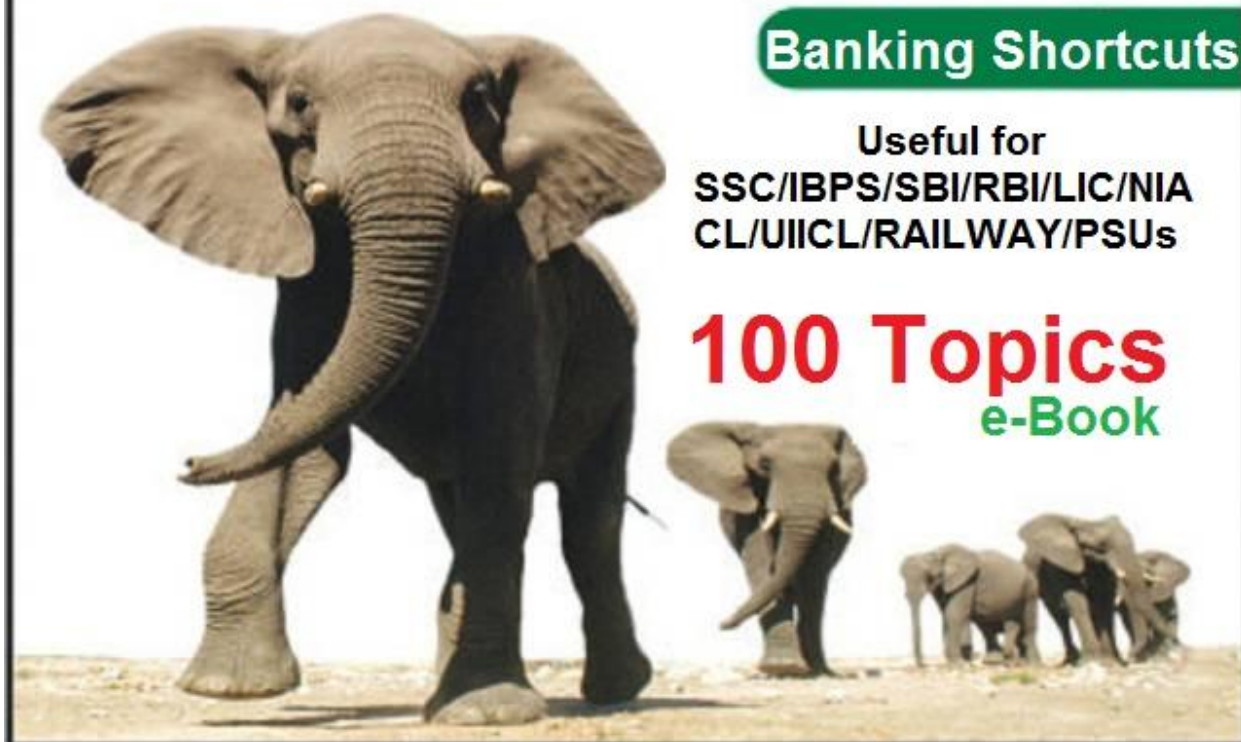


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2. Vanaja Sarna appointed as CBEC's new Chairman.
3. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak Visits India.
4. P V Sindhu becomes Womens singles champion of India Super Series tournament.
5. Rajiv Kumar Chander appointed as India's Ambassador and permanent representative to the UN.
6. Geeta Johari appointed as Gujarat DGP.
7. Sul Khan Singh appointed as UP DGP.
8. B P Kanungo takes over as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India.
9. Raman Roy appointed Chairman of NASSCOM for 2017-18.
10. Aditya Birla Group gets RBI licence to start payments bank.
11. Virat Kohli named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016.
12. Malala to become youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace.
13. Mukta Dutta Tomar appointed as India's Ambassador to Germany.
14. Malvika Sinha appointed RBI Executive Director.
15. Kristin Davis appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador.
16. PM Narendra Modi launches BHIM-Aadhaar Pay app.

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