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CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR APRIL–2017

List of Important Days

- April 1 - Utkala Dibasa (Odisha Day).
- April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day. (Theme - "Toward Autonomy and Self Determination")
- April 4 - United Nations' Mine Awareness Day (International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action). (Theme - "Needs driven. People Centred")
- April 5 - India's National Maritime Day.
- April 6 - International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.
- April 7 - World Health Day. (Theme - "Depression: Let's talk")
- April 10 - World Homeopathy Day (Theme - "Enhancing Quality Research in Homeopathy through scientific evidence and rich clinical experiences")
- April 11 - National Safe Motherhood Day.
- April 12 - International Day of Human Space Flight / Cosmonautics Day / International Day of Aviation and Cosmonautics.
- April 17 - World Hemophilia Day. (Theme – "Hear Their Voices")
- April 18 – International Day for Monuments and Sites. (World Heritage Day) (Theme - "Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism")
- April 21 - Civil Service Day.
- April 22 - International Earth Day. (Theme - "Environmental and Climate Literacy")
- April 23 - World Book and Copyright Day.
- April 24 - World Day For Animals In Laboratories. (World Lab Animal Day) (Theme – "Vivisectors and Animals")
- April 24 - Pinhole Photography day.
- April 24 - National Panchayati Raj Day.
- April 25 - World Malaria Day. (Theme – "End Malaria For Good")
- April 25 - World Penguin Day.

- April 26 - World Intellectual Property Day. (Theme – “Innovation – Improving Lives”.)
- April 27 - International Guide Dogs Day.
- April 28 - Workers' Memorial Day / World Day for Safety and Health at Work. (Theme – “Good health and safety for all workers whoever they are”)
- April 30 - Anti-Child Labour Day observed in India.
- US President Donald Trump has declared April to be "National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month" saying that April would be a reminder that "Women, children, and men have inherent dignity that should never be violated".

Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on 1st April, 1935 in Calcutta as a shareholder's bank. RBI, which was nationalized in 1949, issued its first notes in 1938 bearing the portrait of King George VI.
- The RBI has decided to set up a separate enforcement department to oversee possible breaches of rules and take punitive actions against those who violate them.
- The government has planned to change security features of 2,000 and 500 banknotes every 3-4 years in accordance with the global standards to keep a check on counterfeiting.
- The basic pay of RBI Governor has been retrospectively hiked to 2.5 lakh from 90,000 per month, with effect from January 1, 2016.
- The basic pay of RBI Deputy Governors was also increased from 80,000 to 2.25 lakh per month.
- The board of the RBI has cleared a proposal to introduce banknotes of Rs. 200 denomination.
- The RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.25% in its first bi-monthly monetary policy of this fiscal.
- This is the third time in a row that the repo rate has been kept unchanged.
- Reverse repo rate however, has been raised from 5.75% to 6%.
- Further, RBI said GVA growth is projected to be 7.4% in 2017-18.
- The RBI has appointed Malvika Sinha as Executive Director (ED).
- The RBI has decided to slash clearance time for National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) in an attempt to enhance efficiency of the electronic payment system and add to customer convenience.
- The RBI has come up with a notification titled “Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks.”
- The revised framework would apply to all banks operating in India including small and foreign banks.
- The new set of provisions will be effective from April 1 based on the financials of banks as of March 2017.

- Compensation of bank management will soon be based on the performance of their banks, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Government-owned Union Bank of India, which lost \$171 million (1,100 crore) because of a hack last year, worked with the RBI and government to track and retrieve the amount within six days.
- The RBI will soon put into circulation new 5 coins to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Allahabad High Court and New 10 coins to commemorate the 125th year of National Archives of India.
- The RBI said the existing coins in this denomination shall also continue to be legal tender.

State Bank of India

- Five associate banks and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank merged with the State Bank of India (SBI) on April 1.
- This move will make the country's largest lender among the top 50 banks in the world.
- SBI charged a penalty on non-maintenance of monthly average balance in accounts this rules applicable from April 1st.
- Further, cash withdrawals will attract a charge of up to 20 after three transactions from different banks' ATMs monthly, and 10 after five withdrawals from SBI ATMs.
- There'll be no such charge if account balance exceeds 25,000 in SBI ATMs or 1 lakh in others.

Other Banks

- A Central Bank of India customer has won a 1 crore mega prize under the government's lucky draw scheme to popularize digital payments for making a digital transaction worth 1,590.
- The draw has a second prize of 50 lakh, and third prize of 25 lakh.
- The winners' names were not declared yet as the draw only displayed their transaction numbers.

· India's second-largest private sector lender HDFC Bank cut as many as 6,096 jobs in the January-March quarter owing to increased digitization.

Insurance

- The Haryana government has decided to provide accidental death and disability insurance up to 2 lakh for all the state's residents aged between 18 from 70.
- The insurance would be provided under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana scheme for which the premium would be reimbursed by the Haryana government.

Supreme Court

· The Supreme Court directed the Centre to include Urdu as a medium in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test from academic session 2018-19 onwards.

- The Supreme Court collegium has cleared over 48 names for the appointment of judges in high courts.
- The Supreme Court exempted several categories of disabled persons from standing during the national anthem before movie screenings.
- Meanwhile, the court also sent a notice to the Centre over making Vande Mataram mandatory in educational institutes.
- The Supreme Court announced that states can relax rules framed by the Centre under the special law meant to protect Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The Supreme Court has observed that it cannot pass orders to bring back the Kohinoor diamond from the UK as it is a property outside the country.
- The Supreme Court in its latest ruling has set 25% of the net salary as the maintenance to be paid by a husband to his estranged wife.
- The Supreme Court held that the income earned by Formula One World Championship (FOWC) for conducting the Formula One car races in India is taxable.

High Courts and Sessions Courts

- The Uttarakhand High Court declared the "rivers, streams, rivulets, lakes, air, meadows, dales, jungles, forests wetlands, grasslands, springs, and waterfalls" in the state as living entities.
- This means these natural resources now have the right to be legally protected if anyone harms them.
- The Madras High Court has directed Tamil Nadu government to waive loans of all farmers in cooperative banks.
- Earlier, Tamil Nadu government had waived cooperative bank loans of farmers owning upto 5 acres land.

Election Commission

- The Union Cabinet cleared the Election Commission's proposal to procure new Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) equipped EVMs. The EC reportedly requires 3,174 crore to buy 16 lakh VVPAT machines to conduct the 2019 polls.
- All polling booths for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections have been declared tobacco-free by the Delhi State Election Commission, in a first in the country.
- For the first time in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections, the None Of The Above (NOTA) option was made available during polling which took place.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swept the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections, winning 184 out of the total 270 wards of the civic body. While the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) finished second by managing to win 46 wards, the Congress ended up gaining victory in 30 wards.

· Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi announced that all future elections, including that of Himachal Pradesh assembly, would be held with Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

machines.

In paper trail machines, voters get a printed proof of the vote they cast.

Central Government

· The government has announced that people who made cumulative deposits of 2 lakh or more between November 9 and December 30, 2016, will have to mention it in income tax returns for 2017-18.

· To stop food wastage, the Centre is planning to fix the quantity of food served by restaurants and hotels.

- It is drafting a questionnaire for eateries to explain what dish sizes they should serve.

· The Union Government has reduced the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) from 66 to 28 umbrella schemes, effective from the financial year 2016- 17.

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that women do not have to change their maiden names on passport after marriage.

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched BHIM-Aadhaar platform, the merchant interface of the BHIM App, which will allow people to make payments through the fingerprint scanner.

· The Cabinet decided to ban the use of Red Beacons on the vehicles of government officials, starting 1st May 2017.

- The order allows red beacons on vehicles belonging to the fire service, police, army and ambulances, to ensure easier passage through traffic.

· The Cabinet approved policy guidelines to allow 'financially sound' state government entities to borrow directly from international agencies for vital infrastructure projects.

· The government announced that the declarations made by black money holders about tax payment and deposits under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana can be made until May 10.

· The Centre has sanctioned construction of over one lakh more houses for the urban poor with an investment of 4,200 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

· FIFA President Gianni Infantino has confirmed that Video Assistant Referees (VAR) will be used at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

· Hyderabad-born wicketkeeper-batsman Ibrahim Khaleel has been included in the USA squad for the ICC Division Three World Cricket League tournament which will be held in Uganda in May.

· Sujal Kahar, a 12-year-old football enthusiast and goalkeeper from Mumbai, has been shortlisted to represent India at the global Football For Friendship (F4F) social programme.

- It will be held in Russia's St Petersburg in July.

· Delhi's Teen Murti Marg is set to be renamed after Israeli city Haifa ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Jewish nation, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has announced.

· The Home Ministry is going to raise an all-woman India Reserve Battalion (IRB) in Jammu and Kashmir.

States

· The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has banned employees in state universities and colleges from going on a strike till June 30.

· Haryana government will provide a one-time grant of Rs. 21,000 to all those families whose third girl child was born after August 24, 2015, under the Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti scheme.

· The Maharashtra Assembly passed an amendment to the law, making those found guilty of assaulting government officials or elected representatives while discharging their duties, punishable by imprisonment of five years.

· During the first Cabinet meeting of the new Uttar Pradesh government, CM Yogi Adityanath waived farmers' loan of up to 1 lakh.

· The Madhya Pradesh government has increased the minimum wages of workers on the basis of the revised dearness allowance (DA) rates in the state with effect from April 1.

· Rajasthan government has imposed 10% surcharge on stamp duty for the conservation and propagation of cows in the state.

· Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced the state's Sex ratio at birth touched 950 girls to 1,000 boys in March, crossing the mark for the first time in the state.

· Uttarakhand's government decided to denotify state highways falling in the area of local civic bodies and categorize them as other district roads.

· Uttar Pradesh government has sent a proposal to the Centre seeking conversion of its five thousand kilometres roads into National Highways.

· The Assam government's draft population policy proposes that people with more than two children should be denied government jobs.

· Kerala government has promulgated an ordinance making it mandatory for all state schools, including both private and government schools, to teach Malayalam.

· The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet imposed a ban on using polythene carry bags in the state with effect from May 1.

· The UP Cabinet has decided that villages in the state will get 18-hour power supply, Power Minister Shrikant Sharma announced.

· The Andhra Pradesh government is going to introduce a new programme titled 'Ammaku Vandanam' in schools to pay tribute to mothers.

- Under this programme, students will take the blessings of their mother and also wash their feet.

- With a motive to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas of Jharkhand's Palamu district, the state police have initiated a 'Tare Zameen Par' programme to encourage children to lead a happy life.
- The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh announced that the quota based reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in private medical colleges will be ended in the state.
- On the lines of the anti-Romeo squads in Uttar Pradesh, the Haryana government launched 'Operation Durga'.
- Himachal Pradesh is celebrating 70th "Himachal Day" on April 15.
- The hill state came into existence after the merger of 30 odd princely states in 1948.
- Maharashtra is set to become the first state to launch a special awareness drive to ensure that transgenders in the state register as voters.
- The state branch of the Election Commission of India (ECI) will launch the drive on April 15, celebrated as Third Gender Day.
- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh prohibited the inscription of names of any government functionaries, including ministers and MLAs, on foundation stones and inaugural plaques.
- Goa CM Manohar Parrikar has announced that the government is planning to ban entry of locals into casinos.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for the 100-crore Dr BR Ambedkar memorial park in Amaravati, marking the 126th birth anniversary of the architect of Indian Constitution.
- Naidu also laid the foundation stone for a 126-ft statue of Ambedkar that will come up in the park, which would be spread across 20 acres.
- Juvenile Justice Board ordered the whiteners, thinners, and vulcanised abuse.
- Delhi government to issue a notification to ban the sale of solutions to children below the age of 18 years to check drug
- The UP government renamed the Agra and Gorakhpur airports in the Cabinet meet.
- While Gorakhpur airport is renamed as Mahayogi Gorakhnath Airport after the founder of the Nath monastic movement, Agra airport is named after RSS ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay.
- Furthermore, the Department of Disabled Welfare will now be called Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment.
- The Punjab government has decided to set up 'Book Banks' in schools to provide old books to needy students free of charge and also to prevent wastage of paper.

- Captain Amarinder Singh led Punjab government doubled the quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in educational institutes from 5% to 10%.
- The Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation in Kerala has started an initiative wherein cloth sanitary napkin vending machines will be set up in public spaces such as public toilets, railway stations, and schools.
- The Punjab government slashed the VIP security, including that of the Chief Minister, by withdrawing nearly 2,000 personnel.
- Andhra Pradesh established a welfare board for transgender persons at the Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati. The welfare board will be run by the community, with voting rights for the minorities.
- A 9-storey Sumi Baptist Church, one of Asia's largest, was dedicated in Nagaland's Zunheboto town. The construction of the church took almost 10 years, and incurred a cost of 36 crore.
- Jharkhand has tagged over 12,000 cows with Aadhaar-like 12-digit unique identification (UID) number to prevent cattle smuggling, improve milk yield, and monitor their health.
- India's first and longest ropeway (8 km) is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust to link Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea.
- Policemen in Haryana's Rohtak district will now work with cameras fitted on their bodies that will record their activities of the entire day.
- The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad has decided to initiate a 'Ghar Wapsi' (Home Coming) campaign for de-radicalization of misguided youth of the state.
- In the wake of multiple road accidents in the state, Andhra Pradesh state government has declared "a war against road accidents". Andhra's toll plazas will also be equipped with breath analyzers.
- India's 1st electric taxi trial would be launched in Nagpur from 24th May 2017.
- Mahindra and Mahindra is set to provide 200 taxis for the initiative.

Place in the News

- The 10th edition of the Indian Premier League, which kicks off on April 4 in Hyderabad, will have eight separate opening ceremonies.
- The Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the Loktak Lake in Manipur, India, is known as the only floating national park in the world.
- Saudi Arabia has unveiled plans for an Entertainment City on the edge of Riyadh which will be 50 times the size of Gibraltar once completed. The 334-sq km attraction - about the same as Las Vegas - will offer cultural, sporting and entertainment activities - including a Six Flags park and a safari park.

Personalities

- K Prithika Yashini (26), scripted history when she took charge as sub-inspector in Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu. Yashini is the first transsexual to enter into uniform service in India.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made 56 foreign visits since taking the office in May 2014, the government informed the Parliament.
- Nation pays rich tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar on his 126th Birth Anniversary on April 14.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi to be the Chief Guest for UN Vesak Day 2017 celebrations to be held in Sri Lanka from 12th to 14th of next month.
- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman announced that she would adopt Kalena Agrahara Lake near Bannerghatta Road in Bengaluru.

Defence and National Security

- The Cyber and Information Space (CIR) command, which was launched, boasts a status equal to that of the army, navy, and air force.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of the Union Defence Ministry has approved proposal to procure fresh batch of Barak Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM) for the Indian Navy's warships from Israel.
- One of the TU-142M Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft of the Indian Navy, which was recently de-inducted after 29 years of service, arrived in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh to be converted into a museum by Andhra Pradesh government.
- The 12th edition Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2017 has begun at Vairengte in Mizoram.
- Nepal and China is set to hold their 1st ever joint military exercise named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017'. This 10 day long exercise was held in 17th to 26th April 2017.
- The biggest conventional bomb that India has is called the 'Smart Precise Impact and Cost Effective' or SPICE bomb, which is under the command of the Indian Air Force. It is manufactured by Israeli firm Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd.

· North Korea held a military parade to mark the 105th birth anniversary of its founding President Kim Ilsung and displayed its submarine-based ballistic missiles for the first time among other new types of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

· The US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has announced that it along with the US Air Force successfully field-tested a modernized gravity nuclear bomb B61-12 on March 14 at the Tonopah Test Range in Nevada.

· The United States reaffirmed India's designation as a Major Defence Partner and emphasized the importance of its strategic relationship as its National Security Adviser HR McMaster met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held talks with his counterpart Ajit Doval.

· Nepal and China began their first ever joint military exercise, dubbed as 'Sagarmatha Friendship 2017', at Nepal Army's Para Training School Maharajgunj in Kathmandu.

· The Union Home Ministry has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for security agencies in Kashmir, directing them to use plastic bullets and chilli filled shells to control violent protests.

· Naval Ship 'INS Chennai', a 'P15A Guided Missile Destroyer', was dedicated to Chennai in the presence of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K. Palaniswami and the Flag Officer Commanding in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral HCS Bisht.

· Indian Army soldiers who are more than 10% over the ideal body weight will not be considered for promotions and transfers, according to a new order effective May 1.

· Indian Navy successfully conducted the first test fire of the land-attack variant of the BrahMos supersonic missile. The missile, with a 400 km range, was launched at sea off the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

· China has launched its first domestically built aircraft carrier, which will join an existing warship bought from Ukraine.

· India successfully test-fired its surface-to-surface intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) Agni-III from a defence test facility off Odisha coast.

Schemes/Initiatives

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest road tunnel – the Chenani-Nashri tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

· The Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh. The Scheme aims at providing physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina have flagged off the trial run of a passenger train service between Kolkata and Bangladesh's Khulna.

- Named 'Maitree Express-2', it is the second passenger train between India and Bangladesh.

· Madhya Pradesh Government has launched Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana, a populist subsidized meal scheme for poor in the state.

- The scheme has been named after the BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya.

- With this, Madhya Pradesh becomes 3rd state in the country to launch populist subsidized meal scheme. Other 2 states are Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

· Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched website 'Bharat Ke Veer' (www.bharatkeveer.gov.in) to facilitate monetary contribution to martyred CRPF jawans' families. The initiative is actor Akshay Kumar's brainchild, and it is available both as a web portal and mobile application.

· To mark the 100-year anniversary of Satyagrah movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an exhibition "Swachagraha Babu Ko Karyanjali" – A Mission, An Exhibition, at the National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi.

· To mark 100 years of his Satyagrah movement, three old and seminal publications on Mahatma Gandhi, were re-launched by the government of India in a "restored" format.

- Minister for Information & Broadcasting, M Venkaiah Naidu released these publications.

- The 3 publications are: 'Gandhi in Champaran (1957)' 'Romain Rolland and Gandhi Correspondence (1976)' 'Eight-volume biography of Gandhi (1951)'

- These were authored by D G Tendulkar.

· The Central government launched 'Nakshe', a dedicated web portal allowing Indians to download accurate Indian maps prepared by the Survey of India. Aadhaar number, however, has been made mandatory to allow access to the free maps "only to Indians".

· PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull inaugurated the TERI-Deakin Nanobiotechnology Centre at Gurugram.

- This is world's most advanced Nano biotechnology Research Centre.

- This is a joint venture between TERI and Deakin University, Australia.

· The Union Ministry of Food Processing is going to launch Scheme for Agro-Marine Produce Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA) for food processing sector.

· PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Kiran Multi Super Speciality Hospital and Research Center which has been built by a private trust in Surat.

· The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 2day 11th Civil Services Day programme.

- The Civil Services Day function is being organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions.

· Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and MoS for Communications Manoj Sinha released coffee scented postage stamps at the General Post Office in Bengaluru.

· Northeast's sixth and largest hub for information technology has been inaugurated in Agartala.

· The government has announced the names of 10 new Iconic places under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative.

- Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.

- The 10 new iconic places are: Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam Baijnath Dham (Devghar), Char Minar (Hyderabad), Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi (Goa), Gangotri Gaya Tirth (Bihar), Gomateshwar in Shraavanbelgola Mahakaleshwar Temple (Ujjain) Somnath temple in Gujarat Yamunotri.

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme for regional flight connectivity by flagging off the inaugural flight from Shimla to Delhi.

Summit/Conference

· The 2017 National conference on Communicating India was held in New Delhi.

- This conference was organized by the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) in collaboration with the India Media Centre, University of Westminster, London, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) with the association of Prasar Bharati.

- The three main themes of the conference were 'Telling India's story to the world', 'Communicating via Journalism' and 'Dialogue with Diaspora'.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

· Indian and Malaysian firms have signed 31 pacts expecting investments of about \$36 billion (around 2.3 lakh crore) in several sectors including construction, pharma, and education.

· India and Malaysia have inked 7 agreements to foster deeper relationship between the two countries.

· Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Australia on cooperation in the field of health and medicine.

· Collaborative Agreement signed between French National Research Agency, France, and India.

- This MoU will be signed for supporting the Belmont Forum Secretariat from January, 2015 to December, 2017 at a total estimated expenditure of 40,000 Euros.

· MoU on Cooperation in the field of Mass Media between India and Bangladesh.

- Agreement on Audio Visual Co-Production India and Bangladesh.

· India has signed a joint statement with Russia takeover full operational control of Unit 1 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP).

· Following Indian PM Narendra Modi's meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, the two countries signed 22 agreements in various key sectors.

· Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has announced that it has signed a \$2 billion (nearly 13,000 crore) contract with India to supply advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile systems.

· The Union Agriculture Ministry has joined hands with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), a wing of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for geo-tagging agricultural assets.

- In this regard, Agriculture Ministry under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and NRSC have signed a MoU.

· The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Patanjali Ayurved have decided to sign a MOU to market herbal products developed by the DRDO's Life Sciences wing.

· India and Australia inked six agreements in areas including combating terrorism, civil aviation security, sports, health and medicine and satellite navigation.

· India and Georgia have signed a Joint Statement on the launching of the Joint Feasibility Study on the Free Trade Agreement between both countries.

- The statement was signed by Union Commerce & Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Georgia's Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Giorgi Gakharia.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has signed "Power for All" pact with the Centre to provide 24x7 power supply to all the households in the State.
- The union government has extended the ceasefire with the two Naga armed factions, namely, National Socialist Council of Nagaland Reformation (NSCNR) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland Neakpao Kithovi (GPRN/NSCN) till April 27, 2018.
- The decision over extension of ceasefire was taken at a meeting held between the officials of Home Ministry and the Ceasefire Supervisory Board of Naga armed factions.
- A MoU has been signed between India and South Korea for defence industry cooperation in shipbuilding.
- Cuba and Morocco has signed an agreement to re-establish diplomatic ties after a time period of 37 years. The two governments have also agreed to forge political, economic, and cultural cooperation.
- India and Sri Lanka signed a MoU on economic cooperation in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- India and Cyprus have signed 4 agreements following delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades in New Delhi.

Meet/Visit

- Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak visited to India for a six day tour. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak ahead of delegation-level talks in New Delhi.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited India for a four day visit.
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited India for a four day visit.
- The G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting on Digital Economy was held in Dusseldorf, Germany. Ministers responsible for the digital economy from G20 countries had participated in it.
- Sachin Tendulkar and Aussie PM Malcolm Turnbull attended the joint India-Australia sports partnership in Mumbai. Under IASP, India and Australia will cooperate in four areas: Athlete and coach training and development, Sport science, Sport governance and integrity Grassroots participation.
- Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari arrives in New Delhi on a five-day India visit.
- Sri Lankan PM Ranil Wickremesinghe visited to India for a four-day visit.
- The International Road federation (IRF) has named India to be the host of the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) which is scheduled to be held on November 13, 2017.
- Theme - 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was visited to India.
- The two leaders are discuss India's Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership bid and methods to further strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and trade.

Bills

- The Cabinet decided to link issue of driving licences and vehicle registration to Aadhaar as part of the amendments approved under the Motor Vehicles Bill.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that his government will introduce a bill to award the death penalty to rapists.
- The applications under Right to Information (RTI) Act can be filed orally, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh announced. Section 6 (1) of the Act has a provision to make the request orally if it cannot be made in writing.
- Russian lawmakers have drafted a bill to bar children under 14 from using social media networks. As per this draft, social network platforms will have to register new users only after they provide their passport data.
- Germany's Cabinet has approved a new bill on curbing hate comments and fake news on social media. The new rules would impose fines of up to €50 million (over 346 crore) on social networking sites that fail to swiftly remove illegal content.
- Malaysia has passed a law that offers stronger legal protections for children against sexual offenses but stops short of criminalizing child marriages.
- The Lok Sabha passed the amendments suggested by the Rajya Sabha in the Employees Compensation Bill. The bill provides for a compensation between 50,000- 1 lakh for employees in case of an injury during an industrial accident.
- The Maharashtra Assembly passed a bill to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to legalise bullock cart races in the state. The amendment is aimed at ensuring the preservation of native breeds of bulls.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the four legislations which will enable the rollout of Goods and Services Tax Bill by July 1.
- The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed a bill that seeks to prevent attacks on journalists and media houses.
- President of India Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to the Mental Healthcare Act, Suicide attempts by a mentally ill person will not be punishable under this new law which got nod from the President.
- A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time and will not be punished under the Indian Penal Code.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016, which will impose stiffer penalties for traffic rules violations.

- The bill proposes a three-year jail term for parents of minors caught driving and causing fatal accidents, and a ten-fold increase in compensation for families of accident victims.
- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2016 seeks to impose stricter penalties for traffic violations, including increasing the fine for drunken driving to 10,000 from 2,000.
- The bill also seeks to make issuance of driving licenses online.
- The HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017, passed by the Lok Sabha, promises equal rights to the people affected by HIV and AIDS in getting treatment, admissions in educational institutions and jobs.
- President Pranab Mukherjee cleared the four legislations related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill.
- These are the Central GST Bill, the Integrated GST Bill, the UT GST Bill, and the Compensation to states GST Bill.
- With the clearance, it can be expected that the new tax regime will be rolled out from July 1 as planned.
- Gujarat Governor OP Kohli approved the bill proposing life term for the slaughter of cows, calves, bulls and bullocks and up to ten years imprisonment for transporting beef in the state.
- A Russian legislative committee for security has recommended a bill to the Parliament banning all people who work for Russian Interior Ministry, including all police, from traveling abroad for recreational and personal reasons.
- The Telangana Cabinet cleared Telangana State Reservation Bill 2017 that provides 12% reservation to Muslims and 10% reservation to Scheduled Tribes, depending on their population in the state.
- US state of Maryland's Governor Larry Hogan signed the 'no means no' bill into law, eliminating the requirement for the victims of sexual crimes to prove that they tried to physically resist their assailants.
- Pakistan's National Assembly has passed a bill endorsing compulsory Quran education for all Muslim students studying in government schools from class 1 to 12.
- Bihar Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council unanimously adopted the Bihar Goods and Service Tax (GST) Bill, 2017 along with Bihar Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law that allows the transfer of cash from Russia to Ukraine only through companies controlled by the Russian Central Bank.
- Mexico's Lower House of Congress passed a bill to legalise the use of marijuana for medical and scientific needs.

Fund

- The Union Tourism Ministry sanctioned nearly 100 crore for a Heritage Circuit in Assam under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved 26 projects worth 2,154.28 crore under the Centre's 'Namami Gange' programme, aiming to reduce the river's pollution load.
- As part of the projects, the NMCG will set up sewage treatment plants and develop sewage network in four Ganga basin states, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Delhi.
- The World Bank has approved \$37.5 crore loan for capacity augmentation of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) on the river Ganga under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- The Centre released an amount of 19,000 crore out of the promised 80,000-crore development package for Jammu and Kashmir.

Economy

- A new Japanese law that defines crypto currency, including Bitcoin, Ripple, Litecoin and others, as a legal payment method has come into force in Japan.
- There are 10 Indian states whose Gross Domestic Product (GDP) matches with that of countries.
- The most populous state in the country Uttar Pradesh has a GDP of \$553 billion, which is similar to Algeria.
- Tamil Nadu's GDP is similar to that of the United Arab Emirates while Maharashtra's GDP of \$961 billion is similar to that of Poland.
- In a new World Bank report titled Globalization Backlash, the agency expects India's gross domestic product to spike to 7.2% in the financial year 2017-18 from 6.8% the previous fiscal.
- The International Monetary Fund trimmed India's annual growth forecast by 0.4 percentage points to 7.2% for 2017, citing the impact of demonetization.

Companies/Industry

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio announced that it has extended the time period for users to enroll under its Prime membership programme till April 15, 2017.
- The Aditya Birla Group announced that it has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India to start its payments bank.
- Amazon India has announced that it has received RBI approval to launch its own digital wallet.
- The Prepaid Payment Instrument licence will allow Amazon to take on established e-wallets such as Paytm and Freecharge.
- American financial services corporation Mastercard has created a credit card with a built-in fingerprint scanner, allowing its users to make payments by scanning their fingerprint instead of providing a PIN or a signature.
- In a bid to fight fake news, Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales has announced the launch of an e-publication, Wikitribune.

- Digital payments startup Paytm has partnered with metal refinery MMTC-PAMP to launch a 'Digital Gold' feature to allow users to buy and sell gold digitally.
- China's SoftBank, the largest investor in Snapdeal, has given an in principle, non-binding approval for the e-commerce startup's merger with rival Flipkart.
- American payments company PayPal is eyeing a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) licence to launch a mobile wallet in India.
- Japan's SoftBank Group is going to put in \$1.9 billion (12,000 crore) into Paytm's parent company One 97 Communications.
- Technology major Apple has filed a patent for a method that would allow users to wirelessly charge their devices over Wi-Fi and other radio frequencies.

Exports/Imports

- Pakistan is going to export donkeys to China under its Donkey Development Programme, in a bid to attract Chinese investors in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.
- Pakistan is also aiming at increasing donkeys' population in its province as the animal is highly valued in China for its hide which is used to manufacture medicines.
- Chinese oil imports surged to an all-time high last month, overtaking the United States as the world's biggest buyer of crude.
- India has become world's second largest LPG importer, a position that was previously occupied by Japan. China remains as the world's top importer.

Taxation/Trade

- Education, Healthcare, and Pilgrimages will continue to be out of the service tax net under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia announced.
- The Centre will also pitch for keeping concessional rate for services like transport at the current level, he added.
- The rollout of the GST is being targeted from July 1.
- Tax evasion of over 5 crore under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime would be non-bailable offence with the police having authority to make an arrest without a warrant.
- The tax department has given banks three more months till June 30 to obtain Permanent Account Number (PAN) or form-60 from all account holders.
- Following demonetization, the government had issued a notification making it mandatory for bank savings account holders to provide PAN or Form-60 by February 28. Form-60 is a declaration form filed by an individual without PAN.
- All cash payments of over 2 lakh to settle loans and credit card bills during the 50-day period after demonetization will have to be disclosed in the new Income Tax return form.

- Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan announced that citizens would not pay taxes on income and Saudi companies would not see their profits taxed under new economic reforms.
- He further said a value-added tax planned for 2018 would "not be raised above 5% before 2020".
- The government has announced that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has tied up with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to issue Permanent Account Number and Tax Deduction Account Number in a day.
- The CBDT has also introduced electronic PAN cards which will be sent by email to applicants.
- The Income Tax department is planning to investigate over 60,000 individuals under its second phase of 'Operation Clean Money' launched in order to detect the flow of black money into the banks after demonetization.
- Ban on cash transactions in excess of 2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts, the Income Tax department has announced.
- Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs has approved the 'Guidelines on Fair Trade Practices Related to Charging of Service Charge from Consumers by Hotels and Restaurants'.

Agriculture/Production

- The food regulators of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Assam have found 9 products of major companies as "substandard" after they failed quality tests.
- These products reportedly include PepsiCo's Mirinda, Nestle's Cerelac Wheat, Parle Agro's Frooti and Marico's Saffola Gold oil.
- The government has predicted the country's wheat production would touch a record 98 million tonnes in the ongoing 2016-17 crop year ending June.

Space

- Rakesh Sharma flew aboard the Soyuz T-11 spacecraft on 2nd April 1984, to become the first Indian to go to space.
- China is going to launch a network of 156 mini satellites to facilitate global broadband coverage and commercial space development.
- NASA is planning to build an astronaut-tended space station or "deep space gateway" in the lunar orbit that would help prepare for missions to deep space destinations including Mars.
- China will launch its first cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1 between April 20 & 24 to provide supplies for the country's future space station.
- Mongolia launched its first satellite called Mongol Sat1. The 1,227MHz satellite will help the landlocked country expand its telecoms and broadband services.
- China successfully launched its first unmanned cargo resupply spacecraft.

- ISRO is planning to increase the frequency of launches to 12 per year from seven at present by building more satellites and lowering the cost of access to space.
- ISRO's Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre has developed an android app for computing the solar energy potential of a place.
- NASA's Cassini spacecraft, launched in 1997, became the first man-made object to go beyond Saturn's innermost rings towards the planet.
- China will begin construction of a permanent manned space station in 2019.

Science and Technology

- Russian scientists are developing the first-ever civilian nuclear-powered submarine to conduct seismological surveys and search for natural resources under ice in the Arctic region, Russian Foundation for Advanced Research Projects announced.
- Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) programme dealing with self-driven cars, autonomous unmanned vehicles and aircraft navigation systems.
- Japan-based researchers are planning to be the first to successfully drill into Earth's mantle, beneath the crust.
- Japan's deep-sea drilling vessel will drop down 4 km in the Pacific and bore through 6 km of the ocean floor, researchers said.
- The project to study oceanic crust and probe microbial life's extent inside the Earth is planned to start by 2030.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences announced that 31 new seismological observatories would be set up in India by the year-end to boost earthquake information gathering capability.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- According to the new definition of blindness adopted by India, a person unable to count fingers from three metres would be considered 'blind' as against the earlier stipulation of six metres, used since 1976.
- The step, in line with WHO blindness criteria, is expected to decrease the number of people considered 'blind' from 1.20 crore (2007 survey) to 80 lakh.
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, which regulates sale and distribution of drugs in India, has reportedly found medicines like Combiflam, a pain reliever, and D Cold Total, a cold medicine, to be substandard.
- Uruguay will become the first country in the world to allow pharmacies to sell recreational marijuana, starting July.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi will take part in the first-ever malaria vaccination programme from 2018.

Energy/Gas/Oil

- India, world's 3rd largest energy consumer has joined International Energy Association (IAE) as associate member.
- The French government announced the closure of its oldest nuclear power plant at Fessenheim by April 2020, once a new generation reactor in Flamanville is operational.
- The prices of petrol and diesel in India will change every day in sync with international rates from May 1.
- The government-owned fuel retailers will launch a pilot project for daily price revision in Puducherry, Vishakhapatnam, Udaipur, Jamshedpur, and Chandigarh before extending it to all over India.
- The Union Ministry of Power has launched URJA MITRA app for empowering citizens by real time information sharing on power supply.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 3,300 MW Koradi Thermal Power Plant at Nagpur.
- Modi also laid the foundation stones for the proposed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Management (IIM), and All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- Following PM Narendra Modi's call to conserve oil, fuel outlets in 7 states and union territory Puducherry will be shut every Sunday starting May 14.
- This would affect 20,000 outlets in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry, Maharashtra, and Haryana.
- The government is considering a plan for the home delivery of petroleum products to consumers if they make a pre-booking, Petroleum Ministry announced.
- The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is going to build a new oil terminal at Motihari (Bihar) to supply fuel to Nepal via the planned pipeline up to Amlekganj in Nepal.

Environment

- March 2017 was the second warmest March in 137 years of record-keeping, according to a monthly analysis of global temperatures by NASA.
- A deep depression in Bay of Bengal has intensified into a tropical cyclone named Maarutha. This cyclone is expected to hit Myanmar on 17 April 2017 and bring heavy rains in parts of that country.
- In a first, the Uttarakhand Forest Department has deployed 3 drones for real-time monitoring of the forest fires.
- The Delhi government has directed the city schools to install air purifiers to ensure that students don't face health hazards due to air pollution.

Education

- The Madhya Pradesh government will start a one-year diploma course on Hindu priesthood called 'Purohityam' from July, 2017.

- IIT-Kharagpur can induct the first batch of MBBS students in its medical college by 2020-21, the institute's Deputy Director Professor Sriman Kumar Bhattacharyya has announced.
- English will be taught as a compulsory subject from class 1 in all government-run schools in Uttar Pradesh, Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma announced.
- The Uttar Pradesh government led by CM Yogi Adityanath has started work on setting up six AIIMS and 25 new medical colleges. This was one of the promises the BJP had made for the Assembly polls.
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath announced that there will be no holiday in the state schools on birth anniversaries of great personalities.
- Assam has decided to install CCTV cameras inside examination halls to keep a check on rampant cheating during board exams.
- To rectify the poor gender balance, the Joint Admissions Board of the IITs has approved additional seats for women candidates from 2018.
- IIT Kharagpur has decided to introduce Vastu Shastra courses for undergraduate and post-graduate students.
- The government of Japan has approved using Adolf Hitler's autobiography 'Mein Kampf' (My Struggle), as teaching material in schools for educational purposes.
- The Government has stated that 14 scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) / Denotified, Nomadic and Seminomadic Tribes (DNTs) students come under Digital Payments Initiatives.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has given his approval to a Parliamentary panel's recommendation to make Hindi compulsory till Class 10 in CBSE affiliated schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared the results of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2017 on its official website.
- Rajasthan's Kalpit Veerwal emerged as the topper, scoring 360 out of 360 marks in the examination.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- The Aastha Tourist Special Train, which is taking travellers to pilgrimage sites in North India, departed from Puri.
- Union Road Minister Nitin Gadkari said the first express highway project in India's Northeast region will be developed along the Brahmaputra river in Assam at an estimated cost of 40,000 crore.
- The Union Cabinet has approved setting up an independent regulator Rail Development Authority (RDA) that will recommend passenger fares for Indian Railways.

- The Maharashtra government has agreed to provide land at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) for the first underground station of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train.

- The train would start underground from BKC, travel 21 km in a tunnel passing through the sea, and emerge over the ground at Thane.

- It would have 12 stations, eight in Gujarat and remaining in Maharashtra.

- Various domestic airlines in India are reportedly preparing to roll out in-flight Wi-Fi with 5Mbps speed by the end of 2017.

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu announced that for the first time in Indian Railways' history, Habibganj station in Bhopal has been handed over to a private firm to be operated by it.

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the trial run of the new 'vistadome' railway coaches between Visakhapatnam and Araku.

- The new coaches are equipped with a glass roof which can be made transparent to enjoy outside view.

- Malaysia Airlines has become the world's first airline which will track its flights with the help of satellites by 2018.

- A freight train connecting Russia with China arrived in Ganzhou an inland city in Jiangxi province, carrying goods from Moscow.

- The freight train travelled more than 7,000 km, before reaching Ganzhou in eastern China.

- The Indian Railways will launch a double-decker train in July for overnight journeys on high-demand routes including Delhi-Lucknow.

- The Utkrisht Double-Decker AC Yatri (Uday) Express will feature food and drink vending machines, LCD screens, Wi-Fi speaker systems and 120 seats in each of its coaches

Films and Film Festival

- 64th National Film Awards announced.

- Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has won best actor for Rustom.

- Malayalam Actress Surabhi Lakshmi won best actress for the film Minnaminungu (The Firefly).

- Best Feature Film went to Marathi film Kaasav (Turtle).

- Sonam Kapoor's biographical thriller film Neerja, directed by Ram Madhvani, bagged the Best Hindi film for the year 2016.

- Actor Shah Rukh Khan was honoured with a tribute at the ongoing 60th San Francisco Film Festival.

- Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award in the best actress category for her performance in 2016 film 'Sarbjit'.

- Veteran actress Zeenat Aman was given the Lifetime Achievement Award while actress Hema Malini won an award in the Kala Shree category.
- Meanwhile, Shoojit Sircar won the Creative Director Award for the 2016 film 'Pink'.
- Political Comedy film ‘Newton’, directed by Amit Masurkar, has won the Jury Prize for Best Film at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.
- Aamir Khan attended his first award show in 15 years, after receiving a special invite for the Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Awards from Lata Mangeshkar.
- He was presented Vishesh Puraskar for 'Dangal' by RSS Chief Mohan Madhukar Bhagwat.
- Renowned playback singer, actor, and music director S.P. Bala Subramanyam was honored with the NTR National Film Award for the year 2012.
- Bollywood actress Hema Malini was awarded the same award for the year 2013.
- Veteran actor Dilip Kumar has been honoured with the Living Legend Lifetime Award by the Punjab Association.
- UNESCO to screen the Indian short film “Azaad” directed by Rahul V. Chittella’s, as a part of World Press Freedom Day event that is scheduled to be held from May 1-4 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Theme - “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s role in advancing peaceful, just, and inclusive societies“.

Festival

- Karnataka Tourism will organize a surfing festival during 27th to 29th May 2017. The festival will be held at the Sasithithlu Beach in Mangalore.
- Good Friday (April 14), a Christian holiday which commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary, is being observed around the world.
- India Licensing Expo is scheduled to be held on August 20-21 in Mumbai.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic has won the country's Presidential election, securing 55% of votes.
- Ecuador's ruling party presidential candidate Lenin Moreno won the country's presidential elections securing 51% votes against his conservative opponent Guillermo Lasso.
- Former Indian captain MS Dhoni was appointed as the CEO of Gulf Oil India for a day, as he wanted to understand how a corporate CEO works.
- Geetha Johri has been appointed as the Director General of Police of Gujarat.

With this she became the state's first woman police chief.

- IT industry body Nasscom appointed Quattro CMD Raman Roy as its Chairman for 2017-18.

- The Union Government has appointed Girish Shankar, Secretary of the Department of Heavy Industry as Chairman of newly constituted National Board of Electric Mobility (NBEM).
- Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) named SN Subrahmanyam as its new CEO with effect from July.
- Indian bank has appointed Kishor Kharat as the new Managing Director and CEO of the bank.
- Prior to this appointment, he was serving MD and CEO of IDBI Bank, which was replaced by Mahesh Kumar Jain.
- India's Sports Minister, Vijay Goel, approved the appointment of two foreign coaches in the discipline of athletics.
- The appointments include a race walking and a 400- metre relay coach.
- Justice Indira Banerjee was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- The US Senate confirmed President Donald Trump's pick Neil Gorsuch as the Supreme Court Justice.
- US President Donald Trump has nominated prominent Indian-American law expert Neomi Rao as Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).
- She will oversee the US President's plan to eliminate 75% of federal regulations.
- Trump has also nominated Indian-American Vishal Amin as Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator in the Executive Office of the President (IP czar).
- He will coordinate US law-enforcement strategy around copyright, patents, and trademarks.
- Indian-origin Anuja Ravindra Dhir has become the first non-white circuit judge at the Old Bailey, the central criminal court of England and Wales.
- Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh is among the 8 Ambassadors for the ICC Champions Trophy, which starts on June 1 in England.
- The 1st woman Commissioner of Scotland Yard in its 187-year history, Cressida Dick took charge of her post.
- Infosys named Ravi Venkatesan, former chairman of Microsoft India, as Co-chairman of its board, where he was already an independent director.
- Actress Priyanka Chopra has been appointed as a jury member for the upcoming Tribeca Film Festival.
- The festival's 16th edition, scheduled to be held from April 19 to 30.
- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has named Achim Steiner as the new administrator of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

· Justice Gita Mittal, the senior-most judge of Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the acting Chief justice of Delhi High Court with effect from April 14.

· National Conference President Farooq Abdullah has won the Srinagar Lok Sabha by-poll after defeating PDP candidate Nazir Ahmad Khan by around 10,000 votes.

· Turkish President Recep Erdogan has declared victory in referendum on transforming the country's governance from a parliamentary system to an executive presidency.

· Sulkhan Singh, the 1980-batch Indian Police Service officer, took charge as the new Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh.

- He has replaced outgoing Uttar Pradesh Police chief Javeed Ahmed.

· Saudi Arabia King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's son Prince Khaled bin Salman has been appointed as the country's ambassador to the US.

· Flipkart announced that one of its employees who work as a designer at the e-commerce startup, Padmini Pagadala, will be its CEO for a day.

· The government of Kazakhstan has Shantakumar as its Honorary Consul Kerala.

appointed the Chairman of Kirtilals Jewellers Suraj for the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and

· Israel appointed Hana Khatib as its first female judge, in its Muslim sharia court system.

· The Centre appointed RK Pachnanda as the new Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force chief.

· The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) appointed Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar as its new chief.

· Nita Ambani has been made a member of International Olympic Committee's Olympic Channel Commission, which handles IOC's digital platform.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

· Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has announced that he will retire from Test cricket after the completion of upcoming Test series against West Indies.

· Pakistan's former captain Younis Khan announced that he will retire from Test cricket after the completion of the Test series against West Indies, bringing an end to his 17-year-long Test career.

· Afghanistan's Defence Minister Abdullah Habibi and Army Chief of Staff Qadam Shah Shahim have resigned from their positions after over 140 soldiers were killed in the deadliest ever attack by Taliban on a military base.

· Beverages giant Coca-Cola announced that it's President for India and Southwest Asia Business

Unit Venkatesh Kini has quit after leading the operations for over three years. – TKK Krishnakumar will take over the position effective May 1.

· Bangladesh cricket team's limited over captain Mashrafe Mortaza has announced that he will retire from T20 international cricket after the end of the series against Sri Lanka.

Arrests/Jailed

· In the latest provocation, Pakistan awarded death sentence to alleged Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav who was arrested last year on charges of spying, "for his involvement in espionage and sabotage activities against Pakistan".

· Liquor baron and loan defaulter Vijay Mallya was arrested by London police.

- The beleaguered businessman is wanted in India for defaulting on loans worth around 9,000 crore related to Kingfisher Airlines that was grounded in 2012.

Deaths

· Malayalam actor Munshi Venu (63) passed away due to kidney failure.

· Gilbert Baker (65), an openly gay American activist who created the rainbow flag representing gay rights, died.

· Hindustani classical singer Kishori Amonkar (84), who received the Padma Vibhushan in 2002, passed away.

· Noted author and filmmaker Ajey Jhankar (67) passed away.

· Japanese engineer, Roland founder, and pioneer of digital music Iktaro Kakehashi (87) passed away.

· Former Union Minister and Congress leader Akhilesh Das Gupta (56) passed way.

· The Chairman of Dainik Bhaskar group Ramesh Chandra Agarwal passed away.

- He had been awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Life time Achievement Award in Journalism. He was ranked 95 on the Forbes list of India's Richest in 2012.

· Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Saxena (90) passed away.

· The world's oldest person Emma Morano (117) has died in her home in Verbania, a town on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy.

· Acto Clifton James (96) who was famous for his role as Sheriff J W Pepper in JamesBond films, passed away.

· Veteran actor Vinod Khanna (70), who was reportedly suffering from cancer, passed away.

· Hollywood director Jonathan Demme (73), best known for directing the 1991 Oscar-winning film 'The Silence of the Lambs', passed away.

Awards/Honors

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was selected for the US India Business Council Award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'.
- He will receive the award at the second annual West Coast Summit to be held in Menlo Park, California in May 2017.
- Electronics and IT Secretary Aruna Sundararajan was also selected Transformative Leadership Award.
- LV Revanth from Andhra Pradesh was named the winner of Indian Idol 9.
- World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee has won the 2016 Turing Award. Turing Award is regarded as computing highest award.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has posthumously conferred Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award on Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar of Gorkha Rifles.
- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has selected Malala Yousafzai as a UN Messenger of Peace, the highest honour bestowed by the UN chief on a global citizen. Malala, also the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, will be officially designated at a ceremony.
- An Indian-origin educationist in the UK, 65-year-old Dame Asha Khemka, Principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College, who moved to Britain after her marriage with no English language skills, has been named the 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year' in an award ceremony in Birmingham.
- Colson Whitehead's National Book Award-winning speculative history novel The Underground Railroad was honored with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for 2017.
- Abdulqadir Rashik, an Indian software engineer, has won the top prize at a global challenge for an open-source tool that enables users to interactively view UN General Assembly resolutions and understand voting patterns of member states.
- President Pranab Mukherjee conferred India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri, to Chef Sanjeev Kapoor and singer Kailash Kher.
- Gymnast Dipa Karmakar, wrestler Sakshi Malik, Rio Paralympics gold medalist Mariyappan Thangavelu and discus thrower Vikas Gowda were also honored with the Padma Shri.
- Indian Carnatic musician Dr KJ Yesudas was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan award while instrumentalist Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt was awarded the Padma Bhushan.
- Further, Indian film journalist and historian Bhawana Somaaya received the Padma Shri
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with a whopping 6.9 million followers, surpassing US President Donald Trump.
- Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai received honorary Canadian citizenship and praised the country's openness towards refugees under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- Gurmehar Kaur, a Delhi University student, who was allegedly threatened for protesting against ABVP on social media, has been felicitated with Punjabi Icon award.

· Mahavir Singh Phogat, father of wrestler Geeta Phogat was awarded FICCI's gender parity award for his contribution in harnessing his daughters' talent.

· 22-year-old Horcelie Sinda Wa Mbongo, born with HIV, was crowned Miss Congo UK 2017.

· A 117 year old Jamaican woman named Violet Brown has become the world's oldest person, revealed US based Gerontology Research Group.

· Dr. Paduru Gururaja Bhat Award 2017 has been conferred upon Prof. A.V. Narasimha Murthy, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru.

· UNESCO has named Giuseppina Nicolini, Mayor of Lampedusa (Italy) and the nongovernmental organisation SOS Mediterranee (France) as the winners of Felix HouphouetBoigny Peace Prize 2017.

· The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has selected 3 States for Krishi Karman Awards 2015-16.

- They are, Tamil Nadu : In large category (production more than 10 million tonnes)

- Himachal Pradesh : In Medium category (1 to 10 million tonnes)

- Tripura: In small category (less than 1 million tonnes).

· PM Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma are the only Indians named in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People list for 2017.

- Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar Jr and US' four-time Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles have been named in TIME's 100 Most Influential People of 2017.

- The list also features American football player Colin Kaepernick, widely known for protesting US national anthem during NFL games.

· Anastasia Boil from Russia was crowned the winner of the Miss USSR UK contest.

· Canada's Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan gifted his coin of honour to actor Diljit Dosanjh on the sets of the reality show 'Rising Star'.

· Astronaut Peggy Whitson broke the record for most cumulative days spent in space by an American astronaut, surpassing Jeff Williams' record of 534 days, NASA announced.

· Filmmaker-actor K Viswanath (87) will be conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2016.

· India's youngest ever chancellor of any university, Dileep K Nair, has received Dr Babasaheb

Ambedkar International Foundation Kerala State award for the year 2016-17 for his excellent performance in the field of education.

· Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) has won the prestigious Golden Globe Tigers Award for Excellence and Leadership in CSR for the year 2017 in the category of 'E-Payment Leadership'.

· Srishti Kaur (Noida) has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017 after beating 25 contestants from around the world at the beauty pageant held in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

· Bhubaneswar has become the 1st Indian city to win Pierre L'enfant International Planning excellence award-2017 instituted by the American Planning Association (APA).

· The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Geoscience Awards-2016 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- The National Geo-science Awards, previously known as the National Mineral Awards, was instituted by the Ministry of Mines in 1966, to honour individuals and teams of scientists for their extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in fundamental, applied geosciences, mining and allied fields.

- This year, 27 geoscientists are receiving these awards.

· Four stands at Kolkata's Eden Garden stadium were named after Indian Army martyrs.

- Cricket Association of Bengal President Sourav Ganguly and Army's Lt Gen Praveen Bakshi dedicated the stands to 1962 Indo-China war martyrs Subedar Joginder Singh and Lt Col Dhan Singh Thapa.

- Two other stands were named after Late Col NJ Nair and Late Hav Hangpan Dada.

· Japan has decided to confer former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar with Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, the 3rd highest civilian honour for his contribution to strengthening bilateral relations with India.

· Social activist Prafulla Samantra was announced one among six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize for his "historic 12- year legal battle that affirmed the indigenous Dongria Kondh's land rights and protected the Niyamgiri Hills from a massive, open-pit aluminum ore mine."

- The other five winners for this year are: Mark Lopez (United States) Uros Macerl (Slovenia) Rodrigo Tot (Guatemala) Rodrigue Katembo (Democratic Republic of Congo) Wendy Bowman (Australia).

Sports/Game

· India won its second ODI World Cup after 28 years on this day (2nd April) in the year 2011, defeating Sri Lanka at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

· India's women's T20I team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been named Player of the Year by Australia's Women's Big Bash League team Sydney Thunder.

· Rio Olympics silver medalist PV Sindhu defeated the Rio gold medal winner and Spanish shuttler Carolina Marin in straight sets to clinch her maiden India Open title.

· Switzerland's Roger Federer defeated Spanish rival Rafael Nadal in straight sets to clinch his third Miami Open title and his first since 2006.

· Switzerland's Roger Federer jumped to the 4th spot on the ATP men's singles rankings after lifting his third Miami Open title by beating his long-time rival, Rafael Nadal.

· Virat Kohli has been named as the Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016, in this year's edition of the Wisden Cricketer's Almanack.

- Kohli becomes the 3rd Indian to be bestowed with the honour, with Virender Sehwag winning it twice in 2008 and 2009, and Sachin Tendulkar in 2010.

· BCCI felicitated former cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly at the opening ceremony.

· India's Rio Olympics silver medal-winning shuttler, PV Sindhu jumped three spots to reach her career-best ranking of world number two in the women's singles rankings.

· The Indian football team jumped 31 places to reach the 101st rank, its best in 20 years, in the latest FIFA rankings released.

India, ranked 11th in Asia, has won 11 of their last 13 matches, scoring 31 goals.

· Spinner Rashid Khan became the first cricketer from Afghanistan to play in an Indian Premier League match, after featuring for the Sunrisers Hyderabad against the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the season opener.

· The National Basketball Association (NBA) has launched the first NBA Basketball School in Mumbai.

· Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar won a Gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament after getting a walkover in the final.

· Gujarat Lions' captain Suresh Raina went past Virat Kohli's tally of 4,110 runs to become the leading run-getter of the Indian Premier League with 4,166 runs.

· Mercedes' British Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton defeated Ferrari's four-time Formula One World Champion Sebastian Vettel to lift his fifth title at the Chinese Grand Prix.

· The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has granted affiliation to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), ending a long-standing impasse between the two bodies.

· World Cup-winning coach Dav Whatmore took charge as the head coach of Kerala's state cricket team.

· Indian team was crowned champions of the Women's Hockey World League Round 2 after defeating Chile on penalties in the tournament final in Canada.

- Indian goalkeeper Savita Punia was adjudged the Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

· Ruhaan Alva, a 10-year-old boy from Bengaluru has won the Easykart Championship, a go-karting tournament, in Lonato, Italy.

· Marylebone Cricket Club, cricket's rule-making body, approved new rules including giving umpires the power to eject misbehaving players, alongside using bails tethered to the stumps to protect wicketkeepers from eye injuries.

- Japanese Volleyball Association is using robot volleyball players to help out the national team players with training and drills.
- 7th Junior National Hockey Championship began at Bhopal. 86 teams will take part in one month long event.
- Mann Kaur, a 101-year-old great-grandmother, represented India at the World Masters Games, considered as the "Olympics for veterans", in Auckland from April 21.
- Gujarat Lions' Suresh Raina became the first player in Indian Premier League's history to feature in 150 matches after appearing against Rising Pune Supergiant.
- The Indian men's hockey team will not participate in the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia for the second year in a row, citing Pakistan's presence in the event.
- Indian shuttler Sai Praneeth defeated 24-year-old compatriot Kidambi Srikanth to lift his maiden Super Series title at the Singapore Open.
- Pullela Gopichand's daughter, Gayatri Gopichand, won the Under-15 women's singles title and the Under-15 women's doubles title alongside partner Samiya Farouqui at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya International Junior Grand Prix tournament in Jakarta.
- Ferrari's Formula One racer Sebastian Vettel piped British rival, Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton to win the Bahrain Grand Prix.
- Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner became the batsman with the most number of fifties in IPL after he smashed his 34th against Kings XI Punjab.
- India won a total of 11 medals, including three gold, two silver, and six bronze, at the recently concluded US Open Karate Championship in Las Vegas.
- Sri Lankan spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan will become 1st Sri Lankan cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, with his formal induction set to be held during June's ICC Champions Trophy 2017.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) will feature Video gaming as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games.
- Cricket is among the 62 sports excluded from the 2018 Asian Games to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas won the Men's doubles final at the Monte Carlo Masters to register their first ATP World Tour title as a team.
- Rafael Nadal became the first player in the Open Era (since 1968) to win a singles tournament on 10 different occasions, winning his 10th Monte-Carlo Masters final.
- Top-ranked T20I all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been appointed Captain of Bangladesh's T20I team.
- He replaces Mashrafe Mortaza, who retired from the format last month.

- Younis Khan became the first Pakistani batsman and the 13th overall to score 10,000 Test runs after reaching the landmark in the first Test against the West Indies.
- Malika Marathe, a 13-year-old national tennis champion who almost lost sight in her right eye when she was four, has become India's top-ranked player in the All India Tennis Association's (AITA) Under-14 category.
- Haryana emerged champion beating Kerala at the National Youth Athletics Meet.
- Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur became world number one after winning the Gold medal at the Asian Grand Prix in China.
- Microsoft Co-founder and the world's richest person, Bill Gates played a doubles match of tennis alongside Roger Federer against John Isner and Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McCready for charity.
- British boxer Anthony Joshua defeated his Ukrainian rival Wladimir Klitschko in the 11th round to be crowned the IBF, WBA, and IBO world heavyweight champion at Wembley Stadium.
- Kerala's Kochi is set to get a Blind Football Academy (BFA), the first ever academy for differently-abled footballers in the country.

Report

- The Indian Institute of Science Bangalore has been declared as India's best university in 'India Rankings 2017' released by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University and Banaras Hindu University came second and third respectively.
- Further, Miranda House was declared as India's best college, followed by Chennai's Loyola College and Shri Ram College of Commerce.
- Delhi's Connaught Place is the world's 9th most expensive office location with annual rentals at 6,877 per sq ft, according to American property consultant CBRE.
- Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex is at 19th position while Nariman Point's Central Business District is at 30th place.
- Hong Kong is the world's most expensive office market with annual rentals at 17,197 per sq ft.
- Eleven Madison Park in New York has topped the 'World's 50 Best Restaurants' list.
- 'Osteria Francescana' in Italy and 'El Celler de Can Roca' in Spain were ranked second and third respectively.
- India has jumped 12 places to the 40th rank in the World Economic Forum Global Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017.
- Spain topped the list, followed by France and Germany.
- Top 10 - Spain, France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Italy, Canada, and Switzerland.

- China has remained the world's biggest executioner; however, the true extent of the use of the death penalty in China is unknown as this data is considered a state secret, human rights organisation Amnesty International announced.
- Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Pakistan were other top executioners.
- Actress Alia Bhatt has featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list.
- Other celebrities who have featured on the list include actress Margot Robbie and singer Lorde.
- Spanish clothing brand Zara's Co-founder Amancio Ortega has surpassed Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos to become the world's second-richest person with a net worth of \$77.5 billion.
- Bezos is now the world's third-richest person with a net worth of \$76 billion.
- Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar and wrestler Sakshi Malik have been included in Forbes' '30 under 30' Asia 2017 list.
- The list also features 25-year-old Sharath Gayakwad, India's first Paralympic swimmer and Arjuna award winner, who has 96 medals to his name.
- Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries surpassed IT giant Tata Consultancy Services in intraday trade to reclaim its tag of India's most valued company.
- State-run lender State Bank of India (SBI) surpassed energy firm ONGC to become the country's most valuable public sector unit (PSU), in terms of market valuation.
- Among the top 10 most valued Indian companies, SBI is at the fifth position.
- According to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), Russia, with 7,000 nuclear warheads, and the US, with 6,800 warheads, together holds an estimated 93% of the world's nuclear arsenal.
- Other countries like France, China, and the UK account for 300, 270 and 215 nuclear warheads respectively.
- While Pakistan has a warhead stockpile of 120-130, India's warheads range between 110-120.
- India has become the world's fifth largest military spender, witnessing a growth of around 8.5% in expenditure in 2016.
- Top 5: US, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and India
- India slipped three places to be placed 136th among 180 countries in the 2017 world press freedom rankings.
- India was just three places above Pakistan and a rank below Palestine.
- Top 10 - Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Netherlands, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Jamaica, Belgium, and Iceland
- Hindi internet users are expected to outnumber those accessing the web in English by 2021, a Google-KPMG report has claimed.

- Hindi users are estimated to reach 20.1 crore as against the English user base of 19.9 crore in 2021, it added.

- The report further estimated that 53.6 crore Indians would be using regional languages to access the web by 2021.

General - National

· Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost has said that Iran is willing to mediate between Pakistan and India over the long-standing issue of Kashmir, if requested.

· Malaysian PM Mohd Najib Tun Razak announced the launch of multiple-entry e-visas, allowing Indians to fly to Malaysia and visit South Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia using just one visa.

· Union Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore announced a new category of visas for foreign filmmakers.

· The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued guidelines to all states, allowing transgenders to use public toilets of the gender of their choice.

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi was launched a special digital exhibition titled 'Bapu Ko Karyanjali' on the Champaran Satyagraha.

· The Uttar Pradesh government has given its clearance to the project of building a music village in Varanasi in honour of legendary shehnai player Ustad Bismillah Khan.

- The village, to be named as 'Bismillah Khan Sangeet Gram', will have a museum centre, a training-cum research centre among other things associated with musical 'gharanas'.

· To mark the Golden Jubilee Year of Bangladesh's independence in 2021, India and Bangladesh have agreed to jointly produce a documentary film on the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

- The two neighbouring countries will also produce a film on the life and works of Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which will be released on his birth centenary year in 2020.

· United States and China have agreed to pursue a '100- day plan' aimed at reducing the US trade deficit with China.

- Decision in this regard was taken by US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in their first summit held in Florida, US.

· The Bengaluru Police have launched 51 'Pink Hoysalas', the new patrol vehicles, to address complaints related to women and child safety.

- The Pink Hoysalas will function based on complaints registered through the Suraksha App or intimation to the police control room number and will have at least three women police personnel.

· The advertising industry watchdog Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has come up with a set of guidelines for celebrities endorsing products.

· India has cancelled the maritime talks with Pakistan, which were to be held during 16th to 19th April 2016 in New Delhi, over death sentence to Kulbhushan Jadhav on charges of spying.

- In order to spread awareness about the Sikh identity and culture, 'Turban Day' was organised at New York's Times Square by the non-profit group The Sikhs of New York.
- The New York authorities had earlier declared April 15, 2017 as 'Turban Day'.
- A Sikh organisation, National Sikh Campaign (NSC), has launched a \$1.5 million (9.6 crore) TV campaign to educate Americans about Sikhism.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that his ministry is planning to construct a "Historic landmark bigger than Burj Khalifa" in Mumbai and a green, smart road three times bigger than the Marine Drive in the city.
- A government report has predicted India's sex ratio will dip to 898 girls for 1,000 boys in 2031 from 939 in 2011.
- India has contributed USD 2, 50,000 to the UN Election Assistance Division to help other countries to hold elections and develop their electoral systems.
- India has won elections to two subsidiary bodies of a UN organ focused on social and economic issues.
- India, along with 12 other members, was elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- India, along with 19 other nations, was also elected by acclamation to the International Narcotics Control Board for a four-year term beginning January next year.
- The Ministry of External Affairs has made a provision enabling people to apply online for passports in Hindi.
- Belgium has become the first country to open an honorary consulate office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- PM Narendra Modi assured his Nepalese counterpart Pushpa Kamal Dahal that India will extend all possible assistance for the elections to Nepal's local government bodies.
- The elections, which are scheduled for May 14 and June 14, will be the first polls for local government bodies in the Himalayan country in 20 years.
- Kazakhstan has opened its honorary consulate in Chennai.
- It will be headed by well-known businessman Suraj Shantakumar. This consulate will cover 3 states namely, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala.
- Poland assured India of its support to New Delhi's bid for membership in the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and a permanent seat in the expanded UN Security Council.
- Starting May 1, prospective parents going for adoption would not be allowed to "pick and choose" but would only be given one option by the national adoption body.

- Till now, the government's adoption portal, CARINGS, referred up to three children to the prospective parents to choose from.

· The National Mission for Clean Ganga will observe 'Ganga Cleanliness Pledge Day' on 2nd May 2017 at various places in the river's basin states to spread awareness and ensure public participation in the programme.

General - International

· Paris has banned all sexist and discriminatory ads from its billboards.

· Israel's Security Cabinet approved the establishment of its first new Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank in two decades.

· Japan has committed an Official Development Assistance (ODA) of 371 billion yen (about Rs 21,590 crore) for various infrastructure projects, including the dedicated freight corridor, in India for the FY 2016-2017.

· Germany has become the 1st NATO member to launch a "self-contained" cyber command unit designed to shield IT and weapons systems from growing attacks.

· The UK passport could turn Dark Blue again after Brexit under a nearly 4,000 crore redesigning contract. Red Passport Colors - Members of European Union (EU)

· US President Donald Trump signed a resolution reversing a Barack Obama-era rule that restricted internet providers from sharing users' browsing history without their permission.

· The US has ruled that being an entry-level computer programmer will no longer qualify as a specialist profession, which is a requirement for applying for an H-1B work visa.

- The US Citizenship and Immigration Services issued the guidelines to prevent employers from temporarily hiring foreign workers on low salaries to displace local American workers on higher salaries.

· Russia has sought India's EVM technology for 2018 presidential elections.

· China has announced plans to build a new city, a special economic zone, in Hebei province to decongest its capital Beijing.

· Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn signed a new military-backed constitution that strengthens the army's grip over the government and puts the country on the path to polls in 2018, four years after the military seized control.

· Iceland is set to become the first country in the world to neutralize gender pay gap.

- In this regard, a bill was introduced in Iceland's parliament that makes mandatory for public and private businesses to prove they offer equal pay to employees.

· A 'Yoga Club' inspired by Indian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was inaugurated at the Japanese Parliament by Ravi Shankar himself.

· Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi has declared the country a 'war zone' and instructed the army to prepare a new offensive against the al-Qaeda-linked alShabaab militants.

- Al-Shabaab has denounced Abdullahi as an "apostate" and warned Somalis against supporting him.
- Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared a 3-month state of emergency in the country following twin church bombings that killed at least 44 and injured over 100 people.
- The bombings come weeks ahead of Pope Francis' two-day Egypt visit starting April 28.
- The 1st rail freight service from United Kingdom to China departed from Essex.
- Earlier the first freight train in the opposite direction, from China to UK had arrived in London in January 2017.
- The train service was launched as part of China's ambitious One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative that aims to revive the ancient Silk Road trading routes with the West dating back more than 2,000 years.
- The G7 group of nations has rejected UK and US' calls for sanctions against Russia over its support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
- Under a new "extreme vetting" policy being considered by the US administration, British tourists may have to hand over personal information, including social media passwords and mobile phone contacts or be denied entry.
- US President Donald Trump signed the US instrument of ratification for Montenegro's membership to NATO. This comes after the Senate last month backed the expansion of NATO to allow the small Balkan state to join the alliance.
- The US dropped a Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), the largest non-nuclear weapon in its arsenal, targeting Islamic State militants in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.
- Russia vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government cooperate with its probe into the Idlib chemical attack.
- Bolivia joined Russia in going against the resolution, while China, Kazakhstan, and Ethiopia abstained.
- Russia, Syria and Iran have called on the US to refrain from attacks similar to those in Syria, saying that such attacks have "serious effects not only for regional, but also global security".
- South Korean prosecutors formally charged ousted President Park Geunhye in a corruption scandal that led to her impeachment in December last year.
- Australia has abolished the 457 Visa Programme used by thousands of temporary foreign workers, a majority of them Indians to address growing unemployment in that country. Instead, Australia wants to adopt 'Australians first' approach to skilled migration.
- US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to propose changes to the H1B visa process to prevent its misuse.
- The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of stamps showing 10 yoga asanas (poses) to commemorate the International Day of Yoga on June 21 in New York.

The stamps, to be issued only in \$1.15 denomination each, depict a different yoga poses next to a large 'Om' in Devanagari script.

- The British Parliament voted in favour of a motion presented by PM Theresa May calling for a snap general election on June 8.
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has made sweeping changes to Citizenship laws unveiling tighter requirements for new applicants. This announcement follows the recent scrapping of the 457 visa program for foreign workers, which was used majorly by the Indians.
- Iran's former two-term president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has been disqualified from re-running in Iran's presidential elections in May.
- Saudi Arabia's Labour Ministry issued an order to restrict employment in shopping malls only to Saudi nationals.
- For the first time since the Industrial Revolution, Britain witnessed a full day powered by energy generated without the use of coal.
- The 1st round of French presidential election began with 11 candidates' names on the ballot including far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen, conservative Francois Fillon, centrist Emmanuel Macron, and far-left wildcard Jean-Luc Melenchon.
- This will determine the top two from the 11 candidates, who will proceed to a final run-off on May 7.
- The Communist Party of China has launched a campaign to train school and college students how to spot and catch foreign spies through easy-to-read books and lists of anti-espionage techniques.
- Saudi Arabia has been appointed to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, an agency which promotes gender equality and women empowerment.
- Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud issued a royal decree restoring financial allowances for civil servants and military personnel.
- Saudi had cut ministers' salaries by 20% and scaled back financial perks for public sector employees last year to save money at a time of low oil prices.
- The 27 member countries of the European Union unanimously agreed to the negotiating guidelines for Brexit talks with the UK in less than 15 minutes.
- However, they suggested that they will demand Britain to agree on payments to the bloc before considering a new trade deal.
- EU-UK talks will begin after the country's general election on June 8.
- Turkish authorities blocked access to online encyclopedia Wikipedia without a court order.

Name of the Book and Author

- Dalai Lama has released a book titled "Ocean and Blue Mountains".

- This book published by the department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs.
- Chetan Bhagat's novel 'Five Point Someone' has been included in the new syllabus for the academic session starting July in Delhi University.
- JK Rowling's 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' and Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women' will also be included in the syllabus.

TO THE POINTS: APRIL–2017

- The Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Tun Razak was on a six day visit to India.
- Utkala Dibasa is the formation day of Odisha. It was observed on 1st April.
- The High Court of Uttarakhand has recently declared the "rivers, streams, rivulets, lakes, air, meadows, dales, jungles, forests wetlands, grasslands, springs, and waterfalls" in the state as living entities.
- World Autism Awareness Day was observed on 2nd April.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest road tunnel – the Chenani - Nashri tunnel on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.
- Theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2017 - Toward Autonomy and Self Determination.
- Japan has committed an Official Development Assistance (ODA) of 371 billion yen (about Rs 21,590 crore) to India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on 1st April of 1935.
- Maharashtra Assembly has passed an amendment to the law, making those found guilty of assaulting government officials or elected representatives while discharging their duties, punishable by imprisonment of five years.
- Naveen Patnaik is the Chief Minister of Odisha.
- The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan has recently announced that his government will introduce a bill to award the death penalty to rapists.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was recently selected for the US India Business Council Award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'.
- Five associate banks and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank merged with the State Bank of India (SBI) on 1st April 2017.
- Germany has become the 1st NATO member to launch a "self contained" cyber command unit designed to shield IT and weapons systems from growing attacks.
- According to SBI's new rules, cash withdrawals was attracted a charge of up to 20 after three transactions from different banks' ATMs monthly, and 10 after five withdrawals from SBI ATMs.
- K Prithika Yashini, first transsexual to enter into uniform service in India.

- The captain of India's women's T20I team Harmanpreet Kaur has been named Player of the Year by Australia's Women's Big Bash League team Sydney Thunder.
- The United Nations' Mine Awareness Day (International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action) was observed on 4th April.
- Theme of Mine Awareness Day 2017 - Needs driven. People Centred.
- The Union Tourism Ministry sanctioned nearly 100 crore for a Heritage Circuit in Assam under Swadesh Darshan scheme.
- A new law that defines crypto currency, including Bitcoin, Ripple, Litecoin and others, as a legal payment method has come into force in Japan.
- China is going to launch a network of 156 mini-satellites to facilitate global broadband coverage and commercial space development.
- Roger Federer is the winner of Men's Singles title in Miami Open 2017.
- Johanna Konta is the winner of Women's Singles title in Miami Open 2017.
- The UK passport will turn to Dark Blue after Brexit (earlier it was Dark Red).
- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was honoured with a tribute at the 60th San Francisco Film Festival, which was held from 5th to 19th April 2017.
- The Rio Olympics silver medalist PV Sindhu has recently won her maiden India Open title.
- Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic has won the country's Presidential election, securing 55% of votes.
- Russia has sought India's EVM technology for its 2018 presidential elections.
- India's National Maritime Day was observed on 5th April.
- Theme of National Maritime Day 2017 - Connecting India through Shipping.
- The Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has recently launched a Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh.
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana aims at providing physical aids and assisted living devices for senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.
- To decongest its capital city, China has recently announced plans to build a new city, a special economic zone, in Hebei province. China capital is Beijing.
- Former Indian captain MS Dhoni appointed as the CEO of Gulf Oil India for a day, as he wanted to understand how a corporate CEO works.
- The 10th edition of the Indian Premier League was recently kicked off. Chairman of IPL is Rajeev Shukla.

- Ecuador's ruling party presidential candidate Lenin Moreno has won the country's presidential elections securing 51% votes against his conservative opponent Guillermo Lasso.

- The Prime Minister of Malaysia Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak has recently announced the launch of multiple entry e-visas, allowing Indians to fly to Malaysia and visit South Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia using just one visa.

- The board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared a proposal to introduce banknotes of 200 denominations for the first time.

- The Aditya Birla Group has recently announced that it has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India to start its Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank.

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2017 was observed on 6th April.

- Girish Shankar has been recently appointed as the Chairman of newly constituted National Board of Electric Mobility (NBEM).

- Geetha Johri has been appointed as the Director General of Police of Gujarat. [With this she became the state's first woman police chief].

- The 2017 National conference on Communicating India was recently held at New Delhi.

- Madhya Pradesh has recently announced that it will start a one year diploma course on Hindu priesthood called 'Purohityam' from July, 2017.

- IT industry body Nasscom appointed Quattrro CMD, Raman Roy as its Chairman for 2017-18.

- Tim Berners Lee has won the 2016 Turing Award. He is the inventor of World Wide Web.

- Hindustani classical singer Kishori Amonkar (84) was recently passed away. He received the Padma Vibhushan in 2002.

- Keibul Lamjao National Park is the only floating national park in the world.

- Keibul Lamjao National Park is located in Manipur.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.25% in its first bimonthly monetary policy of this fiscal on 6th April 2017.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law that allows the transfer of cash from Russia to Ukraine only through companies controlled by Russian Central Bank.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made 56 foreign visits since taking the office in May 2014.

- Bhutan (June 2014) was the first country that Modi visited after taking office in 2014.

- Malvika Sinha has been recently appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina visited India for a 4 day visit.

- A noted author Ajey Jhanka is famous for his novels Sarkarnama and Drohpar, was recently passed away.
- The first cricketer from Afghanistan Rashid Khan to play in an Indian Premier League match.
- Maharashtra government has passed a bill to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to legalise bullock cart races in the state.
- World Health Day was observed on 7th April.
- Theme of World Health Day 2017 - Depression: Let's talk.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has posthumously conferred the second highest peacetime gallantry award Kirti Chakra on Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar of Gorkha Rifles.
- India has inked a two billion dollar defence deal with Israel and the later will supply advanced medium range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, designed to destroy hostile aircraft, missiles, and drones.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to slash clearance time for NEFT in an attempt to enhance efficiency of the electronic payment system and add to customer convenience. NEFT - National Electronic Funds Transfer.
- Uruguay is the first country in the world to allow pharmacies to sell recreational marijuana.
- Rajasthan government has imposed 10% surcharge on stamp duty for the conservation and propagation of cows in the state.
- Iceland is the first country in the world to neutralize gender pay gap.
- The 64th National Film Awards were recently announced :
- Akshay Kumar (Rustom) has won the Best Actor Award.
- Surabhi Lakshmi (Minnaminungu) has won the Best Actress Award.
- Best Hindi film for the year 2016 Award went to Neerja.
- The Best Feature Film Award went to the Marathi film Kaasav (Turtle).
- Indian bank has recently appointed Kishor Kharat as the new Managing Director and CEO of the bank.
- Indira Banerjee has been recently sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- India gets 40th rank in World Economic Forum Global Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has given its clearance to the project of building a music village in Varanasi in honour of legendary shehnai player Ustad Bismillah Khan.
- The National Basketball Association (NBA) has launched its first NBA Basketball School in

Mumbai.

- Spain topped the World Economic Forum Global Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017.
- Madhya Pradesh Government has recently launched a populist subsidized meal scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana for poor in the state.
- With the Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana, Madhya Pradesh becomes 3rd state in the country to launch populist subsidized meal scheme. Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan are the other 2 states.
- To mark the Golden Jubilee Year of Bangladesh's independence in the year 2021, India and Bangladesh have agreed to jointly produce a documentary film on the Liberation War of Bangladesh.
- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has selected Malala Yousafzai as a UN Messenger of Peace, the highest honour bestowed by the UN chief on a global citizen.
- The US Senate has confirmed President Donald Trump's pick Neil Gorsuch as the Supreme Court Justice.
- Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar has won a Gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament.
- SN Subrahmanyam has been recently appointed as the new CEO of Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was visited to India for a four day visit.
- Pankaj Advani won the Asian Billiards championship in Chandigarh on April 14, 2017.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter State Council in New Delhi on April 9, 2017.
- Virat Kohli was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016 on April 5, 2017.
- Ravi Venkatesan was appointed as cochairman of Infosys on April 13, 2017.
- Rs.1,000, Rs.5,000, and Rs.10,000 banknotes were demonetized in 1978.
- Government launched two mobile apps named e-challan and m-Parivahan.
- Japan has committed an 'Official Development Assistance' (ODA) of 371.345 billion yen.
- Kanha tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh becomes first in India get official mascot.
- Name of the mascot is 'Bhoorsingh the Barasingha'.
- RBI was set up on the basis of the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission.
- IIT-Madras has signed a MoU with the Indian Army.
- Vanaja N. Sarna is now the new chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

- CBEC has been renamed as Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) under GST Regime.
- Public Lender State Bank of India gets a new logo.
- State Bank of India was entered in the league of Top 50 Global Banks with a balance sheet size of Rs.41 trillion.
- SBI was written in a new font called Effra.
- Axis Bank has tied up with Wells Fargo for US remittances.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank launched the '811 banking app'.
- Railway Minister released the book titled 'Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry'.
- Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank became part of the State Bank of India.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 was awarded to Bob Dylan.
- NDB has an initial authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion.
- Joyciline Jepkosgei has completed her fifth half marathon just in one hour, four minutes and 52 seconds.
- India has sought USD 2 billion loans for various projects from the NDB.
- The 5-day long 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference (CFC) begun in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The theme of conference is 'Forests for Prosperity and Posterity'.
- The Government has launched Power Tex India scheme for power loom sector development.
- Madhya Pradesh government has launched an app named 'MP e-nagarpalika'.
- Mizoram has become the 27th State to join UDAY.
- Kerala, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh have recently joined UDAY.
- Bengaluru's IISc and Delhi's Miranda House topped in University and College category, respectively.
- The government has set a target date of July 1 for rollout of the GST.
- The Central GST Bill, The Integrated GST Bill, The GST (Compensation to States) Bill, and The Union Territory GST Bill, 2017 were passed recently by the Parliament of India.
- Justice Indira Banerjee has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- India, Malaysia signed for seven MoUs.
- India's First Biogas Bus Service Launched in Kolkata.

- State Bank of India has reduced its benchmark lending rate by 0.15%.
- Ola tied up with UPI.
- India has been ranked third in a doping violation report published by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for 2015.
- Classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passes away.
- National conference on Communicating India will be organized in New Delhi.
- Nitin Gadkari announces Rs.40,000 crore expressway project in northeast.
- Amazon.in launches 'Classroom', a virtual training program for new sellers.
- SASEC's Finance Ministers Meeting was held in New Delhi.
- South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation is the full form of SASEC.
- ICICI, Axis Bank sell Rs 1800 crore Ballarpur loans to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company.
- Jhargram declared as the 22nd district of West Bengal.
- Government officially launched the low emission Bharat stage (BS)-IV Grade fuel in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- National Waterways (NW-1) runs from Haldia (Sagar) to Allahabad across the Ganges, Bhagirathi, and Hooghly river systems.
- International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed on 6th April.
- Haryana Govt grants Rs 21,000 to families for third girl child.
- 'Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti' scheme was launched to insure the survival of newborn girl child along with proper health and promote education of girls in the state.
- India and UK to set up 240 million pound fund for green energy.
- FMCG industry has emerged as the highest paying industry in India.
- FMCG full form is Fast-moving consumer goods.
- Randstad human resource consulting firm headquartered in Diemen, Netherland.
- RBI has decided to slash clearance time for NEFT.
- 3-day National Children's Film Festival inaugurated in Vishakhapatnam.
- PV Sindhu reaches career-best World Number 2 ranking.
- Tai Tzu Ying of China is at World Number 1 Ranking.
- 2020 Summer Olympics will be organized in Tokyo, Japan.

- Bhimaraya Metri appointed as Director of IIM Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
- RBL bank has opened its IFSC banking unit in GIFT City.
- HDFC bank announced its UPI on Chillr, a multi-bank mobile payment app.
- Malala from Pakistan has become the youngest UN messenger of peace.
- Canara Bank partnered with BSNL to upgrade bandwidth at all branches.
- NPCI disbursed Rs. 245 crore in prize money under Niti Aayog's Lucky Draw scheme.
- India ranked 40th in WEF's global travel & tourism ranking.
- K Shyam Kumar won a gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament.
- India and Bangladesh have signed 22 agreements.

- Champaran Satyagraha was started in Champaran district of Bihar in 1917.
- Ban on cash transaction in excess of Rs.2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts.
- Smita Sandhane has appointed as MD of Saraswat Bank.
- Lewis Hamilton has won his fifth title at the Chinese Grand Prix.
- India and Russia signed a joint collaboration to promote innovation.
- Samsung R&D Institute of India has topped the chart of IT patent applicants.
- Rajnath Singh launched Akshay Kumar's portal 'Bharat Ke Veer'.
- 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal is a facility for the monetary contribution to the kin of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel killed in action.
- Asha Khemka was named 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year'
- RBI has allowed banks to invest in REITs & InvITs.
- BP Kanungo has been recently appointed as the new Deputy Governor of RBI.
- First DNA Bank for Wild Animals in North India to Be Set Up in Bareilly.
- MP govt started Rs. 5 thali under 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojana'
- Flipkart buys eBay India.
- Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh appointed as next chairman of TDSAT.
- Atu Zumvu becomes first Naga cop to receive 'Shaurya Chakra' award.

- Shurhozelie Liezietsu is the newly appointed Chief Minister of Nagaland.
- Rs. 23,443 crores released for MGNREGS for Mission Water Conservation.
- Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017.
- Fino Paytech, just received the Reserve Bank of India's licence to launch a payments bank.
- CBDT has introduced the Electronic PAN (e-PAN) card in collaboration with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The government launched 'Nakshe mapping portal' allowing the public the access to download 3,000 maps.
- Manappuram Finance tied up with Yes Bank.
- National Hindi Sevi Samman Awards announced by Central Hindi Institute Director N.K. Pandey.
- Nokia partnered with Airtel & BSNL to set up 5G internet speed in India.
- Malala Yousafzai becomes the first noble prize winner to address Canadian Parliament.
- India's first-ever micro-drama festival held in New Delhi.
- First rail freight service British goods from the UK to China has departed.
- Amazon India has received the RBI's approval for an e-wallet named 'Amazon Pay'.
- World Bank has approved a \$375 million loan to National Waterway (NW1).
- Bank accounts be blocked if not linked with Aadhaar number and self-certification by April 30, 2017.
- The pink patrol cars called the 'Pink Hoysalas' and the Suraksha mobile phone app were launched by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru.
- Petrol and Diesel prices will change every day from May 1, 2017.
- Five cities selected which are Puducherry, Vishakapatnam, Udaipur, Jamshedpur and Chandigarh.
- Haldia Port in West Bengal has topped the List in the First-Ever Ranking of Ports on Sanitation Parameters.
- Mahabaleshwara Mavinakudige Subrahmanya is the new MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank Ltd.
- India and Australia have started a sports partnership.
- UN chief named Achim Steiner to head UNDP.
- PM Modi emerged as the most followed world leader on Instagram.

- PM Modi followed by US President Donald Trump and Pope Francis at the second and third position.
- Pranab Mukherjee released the book named 'the Flaming Tresses of Draupadi' authored by M Veerappa Moily.
- Haryana govt launched Operation Durga to ensure women Safety.
- Cisco launched its fifth global cyber range lab in Gurugram, Haryana.
- India and France inked pact to upgrade Railways.
- Himachal Pradesh bags Krishi Karman Award for 2015-16.
- Postal department and SBI joined hands to promote cashless transactions in India.
- Tare Zameen Par programme launched in Jharkhand.
- IRDAI has launched a web portal 'isnp.irda.gov.in' for insurers that will allow them to register and sell policies online.
- UP and Centre have signed an MoU for the 'Power for All' scheme in the state.
- GNFC's township at Bharuch in Gujarat became India's first cashless township.
- IT department has launched 'Operation Clean Money-II'
- The first phase of 'Operation Clean Money' was launched on January 31, 2017.
- Nepal and China will hold the first-ever joint military exercise named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017'.
- PM Modi inaugurated new units of 1980 MW in Koradi thermal power station.
- R.R. Hanchinal accolade by M.S. Swaminathan Award.
- Trupti Jain has won 2017 'Cartier Women's Initiative Award'.
- Habibganj station in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) has been handed over to a private firm to be operated by it.
- Finance Ministry approved 8.65% interest rate on EPF.
- India's economy will grow by 7.2% in 2017-18, predicts World Bank.
- Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari was visited to India (New Delhi) for a five-day visit.
- Sai Praneeth has won the title match of Men's singles at Singapore Open Badminton.
- World's oldest person Emma Morano dies aged 117.
- Emma Morano was an Italian woman.
- Pankaj Advani won his sixth Asian Billiards title.

- SBI surpass ONGC to become most valued PSU.
- BHEL and ISRO tie-up for lithium-ion batteries.
- Gayatri Pullela wins twin crown at Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix in Jakarta.
- BHEL has successfully commissioned two units of 270 MW at Maharashtra.
- 16th Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched three new products for its customers viz. automated electronic toll collection, a credit card mobile App, a Roof Solar Power Project.
- PM Modi inaugurated phase-I of the Link-II pipeline canal of SAUNI Yojana.
- The Gorakhpur Air force Station has been renamed as Mahayogi Goraknath Airport.
- Agra Airport has been renamed as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport.
- Rajasthan State govt and HPCL have signed an agreement for Rs 43,129 crore Barmer refinery.
- Indigenously designed 'P15A Guided Missile Destroyer', INS Chennai was dedicated to the city Chennai.
- India ranked 8th in the 2017 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index.
- RBI opened the Office of the Banking Ombudsman at Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ICICI Bank data center becomes country's first IGBC Platinum rated project.
- Shri. Vijay Kumar Sharma is the Chairman of LIC and it is Headquartered in Mumbai.
- Former AP minister Devineni Rajashekhar passed away in Hyderabad.
- Madhya Pradesh government and DMRC inked pact to supply power (24% of Electricity) from Rewa project.
- IMF has projected world economy to grow at 3.5% in 2017.
- BRICS Film Festival 2017 will be held in China.
- TAL Manufacturing Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors.
- Sagar Baheti becomes the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete Boston Marathon.
- 3rd edition of International Conference and Exhibition on Steel Industry 'India Steel 2017' was held in Mumbai.
- Sri Lanka host the 14th Edition of United Nations International Day of Vesak 2017.

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest for UN Vesak Day.
 - The theme of this edition is 'Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace'
 - Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) become most-valued Indian company.
 - Mongolia has launched its first satellite named Mongol Sat-I.
 - Video gaming is full sports at the 2022 Asian Games.
 - The campaign theme for 2017 was 'Environmental and Climate Literacy'.
 - 1st 'India Indonesia Energy Forum' held in Jakarta.
 - GIC Re becomes the first insurance company to sets up base in GIFT City, Gujarat.
 - China launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft named Tianzhou 1.
 - RBI signs MoU with the Bank of Guyana.
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- National Disaster Management Authority conducted its first-ever mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand.
 - India and South Korea signed an MoU for Defence Industry cooperation.
 - National Panchayati Raj Diwas was observed on 24 April Nationally.
 - 23 April is a symbolic date for world literature.
 - National Health Mission (NHM) in Haryana launched a mobile-based application named 'Kilkari'.
 - Maharashtra govt signed an MoU with Railways to expand green cover.
 - China and Iran signed the first agreement on reconfiguration of Arak reactor.
 - Moushumi Chatterjee receives BFJA lifetime achievement award 2017.
 - Prosenjit Chatterjee was given the best actor award for "Sankhachil".
 - Rituparna Sengupta was given the best actress crown for her role in "Rajkahini".
 - "Newton" has won the best film honor at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.
 - Aditi Ashok, SSP Chawrasia and Ali Sher won Golf Industry Awards 2017.
 - Cricket removed from 2018 Asian Games programme.
 - Nadal wins Men's Singles title at Monte Carlo Masters Tennis tournament 2017.
 - India's Rohan Bopanna and Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas lifted the men's doubles crown.
 - The tournament was held in Monaco.

- Northeast India's largest Information Technology (IT) hub was opened at Agartala.
- India and Sri Lanka sign MoU on economic co-operation.
- Belgium has become the first country to open an honorary consulate office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- Yes Bank ties up with Paisabazaar.com.
- White House named Randolph Ailes as new Director of Secret Service.
- Youngest Indian chancellor Dileep K Nair has bagged Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Foundation award.
- India will host the 18th World Road Meeting on November 13, 2017.
- The theme of 2017 edition is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.
- e-SOT and e-PRAN card launched for Atal Pension Yojana subscribers.
- 10 new Iconic places to be taken under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative announced.
- India successfully test-fires Agni-III ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island from Odisha Coast.
- Nita Ambani made member of IOC's Olympic Channel Commission.
- Srishti Kaur crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017.
- YES BANK has won the 'Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award 2017'.
- It received the prize for its innovative mobile technology product, SIMsePAY.
- Veteran Actor Vinod Khanna passes away.
- India and Cyprus have signed four agreements.
- Bhubaneswar becomes 1st Indian city to win Pierre L'enfant Awards-2017.
- AIIMS becomes India's first public hospital for eye tumors.
- Haryana's Ballabhgarh is renamed as Balramgarh.
- The title of seminar was 'Cultural Festivals - Bridge between India and Egypt'.
- T Krishnakumar appointed as Coca-Cola India's new chief.
- India won six medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jiaying, China.
- Gold medal was bagged by Neena Varakil in women's long jump.
- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra took the silver.
- Oscar-Winning Director Jonathan Demme Dies at 73.

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda has launched the Test and Treat policy.
- India's 1st book village to come up in Maharashtra.
- Bhilar, Maharashtra will become India's first 'book village'.
- Kerala has organized the country's first transgender one-day athletic meet at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the jury prize gold medal at the 10th Moscow Sand art Championship.
- Jehan Daruvala becomes 1st Indian to take pole in FIA F3 European Championship.
- Ganga Cleanliness Pledge Day to be observed on May 2, 2017.
- India to give Rs.35 crore to Bangladesh.
- Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar has been selected by Japan for this year's Spring Imperial Decorations.