

# Important Current Affairs April 2017 Capsule with PDF

## Awards & Honours

- Sankha Ghosh wins Jnanpith Award
  - The 52nd Jnanpith Award was conferred to celebrated Bengali poet and literary critic Sankha Ghosh by President Pranab Mukherjee.
  - He is regarded a leading authority on Rabindranath Tagore in addition to being one of the most prolific writers in Bengali.
  - He was also awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1977 and in the year 1999.
- Golden Peacock Business Award 2017
  - GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has won the Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award 2017.
  - Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award seeks to characterize validated best management practices, as a basis for accelerating the rate of organizational improvement.
  - The Golden Peacock Awards were established in 1991.
- YES Bank wins award
  - **YES BANK has won the prestigious ‘Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award 2017’ for its innovative mobile technology product, SIMsePAY.**
  - The Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991, are regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.
  - **YES BANK is India’s fifth largest private sector Bank with a pan-India presence.**

- RDPR bags awards
  - Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Dept has bagged e-Puraskar Award for the best performance in empowering panchayats by using Information and Communication Technology tools, for 2016-17.
  - Kerala bagged the 2nd prize, while West Bengal secured 3rd prize in the category of ICT tools.
  - The cash prize is Rs. 2 crore.
- Goldman Environmental Prize
  - **Prafulla Samantara, the face of people's resistance against Vedanta's plan to mine bauxite from Niyamgiri hills in Odisha, has been honoured with this year's Goldman Environmental Prize.**
  - The prize, also known as Green Nobel prize, was announced in San Francisco on April 24.
  - Samantara is only the sixth Indian to win the prize.
- K Viswanath wins Dadasaheb Phalke Award
  - Renowned filmmaker and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath, best known for his award-winning movies in Telugu, Tamil and Hindi, has won the Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2016.
  - He will be the 48 recipient of the award, the highest recognition in Indian **cinema, which consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a shawl.**
  - The award ceremony will be held on May 3 in New Delhi.
- Sandhya Agarwal honoured
  - **The 'Marylebone Cricket Club' has offered honorary life membership to Sandhya Agarwal, former captain of the Indian women's Test team.**
  - A resident of Indore, Agarwal has played 13 Tests and 21 ODIs from 1984 to 1995.
  - **Presently, she is the chairperson of girl's U-19 and senior women's team of MPCA.**

- Quality Mark Award Scheme
  - The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has supported the National Dairy Development Board developed initiative of **“Quality Mark” Award Scheme for dairy Cooperatives.**
  - The NDDDB is in the process of registering the quality mark logo under Trademarks Act, 1998.
  - Since its formation on 6th January, 2016, NDDDB has received 53 applications for award of the Quality Mark.
- GNFC wins Golden Peacock Award
  - The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model.
  - The Awards were established by the Institute of Directors in 1991.
  - The GNFC won from among 313 applicants.
- Italian mayor wins Unesco Peace Prize
  - The UNESCO has awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa.
  - It is given for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees.
  - Lying closer to Tunisia than it does to Sicily, Lampedusa is the first European landfall for people fleeing war and economic hardship in Africa and the Middle East.
- One Part Woman bags award
  - **The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan’s novel Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman) has won the Sahitya Akademi’s award for translation in English.**
  - The translation was done by Aniruddhan Vasudevan and the book was published by Penguin.

- The prize in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cash component of ₹50,000 would be presented at a ceremony in June.
- Moushumi Chatterjee awarded
  - Veteran actress Moushumi Chatterjee has received the lifetime achievement award.
  - Ashish Vidyarthi was honoured for his contribution to Indian Cinema at the 80th Bengal Film Journalists' Association awards.
  - The BFJA, the oldest association of film scribes in the country was founded in 1937.
- Himachal bags Krishi Karman Award
  - The Union Ministry of Agriculture has selected Himachal Pradesh for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grains production.
  - The state was also conferred the Krishi Karman Award for 2011-12 for increase in wheat production and in 2014-15 for increasing food grains production.
  - The awards are given to Best performer States for raising country's food grain production.
- ICIJ wins Pulitzer for Panama Papers
  - The Pulitzer Prizes honoured International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) for its work on Panama Papers.
  - The ICIJ spearheaded a team of over 300 reporters, spread across six continents, to expose the offshore tax havens used by high-profile individuals across the world
  - The 19-member Pulitzer board is made up of past winners and other distinguished journalists and academics.
- SCOPE Awards

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) Awards at the 8th Public Sector Day function held in New Delhi.
- The President said that celebrating this Day is an acknowledgement of the invaluable contribution made by our Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) since independence.
- 'Asian Businesswoman of Year' award
  - An Indian-origin educationist in the UK has been named the 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year' in an award ceremony in Birmingham.
  - 65-year-old Dame Asha Khemka was honoured for her efforts in the field of education and skills at the Asian Business Awards ceremony.
  - In 2013, she was awarded Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, one of Britain's highest civilian awards.
- 64th National Film Awards
  - **Sonam Kapoor's hijack drama Neerja bagged the Best Hindi film for the year 2016.**
  - Akshay Kumar was also among the big winners grabbing the Best Actor award for Rustom.
  - Marathi film, Kasav, won the award for Best Feature Film.
  - **Amitabh Bachchan's Pink got the Award for Best Film on Social Issues.**
  - **Nagesh Kukunoor's Dhanak grabbed the Best Children Film.**
- Dawit Isaak awarded
  - Dawit Isaak, an imprisoned Eritrean-Swedish journalist, has been chosen to receive the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
  - Mr. Isaak was arrested in a crackdown on the media that occurred in September 2001.
  - The \$25,000 Prize is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in 1986.
- Priti Patel awarded

- Priti Patel, Britain's senior-most Indian-origin minister has received the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman'.
- The award is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians and Patel has been awarded for her "exceptional contribution to national and international politics, her role in strengthening UK-India relations.
- The award is presented annually at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

## Books & Authors

- Dalai Lama launches book
  - **The Dalai Lama released a book titled “Ocean and Blue Mountains”** published by the department of Karmik and Adhyatmik Affairs.
  - The book title refers 'Ocean' as His Holiness and 'Blue Mountains' as the people of Arunachal Pradesh and is a collection of memoirs of the special bond shared between the two.
  - He also released **a book titled “Crossing of the Frontiers”** describing his exile from Tibet
- Arjun Gaiind launches book on Punjab
  - Arjun Gaiind launched his latest book, 'Punjab: Building the Land Of Five Rivers', in Mumbai.
  - A panel discussion was organised on the occasion at Chhatrapati Shivaji **Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in which Punjab’s history, heritage, culture** and growth were discussed.
- Asha Parekh's autobiography
  - Asha Parekh's autobiography, The Hit Girl , was launched by Salman Khan in Mumbai on April 12.
  - The autobiography, written with Khalid Mohamed also includes a foreword by Salman.
  - The Hit Girl is published by Om Books International.

- Book authored by LS Speaker
  - PM Modi released a book authored by LS Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
  - The book 'Matoshree' covers the life and times of legendary Devi Ahilyabai Holkar who ruled the Holkar Empire spread over the Malwa region from 1767 to 1795.
  - Ahilyabai is remembered and worshipped by people for her exemplary governance, sense of justice and fairness.
- Book- 'Gandhi in Champaran'
  - Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Venkaiah Naidu released a book "Gandhi in Champaran" by DG Tendulkar printed by Publications Division.
  - He also released a book containing a collection of letters and articles of the correspondence between Nobel laureate Romain Rolland and Mahatma Gandhi as well as DG Tendulkar's 8 volume biography of Mahatama Gandhi.
- Book- 'Hope in a challenged democracy'
  - **'Hope in a challenged democracy' An Indian narrative'** authored by Shri Ashwini Kumar.
  - The volume is a collection of speeches and writings that have a wide sweep ranging from law and Constitution to democratic institutions, economic changes, and foreign relations.
  - **The of the book on the 'incestuous relationship between wealth and power'** and its impact.
- Book on Draupadi
  - A book on Draupadi written by senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily was released by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 7.
  - Published by Rupa, Flaming Tresses of Draupadi is an English translation by D A Shankar of Moily's original work in Kannada.



- The book traces the life and journey of Draupadi from her birth to her marriage with the Pandavas.
- Suresh Prabhu launches book on Railways
  - Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu released the book **titled “Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry”**.
  - The book is written jointly by Bibek Debroy, Sanjay Chadha & Ms. Vidya Krishnamurthi.
  - The theme of this book is the historical development of railways in India, organized into chapters dealing with different periods of development in chronological order.

## Government Policies & Schemes

- Govt launches Test & Treat policy for HIV
  - The government launched a new policy for HIV under which anyone who is tested and found positive will get the necessary treatment.
  - As per this new policy, anyone who is tested and found positive will get the necessary treatment free of cost.
  - The scheme will be a centrally sponsored scheme where all who have been diagnosed positively can benefit under this new policy.
- Schemes to facilitate access to justice
  - Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated 3 welfare initiatives that would facilitate access to justice for the poor.
  - **Prasad launched the schemes, namely, ‘Pro-bono (in public interest) legal services’, ‘Tele-law service’ and ‘Nyaya Mitra’.**
  - Its aim is to connect those in need of legal aid with lawyers through use of technology.
- Modi govt puts an end to red beacon



- The Union Cabinet has decided to do away with red beacons atop officials cars.
- It has been announced that only Chief Justice of India would be allowed to use it.
- The decision comes into effect from May 1, 2017.
- The ban applies to the PM, all ministers, bureaucrats and judges of the High Court and Supreme Court.
- 'Ammaku Vandanam' scheme
  - A unique programme to pay tribute to mothers will be introduced in the government-run schools in Andhra Pradesh from this year.
  - Under 'Ammaku Vandanam' -- mother worship -- the school children will take the blessings of their mothers and may also do 'paada pooja' (washing her feet).
  - The government also decided to implement the programme in 5,000 high schools across the state.
- SAMPADA mission
  - In a bid to achieve the vision of the proposed National Food Processing Policy govt will soon launch a revamped National Mission on Food Processing
  - The revamped mission will be called SAMPADA - or the Scheme for Agro-Marine Produce Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters.
  - It will complete the on-going Mega Food Parks and take up more cold chain projects.
- Universities to be declared national uni
  - HRD ministry will soon decide on registration of 20 universities of national importance which are aspired to be world class.
  - here will be 10 government and 10 private universities in the list.
  - The HRD Minister also assured students that India is getting better research experiment labs which will encourage them to stay in the country.

- Deendayal Rasoi Yojna launched in MP
  - Madhya Pradesh is all set to join the league of those states which have launched populist subsidised meal scheme for poor with the opening of canteens that provides wholesome food at Rs 5.
  - The scheme was launched in 49 districts.
  - This scheme is named after the BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- 12% free power for states
  - As much as 12% of electricity generated in a power project is given to the host state free of cost and the government has no plan to change the rules.
  - When a power plant is set up in a state, the state government provides land and other logistics to facilitate its successful installation.
  - Host state of a power plant will continue to get 12 per cent free power.
- Govt. introduces two bills for new NSEBC
  - The Government introduced two Bills related to the move for setting up of a new National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (NSEBC).
  - It will replace the two-decade old National Commission for Backward Classes.
  - While the first Bill will ensure setting up of the new commission, the second Bill seeks to repeal the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- Change in e-visa policy
  - The window for application under e-visa scheme has been increased from 30 days to 120 days.
  - Duration of stay on e-visa increased from 30 days to 60 days with double entry on tourist and business e-visas and triple entry on medical e-visa,
  - With the double-entry benefits, tourists can visit neighbouring countries like Bhutan and can return to India within the stipulated time.

## Days & Events

- International Basava Convention
  - Prime Minister Modi will unveil translated volumes of Vachana, penned by 12th century social reformer Basavanna and other saints in 23 Indian languages, on the social reformer's birth anniversary in New Delhi.
  - Vachana is a prosaic form well known in the Kannada literature which propagates values of universal brotherhood.
  - It is used to spread social awareness.
- UNESCO to screen Indian short film
  - **UNESCO will screen Rahul V. Chittella's short film "Azaad" as a part of** World Press Freedom Day event that is scheduled to be held from May 1-4 in Indonesia.
  - The movie is about the dysfunctional relationship between a father and his son.
  - May 3 is celebrated as World Press Freedom Day every year to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom.
- World Intellectual Property Day
  - World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on 26 April.
  - The event was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2000 to raise awareness regarding patents, trademarks etc.
  - The theme for 2017 is, "Innovation – Improving Lives". It coincides with the date on which the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization entered into force in 1970.
- **Exhibition "The Paths We Walk"**
  - Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurated a Documentary Photo exhibition "The Paths We Walk" in New Delhi.

- The exhibition is intended to tackle negative myths of disability and employment of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability and Multiple Disabilities.
- April is celebrated across the World as the World Autism Awareness Month.
- World Malaria Day
  - World Malaria Day(WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria.
  - It was established in May 2007 by the 60th session of the World Health Assembly, WHO's decision-making body.
  - **The 2017 theme is, 'A Push for Prevention.'**
  - Prior to the establishment of WMD, Africa Malaria Day was held on April 25.
- National Panchayati Raj Diwas
  - In India, April 24th is celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Diwas every year.
  - This day marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.
  - The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.
- Earth Day 2017
  - Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.
  - First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day events in more than 193 countries are now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network.
  - Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week focussing on environmental issues.
- Civil Services Day
  - The Civil Services Day is organized on 21st April every year.

- Civil servants re-dedicate themselves to the cause of the citizens and renew their commitment to public service.
  - This day coincides with the date on which Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had addressed the first batch of probationers at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi in 1947.
- Operation Meghdoot
  - Operation Meghdoot was an Indian armed forces operation launched 33 years ago on 13 April 1984.
  - It was an operation launched by Indian Armed Forces to capture the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.
  - The operation resulted in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen glacier, giving India strategic advantage and also maintaining status quo.
- Jallianwala Bagh massacre
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
  - In a tweet, Mr Modi said, valour and heroism of the martyrs will never be forgotten.
  - The massacre took place on 13 April 1919 when a crowd of nonviolent protesters were fired upon by troops under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer.

## Committees & Recommendations

### Panel formed for Gomti River Project

- The Uttar Pradesh government formed a three-member panel under chairmanship of Justice (retd) Alok Kumar Singh for the Gomti-River Channelisation project.

- The other two members are retired IIT-BHU Professor U K Chaudhary and IIM-Lucknow Professor A K Garg.
- The committee has been asked to submit its report in 45 days.

## Person In News

- Yusra Mardini-UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador
  - UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of Syrian refugee and Olympic athlete Yusra Mardini as a Goodwill Ambassador.
  - Since her selection for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Mardini has worked closely with UNHCR, highlighting with her own inspiring performances the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team and the wider global refugee crisis.
  - Yusra studies full time in Germany.
- Miss Teen Universe 2017
  - Srishti Kaur has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017.
  - In addition, she also bagged an award for the best national costume. Her costume featured a peacock, the Indian national bird.
  - Miss Teen Universe pageant was started six years ago. The pageant is organized by the Miss Universe organisation for teens aged 15 to 19.
- New Director General of CRPF appointed
  - Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar was appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force.
  - The action comes after 25 CXRPF officers were killed in Sukma.
  - Bhatnagar will be replacing acting DG Sudeep Lakhtakia.
  - Currently, Bhatnagar serves as DG of the Narcotics Control Bureau.
- M. Vijayawargiya takes charge of IBBI
  - Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

- She will look after Administrative Law Wing and Information Technology, Limited Insolvency Examination, National Insolvency Examination, Finance and Accounts and Communication.
- Malala to receive Canadian citizenship
  - Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai became the sixth person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship.
  - The Pakistani activist was welcomed to the seat of Canada's democracy by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
  - At age 19, Yousafzai is the youngest person to speak to Canadian members of parliament and senators in a joint session.
- MDs for LIC appointed
  - The **government appointed two more managing directors to the nation's** largest financial powerhouse LIC — B Venugopal and Sunita Sharma, for a period of nearly two years.
  - With these appointments, LIC has four MDs, with the other two being Usha Sangwan and Hemant Bhargava, who was appointed in mid-Feb.
- Jamini Roy's 130th Birth Anniversary
  - **Google Doodle, Google's own artistic canvas which sees different** alterations on a temporary basis, today celebrates the 130th birthday **anniversary of Jamini Roy, India's prolific** artist.
  - Jamini Roy was an Indian painter.
  - He was one of the most famous pupils of Abanindranath Tagore, whose artistic originality and contribution to the emergence of modern art in India remains unquestionable.
- New CBDT members
  - Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were appointed members of CBDT, the apex policy making body of the Income Tax department.



- The role of the CBDT is to provide inputs for policy and planning of direct taxes in the country and the statutory authority also administers the direct tax laws through Income Tax Department.
- The CBDT functions under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
- Kristin Davis appointed UNHCR Ambassador
  - UNHCR announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist Kristin Davis as its Goodwill Ambassador.
  - Three years ago, Davis started her journey with UNHCR by travelling to Northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, meeting South Sudanese refugees and hearing their stories.
  - She championed their work through social networking sites.
- Family court judge breaks world record
  - The principal judge of a family court in Muzaffarnagar has set a Guinness World Record by disposing of as many as 6,065 cases in 327 working days.
  - The name of judge is Tej Bahadur Singh.
  - The judge said that his move was aimed to reduce the number of pending cases in the court and provide justice to the litigants.

## International Affairs

- El Salvador bans metals mining
  - El Salvador became the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in what campaigners called a landmark move for environmental protection.
  - The law bans "prospection, exploration, exploitation, extraction or processing of metallic minerals in El Salvador".
  - The new law entered into force after being signed by President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.
- Trump introduces biggest tax reform plan

- US President Donald Trump has introduced biggest tax reform plan in the history of United States.
- The income tax rates have been slashed from 39.6% to 35%.
- The new plan proposes for a 15% corporate tax rate which is a sharp drop from the existing 35%.
- However, under the US law, only the Congress is empowered to make major changes to the tax laws.
- Freight train connects Russia with China
  - A freight train connecting Russia with China arrived in Ganzhou an inland city in Jiangxi province, carrying goods from Moscow on April 24.
  - The freight train travelled more than 7000 km.
  - This freight train connecting Russia and China is expected to bring resources from Europe and boost local development.
- Cuba, Morocco reestablish diplomatic ties
  - Cuba and Morocco have signed an agreement to re-establish diplomatic ties after a time period of 37 years.
  - The decision to re-establish diplomatic ties has been made couple of weeks **after King Mohammed's private visit to Cuba.**
  - Morocco severed its ties with Cuba in 1980 after Fidel Castro officially recognised Western Sahara as the independent Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.
- India wins elections to 2 UN bodies
  - India has won elections to two subsidiary bodies of a UN organ focussed on social and economic issues.
  - India along with 12 other members was elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council.
  - The 13 members are elected for three-year terms, beginning January 2018.
- Cyclone Cook strikes New Zealand

- In New Zealand, hundreds of people have been evacuated from some coastal areas as the second major storm in just over a week made landfall near the North Island town of Whakatane.
- Gusts of 209km/h were recorded at White Island and 154km/h at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay.
- Cyclone Cook was a compact system, meaning the strongest winds were within a relatively narrow swath.
- US drops biggest non-nuclear bomb
  - The US has dropped the "mother of all bombs" - the largest non-nuclear weapon ever used in combat by the US military - on an area of eastern Afghanistan.
  - The weapon is known in the US Air Force by its nickname MOAB, or "mother of all bombs".
  - MOAB stands for massive ordinance air blast.
  - The bomb was dropped in Achin district of Nangarhar, Afghanistan to target ISIS militants.
- G20 Digital Ministerial Meet
  - The G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting was held in Dusseldorf, Germany.
  - **It concluded with adaptation of declaration on 'Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World'.**
  - The ministerial conference was held according to the G20 Task Force on the digital economy established in G20 summit held in Hangzhou, China in 2016.
- Achim Steiner-new administrator of UNDP
  - UN chief Antonio Guterres has named Achim Steiner, as the new administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).
  - Headquartered in New York City, the UNDP seeks to reduce poverty, improve social development and encourage women's empowerment.

- Steiner, who previously served at the UN Environment Programme and headed the UN office in Kenya, was selected to succeed Helen Clark.
- China tops the list in executions
  - Amnesty International said China topped on executions in 2016, despite the number of executions worldwide dropped by 37%.
  - In its 2016 Global review of the death penalty published, Amnesty said, China executed more people than all other countries in the world put together.
  - Other countries in the list are Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

## National Affairs

- Justice S N Dhingra report
  - The Justice SN Dhingra Commission concluded that Robert Vadra made illegal profits of Rs 50.5 crore from a land deal in Haryana in 2008 without spending a single penny.
  - The commission was constituted in 2015 to investigate a mutation of land deal between Vadra's firm Skylight Hospitality and realty major DLF.
  - The committee submitted its report on August 31, 2016.
- Karnataka the most corrupt state
  - Karnataka occupies the first slot in a list of states perceived to be corrupt on the basis of people's experience in paying bribes for public services.
  - Karnataka is followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.
  - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Chhattisgarh are least corrupt.
  - The report was published by Centre for Media Studies.
- Press freedom rankings

- India slipped three places in the 2017 world press freedom rankings to **136th among 180 countries**, the dismal performance blamed on **“Modi’s nationalism”** and growing **“self-censorship”** in the mainstream media.
- India was ranked just three places above Pakistan and was one notch below violence-torn Palestine.
- The report was released by Reporters without Borders.
- India's 1st green highway
  - India's first smart and green highway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway will be ready by August this year.
  - It has been built at a cost of Rs. 11000 crore.
  - At least 2.5 lakh trees will be on the both sides of the roads with solar panels.
- Lavasa Committee submits report to FM
  - **The ‘Committee on Allowance’ headed by Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa submitted its final report on ‘higher allowances’ and ‘minimum wages’** to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
  - Around 43 lakh central government employees and 57 lakh pensioners are eagerly waiting for the Ashok Lavasa committee to submit its final report.
  - The Ashok Lavasa Committee was formed in June 2016.
- PM launches UDAN Scheme
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme from Jubbarhatti, an airport on the outskirts of Shimla.
  - He flagged off the first UDAN flight under Regional Connectivity Scheme on Shimla-Delhi sector.
  - UDAN flights on Kadapa–Hyderabad, and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors were also flagged off.
- Sukma attack

- Twenty-five CRPF jawans were slaughtered in one of the deadliest attacks by Maoist rebels.
- Around 300-400 Leftist insurgents ambushed and outgunned 99 troopers deployed to help with the construction of a road through the Maoist stronghold of Sukma in Chhattisgarh.
- This was one of the three biggest attacks on security forces in seven years, and the second in the last one and a half months.
- Rs 10000 minimum monthly wage
  - The Labour Ministry has proposed a minimum monthly income of Rs.10000 for contract workers.
  - The move will drastically increase the minimum wages of contract labourers from around Rs.6000 per month that is paid to them in a few sectors at present.
  - At present, employers give the fixed minimum wages to workers for 45 economic activities.
- Child artistes can work only for 5 hours
  - The Labour Ministry has proposed draft rules to fix the working conditions for child artistes and for employing children in family enterprises.
  - While a child artiste will not be allowed to work for more than five hours a day, a child “assisting” in a family business can only work for three hours a day.
  - An amendment to the Child Labour Rules, 1986 has been made.
- UID numbers for cows
  - The Centre has proposed issuing “Unique Identification Number Sequences” for cows and their progeny to protect them from cattle smuggling.
  - It is the brainchild of the Union Agriculture Ministry.

- The Ministry of Agriculture has devised a method of tamper-proof identification of cattle using polyurethane tags with Unique Identification Number Sequence.
- Agriculture Ministry unveils APMC Act
  - In order to give more freedom to farmers to sell their produce, the **agriculture ministry has unveiled “The State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestocks Marketing (promotion and facilitation) Act, 2017”**.
  - The draft law proposes to cap market fees and commission charges payable by a farmer after bringing produce to a wholesale market.
  - The Act was passed in 2003.
- Northeast India's largest IT hub opens
  - Northeast India's sixth and largest Information Technology (IT) hub was inaugurated in Tripura.
  - It will boost employment and e-governance besides to export software technology.
  - The hub has been built at a cost of Rs. 50 crore.
- Central university for Divyangs
  - Government will set up a Central university for Divyangs in Uttar Pradesh.
  - This was stated by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar while addressing the convocation function of Shakuntala Mishra national rehabilitation university, Lucknow .
  - The Minister said, the University Grants Commission has been instructed to make arrangement for special training of instructors providing education to Divyangs.
- India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge
  - The Tripura government has commenced the land acquisition process for the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over river Feni that demarcates boundaries between the two countries in south Tripura.



- The bridge would facilitate implementation of a protocol India earlier **signed with Bangladesh to use Chittagong sea port as a 'port of call'**.
  - The govt is bearing the entire cost.
- First underwater metro tunnel
  - A gigantic Tunnel Boring Machine is being used to build a underwater tunnel which will connect Howrah with Kolkata.
  - The construction will be completed by July.
  - The two 520-metre structures are part of a 10.8 km underground stretch and are crucial to the East West Metro project.
  - They are being built at a cost of Rs. 8900 crores.
- **India's first sea ropeway**
  - India's first and longest ropeway to connect Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust.
  - The 8-km ropeway will begin from Sewri in Mumbai's east coast and end at Raigad district's Elephanta Island, globally renowned for Elephanta Caves.
- Subsidised solar water pumps
  - The Madhya Pradesh government would soon provide nearly 18,500 solar-powered water pumps to farmers in the state at subsidised rates.
  - MP Urja Vikas Nigam would be the nodal agency to make available the solar pumps to the farmers.
  - MP has the highest agricultural growth rate of over 20% since last couple of years.
- Utkrisht Double-Decker AC Yatri Express
  - The Indian Railways will launch in July the Utkrisht Double-Decker AC Yatri (Uday) Express+ , a special class service for overnight journey that will ply on high-demand routes.

- The main USP of this train is that it will have fares lower than that of 3AC class.
- It runs at a speed of 110 km/hr.
- Jat quota violence : Jha panel
  - The Haryana Government has given second extension of six months to Jha commission to complete its investigation into the conspiracy angle in the violence that occurred during the Jat quota stir in February 2016.
  - The panel had received 82 complaints till August 31, 2016 which was the last day to submit complaints in regard to the violence.
  - The commission is headed by SN Jha and NC Padhi.
- Punjab govt to set up 'book banks'
  - The Punjab government has decided to set up 'book banks' in different schools so that needy students do not have to buy books at the start of every academic year and also to prevent "wastage of paper".
  - The students would be asked to submit their old books which would be provided to needy children free of charge.
  - It is a voluntary initiative and is not binding on any student.
- 25% of ex-**husband's net salary to wife**
  - The Supreme Court has set a benchmark for maintenance to be paid by a husband to his estranged wife.
  - The Court said 25% of his net salary might constitute a "just and proper" amount as alimony.
  - **The ruling has come on a man's plea challenging Calcutta High Court's** order that asked him to pay Rs 23000 every month as alimony to his former wife.
- Socio progressive tourism in Guwahati
  - Swapnanil Talukdar and his team are all set to give boost to Prime Minister's Start UP India initiative in Guwahati.

- **Launching their Venture ‘Finder Bridge’ in Guwahati** the budding entrepreneurs seek to uplift the tourism sector in the state.
- It shows and promotes tourism spots and ecotourism.
- **National Lok Adalat settles 6 lakh cases**
  - The National Legal Services Authority has accomplished its latest feat of settling over 6 lakh cases in just 24 hours.
  - The Second National Lok Adalat for 2017 was conducted on April 8 throughout the country.
  - The award of a Lok Adalat is final and cannot be challenge in any way.
  - It was established on 5 Dec 1995.
  - It was established under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- **Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express**
  - A fully-airconditioned Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express with improved coaches was inaugurated on April 14 in Dhaka.
  - The Maitree train was launched on Pahela Baishakh in 2008 with once-a-week service. With its increased popularity, it now runs four days a week.
  - The coaches have been manufactured in India.
- **Indian Academy of Highway Engineers**
  - A MoU was signed between the Ministry through the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers and University of New South Wales to bring innovations in road transport.
  - It will set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems.
  - This would be the worlds first transportation centre involving two countries committed to seeing technological innovation for economic development.
- **Fire breaks out near Mount Abu**
  - In Rajasthan, a fire broke out in the forest area near Mount Abu and the administration tried to control it with the help of a helicopter.

- South West Air Command- headquarters at Gandhingar has received a call from Rajasthan Government seeking help in dousing a massive forest fire in the hills around Mount Abu.
- The operation is likely to be augmented by an additional IAF MI-17V5 helicopter
- 7000 girls dance to set new record
  - As many as 7000 girl students performed 'Kuchipudi' in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh to set a Guinness World record.
  - The girls from 21 government-run residential schools in north coastal Andhra participated in the event to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar.
  - The event was jointly being organized by Andhra Pradesh Residential Educational Institutions Society and Social Welfare Dept.
- Bihar sets up court for prohibition
  - A year after enforcing stringent prohibition laws, the Bihar government set up a special court for speedy trial in cases registered against violation of the law.
  - Following the High Court directive, the first special court has been set up in Patna.
  - Bihar became a dry State on April 5, 2016.
- **Operation 'Clean Money'**
  - **Income Tax Department launched the second phase of Operation 'Clean Money' to detect the flow of black money into the banks after demonetisation.**
  - According to Central Board of Direct Taxation the I-T dept has detected unaccounted income worth Rs 9,334 crore after the demonetisation till February 28th.
  - The first phase of the operation was launched in January 2017.
- Operation Durga in Haryana

- The Haryana government has launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state.
- Under this operation, teams formed by the Chief Minister's Flying Squad visited public places such as schools, colleges etc to check criminal activities.
- The campaign was launched so that flying squads patrol those areas where such anti-social elements committed crimes against women.
- Taare Zameen Par program
  - Jharkhand Police has initiated Tare Zameen Par programme to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas in the Palamau district of Jharkhand.
  - This programme is aimed to restore confidence in the state police force and to encourage children to lead happy lives.
  - As a part of the programme, the state police appealed the locals to donate bags, shoes, books etc for the children.
- **CM relaunches 'Adarana' scheme**
  - Reiterating his resolve for the uplift and all-round development of people belonging to the Backward Classes, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana' scheme.
  - The scheme will help improving traditional occupations.
  - It will use modern technology, marketing for artisans.
- Committee submits its report on Ganga
  - Nine months after it was set up, a committee under Justice (retd) Giridhar Malviya submitted its report to save the Ganga river from pollution.
  - The four-member committee had been asked to prepare the draft of a comprehensive Ganga law that is being considered for at least four years now.
  - The draft would now be examined by ministerial committee before being converted into a bill.
- Kerala, Maharashtra top in power supply

- According to Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Kerala app, Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan top the list in supplying uninterrupted power.
- The Urja application meant to bring transparency in the performance of utilities and states captures the stark contrast in how consumers are served in different parts of the country.
- Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Assam have a lot to catch up.
- 1st time Ranking of Ports on Sanitation
  - For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters.
  - The assessment methodology included official interview, direct observation by the designated team from Quality Council of India and **stakeholder's interaction**.
  - Haldia and Vizag ports bagged the first and second ranks respectively.
- Bill to permit 15 IIITs award degrees
  - As many as 15 Indian Institutes of Information Technology set up under public-private partnership mode will soon be granted the powers to award degrees to their students.
  - To give effect to this, HRD Minister Mr. Javadekar introduced the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2017, which seeks to declare IIITs, as institutions of national importance.
- Live streaming tech for tourism
  - The Kerala government is planning to use its own live streaming **technology to tap tourists' experiential accounts of the destinations they visit**.
  - It is a part of a campaign tool for the upcoming second edition of International Conference on Tourism Technology in Kochi.
  - ICTT 2017 aims at helping the tourism industry players to stay abreast with the latest technologies.
- Kolkata-Khulna bus services

- In a bid to bolster India-Bangladesh bilateral ties, a Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka bus service, covering 409 km, was flagged off.
- This is the third such service that has been introduced. The two other services are on the Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala and the Kolkata-Dhaka routes.
- The service would be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from Kolkata and on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from Dhaka.
- Haryana sex ratio highest since history
  - For the first time in the history of the state, the sex ratio at birth in Haryana has touched the 950 mark.
  - The state govt launched a massive campaign by implementing the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994, and Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.
  - Haryana had ranked the worst among all states in sex ratio in the country.
- **“Bharat ke Veer” web portal**
  - The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the web portal and mobile **application named “Bharat ke Veer” on April 9.**
  - The portal is an IT based platform, with an objective to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a braveheart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty.
  - The amount so donated will be **credited to the account of ‘Next of Kin’.**
- 1st NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017
  - President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 in New Delhi.
  - **The slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit is, ‘Unite for a Healthy Mind’.**
  - He also launched the **eCAP & SOL’s Telepsychiatry application for the rural and urban population in need of mental health consultation.**
- India 9th in business corruption



- India ranks 9th among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses, according to the findings of a recent survey.
- Nearly 78% respondents queried in the country said that bribery and corrupt practices happen widely in businesses here.
- The report was published by the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017.
- Free legal aid in triple talaq cases
  - Women in Kerala divorced through the Islamic tradition of triple talaq can now receive free legal aid sponsored by the state government.
  - **Kerala's minority commission constituted a special committee** under retired judge PK Haneefa to provide legal assistance to divorced women.
  - It also set up a toll free helpline number (0471-2315122).
- CAG to audit UN Secretariat in New York
  - The Comptroller and Auditor General of India will audit the UN Secretariat in New York, a job which till now was the exclusive domain of developed countries.
  - It will be done by Shashi Kant Sharma.
  - The CAG is the external auditor of several UN organisations and Sharma presently is the Chairman of the UN Board of Auditors.
- 2016 Global Slavery Index
  - Nearly 46 million people live under conditions of slavery across the world, with 18 million (39%) of those in India.
  - Globally, modern slavery includes child workers in African mines, deforestation crews in the Amazon or people trapped in commercial sexual exploitation in Europe.
  - In India slavery is banned as per the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976.
- **TN leads MHRD's top-100 colleges list**

- A whopping 37 colleges in Tamil Nadu have made it to the rankings released by the Ministry of HRD, with three TN colleges coming in the top-10 list.
- **Delhi's Miranda House has the top spot in the list.**
- **Chennai's Loyola College came in the number two spot.**
- A total of 535 colleges have been ranked in this first-time exercise.
- First bio-gas bus in Kolkata
  - A city based company has claimed to have launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in Kolkata keeping a flat fare of just Re 1.
  - All buses will have a flat fare of Re 1 irrespective of the distance, even in excess of 40 km.
  - The first bus will run a distance of 17 km between Ultadanga and Garia.
  - The bus service will be run by Phoenix India.
- IISc ranked best educational institution
  - The IISc, Bengaluru was adjudged as the best Indian university in the 2017 National Institutional Ranking Framework released by Union HRD Ministry.
  - This year it is 2nd edition NIRF survey and was released as part of the India Rankings 2017 for the Educational Institutions.
  - Seven IITs have also made it to the list of the top10 educational institutions, the other two being BHU and JNU.
- Haryana becomes kerosene-free
  - Haryana has become kerosene-free as the supply of the fuel has been stopped under the Public Distribution System from April 1.
  - With an aim to provide smoke-free and healthy environment while cooking, the state government had decided to provide free-of-cost LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
  - As per the report of oil companies, 272949 gas connections have been made.

- Rice scheme for tribal families
  - Nearly 70000 families of Jharkhand's primitive tribal groups will get foodgrains at their doorsteps with the state government launching the **"PTG Dakia Yojana"**.
  - Under the scheme, employees of Food and Civil Supplies Department would deliver a packet of 35 kg.
  - The scheme was formally launched in Godda, Sahebganj and Palamu districts.
- CIRT now authorised body
  - Pune based Central Institute of Road Transport has, for the first time, become an authority to certify vehicle engines for their emission standards.
  - Earlier, such tests could only be carried out at Automotive Research Association of India.
  - Operating under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, CIRT recently signed an MoU with FEV India — a German company in the automobile sector.
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
  - **"Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana", a 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category'** was launched in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.
  - The govt will provide devices to help the senior citizens to overcome their age related physical impairment and to lead a dignified and productive life.
  - The scheme is expected to help 520000 senior citizens.
- Rs 5 cr tax evasion to be non-bailable
  - The government has decided to make tax evasion of over Rs 5 crore under the proposed Goods and Services Tax regime as a non-bailable offence.

- The earlier threshold for treating tax evasion as a cognizable and non-bailable offence was proposed to be at Rs 2.5 crore.
- In a revised set of FAQs on GST, the CBEC said other offences under the act are non-cognizable and bailable.
- 2 ILO conventions approved
  - The government has approved ratification of two fundamental conventions of International Labour Organization to address concerns related to child labour.
  - They are Minimum Age Convention and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.
  - India would join majority of countries who have adopted the legislation to prohibit and place severe restrictions on the employment and work of children.

## Business & Economy

- Sebi clears P-Note norms
  - In yet another move in India against black money, markets regulator Sebi barred resident as well as non-resident Indians from making investments through participatory notes (P-Notes).
  - P-notes are mostly used by overseas individual investors, hedge funds and foreign institutions to invest in the Indian securities markets through registered foreign institutional investors (FIIs).
- e-SOT and e-PRAN card launched
  - The facility of online viewing of the statement of transaction (e-SOT) and also the e-PRAN card have been launched for Atal Pension Yojana subscribers.
  - The scheme is being implemented through 235 APY-Service Providers all over the country.

- APY was launched on 9 May, 2015 and is available for all citizens of India in the age group of 18-40 years.
- MMTC, PAYTM to launch 'Digital Gold'
  - Paytm launched Digital Gold in collaboration with accredited refinery MMTC-PAMP, which allows users to buy, sell and even store gold.
  - This new service will enable users to request their gold to be delivered at their home in the form of minted coins.
  - Customers can store it in MMTC-PAMPs secure vaults free of charge.
- EShakti initiative
  - NABARD under its EShakti initiative, has so far digitised around 1.29 lakh self-help groups covering 14.86 lakh individuals in the country.
  - The aim of the initiative is to digitise all SHGs under its Micro Credit and Innovations Department and reduce the drudgery of book keeping and cut the dependence on cash transactions.
  - The pilot project at Ramgarh, Jharkhand & Dhule, Maharashtra in 2015.
- IPR Awareness Campaign launched
  - The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) has begun an IPR Awareness campaign in schools across the country.
  - It has been launched in collaboration with the International Trademark Association.
  - The campaign was kicked off at Kendriya Vidyalaya, RK Puram Sector 2, New Delhi.
  - The National Intellectual Property Rights Policy was approved by the govt on May 12, 2016.
- SAP launches solution to help SMEs
  - Enterprise application software maker SAP launched a solution for SMEs to help them become compliant with the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
  - SAP has launched 'GST in a box', an all-inclusive solution portfolio designed to help SMEs.

- SAP has committed to provide businesses with the necessary consultation and technology to efficiently adopt the GST regime through various initiatives.
- **Kia Motors to invest in India**
  - Kia Motors is lining up around \$1.1 billion to set up a manufacturing plant in India.
  - The South Korean firm, part of the Hyundai group, will sign a MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to build a new plant in Anantapur district.
  - It will roll out a compact SUV and a compact sedan by 2019-end.
- **India to host 18th World Road Meeting**
  - India is set to host the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) on November 13.
  - **The theme of this year's WRM is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.**
  - The WRM will provide an important platform for potential investors to partner and participate in the immense opportunities that are made available by the country.
- **Aadhaar Shila and Aadhaar Stambh**
  - LIC has introduced two endowment assurance plans for individuals having Aadhaar card.
  - Aadhaar Shila is a plan exclusively designed for women, the other scheme Aadhaar Stambh is meant for men.
  - These plans offer a combination of protection and savings and provide a lump-sum amount in case of death of the policyholder to the person's family.
- **FreeCharge, MobiKwik in merger talks**

- After consolidation in the online market space, it seems the turn of mobile wallets. FreeCharge plans to merge itself in an all-stock deal with MobiKwik.
- Sources say after the merger, the new entity is likely to get a top-up of \$200 million from a Chinese investor who is eager to make an entry into India.
- However, it should be noted that the talks are only at an initial stage.
- **Fino Paytech to digitalise rural banks**
  - Fino Paytech will help NABARD to help the rural bank digitization drive in the states of Haryana, MP, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
  - It will provide over 5000 Aadhaar enabled micro ATMs financial inclusion gateway services to district central cooperative banks and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies across these states.
  - NABARD deals with services related to agriculture.
- **Loan for India's 1st waterway project**
  - The World Bank has approved a loan of \$375 million for the ambitious inland waterways project between Haldia in West Bengal and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
  - The 1360 km waterway project of the shipping ministry would enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1500-2000 deadweight tonnage (DWT).
  - It was declared as a waterway in October 1986.
- **Anti-dumping duty on hydrogen peroxide**
  - India may impose anti-dumping duty of up to \$118 per tonne on import of a chemical used by industries in applications such as corrosion control and paper bleaching from six countries.
  - The move is aimed at guarding domestic players from cheap imports of 'hydrogen peroxide' from Bangladesh, Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand.



- Hydrogen peroxide is used as an oxidizer.
- RBI signs MoU with Bank of Guyana
  - The RBI announced signing of an MoU with the Bank of Guyana on "Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information".
  - The apex bank signed the MoU, Letter for Supervisory Co-operation and Statement of Co-operation with supervisors of a few countries to promote greater co-operation and share supervisory information.
- Government to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds
  - Government in consultation with the RBI, has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 - Series I.
  - The Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges viz., NSE and BSE.
  - The tenure of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option from 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- Govt sells 9.2% stake in Nalco
  - The government raised over Rs 1200 crore through the sale of 9.2% stake in Nalco as both retail and institutional investors lapped up the shares offered to them.
  - The first PSU disinvestment of the current fiscal, Nalco also saw the government exercising the option to retain excess subscription, called greenshoe option.
- 1st India Indonesia Energy Forum held
  - The 1st India Indonesia Energy Forum was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
  - The Energy Forum was preceded by 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) on Oil and Gas, 4th Joint Working Group on Coal and 1st Joint Working Group on New and Renewable Energy.
  - **India is third largest importer of coal from Indonesia.** India's imports of coal from Indonesia amounted to \$3.5 billion in 2016.

- RBI opens banking ombudsman in Jammu
  - The Reserve Bank has opened a new ombudsman office in Jammu as part of its efforts to expand banking grievances complaint cells across the country.
  - Earlier all complaints were under the jurisdiction of New Delhi.
  - There are two banking ombudsman offices in New Delhi.
  - The office in Jammu will have the jurisdiction over entire Jammu and Kashmir.
- RBI caps bank exposure at 10%
  - The RBI permitted banks to invest up to 10% of the unit capital of an Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) or Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).
  - It will be within the overall ceiling of 20% of the net worth permitted for direct investments in shares, convertible bonds/ debentures etc.
  - The move was aimed to help revive the cash-starved infrastructure sector.
- LIC appoints new MD and CEO
  - Life Insurance Corp of India has appointed Vinay Shah as the new managing director and chief executive director of its mortgage loan arm and listed entity LIC Housing Finance.
  - He succeeded Sunita Sharma.
  - Shah has been with LIC since 1983. Prior to this assignment, he was executive director marketing.
- India 8th on FDI confidence index
  - India has climbed one spot to the eighth rank in the 2017 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index.
  - The index shows that investor confidence in India has been growing steadily over the last two years
  - India is one of the top two emerging market performers on the FDI Index, along with China.

- New MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank
  - Mahabaleshwara Mavinakudige Subrahmanya is the new chief of Karnataka Bank Ltd. He succeeds Polali Jayarama Bhat.
  - He took charge on April 15.
  - Mahabaleshwara M S, has been 'Karnataka Bank man' for the last 32 years and has rich banking experience both at operational and administrative levels.
- India Licensing Expo 2017
  - India Licensing Expo is scheduled to be held on August 20-21 in Mumbai.
  - **The expo will be India's first and most influential brand licensing event** that will collate opportunities, knowledge and recognitions under one roof.
  - The expo will be organised by License India and will see the participation of over 100 global and domestic companies.
- BBB evolves 'GRAF' for PSBs
  - The Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has evolved a Governance, Reward and Accountability Framework (GRAF) for public sector banks to ensure that they have the ability to compete successfully with private sector banks.
  - The GRAF incorporates a governance framework that integrates elements of organisational structure and processes to ensure high standards of corporate governance
- Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy
  - The government has approved setting up of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh as Institute of National Importance through an Act of Parliament.
  - It will enjoy the same status given to IITs.
  - It will be built at a cost of Rs. 655 crores.
  - IIT Kharagpur has taken up the responsibility of mentoring the Institute.
- Cabinet approves listing of 11 CPSEs

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved listing of 11 Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- The CCEA has also approved reservation of shares for the eligible employees of 11 CPSEs in accordance with the extant provisions of Sebi regulations.
- Listing of CPSEs will be through public offer of shares up to 25% of **government's shareholding.**
- **eNAM transacts record ₹15,000 Cr**
  - The national agriculture market- eNAM has transacted a record 15 thousand crore rupees business in one year.
  - In April last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Agriculture Market portal eNAM to connect e-mandis in several States.
  - The government targets to double the income of farmers by 2022 and for this government is improving the marketing policy and the Agriculture market.
- **Amazon to launch its digital wallet**
  - Amazon India has received a payments wallet license from the Reserve Bank of India.
  - The US retailer is looking to allow users to shop on its platform, make offline payments, buy bus and rail tickets and pay for utilities through its digital wallet.
  - This will put the company squarely against Paytm and Flipkart-owned PhonePe, apart from number two player FreeCharge.
- **Nokia to partner with Airtel, BSNL**
  - Nokia will partner with Airtel and BSNL for developing 5G networks in India.
  - 5G is supposed to be the next level of evolution in wireless broadband technology, but at speeds which are much higher than the current 4G LTE networks.

- Nokia and BSNL will be conducting joint 5G demonstrations across India and developing 5G ecosystem with Airtel.
- Flipkart to operate ebay.in
  - ebay on April 10 announced to sell its Indian operations to Flipkart, opening up an opportunity for cross-border transactions between the two.
  - eBay will invest \$500 million in Flipkart as part of the deal.
  - Both the players have also entered into an exclusive agreement in which they will jointly pursue cross-border trade opportunities.
- India, ADB sign loan
  - India and the Asian Development Bank have signed a loan agreement to **improve the country's solar power transmission system.**
  - India and ADB have signed a \$175 million loan agreement to support construction of high-voltage transmission systems to evacuate power generated from new mega solar parks to the interstate grid, and improve reliability of the national grid system.
- Rajasthan announces cow cess
  - Rajasthan government has imposed a 10% cow cess as surcharge on stamp duty for protection and propagation of cows in the state.
  - The surcharge will be applicable on non-judicial instruments.
  - **The Rajasthan government's finance department released an order for the cow cess on March 31.**
- India 7th in tourism economy
  - India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's GDP, according to a new report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).
  - According to data, the travel and tourism sector generated Rs 14.1 trillion (\$208.9 billion) in 2016.
  - Additionally it created 40.3 million jobs.
- FMCG highest paying industry in India

- Fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies are the most lucrative ones to work for in India, according to the findings of a survey by human resources consulting firm Randstand.
- With an average annual cost-to-company for talent across all levels and **functions at Rs11.3 lakh, FMCG industry's employees get the highest pay in India**
- RBI keeps repo rate on hold
  - The Reserve Bank of India decided to keep its policy rate on hold in its first bi-monthly monetary policy review for 2017-18, citing the challenging inflation outlook.
  - **The RBI's stance on the policy rate was widely expected as it works** towards achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index inflation of 4%.
  - RBI has kept its policy rate unchanged at 6.25%.
- India, Japan steel dispute
  - **The WTO's dispute settlement set up a panel to resolve the dispute** between Japan and India over imposition of safeguard import duty on iron and steel products.
  - Japan in December dragged India to the WTO against certain measures taken regarding iron and steel products.
  - In September 2015, India imposed a duty of 20% to protect domestic companies.
- Aditya Birla Group to open payments bank
  - Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank becomes the 7th entity to receive a final licence from the RBI to set up a payments bank.
  - Except Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd, all payment bank licence holders have received the final approval.
  - Among payment bank licence holders, two entities namely Airtel Payments Bank and India Post Payments Bank have started operations so far.

- UTI MF first to bring IPO
  - UTI Mutual Fund has become the first domestic asset management company(AMC) to bring an IPO.
  - **The listing plan of the country's sixth-largest** fund house had hit a block, with the SBI and the Life Insurance Corporation of India trying to wrest control over the AMC.
  - The UTI MF had average assets under management of Rs 1.37 lakh cr in March quarter.
- 2nd annual meeting of BRICS New Dev Bank
  - The second annual meeting of the New Development Bank was held in New Delhi from April 1-3.
  - Speaking at the event, Jaitley said global growth is moving upwards and is expected to improve further in 2017-18.
  - NDB president K V Kamath said focus of the bank is sustainable development.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank launches 8-11 app
  - Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the launch of 8-11, a completely digital and paperless account opening system, that can be used anytime, anywhere.
  - **The number 811 is inspired from Narendra Modi's cash ban that was implemented on Nov 8.**
  - The app can be used to open accounts, get account details etc.
- **SBI to enter 'Top 50 Global Banks'**
  - Following the merger of 5 associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with **State Bank of India, the latter will enter the league of 'Top 50 Global Banks' with a balance sheet** size of Rs 41 lakh cr.
  - With the merger the bank now has 2.77 lakh employees, 50 crore customers, and more than 25,000 branches and 58,000 ATMs.
  - **Further, SBI's market share will increase to nearly 22% from 17%.**



## India & World

- G7 foreign ministers seek to meet
  - Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven major industrialised nations met for an annual gathering, with Europe and Japan seeking clarity from the United States on an array of issues, especially Syria.
  - The Group of 7 (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
  - The European Union is also represented within the G7.

## Science & Technology

- Infosys launches new AI Platform
  - Building on its first generation Artificial Intelligence platform Infosys Mana and its Robotic Process Automation (RPA) solution, AssistEdge, **Infosys announced the launch of 'Infosys Nia'.**
  - This comes in the wake of the company having stated that they would place stronger emphasis on data analytics, cyber security and artificial intelligence in the coming months.
- **Scientists create 'Artificial Womb'**
  - Researchers have created a fluid-filled transparent container called the Biobag to simulate how fetuses float in amniotic fluid inside the uterus of their mothers.
  - So far the device has only been tested on fetal lambs.
  - The device is kept in a dark, warm room where researchers can play the sounds of the mother's heart for the lamb fetus and monitor the fetus with ultrasounds.
- Planet discovered through Microlensing

- NASA has discovered a new planet with the mass of Earth, orbiting its star at the same distance that we orbit our sun. However it is too cold to support any life.
- It was discovered through a process called microlensing.
- Microlensing is a technique that facilitates the discovery of distant objects by using background stars as flashlights.
- The new planet has been called OGLE-2016-BLG-1195Lb.
- Artificial photosynthesis
  - Scientists from the University of Central Florida have discovered a way to trigger artificial photosynthesis, which would help turn greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into clean air and produce energy at the same time.
  - Titanium was used as light-harvesting antennae to see if that configuration would work.
  - The findings were published in the Journal of Materials Chemistry A.
- ISRO solar calculator app
  - ISRO has developed an Android app, named Solar Calculator, for computing the solar energy potential of any location.
  - Developed at the behest of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the ISRO Solar Calculator app is considered to be useful to install solar panels.
  - The app provides monthly and yearly solar potential and the minimum and the maximum temperatures at any location.
- NASA launches super balloon in NZ
  - A stadium-sized pressure balloon launched by NASA in New Zealand began collecting data in near space.
  - The balloon is designed to detect ultra-high energy cosmic particles from **beyond the galaxy as they penetrate the earth's atmosphere.**
  - **The balloon was launched from Wanaka, New Zealand's South Island.**
- New variety of Bakla developed

- Scientists of Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) here have developed a new variety of Fababean, commonly called Bakla.
- The new variety HFB-1 is high yielding and also has high nutritional quality.
- HFB-1 has been found superior to National Check variety Vikrant in seed yield.
- It also contains levo-dopa, a precursor of neuro-chemicals in brain such as dopamine, epinephrine.
- Wax worm caterpillar that eats plastic
  - The wax worm, the larvae of insect *Galleria mellonella*, is found to possess the ability to biodegrade polyethylene.
  - The scientists have observed that the degradation rate of the wax worm is extremely fast when compared to other recent discoveries.
  - The worms were found to transform the polyethylene into ethylene glycol.
  - Wax worms are considered as parasites.
- India's first hospital for eye tumours
  - The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is India's first public hospital to start plaque brachytherapy facility for the treatment of eye tumours.
  - The facility is a form of local radiation delivered to the eye through a radioactive device which is attached to the eye for a temporary period of time.
  - AIIMS was established in 1956.
- **‘Public data office’ (PDO) technology**
  - State-run C- DOT has developed the public data office which can be installed at any neighbourhood shop or even on push carts to provide low-cost Wi-Fi powered data packs to public.
  - It creates Wi-Fi hotspots using 2G, 3G or 4G signals and connect up to 100 mobile devices at a given time in a range of 500 m.

- C-DOT expects it to be released within 2-3 months.
- Vitamin C helps kill bacteria
  - That vitamin C, an anti-oxidant agent, boosts and strengthens immunity is well known.
  - Now, a study by a team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has found the molecular mechanism by which vitamin C impedes and even kills Mycobacterium smegmatis which causes tuberculosis.
  - The article was published in FEMS Microbiology Letters.
- ISRO to launch South Asia Satellite
  - India plans to launch on May 5 the 'South Asia Satellite' that will benefit all the countries in the region, except Pakistan which is not a part of the project.
  - It will be launched from Sriharikota.
  - Sources said the satellite is designed for a mission life of more than 12 years.
  - Each country would be responsible for content generation and its use.
- Space-based plane tracking
  - Malaysia Airlines has become the first airline to sign an agreement for space-based flight tracking of its aircraft.
  - Malaysia Airlines reached a deal with Aireon, Sitaonair and FlightAware to enable it to monitor the flight paths of its aircraft anywhere in the world including over the polar regions and the most remote ocean
- India's first industrial robot
  - TAL Manufacturing Solutions Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd. has created India's first industrial robot called BRABO.
  - BRABO—**short for “Bravo Robot”**—has been priced between Rs 5-7 lakh and can even be bought on equated monthly instalments, or EMIs.
  - It was manufactured **at the TAL’s Pune factory**.

- Planet discovered in habitable zone
  - Astronomers have discovered yet another planet, called LHS1140b, which is expected to be present in the Goldilocks Zone.
  - The planet is found to be rocky, like the Earth but is over 6 times as massive as Earth and about 1.5-times larger and falls under the category of ‘Super Earth’.
  - Goldilocks Zone refers to a habitable zone where the temperature is neither too high nor too low.
- Mongolia launches its first satellite
  - Mongolia launched its first satellite as part of its efforts to make use of new technology to diversify its resource-dependent economy.
  - The 1,227-megahertz satellite, called Mongol Sat-1, will help landlocked Mongolia expand its television, telecoms and broadband services.
  - The satellite was launched in partnership with Asia Broadcast Satellite (ABS).
- First live 4K stream from space
  - NASA astronaut and Expedition 51 commander Peggy Whitson will broadcast a 4K live streaming of earth on April 26.
  - The broadcast will take place during a session at the 2017 National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Show in Las Vegas.
  - The panel is co-produced by NAB Show, NASA, and Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Belle-II ‘rolls in’ to collision point
  - The High Energy Accelerator Research Organisation (KEK) completed the ‘rolling-in’ of the Belle-II experiment in Tsukuba, Japan.
  - The term roll-in refers to the operation of moving the entire Belle II detector system from its assembly area to the beam collision point.
  - **The Belle II detector’s total weight is about 1400 tons.**
- Large asteroid to buzz past Earth

- A relatively large near-Earth asteroid will fly safely past our planet on April 19 at a distance of about 1.8 mn km.
- The asteroid, known as 2014 JO25, was discovered in May 2014.
- Contemporary measurements by NASA's NEOWISE mission indicate that the asteroid is roughly 650 meters in size, and that its surface is about twice as reflective as that of the Moon.
- Astronomers discovered Venus twin
  - **Astronomers, using NASA's Kepler space telescope, have discovered a** Venus-like planet orbiting a dim star that is one-fifth the diameter of our Sun and is located 219 light-years away from Earth.
  - This newly found world is only slightly larger than Earth, and it tightly embraces its low-temperature star called Kepler-1649, encircling it every nine days.
- Earth-like planet
  - GJ 1132b, just 39 light years away, raises the tantalising possibility of life beyond our solar system.
  - Astronomers have, for the first time, detected an atmosphere around an Earth-like planet.
  - Scientists, including those from Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany, studied the planet known as GJ 1132b, which is 1.4 times the size of our planet.
- North India to get DNA bank for wildlife
  - North India is all set to get its first DNA bank for wildlife.
  - Scientists at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly are in the process of collecting DNA samples of all wild animals to set up the bank.
  - At present, the Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) in Hyderabad
- Device to protect astronauts

- NASA scientists have developed a new device to monitor harmful radiation exposure, which may help keep astronauts safe during deep-space missions such as the manned mission to Mars.
- The Fast Neutron Spectrometer is designed to detect and measure the energy of neutrons, which are known to be specifically harmful to humans.
- **‘Pax’ for cross**-licensing of Android
  - Google has announced Pax, a new licensing agreement group for patents across Android devices.
  - **Google is calling it ‘Pax’, which means peace in latin, in the hope of creating some peace around patents and licensing terms.**
  - **Google’s Android is already an open**-source OS, with licenses being free for all manufacturers or anyone really.
- Android to become worlds most popular OS
  - Android has become the most popular OS, snatching the 1st place from Windows for the 1st time, according to web analytics firm StatCounter.
  - Look at combined usage across desktop, laptop, tablet, mobile, Android **usage climbed 37.93%, edging out Windows’ 37.91%.**
  - StatCounter only measures internet-connected devices, which will exclude a small number of desktop PCs used for specific tasks.
- Fungus that eats plastic
  - Scientists from Chinese Academy of Sciences have identified a soil fungus *Aspergillus tubingensis* that uses enzymes to rapidly break down plastic materials.
  - The new discovery in an advance can help to deal with plastic waste problem that threatens our environment in safer and more effective way.
  - The plastic-eating fungus was found Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Sci-fi forest to track CO2 levels



- Scientists have developed a sci-fi outdoor laboratory in the UK to find out how forests will respond to the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide expected by the middle of the 21st century.
- The industrial-scale experiment in a Staffordshire forest encircles trees with 25 metre masts gushing high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Tendulkar launches cricket-centric app
  - Sachin Tendulkar has launched a mobile phone app called, "100MB".
  - The app is conceptualised and developed by JetSynthesys and has been envisioned by Sachin himself.
  - The app will feature Live Chat and discussions on cricket along with a fan wall where you can share your thoughts with Sachin and the community.
- 1 GBPS internet speed in Hyderabad
  - Bengaluru-based Internet Service Provider ACT Fibernet announced the launch of 1Gbps wired broadband internet services in Hyderabad.
  - The company has been working for over a year and a half to launch these services in Hyderabad and has invested around Rs 100 cr.
  - In Hyderabad, the 1 Gb plan will be offered at Rs 5,999 per month.

## Art & Culture

- 10 heritage sites to be developed
  - The government announced 10 new iconic places which would be **developed as cleanliness role models under the “Swachh Bharat Mission”**.
  - The decision to choose new places was taken at the second quarterly review meeting of the swachh iconic places, an initiative of the ministry of drinking water and sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- India's first micro-drama festival held

- With the longest play running for not more than 10 minutes to the shortest one ending in 42 seconds, India's first ever micro-drama festival was held in New Delhi.
- Named after Thespis of Icaria, believed to be the first actor in Greek drama (6th century BC), the day-long event 'Thespis' saw screening of 28 independent plays at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Art.
- Tibetan medi system for Unesco honour
  - INDIA has nominated the Tibetan medicine system of Sowa-Rigpa for **inclusion on Unesco's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.**
  - **The dossier was submitted in late March and India's bid will be considered during Unesco's session in 2018.**
  - Sowa-Rigpa, commonly known as the Amchi system of medicine, is among the oldest documented medical traditions in the world
- Padayani Dance
  - Padayani festival was recently celebrated in Kerala.
  - Padayani is a traditional folk dance and a ritual art from the central portion of the Indian state of Kerala. A ceremonial dance involving masks, it is an ancient ritual performed in Bhagavati temples.
  - Padayani was performed by magico-medicine men of Kerala to heal the illnesses not amenable to medical modalities of intervention.

## Sports

- **'Oorja' Talent Hunt Tournament-2017**
  - The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have been tasked to conduct 'Oorja', - CAPFs Under-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament – 2017.
  - CAPFs will be jointly organizing the tournament under the aegis of All India Police Sports Control Board throughout the country from May 1-15, 2017.

- It is being used to generate interest regarding football in the country.
- India wins 6 medals
  - India won six medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jiaying, China.
  - India had won seven medals, including a gold and 4 silver in the first leg on April 24.
  - The third leg will be held in the Chinese Taipei on April 30.
- First transgender athletic meet
  - Kerala has conducted the **country's first**-ever transgender one-day athletic meet in Thiruvananthapuram.
  - The event saw the participation of 132 participants belonging to 12 districts of the state.
  - The event was jointly organised by Kerala sports council and Sexual Gender Minority Federation of Kerala.
- Yashwanth is man of the tournament
  - Yashwanth Naidu from Andhra Pradesh was declared Man of the Tournament in the T-20 Asia Cup held recently at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  - In the triangular tournament, India beat Bangladesh and Pakistan in the Asia Cup to lift the Trophy.
- Video Assistant Referees
  - Video assistant referees will be used at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.
  - The Video Assistant Referee system was first introduced at the FIFA Club World Cup in December 2016.
  - The technology can be used to review major incidents such as goals, penalties, red cards and cases of mistaken identity.
- Nita Ambani made member of IOC
  - Nita Ambani, who became India's first woman International Olympic Committee member last year, has now been made a member of two

important commissions of the global sports governing body, including the prestigious Olympic channel and the Olympic education Commission.

- Ambani would be one of the 16 members of the Olympic Channel Commission.
- It is based in Madrid, Spain.
- Mann Kaur sets world record
  - Mann Kaur broke her world record to clinch gold in 100m at the World Masters Games -- considered the Olympics for veterans --- in Auckland, New Zealand.
  - She completed the race in 1 minute and 14 seconds.
  - Mann Kaur made headlines last year when she **become the world's fastest** centenarian by clinching gold in 100m at the American Masters Games in Vancouver with a time of 1 minute 21 seconds.
- Manpreet Kaur bags Gold
  - Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur clinched a gold in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics.
  - With this performance, Manpreet also qualified for the IAAF World Championships to be held in August in London.
  - India ended the one-day event with seven medals (1 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze).
- Haryana beats Kerala
  - Haryana beat arch rivals Kerala after six years to win the team championship at the National Youth Athletics Meet.
  - Haryana emerged champions with 166.5 points. Kerala has finished as the runners-up.
  - However, Kerala managed to retain the team crown for girls while Haryana boys topped and **won the boys' title**.
- Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas win

- Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas won the 2017 Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters in mens doubles category.
- The crown is the first of the season for Bopanna and Cuevas and the third overall for the Indian.
- Bopanna had earlier won the Chennai Open in January with Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan.
- Cricket removed from 2018 Asian Games
  - One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang is cricket.
  - Apart from cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing have also been removed.
  - This measure was taken as a part of the series of changes aimed at reducing the total number of events from 493 to 431.
  - Also omitted from the list are kurash and belt wrestling events.
- Nadal wins 10th Monte-Carlo title
  - Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record-breaking 10th time by defeating Albert Ramos-Vinolas.
  - He, who now has 50 clay court titles and 70 in all, will be aiming for a 10th French Open title as well next month.
  - He became the first man in the Open era to win the same event 10 times.
- Video gaming at 2022 Asian Games
  - Video gaming will be featured as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games, with competitors in electronic sports set to receive medals for their digital prowess.
  - The Olympic Council of Asia says it will introduce esports to the official program of the Asian Games at Hangzhou, China.
  - It will also be a demonstration sport at the 2018 Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia.
- Pankaj Advani wins Asian Championship

- Pankaj Advani won his seventh Asian title by defeating Sourav Kothari.
- Advani now returns home to Bangalore for four days to switch to snooker.
- The match was held in Chandigarh.
- India win U-18 Hockey Championship
  - India School team registered 5-1 win against Malaysia to win the 5th Asian School Hockey Championship.
  - In the match for third and fourth place, Singapore beat China 3-1 in a nail-biting shootout after the two teams ended the regulation time in a 1-1 stalemate.
  - In the fifth and sixth placing match, Sri Lanka beat Thailand 4-1.
- Asian School Hockey Championship
  - The Indian School team beat Malaysia 5-1 to lift the title at the Fifth Asian School Hockey Championship in Bhopal at the Aishbagh Stadium.
  - Malaysia managed to score its single goal through Akhimullah Anuar Esook.
  - India defeated China 11-0 in the semi final while defending champion Malaysia defeated Singapore by 12-1.
- NBA launches first basketball school
  - National Basketball Association announced the setting up of its first basketball school, a network of tuition-based basketball development programmes, in Mumbai.
  - The school, as part of a multi-year agreement announced with India On Track (IOT), is open to male and female players between ages 6-18.
- US, Canada & Mexico to launch joint WC
  - Football federations of US, Canada and Mexico appear set to launch a joint bid for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
  - FIFA will designate a host for the 2026 edition in 2020.
  - There has been only one World Cup hosted by multiple nations, the 2002 edition in Japan and South Korea.

- The 2026 World Cup will expand to 48 teams from 32.
- Hamilton won 5th Chinese Grand Prix
  - **Lewis Hamilton mastered Shanghai's changing conditions and stayed clear** of squabbling rivals to win the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix.
  - **It was Hamilton's 54th career win and a record** fifth in Shanghai.
  - **But it was the triple champion's first this season and returned Mercedes to the top of the podium after Vettel won last month's season-opening** race for a resurgent Ferrari.
- Shyam Kumar wins gold in Thailand Int'l
  - Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar (49kg) clinched a gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok without even stepping inside the ring for his summit clash.
  - Shyam, who won a gold at the 2015 edition of the event, was to take on Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov of Uzbekistan in the final.
  - He however pulled out after an injury.
- IOA grants affiliation to BFI
  - The Indian Olympic Association has granted affiliation to the Boxing Federation of India, ending a long-standing impasse between the two bodies.
  - The affiliation ends a logjam that goes back to September last year when BFI took charge of the sport after elections conducted in the presence of International Boxing Association and sports ministry observers.
- Appointment of Foreign Coaches
  - Keeping in view the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the sports ministry has approved Athletics Federation of India proposal to appoint two foreign experts—one each in race walking and 400-metre sprint.
  - Australian Dave Smith will take charge of the national race while Galina P Bukharina will oversee the national 400-metre squad.
- Virat Kohli- **Wisden's Leading Cricketer**



- **India cricket team skipper Virat Kohli was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016.**
- Kohli scored 1215 Test runs at a brilliant average of 75.93 last year. His 10 ODI appearances fetched him 739 runs at 92.37, while he scored 641 T20 International runs at 106.83.
- Only six batsmen have ever scored more international runs in a calendar year
- **No NHL in 2018 Olympics**
  - The National Hockey League(NHL) will not take part in the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.
  - The decision brings an end to years of tense bargaining between the International Olympic Committee, International Ice Hockey Federation and the NHL over the league's continuing participation in the Winter Games.
  - The NHL had participated in every Winter Olympics since the 1998 Nagano Winter Games.
- **Sindu wins India Open Super Series 2017**
  - PV Sindhu produced a brilliant performance to clinch the India Open title after beating Olympic champion Carolina Marin.
  - The tournament took place in Siri Fort Sports Complex, New Delhi, India from March 28– April 2, 2017 and had a total purse of \$350,000.
- **2017 Miami Open**
  - Gabriela Dabrowski and Xu Yifan won the 2017 Miami Open in women's doubles category.
  - They beat Sania Mirza and Barbora Strycova.
  - Mirza and Strycova have been in five finals since they paired up last summer, winning two of them. Sania Mirza was playing in the Miami Open for the 15th time this year.

## Polity

- Inter-State Council
  - The 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council examined recommendations of the Punchhi Commission report on april 9.
  - The committee examined recommendations of the report related to Centre-State financial relations etc.
  - The Inter State Council is an Indian constitutional body set up on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
- **Glaciers, forests 'living entities'**
  - **HAVING declared the Ganga and the Yamuna as "living entities",** Uttarakhand HC has now declared glaciers, forests and lakes also as **similar "biologically living" entities.**
  - The bench said that like human beings, they also have a right to exist, persist, maintain, sustain and regenerate their vital ecology system.
  - These are scientifically and biologically living.
- Change in MWPSA Act
  - The govt is mulling bringing legislative changes to remove the monthly **ceiling of ₹10,000 on the maintenance paid by children to parents.**
  - **At present, children need not pay more than ₹10,000.**
  - If the proposed amend. to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act come through, the maintenance amount to be decided by senior citizen tribunals for the neglected parents.
- Motor Vehicles Bill amended
  - The government has approved changes to the motor vehicle bill.
  - The amended motor vehicle bill proposes a hefty penalty on auto companies caught manufacturing faulty vehicles, statutory guidelines for cab aggregators and a 10% annual increase in penalty for traffic violations.

- The government has also proposed specific timelines for processing insurance claim.

## Environment

- Tiger death in Madhya Pradesh
  - The death of the two cubs, one on April 22 and the second on April 23, had prompted the National Tiger Conservation Authority to send a team to Bandhavgarh from Delhi.
  - Days after the death of two orphaned cubs in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, their third sibling succumbed to viral infection.
  - The three cubs had recently been infected by parvovirus.
- BBC banned for 5 years
  - The government has prohibited **the BBC from filming in India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries for "irreparable damage done to India's reputation"**.
  - **The ministry's April 10 order upholds and extends the ban from tiger reserves to all national parks and sanctuaries.**
  - **The ministry found that the BBC projected a negative portrayal of India's conservation success story at the Tiger Reserve.**
- India, UK to setup fund for green energy
  - India and UK decided to set up a 240 million pound fund to finance clean energy projects.
  - The Green Growth Equity Fund will be a sub-fund of NIIF.
  - India had in 2015 set up the Rs 40,000 crore National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) to finance greenfield as well as brownfield projects.
- Belmont Forum Secretariat

- The government has given its approval for signing of the Collaborative Agreement with French National Research Agency, France.
- The MoU will be signed for supporting the Belmont Forum Secretariat from January, 2015 to December, 2017 at a total estimated expenditure of 40000 Euros.
- The Forum aims to improve the environment through research and co-operation.
- Tree-dwelling crab found in Kerala
  - Scientists from the University of Kerala have discovered a new species of long-legged, tree-dwelling crabs named Kani maranjandu in Western Ghats of Kerala.
  - The new species named Kani maranjandu after the Kani tribe in Kerala
  - This is the first report of its kind to offer a record of an arboreal crab — a species that lives in trees.
- 19th commonwealth forestry conference
  - Scientists and experts from 49 member countries of the Commonwealth will gather here on April 3 to participate in a five-day forestry conference.
  - The conference will be held at Dehradun-based Forest Research Institute.
  - The event will witness 4 plenary sessions and altogether 21 technical sessions.
- Rail routes declared as Green Corridors
  - The North Western Railway has declared the Barmer-Munawab and Pipad Road-Bilara rail routes in Rajasthan as Green Corridors.
  - With this total number of green corridors has increased to three.
  - The Green Corridor ensures zero toilet discharge on rail tracks as part of **its commitment to clean environment under the ‘Swachh Rail-Swachh Bharat’ initiative.**

## Defence

- Exercise 'Varuna'
  - India and France began their week-long bilateral naval exercise Varuna in France's Toulon port.
  - The Varuna series of exercises began in 2000 and have grown into an institutionalised form of interaction between the two navies.
  - The joint-exercises are held either in the Indian Ocean or Mediterranean sea.
- India fifth largest military spender
  - India's military expenditure grew around 8.5% in 2016, making it the world's fifth largest spender at \$55.9 billion.
  - USA ranks first, followed by China, Russia and Saudi Arabia.
  - These figures were released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).
- Sagarmatha Friendship military exercise
  - Nepal and China will hold the first-ever joint military exercise from April 17 with a special focus on combating terror and disaster management.
  - The 10-day-long military drill that will last till April 26.
  - **The military exercise named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017' will also focus on common interests like disaster management.**
- Defence Procurement Organisation
  - Ministry of Defence constituted a Committee in April, 2016 comprising experts from various fields to study the setting up of a Defence Procurement Organisation.
  - The Committee submitted its Report in February 2017.

- The Committee has recommended the creation of a central, autonomous, empowered professional organization to build up indigenous defence capability.
- Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise
  - The twelfth edition Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2017 has begun at Vairengte in Mizoram.
  - Vairengte houses **Indian Army's elite Counter**-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School.
  - The exercise is aimed at training the troops in Counter Insurgency & Counter Terrorism Operations under the United Nations mandate.



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