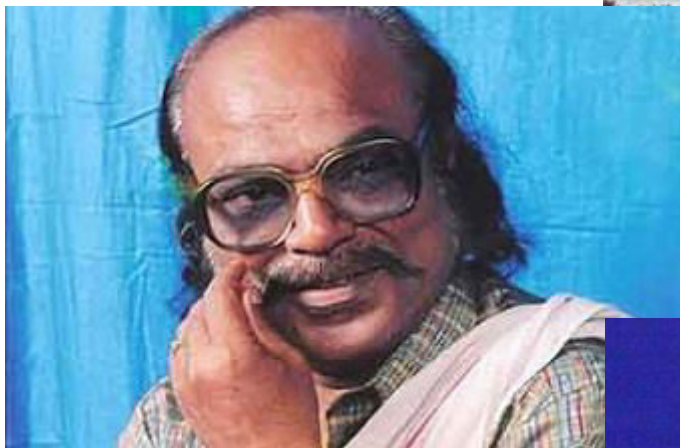


# Inside Highlights



## Awards & Recognition

### India origin Singapore lecturer gets International Achievement Award 2015

An Indian-origin nurse in Singapore will receive an **international achievement award** for her work in the healthcare sector of women and refugees, becoming the first Singaporean to get the prestigious biennial prize.

**Dr Subadhra Devi Rai**, a nurse and a senior lecturer at the School of Health Sciences (Nursing) at Nanyang Polytechnic in Singapore, She was named for the award for her work in the healthcare sector of women and refugees and will receive the award on 21 June 2015 at a conference in Seoul. FNIF is the International Council of Nurses (ICN) premier foundation. Its purpose is to support the advancement of nursing education, research and services.

With this 51-year-old Rai became the first Singaporean to get the prestigious biennial prize since its introduction in 1999.

### Brendon McCullum conferred with Sir Richard Hadlee Medal

New Zealand cricket team captain **Brendon McCullum** has been awarded with the **Sir Richard Hadlee Medal** for 2014-15 for his remarkable performance both as a player and the captain during the 2014-15 season. Sir Richard Hadlee Medal is the highest cricketing honour of New Zealand and it was presented to him during the **New Zealand Cricket (NZC) Awards** presentation ceremony held in **Auckland**.

The 33-year-old hitter led New Zealand to their first ever World Cup final in 2015 Cricket World Cup. The aggressive batsman also had a astonishing year as Test batsman becoming the first New Zealander to aggregate 1000 runs in a year, which includes a triple-century against India at home and a double-century against Pakistan in UAE. The outstanding captain also led New Zealand to a flawless Test season as they remained unbeaten in all the Test series that they featured in. overall McCullum has scored 5451 runs in 89 Tests and 5808 runs in 248 ODI matches.

### Golden Peacock National Quality Award 2015 for Delhi Airport

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has won the prestigious Golden Peacock National Quality Award for the year 2015. Corporate-Excellence award for quality-consciousness for DIAL shows is Customer-commitment.

The Golden Peacock National Quality Award is a reflection of every customer's contented smile as s/he enters/leaves the airport. Attaining quality-standards is only the beginning, sustaining them is the real challenge. DIAL believes in and implements T.Q.M and 5-S principles in all its functional-affairs, in principle and practice. The 4 Ts of quality-control have helped the authorities in implementing the system at every stage.

## Laureus World Sports Awards Shanghai 2015

**Laureus World Sports Awards 2015 in Shanghai** is supposed to be one of the greatest events to be held in the world-sports history. Incidentally it is being hosted by **Mr. Benedict-Cumberbatch**, a British-Actor and a film-producer. This is the second time that he is hosting this event. The first time was in 2014. The award-ceremony was initiated in the **year 2000**.

The happiest news for the Indian sports fans is that **master-blaster Sachin-tendulkar** has been added into the **laurels-Sports Academy**.

- **Yao Ming** – Retired Chinese professional basketball player.
- **Tegla Loroupe** – Kenyan long-distance runner.
- **Li Xiaopeng** – Chinese gymnast.
- **Yang Yang** – Former Chinese short track speed skater Yang Yang.

Winners of the Year 2015 are:

- **Sportsman of the year** – NOVAK DJOKOVIC
- **SportsWoman of the year** – GENZEBE DIBABA
- **Team of the year** – GERMANY MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM
- **Come-back of the year** – SCHALK BURGER
- **Break-through of the year** – DANIEL RICCIARDO
- **Action-sports-person of the year** – ALAN EUSTACE
- **Sportsperson of the year with a disability** – TATYANA MCFADDEN
- **Sport for good Award** – SKATEISTAN
- **Demy Exceptional Achievement** – LI NA
- **Spirit of Sport** – YAO MING

## AIMA Managing India Awards 2015 – 6th Edition

- The sixth edition of **AIMA Managing India Awards** was held at New Delhi to honour stalwarts from various fields at a glittering function attended by the who's who of India.
- The AIMA Managing India Awards aim to recognise the contributions of those who have set benchmarks of excellence in their respective spheres and have helped build Brand India – stalwarts from different fields, who have excelled in their respective spheres with vision and inspiration and are worthy of emulation and admiration.
- This year, stalwarts from the world of business, media and corporate have been chosen to be felicitated with the awards for their exceptional work and service to their field of work.

**Award Winners for this Year are:-**

- Director of the Year – **Rajkumar Hirani**, Director, Producer, Screenwriter and Film Editor
- Transformational Business Leader of the Year – **Kunal Bahl**, Co-Founder & CEO, Snapdeal.com
- MNC in India of the Year – **Hyundai Motor India Ltd (B S Seo**, Managing Director & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd to receive the award
- Outstanding Contribution to Media – **Shekhar Gupta**, Contributing Editor, The India Today Group
- Outstanding Institution Builder – **M V Subbiah**, Former Chairman, Murugappa Group
- Entrepreneur of the Year – **Nita M Ambani**, Founder & Chairperson, Reliance Foundation
- Business Leader of the Year – **Aditya Puri**, Managing Director, HDFC Bank
- Indian MNC of the Year – **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd (Dilip Shanghvi**, Founder & Managing Director, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd to receive the award)
- Lifetime Contribution Award – **G M Rao**, Group Chairman, GMR Group

**Liberal Indian CEO Satya Nadella gets Champion of Change award from Obama**

**US president Barack Obama** plans to honour **Microsoft’s Indian-origin CEO Satya Nadella** with the “**Champions of Change award**” for bringing about change within his company to support working families. The award has been bestowed upon Mr. Nadella for bringing major transformations in the company’s policy towards

- a. Paid-sick and Paid-Leave policies
- b. Equal-pay for both the genders
- c. End Pregnancy-discrimination-policies of the company

Microsoft has made several changes in its policies towards remote-positioned suppliers who work for the company. They will now be eligible for 15-days of paid leave every year.

**Time Magazine released list of 100 most influential people in world**

Time Magazine released list of **100 most influential people** in the world. This includes all the recognized fields in the world. The list is released annually. The categories are mainly from

- Times-Titans; Creative contributions in selected field
- Times-Pioneers; Innovative concepts
- Times-Artists; best performance and originals
- Times-Leaders; bringing positive changes
- Times-Icons ; All time greats

The final list of 100 people is finalized by the Time-Magazine’s editors. The nominations will be sent by the Magazine’s staff. They are considered as the people who have brought constructive changes in the world.

Many Indians apart from Modi have appeared in the listing; they are **Chandra-Kocchar CEO-ICICI-Bank**, **Satya-Nadella, CEO-Microsoft** and **Vikram-Patel, CEO-Sangath (NGO)**.



The **2015 list of titans** is headed by Kanye West, An American Musician. He is closely followed by Lorne Michaels, T.V-producer, writer and a comedian. The third spot is claimed by Melody Hobson, The CEO of DreamWorks-Animations.

The **top Pioneers list** is headed by Misty Copeland, writer & Ballet-Dancer. She is closely followed by Scott Kelly, an American Engineer-Astronaut & ex-Navy-Captain. The third spot is taken by Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer-Doudna, for their contributions in Biology/Medicine.

The **top artists list** is headed by Bradley Cooper, American-Actor & Producer. He is followed by Richard-Linklater, director & screen-writer. The third spot is taken by Chris Ofili, British-Painter.

The **top leaders list** is headed Jorge Ramos, Mexican-American Journalist/Author. He is closely followed by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India. The third spot is taken by Angela Merkel, German Chancellor.

The **top Icons list** is headed by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate-Justice in the U.S-Supreme-Court. He is closely followed by Taylor Swift, American-singer and song-writer. The third spot is claimed by Diane von Furstenberg, American fashion-designer of Belgian-Origin.

### India Today Group chairman Aroon Purie named Editor of the Year

The Indian-Chapter of International-Advertising-Association has interesting news; **India Today Group chairman Aroon Poorie** named **Editor of the Year**. The award was bestowed upon him by **Mr. Jayant Sinha, Union State-Minister for Finance** on Saturday, in **Mumbai**.

The award is given annually for **excellent contributions in advertising, marketing, and media related activities**. International Advertising Association (**IAA**) is the lone organization in the world, involved in global-integrated advertising-trading. Its members come from the world of advertising and media-world. It is categorized into 56-chapters and Media-owners from 76-nations.

Others who received the awards included

- Arundhati-Bhattacharya , SBI-Chair-person :- CEO of the year
- Uday-Shankar, Star-Media :- Game-Changer of the year
- B. Sriram, S.B.I:- banking-Marketer of the year
- Sanjay-Tripathi , H.D.F.C-Life:- Insurance

Mr. Sinha praised the awardees at the award ceremony. He sited the contributions of these people were very vital to the Indian economy and social life; keeping in mind the emotional-nature of Indian-Consumers.

### Awards presented for writings on human rights

**K G Balakrishnan**, Justice of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), presented awards to the winners of the National Human Rights Commission's **Mahatma Ganthi Biennial Hindi Writing Award Scheme** for the **year 2010 – 11** at a function in New Delhi on 20th April 2015.

He congratulated the winners and also said that this award is a part of the commission's statutory duty of developing awareness on all aspects of human rights, and competitions like these will promote the original writings on Human Rights and cater to the aims of the National Human Rights Commission. The literary writings usually have a better impact on the minds of the people.

The National Human Rights Commission has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Book Trust**, to translate the books that won, into 5 Indian Languages, which will further expand the reach of the awareness about Human Right issues. The **first prize**, Rs. 75,000 was won by **Dakshin Bajrange Chhara** of **Ahmedabad** for his play "**Boodhan Bolta Hai**" on the plight of nomadic tribes of the country and the **second prize**, Rs. 50,000 was won by **Nishant Singh** of New Delhi for his book "**Baal Shoshan aur Apradh**" which highlights various aspects relating to atrocities on children. The Commission is hopeful that these kind of awards will encourage the people to write more on the subjects of human rights so that India will be totally free from Human Right issues. Prof. Arun Kamal, Poet and Philosopher, appreciated the NHRC for their encouraging the writings in mother tongue.

**Point to Remember:**

- Book Name : Boodhan Bolta Hai
- Author: Dakshin Bajrange Chhara & won 1st price in writings on human rights schemes
- Book Name: Baal Shoshan aur Apradh
- Author: Nishant Singh & won 2nd prize in writing on human rights Schemes

**Pulitzer Prize Winners 2015**

The **99th annual Pulitzer Prizes** in Journalism, Letters, Drama and Music, awarded on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board, were announced today by Columbia University at New York, USA. The Winners in each category are list below:

**JOURNALISM**

- **Public Service:** The Post and Courier, Charleston, S.C
- **Breaking News Reporting:** The Seattle Times Staff
- **Investigative Reporting (two prizes):** Eric Lipton of The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal Staff
- **Explanatory Reporting:** Zachary R. Mider of Bloomberg News
- **Local Reporting:** Rob Kuznia, Rebecca Kimitch and Frank Suraci of the Daily Breeze, Torrance, Calif.
- **National Reporting:** Carol D. Leonnig of The Washington Post
- **International Reporting:** The New York Times Staff
- **Feature Writing:** Diana Marcum of the Los Angeles Times
- **Commentary:** Lisa Falkenberg of the Houston Chronicle
- **Criticism:** Mary McNamara of the Los Angeles Times

- **Editorial Writing:** Kathleen Kingsbury of The Boston Globe
- **Editorial Cartooning:** Adam Zyglis of The Buffalo News
- **Breaking News Photography:** St. Louis Post-Dispatch Photography Staff
- **Feature Photography:** Daniel Berehulak, freelance photographer, The New York Times

## LETTERS AND DRAMA

- **Fiction:** All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (Scribner)
- **Drama:** Between Riverside and Crazy by Stephen Adly Guirgis
- **History:** Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People by Elizabeth A. Fenn (Hill and Wang)
- **Biography:** The Pope and Mussolini: The Secret History of Pius XI and the Rise of Fascism in Europe by David I. Kertzer (Random House)
- **Poetry:** Digest by Gregory Pardlo (Four Way Books)
- **General Nonfiction:** The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert (Henry Holt)

## MUSIC

Anthracite Fields by Julia Wolfe (Red Poppy/G. Schirmer, Inc.)

## Dinanath Mangeshkar Award 2015 for Actor Anil Kapoor

**Anil Kapoor**, the famous bollywood hero received the prestigious **Dinanath Mangeshkar award 2015** in a award function event held in Mumbai on **April 25th 2015**. It was a priceless award given to Anil Kapoor for his amazing acting skills though he himself considers that he is still a newcomer to the Hindi film world. Apart from Anil Kapoor, actor **Dilip Prabhavalkar** was also honoured with this prestigious award. The award is given mainly to those who had made great contributions in music and movies.

This is the 73rd award function held recently and the award was first instituted in the year 1999 in the memory of late Mr Dinanath Mangeshkar.

- **Chief Minister Mr Devendra Fadnavis** was present during the function.
- Last year the award was given to actor **Rishi Kapoor** and musician **Zakir Hussain**.
- The award carries amount Rs 1,01,001, memento and citation

## Gopinath Pillai, The Indian-Origin Diplomat Awarded in Singapore

The Indian-origin diplomat, **Mr Gopinath Pillai**, was honoured with **Outstanding Service Award by National University of Singapore [NUS]** on 24th April 2015. The 78-year-old Gopinath Pillai, who is currently **Ambassador-at-large** of Singapore and special envoy to Andhra Pradesh got the award for his contributions to the Singapore city-state in an event organised by NUS. Mr Pillai, during the function,

recollected his past when he faced great challenge in shaping Singapore, when the island was in its last stages of colonial rule.

- Mr Gopinath Pillai, had great interest in international relations and community welfare right from his university days itself.
- He was a journalist, banker and worked in many fields
- Mr pillai has contributed to Singapore through his distinguished service as a diplomat for more than 25years,
- Also honoured was **Dr Seek Ngee Huat** aged 65, a **founder of NUS institute of real estate studies**.
- NUS president Mr Tan Chorh Chuan said Mr Pillai and Dr Seek worked tirelessly to expand the opportunities for the future generations
- In commitment and service Mr Pillai and Dr Seek are exemplars of NUS spirit.

### Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2015 won by Novelist Siddhartha Gigoo

For his novel " **The Umbrella Man**", Novelist **Siddhartha Gigoo** won the short story price in the Asia region for the year 2015. The price amount involved is **2500pounds**. With this victory, he will now compete with other four regional winners for the 5000 pounds grand price that would be announced in London September 8th 2015. Most of his stories are based on Kashmir where he was born.

- Gigoo's story has been published in the book " **A Fistful Of Earth and Other Stories**" .
- His book was praised for **sensitivity and perception**, that made his story stand above the rest.
- His story was chosen from shortlisted **22 stories** shortlisted from **4000 entries** from different countries like Asia, Africa, Canada, Europe etc.
- The story shows surreal meditation on mental health and meditation .
- For African region, price was won by **Lesley Nneka Arimah of Nigeria** for the topic Light.
- For **Canada and Europe regions**, price went to **Johnathan Tel of UK** for Human Phonograph.
- **Kevin Jared Hussain of Trinidad**, got price for his book King Of Settlement 4 for the Caribbean.
- **Fiji's Mary Rokonadravu**, got price for his Famished Eels for Pacific regions.

### Chemical scientists Susanta Lahiri and Kattesh V Katti received Hevesy Medal Award 2015

- Professors Susanta Lahiri and Kattesh V. Katti received Hevesy Medal Award 2015 for their outstanding contributions in the fields of radio and nuclear chemistry.
- The awards were presented to them at the Tenth International Conference on Methods and Applications of Radio-analytical Chemistry held in USA.



### **DoNER Ministry wins Web Ratna Award 2014**

The Union Ministry for Development of North East Region (DoNER) headed by its Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, has received the Union Ministry of Information Technology (IT) Award for outstanding Website content.

- The Award titled “Web Ratna Award 2014” under the category of outstanding content was conferred here in recognition of the exemplary efforts made by the DoNER Ministry for promoting e-governance initiatives.(<http://doner.gov.in>)

### **Hinduja brothers win Asian Business Leader of year**

- NRI industrialists Hinduja brothers S P Hinduja and G P Hinduja – have won the Business Leader of the Year 2015 award at the prestigious 5th Asian Awards for their outstanding achievement in the field of business.

### **Asian Awards 2015 held in London**

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan won an Outstanding Contribution to Cinema honour at the fifth annual The Asian Awards.
- Picking up the award for Outstanding Contribution to Sport was Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara, and the prize for Outstanding Achievement in Science and Technology went to Tejinder Singh Virdee.
- The Outstanding Achievement in Television award went to comedian, actor and broadcaster Sanjeev Bhaskar, while the Hinduja brothers were awarded as Business Leaders of the Year.

### **India bags three Asian Squash Federation awards**

- India’s men’s team which won the gold medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games was awarded the Outstanding Team of the Year award by the Asian Squash Federation.
- Cyrus Poncha, the coach of the team, was declared the winner of the “Coach of the year award” for the team event
- Kush Kumar, the first Indian junior male player to reach the semi-finals of a World junior squash championship, won the Hassan Musa Award for his outstanding performance of the year (boys).

### **‘Mary Kom’ wins best film at Stockholm International Film Fest (SIFFJ)**

- Mary Kom film won the Best Film award and has been endowed with the Bronze Horse Award in Stockholm, Sweden.

### Delhi author Rana Dasgupta shortlisted for Orwell Prize

- Author Rana Dasgupta's literary portrait of Delhi "Capital" is among six books shortlisted for the George Orwell Prize for political writing 2015.
- The book is the third work of fiction by Dasgupta who had previously won the 2010 Commonwealth prize for his work "Solo".

### Shah Rukh Khan honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award 2015

- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was on 21 April 2015 honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award 2015 for his performance in the movie Happy New Year. The award ceremony was held in Mumbai.

### Indian-origin soldier awarded President's Medal in Israel

- A 22-year-old Indian-origin soldier with Israeli army has been awarded the President's Medal of Excellence for his outstanding service.
- Adiel Yosef, who immigrated to Israel from Mumbai four years ago, got the award for serving in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

### Indian-Origin Scientist Sangita Bhatia at MIT Wins USD 250,000 Heinz Award

- An Indian-origin scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has developed artificial human microlivers for drug testing, has won a prestigious 250,000 dollars Heinz award for her work in tissue engineering and disease detection.
- Sangeeta Bhatia at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been named the recipient of the 2015 Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy, and Employment.
- The Heinz Awards annually recognise individuals for their extraordinary contributions to arts and humanities; environment; human condition; public policy; and technology, the economy, and employment.

### Radcliffe to receive London Marathon Lifetime Achievement Award

- World record holder Paula Radcliffe will receive the inaugural John Disley London Marathon Lifetime Achievement Award after she completes the 2015 London Marathon on Sunday.

### Marathi novelist Bhalchandra Nemade bags 50th Jnanpith Award

- Modi awarded the 50th Jnanpith Award to eminent Marathi litterateur Bhalchandra Nemade whose several books, including Kosala and Hindu, have influenced Indian writing.
- He was presented award comprising of 11 lakh rupees and a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Saraswati by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### BCCI to nominate Rohit Sharma for Arjuna award

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has nominated Rohit Sharma for the Arjuna award for 2015.
- Rohit has had an excellent last year for India in international cricket.
- The decision to nominate Rohit was taken in the BCCI working committee meeting in Kolkata.
- Since January 1, 2014, he has averaged 55.05 from 21 innings with 3 centuries and 5 fifties, with the epic 264 his highest score.

### Two Indians win Whitley Awards for wildlife conservation

Two Indians namely Dr Ananda Kumar and Dr Pramod Patil on 29 April 2015 won the prestigious Whitley Awards (also known as Green Oscar) for their contribution to wildlife conservation.

The awards were presented at a ceremony in Royal Geographical Society, London. The winners of the award received a Whitley prize worth 35000 pound.

Kumar was honoured for his work of using innovative communication systems to enable human-elephant co-existence in Southern India. Patil, on the other hand, was honoured for his work to protect the iconic great Indian bustard in the Thar Desert, Rajasthan.

## Indian Affairs

### GOI launched Operation Raahat to evacuate 4000 Indian nationals from Yemen

The Government of India has launched “**Operation Raahat**”, a massive air and sea operation to evacuate over 4000 Indian nationals from **Yemen**. The operation will involve five ships and four aircraft. **Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh** headed for Djibouti, Yemen’s neighbor country, to oversee the evacuation exercise. INS Sumitra was diverted from its anti-piracy mission in Gulf of Aden to rescue Indian citizens in the port city of Aden. Air India has stationed two 180-seater Airbus A320 planes in Muscat for evacuation of Indians from Yemen’s capital Sanaa to Djibouti.

Other than INS Sumitra, **Destroyer INS Mumbai, stealth frigate INS Tarkash, and two merchant vessels – Kavaratti and Coral** – have been dispatched for the rescue operation. The Indian Air Force has deployed two **C-17 Globemaster planes** for Yemen operations. This is the fourth major evacuation which the Indian government has undertaken. The first three were in Ukraine, Iraq and Libya.

### Union Minister Nirmala Sitaraman unveiled Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Nirmala Sitaraman** has unveiled the new **5-year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) from 2015 to 2020** to boost exports, create jobs, and and increasing value addition in the

country while supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's '**Make In India**' and '**Digital India**'. The FTP Policy will be reviewed after two and half years.

The focus of the new policy is emphasized on manufacturing and services sectors, with the ambitious plan of improving the '**ease of doing business**'. The focus of the new FTP will be also on *defence, pharma, environment-friendly products and value-added exports*. Government has also planned to promote the e-commerce industry. Incentives for units located in Special Economic Zones will also continue.

**FTP2015-20** introduces two new schemes. They are

1. **Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)** – for export of specified goods to specified markets.
2. **Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)** – for increasing exports of notified services with different conditions for eligibility and usage.

Duty credit scrips issued under MEIS and SEIS and the goods imported against these scrips are fully transferable. Measures have been adopted to push procurement of capital goods from indigenous manufacturers under the **Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme** to promote the domestic capital goods manufacturing industry.

### **Gulshan Rai becomes First Chief of Cyber Security in India**

**The Government of India** has given additional charge to **Gulshan Rai**, the *Director General of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In)* as *India's first Cyber Security chief*. Rai has taken over his office from April 1. Rai has been heading the computer emergency response team at the department of electronics and information technology (DeiTY).

Rai has been working in the area of evolving legal framework to address issues arising out of cyberspace for more than a decade. He is also expected to head the **national cyber coordination centre (NCCC)** that the Indian government is setting up with a budget of Rs 1,000 crore.

According to government data, more than 700 government websites that are hosted under '**gov.in**' and '**nic.in**' domains have been hacked by cyber criminals since 2012. Reported attacks on Indian websites have increased nearly five times in the past four years. As per CERT-In, *371, 189, 155 and 13* government websites were hacked during the year *2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 (January)*, respectively.

### **NDA Government launched FAME-India scheme to boost electric and hybrid vehicle sales**

**The Government of India** has launched a scheme called **FAME** stands for **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles**, to boost sales of eco-friendly vehicles in the country. The newly launched scheme is a part of the Government's **National Mission for Electric Mobility**. The

ambitious scheme forecasts to provide Rs 795 crore support till 2020 for the manufacturing and sale of electric and hybrid vehicles. The first Phase of the scheme will be implemented over a two year period in **FY15-16 and FY16-17**. Based on the results, the scheme will be reviewed for implementation after March 31, 2017, with appropriate fund allocation.

The scheme will have four focus areas. They are,

- Technology development
- Demand creation
- Pilot projects
- Charging infrastructure

As per the FAME-India scheme, the planned incentives are,

Vehicle Type	Government Incentive
Scooters and Motorcycles	Rs 1800 to Rs 29000
Three Wheelers	Rs 3300 to Rs 61000
Four Wheelers	Rs 13000 to Rs 1.38 La
Light Commercial Vehicles	Rs 17000 to Rs 1.87 lakh
Bus	Rs 34 lakh to Rs 66 lakh

### India’s ace mountaineer Malli Mastan Babu found dead

India’s Ace mountaineer **Malli Mastan Babu** has been found dead in **Andes Mountain** of **South America**. He was missing since March 24. Babu was regarded as the fastest “**7 summiteer**” in the world. He climbed summits in all seven continents. In 2006, he scaled 7 summits in the world in 172 days. He is also the first Indian to summit **Mt Vinson Massif**, the tallest peak in **Antarctica** and the first person from Andhra Pradesh to scale the Everest.

He was an alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur and IIM-Calcutta. He was working as a software engineer for 3 years and then he started mountain climbing.

### GOI Extends National Food Security Act deadline by 6 months

**The Government of India** has given six more months to the states for the implementation of **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**. The announcement was made by **Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan**. The NFSA was passed in September 2013. Till now only **11 states and Union Territories** have implemented the National Food Security Act. The remaining **25 states and Union Territories** have not implemented it yet. It is third time, this deadline has been extended and the second deadline was to end on 4 April 2015.

To ensure proper distribution of PDS supplies, the minister said that the Government has decided to give a fixed cash amount of **Rs 87 per quintal**, to be contributed equally by Centre and the state, to ration shop dealers.



## Parliament Passes Amendment to Regional Rural Banks Bill

On April 28th 2015, parliament passed **regional rural bank Amendment Bill 2014**. The Bill was first passed in Lok Sabha on 22nd December 2014. The Bill amends the Regional Rural Banks Act 1976, has its goal to strengthen RRB or Regional Rural Banks and to deepen their financial inclusion.

- This Bill increases the **authorised capital** of RRB to **2000 crores from 5 crores** .
- Its divided into 200 crores of fully paid share of value Rs10 each.
- According to parent Act, the 5 crore capital of RRB's is split into 5 lakh shares of Rs100 each.
- The authorised capital given by any RRB's shall not be reduced below Rs one crore and shares in all cases to be fully paid up shares of Rs 10 each.
- As per Bill, the RRbs can raise the capital from sources other than state or central government and sponsored banks.
- As per Bill, anybody who is already a director of RRB won't be eligible to be on the Board Of Directors of another RRB.
- The shareholders will elect the directors based on the total amount of equity share capital given to such shareholders.
- The **directors term** or tenure will be **3 years** from the existing 2 years.
- The balance books of RRBs should be closed by **December 31st** every year as per the Parent Act But now as per this amendment act **31st March** would be the date to get RRB's balancing of books in a uniform way.

## Cabinet approved amendments to the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children Bill 2014

The Union Cabinet on 22 April 2015 approved amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill 2014. The bill seeks to amend the **Justice Juvenile (JJ) Act, 2000** to try juveniles who are accused of heinous crimes under laws for adults.

The amendment to the JJ (Amendment) Bill, 2014 incorporates the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee that studied the bill. The bill was referred to the Standing Committee after it was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12 August 2014.

### Some of the approved amendments to the JJ (Amendment) Bill, 2014 include

- Clause 7 which relates to trial of a person above the age of 21 years as an adult for committing any serious or heinous offence when the person was between the ages of 16-18 years has been removed
- The period of preliminary inquiry by the Juvenile Justice Board in case of heinous offences committed by children in the age group of 16-18 years has been enhanced.
- Reconsideration period for surrender of children by parents or guardians has been increased
- The period for inter-country adoption in case the child is not given for domestic adoption has been enhanced
- The role of designated authority to monitor the implementation of the Bill has been assigned to the National

### **Union Cabinet approved agreement between India and Jordan on maritime transport**

The Union Cabinet on 22 April 2015 gave its approval for signing of a shipping agreement between India and Jordan. The agreement aims at strengthening cooperation and providing sustained mutual assistance on merchant shipping and other related maritime matters.

The nod was given in a Cabinet meet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi after recognizing the significant mutual benefit which can be derived from cooperation in area of shipping between the two countries.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's Healthcare Portal**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 April 2015 inaugurated India's Healthcare Portal at the SAAARC Trade Mart in the Global Exhibition on Services, in ITPO, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The portal is an authentic and dynamic information source which can effectively be used by any treatment seeker/potential medical tourist from across the globe.

At present, the portal covers 124 accredited medical facilities which include 93 medical centres, 30 Ayurveda and Wellness centres and 1 special category centre. 74 facilities are located in Tier I cities and the rest are in Tier II cities. The Healthcare Portal can be seen at [www.indiahealthcaretourism.com](http://www.indiahealthcaretourism.com)

### **Union Cabinet approved amendments to Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013**

The Union Cabinet on 7 April 2015 approved amendments to the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013. The bill protects the interests of millions of consumers and curbs malpractices in the real estate sector. The decision was taken at the Cabinet meet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Through the amendments, the applicability of the Bill has been extended to commercial real estate too. Ongoing projects that have not received Completion Certificates have also been brought under the purview of the Bill and such projects will need to be registered with the Regulator within three months.

### **Union Home Ministry notified Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Rules, 2015**

Union Home Ministry on 10 April 2015 notified amendments to the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987 and named these rules as **Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Rules, 2015**.

The rules were notified after President Pranab Mukherjee exercising his powers conferred under Section 13 of the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1982 amended the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987. The amendment notifies 18-set of rules to regulate any foreign visit or domestic visit outside the State by the Governors.

#### **Main Highlights of the amended rules**

- The Governors can leave the State for a private visit to a foreign country or within India only after receiving the due approval of the President except in emergent or extraordinary circumstances.
- The requests for permission to travel outside the State will have to be sent to President Secretariat anywhere between two weeks (for domestic visit) and six weeks (for foreign visit) before the date of

travel.

- It bars Governors to stay in their respective states for at least 292 days in a year.
- The Governor cannot undertake such visits even under any emergent or extraordinary circumstance. In such cases, the governors will have to provide details of the circumstances and compelling reasons why it was not possible to obtain prior permission.
- The intimation to the President Secretariat in emergency circumstances shall be given as soon as the programme is finalised.
- It also says that the duration of visits in extraordinary circumstances cannot exceed 20 percent of the days in calendar years.
- The Governors shall also obtain clearance under the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act (FCRA clearance) and Political clearance before undertaking any official foreign visit.
- The Governors shall endorse the copies of communications to President Secretariat related to visit outside their State to the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and to the Home Minister.
- The rules also say that frequency of visit to the home State shall also be avoided or limited.

### PM announced relief measures for distressed farmers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8 March 2015 announced two major measures aimed at providing relief to distressed farmers due to unseasonal weather conditions in the rabi season.

#### As per the decision announced

- Farmers will be eligible for input subsidy even if 33 percent of their crop has been damaged due to unforeseen weather conditions as opposed to 50 percent or more, which is the norm till now.
- Input subsidy given to distressed farmers will be enhanced by 50 percent of the existing amounts.

### Government of India launches “Give It Up” movement in Karnataka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Give it Up** campaign at the annual energy-focused summit **Urja Sangam 2015**. The campaign aims to extort the rich people of society to sacrifice their **liquefied petroleum gas** (LPG) subsidy, which would be utilized in providing subsidized LPG connections to the poor. The movement was formally launched in Karnataka by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradan.

PM Narendra Modi had mentioned that **Give it Up campaign** should be taken up on the lines of Union Governments initiatives like Swacch Bharat and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

The ambitious programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has seen **290,000 consumers** give up their subsidy till now. The minister said ‘**Give It Up**’ initiative has received massive response from the LPG customers across the country. The ministry is targeting 10 million subscribers to join the scheme in one year, Pradhan said and added that the subsidy amount so saved would be in the order of **Rs 3,000 crore**.

### Manohar Parrikar undocks first indigenously-built Scorpene Submarine Kalvari

**Kalvari**, the first of the Indian Navy’s six Scorpene class stealth submarines, was “undocked” at the Mazagaon Dockyard Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, paving the way for sea trials and its eventual commissioning in September, 2016.

- The six Scorpenes are being built by Mazagon Docks Ltd in collaboration with **French firm DCNS**.
- P75(I) is the next project of the Navy under which six submarines will be built in India.

- The first Scorpene submarine has been named after its predecessor, an erstwhile Russian 'Foxtrot' class submarine, Kalvari. It was the first submarine operated by India.
- As for 'Project 75', the remaining five boats would be delivered by the yard by 2020.
- The next five submarines will be rolled out from Mazgaon at intervals of nine months each, starting from September 2016.

Almost all Indians would be evacuated from strife-torn Yemen, **Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar** said as he praised the Navy for facilitating safe return of people from the Arab country where fighting is raging between security forces and Houthi.

### Amazon's Indian largest Fulfilment Centre at Hyderabad

**Amazon**, the american e-commerce major will be setting up India's largest **Fulfilment Centre (FC)** at **Hyderabad**. It has selected the capital of Telangana, Hyderabad (Currently shared by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) due to tax issues in Karnataka state.

The FC will be housed near Kottur, outskirts of Hyderabad spread over 280,000 sq.ft and will be operational this year May. Thereby Amazon wants to ramp up the speedy delivery of products to customers by giving tough competition to the Indian E-commerce giants namely Flipkart and Snapdeal. Last year Amazon pledged **2 Billion USD** funding in Indian to **counter Flipkart's** funding of 1 Billion USD.

### GIFT City hosts India's first IFSC

**GIFT City** abbreviated as Gujarat International Finance Tec-City hosted India's first **IFSC (International Finance Services Center)**. This IFSC became operational from April 11th 2015 as the present Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched it.

He also unveiled the rules and regulations that govern the IFSC's. In the booklet released, the instructions for the IFSC's were presented by RBI (Reserve Bank of India), Sebi (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and IRDA (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

The instructions by each regulator is as follows

#### RBI regulated as follows

- Indian and Foreign banks having presence in India will be allowed to set-up centers in IFSC with capital of **\$20 million**.
- Fore-mostly the banking units wont be allowed to serve individual clients.
- No cash transactions are allowed and non-rupee transactions are allowed.
- CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) and private sector lending wont be allowed.

#### Sebi regulated as follows

- Any Indian Stock exchange or any foreign judiciary stock exchange are allowed to form a subsidiary to provide stock exchange services in IFSC's. The conditions being 51% of paid-up equity share capital held by an exchange and remaining held by an world recognised exchange in any jurisdiction.
- Share holding and profit withholding norms are flexible for stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

- To the extent of liberalized remittance scheme, resident Indians are allowed to trade in IFSC's contracts.
- With net value of \$1 million during the previous year is eligible under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) to invest offshore the funds, but with the limit of liberalized remittance scheme.

#### IRDA regulated as follows

- Every Indian insurer all allowed to set-up an IFSC office in the SEZ (Special Economic Zone).
- Investment of INR 10 crore is needed for foreign insurance and re-insurance companies.
- Re-insurance companies outside India are allowed in the SEZ.

Hasmukh Adia, Financial services secretary briefed that a law is being drafted along with the appointment of a regulator, during the launch function.

#### Foreign funds to Greenpeace NGO blocked for 6 months

The Union Government, blocked the foreign funds flowing into the various accounts of **Greenpeace NGO** and also suspended their license for 6 Months, after the Intelligence Bureau's report that the NGO had not informed authorities about some foreign funds they had received. The government also froze all the 7 of the NGO's accounts.

A notice has been issued to Greenpeace NGO, to justify why their license should not be Permanently Cancelled. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said that, if they do not receive a convincing answer, Greenpeace's License will be cancelled permanently with immediate effect.

In a reply to this, Greenpeace India, said that it will not be cowed down by a Campaign against Dissent and that they are seeking legal counsel over the issue.

#### The Reasons for Blocking Foreign Funds & 6 month License suspension:

- The NGO had not informed the authorities about certain foreign funds it had received recently.
- The NGO has also been accused of preventing Economic Growth in India, by protesting against mining, power plant projects, etc. (eg. Greenpeace India, initiated and organized a protest against a coal mining project at Mahan forests in Singrauli District, Madhya Pradesh, on February 27th 2014.)
- Security Agencies have also reported that around 200 Foreign Doners have used Greenpeace India's donation gateway for Money Laundering.

#### Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar – 124th Birth Anniversary

**14th April**, was the **124th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**. Our President, Shri Pranab Miukherji payed homage to the statue of the 1990 posthumous Bharat Ratna achiever at the Parliament house lawns. The Vice President, Sh. M. Hamid Ansari and various other Political Party leaders paid tribute to his Statue.

Dr. B. Ambedkar, a Socialist and Economic Reformist, campaigned against discrimination of Dalits, caste discrimination, and 'untouchability'. As the **first Law Minister** of Free India and Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, Dr. Ambedkar drafted India's Constitution.



He passed away in 1952, after making high contribution to the formation of India. To mark his 125th birth anniversary, Political Parties have planned year-long celebrations. **Google came up with a doodle to mark** the Birth Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar. The doodle which featured a **picture of Babasaheb**, is said to have been appearing in **7 countries apart from India, in 3 different continents**. Argentina, Chile, India, Ireland, Peru, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom are the countries with the doodle visible on the home page.

### Muslim Girl who won the Bhagavad Gita Competition

**Mariyam Asif Siddiqui**, a Muslim Girl, has won the **first Prize** at an inter-school Bhagavad Gita competition "**Gita Champions League**", organized in Mumbai for the past four years. There were around 45000 students from 195 school, who come from diverse economic, social and religious backgrounds, who participated in the competition organized by **ISKCON**, for explaining the teachings of the scripture in the best possible manner.

The Gita, which is believed to be the divine advice of Lord Krishna, is a 700 Verse Hindu scripture, a part of the great epic, Mahabharata.

### Tourist Visa on Arrival-Electronic Travel Authorization (TvoA-ETA)" scheme

The Government of India has announced a new scheme, which makes it possible for foreign-tourists to obtain Visa-upon-arrival electronically. This is an improvement over the earlier scheme where a tourist visiting India had to obtain the e-Visa before departing from his country. However, the scheme was quite confusing due to its name, which only had TvoA. Many tourists landed in India, hoping to get Visa once they arrive here, which were not the cases.

- The scheme was reviewed in **November-2014** and **64 countries** were included in it.
- Today, the scheme has been **extended to 180-countries** all over the world. With this growth, the inflow of foreign-tourists into the country is expected to grow by almost 60% in the coming seasons.
- Maximum numbers of tourists come from the **United-States of America**.
- They make up almost 24% of the total foreign tourists. The next spot is taken by Republic-of-Korea, with 18.26%

At the initial stage, the **facility was made available in 9** of the Indian-international-Airports. New-Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata are the Metro-Airports. The others are Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Goa and Tiruvanandapuram. The validity of the **Visa is for 30 days** from the date-of-arrival. According to the Planning-minister Mr. Shukla, this scheme does not require the approval of Cabinet.

- A dedicated network of Web-sites is being launched in order to ease the process of Visa-issue upon-arrival.
- Though the scheme has been implemented, in many cases it takes up to 3-days for the e-Visa to be granted. This is being debated to be reduced to same-day-as arrival scheme.
- Russian-Federation takes **third Spot in number** with 14.06% of tourists to India as of today.

### Vividh Bharti finally wakes-up to battle the F.M Competition

The Indian capital city was the busy-hub of activities on Tuesday, as the news that “**Arun Jaitley** launches FM transmission of Vividh Bharati Service of Delhi” started spreading.

The channel will be available in 60-Kms radius around the Delhi-NCR-region. One can access the network through Mobile/smart-Phone, Car/vehicle-Stereo-sets and also the Web. The channel is available at 100.1-MHZ/Medium-Wave-1368-KHZ.

### End of political interference in Indian Judicial-system

The news of **National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014** comes into force is a **big relief** to the Judicial-system in India. The Lok-Sabha had passed the bill collectively on 13-Aug-2014 and Rajya-Sabha had passed it on 14-Aug-2014.

- The act clears the path to transparent-procedures in appointing judges to the **Supreme-court and High-Courts**.
- The independent National-Judicial-Appointment-Commission (**N.J.A.C**) will be responsible for the **Appointments**. It is headed by the Chief-Justice of India
- The other members consist of two senior-most Supreme-Court judges, Union Law-&-Justice Minister, two persons from Prime-Minister’s Committee and the Opposition-party.
- Provisions have been made to include the representation of Scheduled-castes & Tribes in the members-committee. The appointments-procedure will be formulated by the N.J.A.C
- The **Collegium-system** of appointments has literally **come to an end**.

### Major Milestone in Power generation at Tamnar, Chhattisgarh

The State-owned B.H.E.L stated today that the 2,400-M.W Power-project named O.P-Jindal Thermal-Power-Project has been completely commissioned. The project location is in Chhattisgarh’s Raigarh-district, Tamnar.

- B.H.E.L has defined its scope of projects clearly. It includes designing of Power-plants infrastructure & engineering as the main objectives.
- Besides, the company also aims to completely cover the production and erection of heavy-electrical equipmentslike steam-turbines, boilers and power-generators within the facility. This is seen as a big move towards **indigenous development** of heavy-electrical equipments of international-quality standards.
- Monitoring and quality-management of Electro-static-precipitators through instrumentation-technologies is another motive behind taking up this project.
- B.H.E.L has earlier executed **4-power-units of 250-M.W capacity in Raigarh**. They are operational since the year 2007.
- In addition to this, Jindal-Power has given a contract of another **4 units, with 600-M.W capacity-each**.
- B.H.E.L has been bagging many orders from Jindal-Corporation due to its infrastructural and equipments manufacturing capacity with next-to zero power loss features.

## Nation celebrates 162nd year of dedicated services from Indian Railways

The **Indian Railways completes 162 years** in service of the nation today. It also marks the anniversary of the first train-service between Mumbai and Thane-city, which was launched in the British-period in 1853. The ministry-of-railways showed lot of enthusiasm in commemorating the anniversary. It has issued interesting photographs collection from the historical-archives. **The photographs are marked as “162-years of Indian-Railways”**

## Kerala government launches campaign ‘Subodham’

The Kerala Government on Sunday launched a major campaign, **“Subodham”** a campaign to help people overcome alcohol, drugs and other substance abuse in Kerala. This project was launch by the Chief Minister of Kerala, **Oommen Chandy** and the founder of the Art of Living Foundation, **Sri Sri Ravishankar**. This project launch happened in the presence of various religious leaders, student representatives from student organizations and also NGOs working against drug abuse.

“The state government aims to wipe out the menace of substance addiction from our society through ‘Subodham’. If total alcohol prohibition could save the society, the state government is ready to forego the revenue from the sale of liquor that is around **Rs 7,000 crore per annum**,” said the Chief Minister of Kerala, during his speech.

‘Subodham’ has been envisaged to the excise department and it will be worked on and implemented by a high level committee comprising of experts from various different fields. **Excise Minister of Kerala, K. Babu, is the chairman of ‘Subodham’**. The state Education department has also agreed and are taking steps to include anti- drug and alcohol awareness content in the state curriculum.

## Indian Railways embark e-Samiksha for enhanced Railway-project Management

Indian Railways have embarked upon online Railway-project Management software called **“e-Samiksha”**. According to the **Railways-Minister Mr. Suresh Prabhu**, this project will help in better management of many currently running railway projects. This includes operational and financial aspects along with Railway-Budget proposals.

### About e-Samiksha

- Mr. Prabhu termed the software, **developed by N.I.C** is a good beginning.
- Right now, it is being used by the **Cabinet-secretariat, P.M.O and related ministries**.
- The software is capable of monitoring and managing the projects till the implementation-phase.
- The software can also be used for monitoring the targets set for **infrastructure-development**
- In the **administrative side**, it will help in monitoring **Board-meetings** and their subsequent **follow-up**.
- It is **web-enabled** system with simple **user-friendly** features.
- The software has easy **upgrade-options** and connectivity to any third-party tools and applications.

## India ranked 2nd in world on Social-media Cyber attack for 2014

The Internet-Threat Security-report for the year 2014 has listed **India 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the list of most preferred targets for Social-Media based Cyber-attack in the world. **U.S.A ranks first** in the listing. The news has come when social-media is witnessing a rapid growth in India. The scams related to this region rose by 6% in India in 2004. This is higher than **Canada** and **United-Kingdom**.

## BHEL commissions 250-mw thermal power plant

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) one of the leading Power, Engineering, Construction, and Manufacturing Company owned by GOI. On 20th April BHEL has successfully commissioned its 250MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant in “land of legends” Gujarat. BHEL has commissioned the unit at GSECL (Gujarat State Electricity Corp Ltd), Sikka -Thermal Power Station (TPS) which is based on the Engineering Procurement and Construction and is located nearby skirts of Jamnagar which is one of the biggest Industrial Hub of Gujarat.

## Rajya Sabha Passes bill Regarding Rights of Transgenders

For the first time in 45 years, a private members bill protecting and providing **rights for the transgenders**, was passed by **Rajya Sabha** on **24th April 2015**. The bill guarantees reservations in education and jobs, financial help and social inclusion. The Rights of Transgender Persons Bills 2014 makes it easier for a law on the matter in the future. The government gave assurance that it would bring updated Bill in the Lok Sabha. While government accepts the spirit and sentiment of the Bill, the weakness present in it had to be removed.

- The passing of bill was an unanimous decision and very rare thing.
- The bill forecasts creation of national commission for transgender communities.
- The Rights Of Transgender Persons Bill 2014 moved by **Trichy Siva [DMK]** was passed after leader of the house Mr Arun Jaitley also supported for the cause.

The bill was passed by **voice vote** in presence of 19 Union ministers and former Prime Minister Mr Manmohan Singh was also present. **Mr Siva said 29 nations** and leading democracies in the world like Australia, US, UK, Canada, Singapore, France etc has laws protecting the rights of the transgender community. There are 58 clauses and 10 chapters in the Bill illustrating various feature of transgenders from their childhood to their oldage. The last time private member bill passed was way back in 1970.

## India's Ranking in global happiness index is 117 out of 158

People of Bangladesh and Pakistan are much happier when compared to their Indian counterparts as per the reports released by United Nations. India comes in **117th place out of 158 countries**. The report was published by Sustainable Developments Solutions Network or **SDSN** which is a global initiative for United Nations. The report said 2015 year is watershed for Humanity, with the pending adoption by **UN member states** of sustainable development goals in September to help and guide the world people to sustainable way of global development

- The report takes GDP per capita, life expectancy, social support, freedom to make life choices, trust, generosity etc.
- In 2013, India was in 111th position but it has gone down in 2015.
- Pakistan ranks 81 and Bangladesh 109 in the list.
- **Switzerland, is ranked 1** in the list followed by Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Canada.
- Happiness is regarded as the measure of social progress and goal of public policy.
- **USA is ranked 15th** followed by UK at 21, Singapore ranks 24th with Saudi Arabia, Japan and China at 35, 46 and 84 respectively.

Difference in social support, incomes and life expectancy are three main factors. The report from UN also focuses on the mental health and conditions of the world future as embodied in one-third of present global population who are below the age of 18.

## The New CPM General Secretary: Sitaram Yechury

**Sitaram Yechury** has been elected the **General Secretary** of the Communist Party of India-Marxist Party (**CPM**). The senior leader of the party was elected at the six-day 21st congress **meet at Visakhapatnam**. He was proposed by **Prakash Karat**, the out-going General Secretary of CPM party and also by S Ramachandran Pillai, the front-runner who withdrew from the race. Prakash Karat has finished his 3 terms as the general secretary.

He will head the 50 year old CPM party as the **fifth General Secretary**. The meeting also elected the 91 members of the Central Committee which is considered the highest executive body. It also named 5 permanent invitees and 5 special invitees.

Sitaram Yechury after taking charge and introduced a 16-member Politburo.

## Indo-France naval exercise Varuna 14th begins

On 23rd April 2015, India and France began their **14th edition** of 10 day naval exercise "**Varuna**" where 12 Rafale fighter jets seen in full force off **Goa coast** with host of naval assets of both their countries. The edition started with the arrival of 4 French naval ships at Goa which included aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, 2 destroyers Chevalier Paul, Jean de Vienne, replenishment tanker Meuse, and maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique 2.



French aircraft is carrying fighter rapheal M, Strike Aircraft Super Etendard, E2C Hawkeye Airborne Warning And Control systems AWACS— a mobile, long range radar surveillance and control centre for airdefense— helicopters Dauphin and Aloutte 3. India has decided to purchase 36 Rafale fighter aircraft in fly-away condition for Indian Air Force. From Indians side aircraft carrier INS Viraat, destroyer INS Mumbai, Stealth Frigate INS Tarkash, guided missile frigate INS. Gomati, Replenishment tanker INS Deepak, Submarine INS Shankul and few others are taking part.

INS Mumbai and INS Tarkash had come back from Yemen after completing their evacuation works there. Indian Navy and French Navy have been conducting Naval exercises since 1983 itself. After strategic partnership in 1998 the exercises are named as **"VARUNA" in 2001**. Upto now 13 such exercises have been conducted and the last was conducted in Mediterranean sea in France in July 2012.

### **Akraman-11 Defense Exercise by Indian Army in Rajasthan**

Indian Army conducted **Akraman-11** in **Rajasthan**. Chetak Corps conducted this exercise as a part of South Western Command based in Bhatinda in Punjab. The aim of this exercise is to test a new generation of weaponry and platforms in the desert region. **Real time battle and situational awareness** to the commanders formed the main criteria.

In this exercise more than **300 combat vehicles** including Main Battle Tanks, Long Range Artillery Guns took part with 10,000 troops. They also tested the capabilities of Indian Air Force in launching deep insertion of helicopter-borne and airborne army units. The exercise envisaged in bringing about of integrated battle field scenario in network-centric environment. The orchestrated environment was amalgamation of reconnaissance, electronic warfare and surveillance and other communication assets in order to provide real time battle and situational awareness to the commanders.

### **Supreme Court appointed Vivek Priyadarshi to lead the probe on IPL scandal**

The Supreme Court of India (SC) on 17 April 2015 appointed Vivek Priyadarshi to head the team probing the Indian Premier League (IPL) scandal. The decision was taken by a SC bench headed by Justice TS Thakur. At present he is working as a Superintendent of Police (SP) in Central Bureau of India's (CBI) anti corruption unit. He succeeds BB Mishra as the head of the probing team who was retired on 31 March 2015.

### **Indian Railways launched "utsonmobile"**

- The Indian Railways launched "utsonmobile", a mobile application for paperless unreserved tickets.
- Developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), 'utsonmobile' — the paperless unreserved ticketing feature in mobile application aims to eliminate the need for printing of unreserved tickets.

### **Al Jazeera banned in India for 5 days**

- International news channel Al Jazeera was today forced to go off air in India for five days as the government penalized it for repeatedly showing wrong maps of India.

### Indira, Rajiv names dropped from two Hindi awards

- The BJP-led NDA government has dropped the names of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi from two awards for propagating Hindi.
- The 'Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar' and 'Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar', launched more than two decades ago, have given way for 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' and 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar'.
- The two awards have been discontinued by the Union Home Ministry, which instead launched two new schemes for doing outstanding work for promoting the progressive use of official language.

### Fourth Lighthouse Museum of India to be opened at Kannur, Kerala

- The fourth Lighthouse Museum of India will be opened at Kannur, Kerala to promote lighthouse tourism. The Directorate General of Lighthouse and Lightships (DGLL) announced on 14 April 2015 to open the museum by the end of April 2015.
- The other three lighthouses museums have been set up at Alappuzha in Kerala and Chennai and Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu.

### IAS, IPS officers need government nod before accepting gifts of over Rs 5,000

- IAS and IPS officers will now need to take prior permission from the Union government before accepting gifts, including free transportation, boarding and lodging, worth more than Rs 5,000.
- According to the recently amended all-India services rules, they also need to inform the government if they accept gifts of over Rs 25,000 from their relatives or friends.
- No member of the service shall accept any gift without the sanction of the government if the value of the same exceeds Rs 5,000.

### Congress launches website to counter Govt over land bill

- Congress today launched a "Zameen Wapsi" website on the eve of its farmers' rally which is expected to see the first major attack on the government.

### India 5th biggest generator of e-waste in 2014

- India is the fifth biggest producer of e-waste in the world, discarding 1.7 million tonnes (Mt) of electronic and electrical equipment in 2014, a UN report has said warning that the volume of global e-waste is likely to rise sharply by 21 per cent in next three years.
- The 'Global E-Waste Monitor 2014', compiled by UN's think tank United Nations University (UNU), said at 32 per cent, the US and China produced the most e-waste overall in 2014.
- India came in fifth, behind the US, China, Japan and Germany.

### **PM's remarks at foundation stone ceremony of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone of Dr BR Ambedkar International Centre at New Delhi.
- The estimated budget for the international convention centre, museum and library which are going to be built in New Delhi is Rs 198 crore.

### **Tamil Nadu cancels permission for Coca-Cola's Perundurai plant**

- The Tamil Nadu government has cancelled the plots allotted to Coca-Cola's beverages manufacturing facility in the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) Industrial Growth Centre in Perundurai

### **Neyveli Lignite commissions CFBC based power plant after 6 year delay**

- Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) has commenced commercial operations of India's first Circulating Fluidised Bed Combustion (CFBC) Boiler plant in Tamil Nadu.
- The company informed that Unit II (250 MW) of Thermal Power Station – II Expansion project (2X250 MW) at Neyveli, has been successfully declared for commencement of commercial operation with effect from April, 22, 2015.

### **NTCA Approves 2 National Parks As Tiger Reserves**

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved Kudermukh national park in Karnataka and Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand for being announced as tiger reserves.

### **Govt to launch toll free helpline for TB patients**

- The health ministry is set to launch a toll free helpline to reach out to tuberculosis patients across the country.
- Any suspected patient can call or even give a missed call on the helpline number and government health workers will contact the person to check the status of TB as well as provide medical intervention.

### **Union Sports Ministry suspended recognition of Paralympic Committee of India**

- The Union Sports Ministry on 22 April 2015 suspended the recognition of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) with immediate effect.
- It was suspended for poor management and conduct of 15th National Para-Athletics Championships held in Ghaziabad in March 2015.

### **Kerala, Sri Lanka to join hands to promote tourism**

- Kerala Tourism and Sri Lanka have decided to join hands for developing tourism in the region with the latter also considering operation of a cruise ship between Colombo and Kochi.

### **Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting received ISO 9001:2008 certification**

- The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has received an ISO 9001:2008 certification from the British Standards Institute in respect of various permissions and licences issued by it for the broadcasting and print media and films.

### **Earthquake of magnitude 7.9 on the Richter scale struck Nepal**

- A high-intensity earthquake of magnitude 7.9 on the Richter scale struck Nepal on 25 April 2015. The epicenter of the quake was 80km east of Pokhra near Kathmandu, Nepal at a shallow depth of 11 kilometers (7 miles).

### **Japan to host FIFA Club World Cup in 2015 & 2016**

- Japan have been reappointed as hosts of the FIFA Club World Cup for the next two years, the sport's world governing body announced.
- FIFA said the annual tournament would be held in Japan in 2015 and 2016 with this year's edition scheduled for December 10-20.

### **Maharashtra collaborates with Israel on Smart Cities**

- In a key stride in collaboration between the State and Israel, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai agreed to cooperate in building smart cities.
- The two parties-Maharashtra government and Municipality of Tel Aviv-agreed to discuss common challenges faced by modern cities and possible solutions.

### **Union government cancels licences of 9,000 NGOs**

- The Union government has cancelled licences of nearly 9,000 Non-Governmental Organisations for violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

### **Delhi government approved farmer compensation scheme named after Gajender Singh**

- Government of Delhi gave its approval for setting up of a farmer compensation scheme named after Gajendra Singh. Gajendra Singh is the person who allegedly committed suicide during an AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) rally on 22 April 2015 by hanging himself with a tree.

- The decision on name of the scheme was taken during a Cabinet meet chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. As per reports, the state government will distribute compensation to rain-hit farmers from first week of May 2015.

### **Govt approves Rs 1,000 min monthly pension in perpetuity.**

- Government today decided to continue its Rs 1,000 per minimum monthly pension scheme in perpetuity, a move which would benefit over 20 lakh pensioners under social security scheme run by EPFO.

### **Union Government extends e-Tourist Visa scheme to 31 more countries**

- Union Government has extended e-Tourist Visa scheme to 31 more countries with an effect from 31 May 2015.
- In this regard, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a notification. With this the total number of countries under the scheme has gone up to 76.
- The 31 countries are: Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Bahamas, Bolivia, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Chile, Cayman Island, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Estonia, El Salvador, Ecuador, France, Grenada, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Vatican, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Nicaragua, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis Paraguay, and Seychelles.

### **India ranks 13th in generating power from nuclear source**

- India stands at the 13th place world-wide in generating electricity from nuclear source and expects to increase the installed nuclear power capacity from 5,780 MW to 10,080 MW by 2019.

### **Mamata declares Nadia first 'open defecation-free' district in India**

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared Nadia as the first Open Defecation Free (ODF) district in the country.
- Thanking UNICEF and the World Bank for helping the district achieve this feat, Ms. Banerjee declared April 30 as the "Nirmal Bangla Diwas" to be observed in the years to come.
- UNICEF India representative David Mcloughlin congratulated the people of the district for achieving the goal.

### **Govt withdraws PDMA, RBI Bill provisions from Finance Bill**

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley withdrew the clauses from the Finance Bill pertaining to setting up of the proposed Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA) and the amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act.
- The government in consultation with the RBI will prepare a detailed roadmap separating the debt management function and the market infrastructure from the RBI.
- The entire chapter on PDMA (Chapter VII) in the Finance Bill is being dropped, in addition to the changes proposed in sections 45U and 45W of the RBI Act.
- Having an independent debt management office is also the best international practice in countries like US and UK neither public debt is managed by central bank nor is regulation of GSec, Currency and Derivative with the central bank.



## India, Japan ink action agenda to boost trade, investment

India and Japan on Thursday signed an action agenda for boosting investment and trade. Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoichi Miyazawa signed the action agenda for India-Japan investment and trade promotion and Asia-Pacific economic integration.

The five agenda points included in the action agenda are:

- Development of selected townships in India as Japanese industrial townships.
- Promotion of investment and infrastructure development.
- Further development and cooperation in information technology.
- Enhancing cooperation in strategic sectors.
- Asia-Pacific economic integration.

## RBI fines three govt-run banks for violating KYC norms

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 crore each on Dena Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and Oriental Bank of Commerce and cautioned eight other public sector banks following its investigation into last year's fixed deposit fraud.

The fixed deposit fraud involved the perpetrators forging fixed deposit certificates of large organizations and misusing cash credit facilities against them. The fraud, which ran into several hundred crores, affected organizations such as Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, South Indian Education Society and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.

The banks cautioned by the RBI are Central Bank of India, Bank of India, Punjab and Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India and Vijaya Bank.

# International Affairs

## Muhammadu Buhari elected as the new President of Nigeria

**General Muhammadu Buhari** defeated **President Goodluck Jonathan** and become the **President of Nigeria**. Buhari became the first Nigerian to oust a president through the ballot box. Jonathan had seized the power three decades back in a military coup. Goodluck Jonathan's **People's Democratic Party (PDP)** has been in charge since the end of army rule in 1999 but had been losing popularity due to corruption scandals and the rise of Boko Haram's Islamist insurgency in the northeast.

The National Democratic Institute, which sent a monitoring team to Nigeria, said that "*Nigerians showed perseverance, creativity and discipline*". In the last election, allegations of vote-rigging around Buhari's loss to Jonathan set off a wave of violence that left around 800 people dead.

## Top Ten most Dangerous Countries in the World

The United States based think-tank named **IntelCenter** has released the list of the 10 most dangerous countries in the world, based on the **Country Threat Index (CTI)**, which examines the terrorist and rebel activity in a country over the past 30 days (till 8 March).

IntelCenter's Country Threat Index (CTI) examines,

- The volume of terrorist and rebel alerts
- Messaging traffic
- Videos and photos
- Incidents and the number killed and injured in a country

The higher the CTI the greater the risk.

## The Top Most Dangerous Countries in the World

Rank	Country	CTI	Major Threat
1	Iraq	811	ISIS
2	Syria	717	Civil War
3	Nigeria	273	Boko Haram
4	Somalia	257	Al Shabab
5	Afghanistan	186	Taliban
6	Libya	157	Civil War
7	Yemen	132	Houthi Rebels
8	Pakistan	122	Terrorism
9	Ukraine	103	Pro-Russian Rebels
10	Egypt	72	Political Instability

## India ranks 119 in FM Global Business Resilience Index

In the recently released **FM Global Business Resilience Index**, India has been ranked to **119th position out of 130 countries**. The Index measures business resilience of countries based on economic, risk quality and supply chain factors. The Index provides powerful insights to assist the business executives all over the world to target their investments towards more genuine returns and also to protect their customers from unexpected disruption. The 2015 FM Global Resilience Index has been excelled by **Norway**.

The Index used nine key drivers that are categorized into three factors. They are,

1. **Economic Productivity (India's rank – 115)**
2. **Risk Quality (India's rank – 109)**
3. **Supply Chain to assess business resilience of the countries (India's rank – 89).**

The report states that despite India's huge economic potential, the country is placed at the **119th position** because one third of India's population is still living below the poverty line. India was ranked **112 in 2014 FM Global Business Resilience Index**. At the 123rd rank, Pakistan is in the bottom 10 countries on the index. **Venezuela** is ranked last on the list.

The top 10 countries are,

1. **Norway**
2. **Switzerland**
3. **Netherlands**
4. **Ireland**
5. **Luxembourg**
6. **Germany**
7. **Qatar**
8. **Canada**
9. **Finland**
10. **United States**

## Social Progress Index (SPI) Rankings

Social progress index (**SPI**) rankings were released on 133 countries based on indicators like health, sanitation, water, personal freedom and other social and environmental indicators. **India secured the 101st spot**, lower than the 93rd spot for GDP per capital income. **Norway claimed the first spot** while US secured the 16th position.

With indicator Tolerance and inclusion, India ranked 128th position and with Health and Wellness parameter it secured 120th position. The top five positions of the SPI rankings were secured by Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Iceland and New Zealand respectively.

### Miss India UAE Crowned to Nivetha Pethuraj

Chennai based **Nivetha Pethuraj** has been crowned as **Miss India UAE** at the Al Raha Beach Hotel in **Abu Dhabi** April 11th 2015. The 23 year old won the Miss India UAE Pageant by beating 15 contestants. The contest was attended by single Indian women with ages between 18 and 25 years residing in UAE.

The second runner-up was awarded to Ms Arora while Stephanie Lahole was awarded the first runner-up. Nivetha Pethuraj is to represent the UAE (United Arab Emirates) at the Miss India Worldwide competition to be held in Mumbai this 2015 September. Each contestant spent almost one week training for the Miss India UAE pageant with 12 hours long sessions.

### Pyongyang extends “hands of friendship” to India

**Ri Su Yong**, the Foreign Minister of North Korea, visited India. It has been more than **two-decades** since a Korean Foreign-Minister visited India. Ri became the first North Korean foreign minister to visit India in at **least 25 years**(although Kim Yong-il, the North Korean vice foreign minister, visited India in 2007 and 2009).

- Many critical international-issues were discussed between the Indian-Counter-part **Ms. Sushma Swaraj**. **Pyongyang’s nuclear-program**, peace and stability in the Korean-region were some of the global-issues discussed.
- The total trading-transactions between India and North-Korea today are roughly around **500-Million USD-Annually**.
- **Denuclearization-program** was one of the top-agendas in the bilateral-dialogues between the two sides.

### About North-Korean Nuclear-program

- For a long time, North-Korea has been under the international-embargo for its alleged nuclear-weapons program. In the year 2009 however, the country formally declared that it does possess nuclear-weapons, a great irritating factor for the United-States.
- **In 2013, Pyongyang was caught conducting a nuclear-weapon testing**. This was supposed be its third testing.
- The economical-embargo on the country still continues.

### India’s relations with Pyongyang

- Historically, India and North-Korea have relations since **48-B.C. Queen-Suro had visited “Ayodhya” at that time**.
- Trading relations between the two countries have been growing steadily.

- India has also been contributing to the **North-Korean Food-aid program since 2002.**

### Indian-origin Satya Nadella tops global CEO pay chart

**Satya Nadella**, CEO of Microsoft, has emerged as the **Top Paid CEO in the US**, in a survey conducted recently. The Indian Origin CEO of Microsoft, Satya Nadella, gets a pay package of **\$84.3 million (Rs. 525 crore)** a year from the technology giant, Microsoft.

The **Equilar 100 CEO Pay Study**, A study that analysis the Salaries of CEO's at the 100 Largest public Sector US Companies in terms of revenue, has placed Satya Nadella at the first place. Last year, in the survey, Oracle's Larry Ellison topped the list. This year he has been pushed to the second position by Satya Nadella. CEO of PepsiCo, Indra Nooyi, who is also of Indian Origin, is ranked 19th with \$19.08 million.

Equilar said that this year, the median pay for 100 CEOs was \$14.3 Million, which has seen a rise of 5 Percent from the last year. While the Base salaries for the top 100 CEOs ranged from \$7.1 Million for Rupert Murdoch at 21st Century Fox to nil for Richard Fairbank at Capital One.

### Indian Heavy-Electrical technology giant sets foot in Kazakhstan

**BHEL** and Russian firm **INTMA** inked MOU to set up agas-based power project in Kazakhstan. The understanding pact is **aimed** at utilizing the designing and development skill-sets of the Indian company, and the procurement capabilities of the Kazakhstan Company to construct high-tension power-stations. The projects will be taken up in Russia and Kazakhstan regions.

This is a good opportunity for B.H.E.L to expand its presence in the Common-wealth of Independent-States. INTMA-Group has its presence even in Europe. Its contracting capabilities in Turn-Key projects can help B.H.E.L in gaining a firm foothold in this region also.

"The two parties will endeavour to assist each other in the implementation of this MoU. For us, this is a great opportunity to expand our footprint in the CIS region," BHEL Chairman and Managing Director BP Rao said.

- BHEL is currently executing **23 major projects in 16 countries** and has a presence in more than 75 countries.
- INTMA is one of the leading general Engineering Procurement and Construction contractors (EPC) in Russia and Kazakhstan, with wide experience in industrial construction, renovation of facilities, automation and other energy related sectors, BHEL added.

### Raja Rajeshwari becomes New York's first Indian American judge

**Raja Rajeshwari** became the first Indian American **criminal court judge** in **New York City**. She is **from Chennai** and went to America when she was 16 years old and Now she is 43 years old. She is an assistant district attorney at the Richmond County District Attorney's office for 16 years.

She was nominated by Mayor Bill de Blasio. There are two male judges in civil court currently who are Indian descent- Jaya Madhavan in New york City Housing Court in Bronx Country and Anil C. Singh in New York County Supreme Court.

Besides this, Raja Rajeshwari is a Bharat Natyam and Kucchipudi dancer and she performs with her group in temples and Indian events. She has a dance academy named Padmalaya Dance Academy which is named after her mother Padma Ramanathan.

### Yale University Names 2 Indians in 2015 World Fellows

Yale University of USA has names two Indians in the 2015 World Fellows. **Zeena Johar**, **Sugha Vazhvu** Healthcare Founder and journalist cum author **Rahul Pandita** are the two Indians named by the prestigious US University. The both will arrive in the University for a four month for training on leadership and academic enrichment.

Zeena Johar founded the SughaVazhvu Healthcare (SVHC) & IKP Centre for Technologies in Public Health (ICTPH) to initiate a primary-care delivery network through rural clinics in the country. She operates nine rural clinics in Tamil Nadu. Rahul Pandita is an awardee of International Red Cross Award for conflict reporting.

Yale World Fellowship program is Yale University's unique global leadership development creativity and a nucleus element of the university's in progress commitment to internationalisation.

### China Pakistan to tie up with CPEC agreements getting signed today

Chinese President **Xi Jinping** is expected to sign a landmark **CPEC (China – Pakistan Economic Corridor)** agreement worth **USD 46 Billion** in his maiden visit to Pakistan. He arrived at Islamabad today. Expectations are high that we will be signing other agreements with Pakistan to bolster their **all-weather strategic ties**. This deal will not only stabilize Pakistan's cash-strapped economy, but also will expand the communist giant China's influence in India's neighborhood.

This CPEC will link China's underdeveloped far western region of the country to the Pakistan's **Gwadar deep-sea port** on the Arabian Sea, via PoK. This is planned to be done by building of a complex network of roadways, railways, pipelines and business zones in the region. When the Chinese President's flight entered Pakistani Airspace, a fleet of eight JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, ones which are jointly manufactured by Pakistan and China, escorted the President to the Islamabad Airbase. A red-carpet welcome was arranged for the Chinese President. This is Chinese President **Xi's first foreign trip** for this year 2015, after he had cancelled all his previous trips.

Xi is said to meet his Pakistan counterpart **Mamnoon Hussain** who will be hosting a lunch in his honour and he will also give '**Nishan-e-Pakistan**' Award, Pakistan's highest civilian award to the Chinese President. There is said to also be talks on an agreement for the exchange of prisoners on his visit to Pakistan.

### Pakistan confers highest civilian award on Chinese president

Pakistan government on Tuesday, 21st April, conferred the country's top most civilian award named **Nishan-e-Pakistan** to the **President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping**, for his exceptional contribution in actively encouraging relationship between the two countries. It was at the president house, that the award giving function took place, where the **Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain** bestowed the award on the 61-year old Chinese president.



The award function was attended by **Pakistan Prime minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif**, Federal Ministers, members of National Assembly and Senate, some Chinese representatives and other important dignitaries. Mr Xi, also general secretary of the ruling communist party, was given warm welcome in the president's house in a small open top motor vehicle drawn by horses. Mr Xi Jinping held bilateral talks with the Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain. Grand lunch was hosted by the Pakistan President for the Chinese President. Mr Xi, in his first visit to Pakistan, unveiled a **\$46 billion** corridor project.

### Indian-US Vivek Murthy oath as US Surgeon General

On 23rd April 2015, **Indian-American Dr Vivek Murthy**, just 37 years of age, was sworn in as **US Surgeon General** by Vice President Joe Biden at a function in **Virginia**. He is now the youngest ever in-charge of US public health. Dr Vivek Murthy who took the oath on Gita, is the highest ranking Indian-American in Obama's government. Speaking on the occasion from Fort Myer military base in Virginia, Dr Vivek Murthy said it was extraordinary honour and responsibility to serve as Surgeon-General.

He also thanked Mr Obama for assigning him this post. **Dr Vivek Murthy is country's 19th Surgeon General**. As the US Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy carries the rank of Vice Admiral. Health Secretary Sylvia Burwell also participated in the event. Vivek Murthy thanked profusely all his family members for extending great support to him in reaching this top position in his life. In his first major speech, Vivek Murthy solemnly promised to improve the public health of the country. Dr Vivek Murthy is nominated by American president Obama and confirmed by majority vote of senate and has **term of four years**.

### Historic Heritage Tower Collapses in Nepal

It's the sad end to Nepal's famous heritage site, **Dharahara Tower**, as it collapsed after an earthquake on Saturday, 25th April 2015. The **9 storied tower** was one of Kathmandu's famous tourists attractions. It was built in **1832 in 19th century**. The tower, white in colour and topped with bronze minaret with spiral type staircases was reduced to debris after an earthquake of **magnitude 7.9** struck Nepal.

- **Durbar Square**, centre of Kathmandu is filled with rubble after the earthquake.
- Complex above the city, a major holiest site of Buddhism was also in shambles.
- It's said more than 2500 people had lost their lives in the earthquake.
- The Dharahara Tower offered panoramic view of **Kathmandu valley**.
- At Kathmandu's main hospital, there were many people with broken limbs being rushed for treatment.
- Volunteers and crowd formed human chains to help the ambulances in taking the injured people to the hospital.

Durbar Square, located in the heart of bustling capital, was captured so beautifully in the famous 1983 Hindi movie *Mahaan* featuring Amitabh Bachchan and Zeenat Aman.

### **Seychelles becomes 161st member of World Trade Organisation**

Seychelles, an archipelago of 90000 inhabitants became the 161st member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is one of the smallest nations among the WTO members. This approval by WTO ended Seychelles 20-year long wait to become a member of WTO since it had applied for WTO membership in May 1995.

### **Nursultan A Nazarbayev re-elected as President of Kazakhstan**

The incumbent President of Kazakhstan Nursultan A Nazabayev was on 27 April 2015 re-elected as president for the fifth successive term. Nazarbayev has been governing the country since the Soviet Union (or USSR) collapsed in early 1991.

### **Barack Obama Remove cuba from state Sponsor of Terror List**

- President Barack Obama will remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, the White House announced
- Cuba will officially be removed from the terror list 45 days after the president's message was sent to Congress.
- Cuba was designated a state sponsor of terror in 1982

### **UN peace envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar, has resigned.**

- The Moroccan diplomat had been UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special envoy for Yemen since 2012.
- Benomar's departure came after the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for the swift resumption of peace talks and an end to violence in Yemen.
- Mauritanian diplomat **Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed**, who currently heads the UN Ebola mission in Accra may take his place.

### **Pakistan and Russia agreed to hold first-ever joint military exercise**

- Pakistan and Russia have agreed to hold first-ever joint military exercises as part of their enhanced defence cooperation, in a sign of increasing bonhomie between the Cold War-era adversaries.
- Pakistan Defence Minister : Khawaja Asif
- Russian Defence Minister : Sergei Shoigu

### **Chhurim Sherpa, first woman to climb the Everest summit twice in a week**

- Chhurim Sherpa, first woman to climb the 8850 metre (29035 feet) Mount Everest summit twice in a week was in news on 19 April 2015. Sherpa was in news as during her third ascent to Mount Everest she will take a cricket bat and two jerseys of deceased Australian cricketer Phil Hughes.

- The belongings of Hughes are being carried to the summit as a mark of tribute to the player. He died in November 2014 after he was hit on the back of his head by a ball while batting during a domestic match in Sydney.
- Chhurim under this expedition will carry the items to the top and back to Kathmandu, where they will be kept at the Australian embassy.

### **Abhishek Bachchan campaigns for UK general elections**

- Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan visited Leicester in the UK to support the election campaign of Indian-origin Member of Parliament (MP) Keith Vaz who was officially nominated as the local Labour Party candidate for the upcoming polls.

### **India Shifts Embassy From Sana'a to Djibouti**

- India has shifted its embassy to Djibouti after a conclusion of the process to evacuate Indian nations from Yemen's capital Sana'a

### **Former Egyptian president Mursi jailed for 20 years**

- An Egyptian court sentenced ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi to 20 years in prison on Tuesday for abuses against protesters but acquitted him of charges carrying a possible death penalty.

### **South Korean President Accepts Resignation of PM**

- South Korea's president accepted the resignation of her prime minister on Monday over a bribery scandal.
- Prime Minister Lee Wan Koo offered to resign last week, just two months after taking the country's No. 2 post.
- He has been at the heart of a corruption scandal involving a dead businessman and other high-profile figures, mostly close associates of President Park Geun-hye.

### **Omar al-Bashir wins Sudan elections**

- Sudan's president Omar al-Bashir was re-elected on Monday with 94.5% of a vote boycotted by major opposition parties and denounced by western governments as lacking credibility.
- Al-Bashir, who took power in a bloodless Islamist coup in 1989, is the only sitting head of state facing genocide charges at the International Criminal Court.

### **Mohammed bin Nayef appointed as Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia by King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud**

- Mohammed bin Nayef was appointed as Crown Prince and as Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia by King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud.

- This appointment relieved Crown Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz from his duties and comes during a major Cabinet reshuffle.
- Prior to this appointment he was Interior Minister of the kingdom. While King's son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was appointed Deputy Crown Prince.

## Business & Finance & Economy

### MUDRA – Banking The Unbanked

Prime minister shri.Narandra Modi launched the MUDRA bank today in new delhi . Micro units development & refinance agency ltd(MUDRA) will refinance the micro finance institutions through pradan mantra mudra yojana.

Mudra will also act as a regulator for micro finance institutions. The bank is launched with a corpus of **Rs20,000 crore** and a credit guarantee corpus of **Rs 3000 crore**. This move will increase the number of entrepreneurs and small businesses. The bank night benefit some **58 million small and medium businesses** in the country.

The objectives of MUDRA are

- To be an financial & support service provider for the micro enterprises & help in economic development.
- Creating good architecture of last mile financiers to micro businesses.
- Promoting right technology solutions for financial delivery to the last mile.
- Providing door step credit at lower cost.

### World Bank predicts India's growth at 8% in 2017

World Bank head **quartered in Washington D.C.** has predicted that India's **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** will grow to **8% in 2017**. The growth is aided by investments to the country and also slump in oil prices.

According to the World Bank's semi-annual report, it quoted that GDP of India will touch **7.5% in 2015-16** and accelerate to **8% in the fiscal year 2016-17**. The bank's South Asia's Focus Report has calculated that there will be increase region's growth from 7% in 2015 to 7.6% in 2017 with factors of strong investment and increased consumption. The Bank said that Oil price slump has aided the South Asia greatly in reducing their fiscal deficit and lowering of domestic prices.

Jim Yong Kim has called for a 5 point plan to reduce carbon growth, by removing subsidies to fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. He insisted on Carbon taxes, in-order to encourage cleaner energy technology. He also quoted that the richest 20% consumed 6 times more fossil fuels through subsidies than the poorest 20% in low and middle-income countries.

## Royal Dutch Shell Plc Acquired BG group

The **Royal Dutch Shell Plc**, acquired the **BG Group** for about **70 Billion US Dollars**, making this the largest **energy deal** of the Year. This deal would mean that Shell would go far ahead of its rivals like Exxon Mobil Corp and Chevron Corp, in the race to build market share for **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**. This deal is the most aggressive step in the competition towards the lead supplier of LNG.

LNG, which is a Chilled form of Natural Gas used for electricity generation and home heating, is a clean burning fuel which can substitute for coal and other polluting fuels in the developing world. The acquisition of the BG group, has given a way for Royal Dutch Shell Plc to become the top foreign firm in India's vast gas import and marketing business segment.

## Indian Heavy-Electrical technology giant sets foot in Kazakhstan

**BHEL** and Russian firm **INTMA** inked MOU to set up **gas-based power project in Kazakhstan**. The understanding pact is **aimed** at utilizing the designing and development skill-sets of the Indian company, and the procurement capabilities of the Kazakhstan Company to construct high-tension power-stations. The projects will be taken up in Russia and Kazakhstan regions.

This is a good opportunity for B.H.E.L to expand its presence in the Commonwealth of Independent States. INTMA-Group has its presence even in Europe. Its contracting capabilities in Turn-Key projects can help B.H.E.L in gaining a firm foothold in this region also.

“The two parties will endeavour to assist each other in the implementation of this MoU. For us, this is a great opportunity to expand our footprint in the CIS region,” BHEL Chairman and Managing Director BP Rao said.

- BHEL is currently executing **23 major projects in 16 countries** and has a presence in more than 75 countries.
- INTMA is one of the leading general Engineering Procurement and Construction contractors (EPC) in Russia and Kazakhstan, with wide experience in industrial construction, renovation of facilities, automation and other energy related sectors, BHEL added.

## Indian Government wells on Disinvestment Drives

The News “**Govt to divest 15% stake in MMTC; to fetch about Rs 800 crore**” has come in at a time when the SEBI instructions on Public-Sector-Unit(P.S.U) share holdings is about to take effect. SEBI has ruled that at least 25% of the stakes in the P.S.U should be made public. As of now, the government-share is 89.93%.

By disinvesting 15% of its stake, the government hopes to earn 800-Core rupees to its exchequer within the current-financial-year. This will also help the government in moving towards its **disinvestment target of 41,000-Cores**, which has been fixed for the current fiscal-year. In the year 2013, the government had sold 9.33%-stakes. It yielded around 570-crores to the government exchequer. There have been around 12 P.S.U.s which have been listed by the government for disinvestment purposes. It is seen as reducing the burden on the government's exchequer, as well as increase the participation of public in the affairs of P.S.U.

## RBI grants banks freedom to fix Interest rates for term-deposits above Rs.15-Lakhs

RBI allows **differential interest rate** for term deposits above **Rs. 15 lakh** flows in, the banks might get a sigh of relief. It is reported that this facility would give the banks flexible-options for increasing their transactions and show profitability-reports in the long run.

**There are certain restrictions also imposed by the R.B.I in this regard.**

- Deposits up to Rupees-15-Lakhs should be given an option for **premature-withdrawals**, whether the bank-account is in individual-name or a Joint-account.
- For the term-deposits above rupees-15-lakhs, the banks can offer options to their customers. They can choose between **premature-withdrawal and non-withdrawal options**.
- The banks are supposed to submit a detailed report regarding the interest-rate-slabs, which they have fixed for the term-deposits to the R.B.I. This has to be done well in advance. However, the details about the intimation-period and other regulations have not been disclosed yet.
- The banks are expected to form a policy, approved by the board of directors in this regard, which will have to be clearly stated to the customers also. The **policies should be transparent and available** for R.B.I verification at any point of time.
- This dramatically changes the existing format where the banks are allowed to have flexible-interest-rates for term-deposits of 1-crore and above.

## Ten MoUs signed on final day of Naidu China visit

Andhra Pradesh and India scored a major win in the technical and political field with **Ten MoUs** signed on final day of N. Chandrababu Naidu's China visit. He was on a 6-day official-visit. **5 of them** were between the **Government and Businesses (G2B)** while the other **5 were Business-to-Business understandings**.

- The G2B understanding covered were mostly concerned with solar power production. The B2B section was dominated by the Indian Company **K.S.E.Z (G.M.R) & Hangzhou Huatong Inc** of China. This was for the commissioning of Toy-manufacturing-plant at the Kakinada Special-Economic-Zone of G.M.R.
- Before that, Mr. Naidu held a meeting with **Chinese business delegates at Shanghai**. He disclosed his detailed plans of converting Andhra-Pradesh into a electronic-manufacturing-hub.
- He has given assurances to the Chinese Business firms that all the infra-structural elements like Industrial-Land, Water and power-supply lines and other facilities will be made available to them without any hassles.
- **T.C.L, leading Chinese Company**, specialized in manufacturing of Electronic and Electrical-appliances like Mobile-sets, washing-machines etc has expressed its genuine desire in setting up its plants in Andhra Pradesh.
- Mr. Naidu also expressed his desire to tie-up with Jiangsu, a Chinese province which is famous for construction technologies. He wanted to convert Hyderabad and Amravati into a **city of Iconic-Buildings**.

## Toppr.com has acquired EasyPrep for an undisclosed amount

Online test preparation platform **Toppr.com** has acquired **EasyPrep** for an undisclosed amount. The Mumbai based Toppr.com was founded by **Zishaan Hayath and Hemanth Goteti**, both IIT Bombay graduates in 2013, and is aided by private equity firms like SAIF Partners and Helion Venture Partners. It raised close to \$2 million in 2014.



EasyPrep, also a platform founded by ex-IITians **Vivek Sharma and Ankit Saraswat**, is a online/offline platform where teachers, schools and educational institutes can prepare exam papers for classroom teaching, assignments and providing an aid for students to prepare for competitive examinations.

With EasyPrep.'s team on their side, Toppr.com feels they can do much more in improving the service they provide to the Students to face Competitive examinations and make their stand firm in the industry. The students signing in for the entrance exam preparation within the 12<sup>th</sup> grade is valued at \$8 Billion and there is a growth of 20% every year, Toppr .com says. And also they get more than 40% of their students from smaller cities and that is their main market area.

### Emirates NBD ties with ICICI Bank for DirectRemit

**ICICI bank** one of the largest private sector banks has added another milestone to its journey by tying up with **Emirates NBD** a leading UAE bank for the instant money transfer services for the Indians residing in UAE.

#### DirectRemit Service:

DirectRemit is a very innovative remittance facility that allows the customers to carry out transfer facilitates instantly to any bank account in India.

#### Benefits:

- Customer can avail this facility through Online or mobile banking
- No Fees
- Instant Transfer to any account in India
- Customers can also avail the ATM facility of Emirates NBD.

#### EMIRATES NBD:

- EMIRATES NBD is a leading bank in the Middle east was established in 2007 with a merger between Emirates Bank International and the National Bank of Dubai with an objective become a Banking leader. During the merger both EBI and NBD were the second and fourth largest banks of UAE.
- **Headquarters** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Bharti Retail and Future Group to Merge

**Bharti Retail** which is a subsidiary of the Bharti Airtel and Kishore Biyani led **Future Group** are possibly going in for a tie up, which is going to be the largest recent tie up in the retail sector. Developments and talks towards this merge have been going on for the past 2 months.

A multi-structured deal which has been based on share swap between the two partners has been planned, after which Future Group will become the majority partner. The Mittals of the Bharti group are expected to receive minority stakes in the combined entity or in the Kishore Biyani-promoted Future Group.

### MakeMyTrip has acquired Mygola, the travel-web application development company

**MakeMyTrip**, an **online travel bureau** said today that it has **completely acquired Mygola**, a mobile and smart-Phone application development company. The acquisition has been made possible through the

**Innovation-Fund** allocated by the company. According to MakeMyTrip, the fund allocation is created in order to allow investments in start-up and Small-Cap companies belonging to the world of Tours & Travel.

**Mr. Deep Karla**, the C.E.O of MakeMyTrip said that the **acquisition is 100%** and the complete Mygola team has joined MakeMyTrip now. However, he did not disclose any finance-related details and MakeMyTrip's seventh overall acquisition and third of an Indian company.

### **Bharatiya Mahila Bank inks MoUs with LIC, New India Assurance**

To provide insurance covers to its many accounts holders, **Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB)** had entered MoU or memorandum of understanding with **New India Assurance Company** and **Life Insurance Corporation Of India[LIC]**. The insurance covers are given under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevanjyoti Bima Yojana schemes respectively. The insurance is mainly voluntary one with the premium amount of Rs 12 for PM Jan Suraksha Bima Yojana and Rs330 for Jeevanjyoti Bima Yojana.

The eligible age for the Suraksha Bima Yojana scheme is 18 to 70years and that of Jeevanjyoti Bima Yojana is 18 to 50years and the enrolment time starts from 1st june 2015 and ends on 31august 2015.

### **World Bank established Pollution Management and Environmental Health program**

**Pollution Management And Environment program[PMEH]** was established by World Bank on 18th of April 2015. The program was set in motion on Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day in Washington D.C. The main aim of this program will be air quality management in countries facing urbanisation and requirement for pollution removal and the program also aims in dealing with land and water pollution.

Forty Five million american dollar PMEH programme will **first run from 2015 to 2020**. The program will target air quality management in five main urban areas in countries like **India,China, Nigeria,Egypt and South Africa**. PMEH,a new multi-donor Trust Fund, will also support other countries and Sub-Sahara Africa.

Pollution plays important factor in the death of 9million people every year and it can be prevented. Statistics show that 7million people were killed by diseases related to both indoor and outdoor pollution in the year 2012. Objectives of this health program also includes creating new information about pollution and its effects in urban,rural and marine areas and to develop consciousness among public,policy makers, stake holders etc

Government officials joined hands with some top musicians all over the world and took pledge in improving people's health by ending pollution at Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day event on the US National Mall in Washington D.C. Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day was organised by Earth Day Network and Global Poverty Project to mark the 45th year of Earth Day foundation. The event aimed to educate people to support development and environment problems and finally as a process of initiation of PMEH programs.

### **RBI revises norms for priority sector lending**

India's leading bank, **Reserve Bank Of India**, on **thursday 23rd April 2015**, had revised the priority sector lending norms that directs banks to lend certain division by prescribing targets as a percentage. The main goal behind this is to boost **credit flow** to farmers, exports, education, small firms etc.

- All the banks have to **lend** atleast **40%** of their net credit to priority sector.
- Those foreign banks with less than 20 branches would touch the target by 2020 and those foreign banks with more than 20 branches already have priority sector targets and sub-targets for agriculture and other weaker sections.
- New norms require banks to ensure that **8%** of their loans go to **small farmers** etc
- RBI has asked banks to achieve this in phased way like **7% by March 2016 and 7.5% by March 2017**
- Loan limits for housing loans and MFI loans under priority sector have also been revised.
- To achieve these targets, RBI would release some guidelines for priority sector and these guidelines would give banks some freedom to achieve their priority sector targets.
- Bank loans to food and other agro processing units would form a part of agriculture and export credit upto 32% will be eligible as part of priority sector for foreign banks .
- For other banks it would be upto 2%.

### Adani Power takes over Lanco Infra's UDUPI Plant

**Adani power Ltd (A.P.L)** has said that it has completely taken over the **Udupi based power plant** owned by **Lanco**, a Hyderabad based company. The deal is said to be worth **INR 6,300-Crore**. This is considered to be one among the largest acquisitions in the field of Thermal-Power in India. **Adani** is said to have **acquired all the shares** related to the **Udupi-Power-Corporation Ltd(U.P.C.L)**

#### About U.P.C.L

- U.P.C.L has 2×600 power project in the city of Udupi in Karnataka.
- The plant was constructed with invest of I.N.R 60,020-million. It is located at 35Kms away from Mangalore.
- It supplies around 90% of its generated power to Karnataka. The other 10% is shared by Punjab.
- It uses 100%-Imported-Coal fuel. It is the first plant in India to do so.

### Asian Banker Achievement Award 2015 given to Bharatiya Mahila Bank

The Asian Banker Achievement Award 2015 is won by **Bharatiya Mahila Bank**. At a function held in **HongKong** on 23rd April 2015, as a part of Asian Banker Summit 2015, the Chairman and Managing director of Bharatiya Mahila Bank, Mrs Usha Ananthasubramanian received that award. BMB was given the award in the **technology implementation category** of Best Outsourcing Project[New Bank].

- The main aim of this BMB is to focus on banking needs of women and to promote economic empowerment.
- Gender related issues are also in the agenda and will be helpful in financial inclusion.
- **1000crore seed-capital** for the bank had been approved by the Union Government for the year 2013/14.
- Seed capital is the funding needed to get new business started.

### No rate reduction by 70 banks despite 2 cuts by RBI

Benefit to the customers have not been passed by the **70 banks** from RBI two rate cuts till now in 2015. Repo rate was cut by 0.25% by Reserve Bank Of India in 2015 in January and further 0.25% on march 2015.

Totally there are 91 commercial banks in India. Out of those only 21 banks had lowered the base rate. This information was given by Minister of State for Finance Mr Jayant Sinha.

- The banks include 4 public sector banks, 6 private sector banks and 11 foreign banks.
- The reduction in base rates are in the range **0.1 to 0.5%** so far.
- The weighed average lending rates on fresh rupee loans given by banks for vehicle and housing loans have come down in the range of 8.53 basis points.
- There are 27 public sector banks, 20 private sector banks, 44 foreign banks with commercial bank licence.
- Reserve Bank Governor Mr Raghuram Rajan in the RBI's last monetary policy meeting, was very critical of banks for not passing on the rate cuts to the borrowers.
- Recent study paper from IMF, reveals that banks in India resist passing on the RBI's rate cuts to the customers.

### Nokia to buy Alcatel-Lucent in \$16.58 billion deal

- Finnish network equipment maker Nokia said it has agreed to buy Alcatel-Lucent in an all-share transaction that values the smaller French rival at 15.6 billion euros (\$16.58 billion).
- Nokia will give Alcatel-Lucent shareholders 0.55 shares in the combined company for each of their old shares, resulting in 33.5% of the entity being in Alcatel's hands and Nokia having 66.5% if the public exchange offer is fully taken up.

### Temasek acquired InnoVen Capital India for 300 crore rupees

- Singapore-based investment firm Temasek announced its entry into the venture debt segment via acquisition of InnoVen Capital India, formerly known as SVB India Finance, for Rs 300 crore.
- InnoVen Capital provides debt financing to venture capital-backed companies like Snapdeal, Myntra, Freecharge and Practo.

### RBI to launch Rs. 10 coins on centenary of Gandhi's return from SA

- The Reserve Bank will launch Rs. 10 coins to commemorate the centenary of return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa.
- The Government of India has minted the coins which the Reserve Bank of India will shortly put into circulation.

### **Global Networked Readiness Index**

- India has slipped six places to rank 89th on a Global Networked Readiness Index, showing a “widespread” weakness in its potential to leverage information and communications technologies for social and economic gains.
- While Singapore has replaced Finland on the top of the 143-nation list, prepared by World Economic Forum (WEF).

### **Zomato acquires Delhi based data firm MaplePOS**

- Online restaurant guide Zomato acquired MaplePOS, a cloud-based point of sale product for restaurants developed by Delhi based MapleGraph.
- After the acquisition, Zomato has renamed MaplePOS product to ‘Zomato Base’ which will help the company and its restaurant partners to manage business into online orders and payments.
- MaplePos, a sale product offers various features of restaurants such as inventory and menu management, and has in-built payment solution to accept debit and credit card payments.
- MapleGraph was founded in 2011 by Varun Tangri, Arun Tangri and Abhishek Rohilla.

### **YES Bank launches RuPay debit card**

- YES Bank on Friday launched the RuPay Debit Card, in association with NPCI. It is a domestic debit card and will be accepted at over 190,000 ATMs and one million point of sale (PoS) terminals in the country.

### **Oil India commissions 54 MW capacity wind energy projects in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh**

- India’s second largest state-owned oil explorer company, Oil India Limited (OIL) has commissioned 54 MW wind energy projects saddled between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- The spilt capacity of project between both states is 38 MW plant located at Chandgarh in Madhya Pradesh and 16 MW plant located at Patan in Gujarat.

### **ICICI launches NFC-enabled payment service ‘Tap-n-Pay’**

- ICICI Bank in collaboration with Tech Mahindra launched a payment service ‘Tap-n-Pay’ based on the near-field communications (NFC) technology, enabling customers make over-the-counter payments without using cash.
- It can be used for merchant payments by merely tapping a NFC-enabled mobile phone or a tag on the counter.
- For making payments, the user will have to bring the NFC tag or the mobile phone near a device at the merchant’s facility and the amount will automatically get debited from the prepaid account.

### **Carzonrent India acquired Ridingo**

- Car rental firm, Carzonrent India (CIPL) on 20 April 2015 acquired car-pooling startup firm Ridingo. The acquisition is aimed at achieving 6000 crore rupees revenue by having presence in 250 Indian cities in the next five years.

### 8K Miles to acquire Cintel Systems

- Chennai-based 8K Miles Software Services, a provider of cloud solutions, has acquired US-based mobile applications company Cintel Systems for \$3.75 million in a combination of cash and stock.

### ALIMCO Takes Major Technology Leap by Signing MoU with M/S Motivation Charitable Trust U.K

- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) signed a MoU with M/s Motivation U.K in the august presence of Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The MoU provides opportunity to ALIMCO and M/s Motivation U.K. to work together for producing affordable State- Of- Art wheel chairs having compliance to WHO guidelines.

### Sebi bars Reena Bansal from markets for one more year

- Sebi today said Reena Bansal, wife of a former sub-broker with ICICI Securities, will continued to be barred from the capital market for one more year for her involvement in defrauding investors through illicit dealings in shares of many blue-chip companies.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), through an interim order in April 2011, had banned Reena, wife of the late Rajeev Bansal, from the securities market till further orders.

### Union Finance Ministry retained interest rate for GPF at 8.7 percent for 2015-16

- Union Finance Ministry retained the rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes at 8.7 per cent for 2015-16. The notification was issued by the Finance Ministry on 21 April 2015.
- The 8.7 per cent interest will apply on Provident Funds of central government employees, railways and defence forces. The rate of interest will be effective from 1 April 2015.

### Reliance Power fully commissions Sasan UMPP in MP

- Reliance Power has fully commissioned 3,960 MW Sasan ultra mega power project in Madhya Pradesh.

### Practo acquires Fitho Wellness

- Bengaluru-based healthcare technology start-up Practo on Thursday announced the acquisition of Delhi-NCR based wellness solution provider Fitho Wellness. The financial details of the buyout was not provided by the company, however, it said the deal is cash and equity deal.

### Zomato acquires US-based Nextable

- Restaurant search app Zomato on Wednesday said it has acquired NexTable, an online table reservation platform based in Charlotte, North Carolina for an undisclosed sum. NexTable will soon be renamed to Zomato Book



### Infosys acquires US firm Kallidus for \$120 million

- Infosys has acquired US-based digital experience solutions company Kallidus for \$120 million that includes a deferred component and retention bonus.
- Kallidus offers including mobile commerce and in-store shopping experiences to large retail clients.

### Capgemini acquires iGATE for \$4 billion

- Capgemini and iGATE have entered into a definitive merger agreement under which Capgemini will acquire iGATE for a cash consideration of \$48 per share.
- The transaction will amount to \$4 billion and is expected to be immediately accretive to Capgemini's normalized Earnings Per Share (EPS)1.
- iGATE is US-listed IT services company headquartered in New Jersey.

### Corporation Bank, New India Assurance Company signs MoU on PMSBY

- Corporation Bank and New India Assurance Company Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for implementing Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana [PMSBY], central government's scheme to provide security against personal accidental risk and permanent or partial disability.
- Under PMSBY, Bank's Aadhar-linked SB account holders will be eligible for coverage against personal accidental risk, permanent/partial physical disability up to Rs 2 lakh. One has to pay a nominal premium of Rs 12 plus service tax.
- New India Assurance Company Ltd will issue a master policy under group insurance scheme, which is voluntary for the customers.
- The social security scheme is meant for all Aadhar linked SB account holders who are not covered under any other social security scheme, whose age is in between 18 to 70 years can enroll in to the scheme by paying a premium amount, a bank communique here states.

### Flipkart acquires mobile marketing firm Appiterate

- E-commerce major Flipkart has acquired Appiterate, a Delhi-based mobile engagement and marketing automation company.
- This is in line with Flipkart's strategy of mobile-first. Appiterate has helped leading e-commerce companies combine the strengths of mobile apps and big data to allow them to do one-on-one targeting of their users through push notifications and in-app messages.

### Bank of Baroda tied up with UAE Exchange for instant money transfer

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) on 25 April 2015 tied-up with UAE Exchange to offer instant money transfer facility to its Non-resident Indian (NRI) customers. In this regard, an agreement was signed between both the firms.
- This agreement will allow the customers to send money to their desired bank accounts in BoB within minutes in India. This facility will also be supported by SMS alert which will notify the moment the amount is credited in the bank account of desired customer.

### Snapdeal acquired mobile recharge service FreeCharge

- Snapdeal on 8 April 2015 acquired mobile recharge service FreeCharge in a cash and stock deal. With this acquisition, Snapdeal became the largest mobile commerce company in India.
- The terms of the deal were not disclosed but as per estimates the deal is worth 450 million US dollars. The value of the deal is much higher than Flipkart Ltd's 330 million US dollars-plus acquisition of online fashion retailer Myntra in May 2014.

### Dena Bank inked MoU with Life Insurance Corporation

- Dena Bank on 6 April 2015 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India to provide insurance cover to all Aadhaar-linked savings account holders of the bank in the age group of 18 to 50 years.
- The insurance cover will be provided under the Prime Minister's Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJBY) scheme. The scheme will come into effect from 1 June 2015.

### RBI notified hike in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in Insurance Sector to 49 percent

- The RBI (Reserve Bank of India) on 8 March 2015 notified hike in FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) limit in Insurance Sector to 49 percent from the present 26 percent.
- As per the notification, FDI up to 26 percent will be under **automatic route** and beyond 26 percent and up to 49 percent will be allowed with the approval of **Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)**.

## Science & Technology

### A planet named after Chess Grand Master Viswanathan Anand

planet, named after Chess Grand Master Viswanathan Anand. The former World Chess Champion joined this unique club when a minor planet (4538), located roughly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, was named after him.

#### Points to Remember:

- The new minor planet has been named as 4538 Vishyanand.
- The planet was discovered by Kenzo Suzuki of Toyota, Japan, on October 10, 1988.
- Other sportsperson who have minor planets named after them:
  - Roger Federer
  - Jesse Owens
  - Arsene Wenger
  - Donald Bradma

### An Asteroid named after Malala Yousafzai

**Malala Yousafzai**, the youngest Nobel peace prize winner has an asteroid christened with her name. **Asteroid 316201 was named Malala by Amy Mainzer**, an astronomer of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She shot to more fame when Taliban attempted an assassination, as she got recognition for her efforts on education to all which were against the Taliban.

The asteroid was discovered in the main belt between **Mars and Jupiter by Amy Mainzer**. Thereby Amy possessed the right to name it, as only a few asteroids bore the name of women.

She shared the **2014 Nobel peace prize along with Kailash Satyarthi**, a children's rights activist of India. She has been conferred with numerous awards around the world, with some of them listed below.

- Honorary Canadian Citizenship
- Mother Teresa Awards for social justice
- Simon de Beauvoir Prize
- Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought
- Skoll Global Treasure Award
- National Youth Peace Prize
- Anna Politkovskaya Award

### NASA probe beams back its first colour image of Pluto

**NASA's New Horizons spacecraft**, travelled through the solar system for **nine years** has sent its first colour image of the planet Pluto and its largest moon Charon. The new photo was taken on April 9 from a distance of about 115 million kilometers. It is already providing visions about Pluto and its moon and also predicts suggestions of science when the New Horizons flies by the **Pluto system on July 14.**

Charon is said to be dimmer than Pluto. After decades Pluto is getting its first close-up after planets such as Venus, Mars and Neptune. **New Horizons was launched in January 2006.** It will be one among the five space crafts visiting the outer edges of the solar system after NASA's Pioneer 10 and 11, Voyager 1 and 2 probes.

### India ranks 125th in the world for Fixed Broadband Penetration

India ranks 125th in the world for **fixed broadband penetration with only 1.2 per 100 inhabitants** and the global average is 9.4 per 100 inhabitants.

This rating puts **India behind Sri Lanka and Bhutan.** **TRAI (Telecom-Regulatory-Authority-of-India) has issued** a statement that all required measures will have to be taken to address the critical situation immediately.

1. The Wire-less and Mobile-broad-band sector seems to be little better. India is ranked in the 113th position. In this sector too, the penetration level is very low. It is as dismal as 3.2%. In terms of household penetration within developing countries, India is ranked 75th with a penetration of 13%.

2. TRAI has made **several recommendations** in order to increase the connectivity and reachability to more number of people, especially in the rural-sectors.

- **License-fee exemption** is recommended for income earned from installed fixed-lines.
- The complex structure of decision making bodies in the Telecom-sector is to be made simpler.
- Wire-less-Planning-Commission to be given independent-decision taking authority on matters of expansion and administration.
- Right now the commission is working under Department-of-tele-Communications.
- The **national-Optic-Fiber-Network** is planning to cover more than 2.5-lakh Village-panchayats by 2016-end. This sort of advancement and developments can be achieved and sustained only when the body can function independently, says TRAI (Telecom-Regulatory-Authority-of-India)
- The authority has also expressed its concerns regarding the delays in solving the 2-G and 3-G spectrum cases.

### **INS Visakhapatnam Navy's new stealth destroyer launch in Mumbai**

Indian Navy's new destroyer, **INS Visakhapatnam**, which has the outstanding capability of operating in nuclear, biological and chemical warfare has been launched at the Mazgaon Docks Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Visakhapatnam, was launched by **Mrs. Minu Dhowan**, wife of the Admiral R. K. Dhowan.

This approximately 3,000 tons weighing ship, which is the first of the four follow up order of the Kolkata Class warships that are being made, will be a major power to India's maritime capabilities when it is inducted into the Indian Navy in 2018.

The ship has indigenous component of over 70 percent and the ship is made of Indian Steel which has been manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Admiral Dhowan, said that the focus is on increasing the Indigenous components in the coming years. "For indigenisation, there are three segments — one is float segment where we have achieved more than 90 per cent indigenisation; the other is move segment which consists of the propulsion system where we have attained over 60 per cent indigenisation; and the third is fight segment which consists of weapons and sensors. We need to work on this as the level of indigenisation is 30 to 40 per cent" he said. The propulsion system of this warship is said to have been shipped from Russia.

### **NASA develops first 3-D printed copper rocket engine part**

The engineers at **NASA** have developed **3-D printed copper rocket engine part** that can function at high temperatures and pressures. The part they had produced was combustion chamber liner using additive manufacturing technique, which is capable of performing at high temperatures and pressures.

### **Nuclear-capable Agni-III ballistic missile test-fired successfully**

- India today successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-III ballistic missile with a strike range of more than 3,000 km from Wheeler Island off the Odisha coast.
- The indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Wheeler Island.
- The Agni-III missile is powered by a two-stage solid propellant system. With a length of 17 metres, the missile's diameter is 2 metres and launch weight is around 50 tonnes.

### **NASA spacecraft beams back its first colour image of Pluto**

- NASA's New Horizons spacecraft has sent back its first colour image of the dwarf planet Pluto and its largest moon Charon, after more than nine years of travelling through the solar system.

### **Japanese Bullet Train Breaks Own Speed Record**

- Japanese maglev which is the fastest passenger train across the world, has broken an earlier speed record of 581 kmph as the train reached 603 kmph in a test run.

### **Pakistani Taliban announces successful test-fire of missile 'Omar 1'**

- Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed to have successfully test fired its first indigenously developed missile, named as "Omar 1".

### **Hubble Space Telescope marking 25th anniversary in orbit**

- One of NASA's crowning glories, the Hubble Space Telescope, marks its 25th anniversary this week. NASA is celebrating Friday's anniversary with ceremonies this week at the Smithsonian Institution and the Newseum in Washington.

### **ISRO successfully tests indigenous cryogenic engine with four-tonne capacity**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested an indigenous cryogenic engine.
- The powerful version of the cryogenic engine was tested successfully at ISRO's propulsion complex at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. A team headed by Director D Karthikesan had led the testing.
- This engine will allow launch vehicles to carry satellites of up to capacity of four tonnes in geostationary orbit. It will also give boost to India's interplanetary probes and manned space missions.

### **Microsoft Edge to replace Internet Explorer**

- Microsoft late on Wednesday unveiled 'Edge', a browser that will replace Internet Explorer, at its annual developers' conference, Build. Codenamed 'Project Spartan' until being revealed to the world, Edge will be available for Windows 10, to be released this summer.

### **Stanford Researchers created a Smartphone Battery that charges in only one minute**

- Researchers at Stanford University created a smartphone battery that charges in only one minute. The project was published on 6 April 2015. Stanford University chemistry professor Hongjie Dai is the lead researcher of the project.
- The battery invented is the first high-performance aluminum battery which is fast-charging, long-lasting and inexpensive.

# Appointments

## Sumit Mazumder elected CII President for 2015-16

Sumit Mazumder, the **Chairman and Managing Director of TIL** (Tractors India Pvt Ltd) has been elected as President of CII on April 7th for the year 2015-16. He has succeeded the outgoing President Ajay Shriram, Chairman of DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd.

Shobana Kamineni, the Executive Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Enterprises Limited (AHEL) was elected as Vice-President of CII for the fiscal 2015-16. She currently heads the Apollo Pharmacy division of AHEL. Dr Naushad Forbes, the Director of Forbes Marshall was elected as the President-designate of CII for the fiscal 2015-16.

## Nazim Zaidi Appointed as Chief Election Commissioner

**Nazim Zaidi** is to be appointed the new **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** later this month after the late Harishankar Brahma retires on April 19th 2015. His appointment has been signed by the Indian President Pranab Mukherjee. Nazim is supposed to hold the position for a tenure of 2 years as he attains age 65 at July 2017 (CEC or EC can hold the post for a tenure of 6 years or till the age of 65 thereby which criteria comes first).

He was elevated from the post of Election Commissioner (EC). The governing body consists of 3 member panel namely one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. Harishanker Brahma was promoted from the post of EC, when VC Sampath retired in Jan 2015. While Brahma also retiring now, the last EC being elevated to post of CEC leaves the governing body shortage of two EC's.

## Arun Kumar Jha appointed CEO of KVIC

**Arun Kumar Jha** has been appointed as the new CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Of KVIC (**Khadi and Village Industries Commission**) on April 10th 2015. Department of Personnel and Training issued the order for his appointment.

Arun Kumar Jha is a 1985-batch officer of IES (Indian Economics Service). He currently holds the position of Director General at National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) which comes under the Indian Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

## Rajalakshmi Devaraj appointed Director of EMC

**Rajalakshmi Devaraj** has been appointed as the Director of **EMC (Expenditure Management Commission)** on April 9th 2015. The EMC is structured under the Department of Expenditure. The Department of Personnel and Training has issued the order for the Director post till 29.4.2017 or till the tenure of EMC.

Rajalakshmi Devaraj is a Indian Defence Accounts Service officer of 1998 batch. She is currently holding the post of the Director of NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid).



### Mohan Kumar appointed as new Indian Ambassador to France

Senior diplomat **Dr. Mohan Kumar**, currently India's top envoy to Bahrain, has been appointed the next **Ambassador to France** to succeed Arun Kumar.

- Dr. Mohan Kumar, (IFS:1981), presently Ambassador of **India to Bahrain**, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to France. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.
- The official announcement for Mohan Kumar's appointment comes six days after Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visit to France**.
- Incidentally, before becoming Ambassador to Bahrain in 2010, Mohan Kumar served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Paris for three years.
- MBA from Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University and PhD from Sciences Po University, Paris

### Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai First Lady Judge in Sikkim High Court.

**Meenakshi Madan Rai**, has been sworn in as the First Lady Judge in **Sikkim High Court** on 15th April. Governor Srinivas Patil administered her oath of office at Ashirwad Hall at Raj Bhavan in Gangtok.

Her appointment has also aided the Sikkim High Court to have all its **3 Judges at power** after a gap of more than a year. Meenakshi Madan Rai is said to be, only the third Judge to come from the small state of Sikkim.

### Nasim Zaidi takes over as new chief election commissioner

**Dr Nasim Zaidi** on 19 April 2015 assumed the charge as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). He is India's **20th CEC** and succeeded **Hari Shankar Brahma**, who had retired on April 18, 2015.

At present, Dr Zaidi will be the sole member of the three-member Election Commission till the government fills up the two vacant posts of election commissioners. Dr Zaidi will have **tenure of two years** i.e. till he attains the age of 65 in July 2017.

He was speaking to media soon after he took over charge as the chief-Election-Commissioner. Some of the measures stated are

1. Enabling e-services to voters; starting from enrollment stage.
2. The strategy for the next 10 to 15 years would strive to bring transparency, efficiency and professional approach to all its transactions.
3. The election process would be made free from political interferences

### ONGC appoints Dinesh K Sarraf as Chairman and MD

India's biggest oil and gas producer, **ONGC**, has confirmed the appointment of **Dinesh K Sarraf** as the **Chairman and Managing Director** of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) on April 22nd. Sarraf who was selected as the head of the ONGC by the previous UPA government in August 2013, took charge on March 1st 2014. According to the rules of the appointment to the boards of public sector companies, the post will

have to be reconfirmed after one year, and a letter reconfirming Sarraf's appointment was issued on Monday.

The ONGC went through a tough time with the new Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan monitoring its performance on a monthly basis. Dharmendra had requested a post-retirement extension for Sudhir Vasudeva, which was rejected and Sarraf was selected.

### **James Bond ( Daniel Craig) Appointed By UN for elimination of Mine**

- Daniel Craig, who won international acclaim playing James Bond
- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed the actor as the first U.N. Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards.

### **C Sudharsan Reddy appointed PS to Labour Minister**

- IAS officer C Sudharsan Reddy has been appointed Private Secretary to Minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatraya.
- Reddy, a 2002 batch IAS officer, is presently serving in his cadre—Andhra Pradesh.

### **Vijendra Gupta appointed LoP in Delhi Assembly**

- Bharatiya Janata Party Rohini legislator Vijender Gupta was appointed the chief of opposition within the Delhi meeting.

### **Sanjay Bhattacharyya appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Arab Republic of Egypt**

- Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya, (IFS:1987), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Arab Republic of Egypt.

### **Rahul Shrivastava appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

- Shri Rahul Shrivastava, (IFS:1999), presently Counsellor in the Embassy of India, Moscow, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

### **Sandeep Kumar appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia**

- Sandeep Kumar, presently Joint secretary (WANA), has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia.

### **Sonalika appoints BVR Subbu as an independent Director**

- Tractor maker Sonalika today announced appointment of former Hyundai Motor India President BVR Subbu as an Independent Director on its board.

### **Anjan Lahiri is new Birlasoft CEO**

- Mindtree co-founder Anjan Lahiri has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Birlasoft, a global IT services company of C K Birla Group.

### **Neeraj Kumar appointed Cricket Board's ACSU chief**

- Former Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar was today appointed as chief advisor of the BCCI's Anti Corruption & Security Unit (ACSU) for a term of one year.

### **Rajiv Ranjan Verma appointed DG, RPF**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Railways for appointment of Shri Rajiv Ranjan Verma, IPS (BH:78), as Director General, Railway Protection Force, Railway Board for a period upto the date of his superannuation i.e. 29.02.2016 from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

### **H.L.Dattu to head NJAC**

- The six-member NJAC headed by the Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu will be constituted by the center.
- National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is a body responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary in India.

### **Wipro appoints Rishad Premji to its board**

- Wipro, India's third-largest information technology (IT) services company, on Tuesday announced the appointment of Rishad Premji to its board, a move which was widely anticipated to happen sooner than later. His appointment will be effective from May.

### **UN chief appoints new Yemen special envoy**

- Ban Ki Moon, the UN secretary-general has appointed, Ismail Cheikh Ahmed of Mauritania as new special envoy to Yemen as pressure grows for peace talks while fighting rages in the Arab world's poorest nation.

### **Kapil Dev Tripathi appointed Petroleum Secretary**

- Senior IAS officer Kapil Dev Tripathi has been appointed the new Petroleum Secretary, as part of six top level bureaucratic appointments effected by the government today.

# Obituary

## Tamil Literature Novelist Jayakanthan died

**Jayakanth**, a legendary **tamil literature novelist**, essay and short-story writer died due to prolonged illness on April 8th 2015. He was born in **Manjakuppam in Cuddalore** in 1934 and finally rested in peace aged 81. He is notable for writing articles which were not inked by other writers.

He was conferred with Jnanpith award (2002) and Sahitya Akademi award. Sahithya Akademi award was awarded to his work named "Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal". His novels which include Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal, Oru Nadigai Nadagam Paarkiral and Yaarukkaga Azhudhaan were portrayed in films.

His short stories on tamil weekly magazine Ananda Vikatan was trending during the 1960's. He was a supporter of Communism.

## Gujarati filmmaker Govind Patel passes away

- Noted Gujarati filmmaker Govind Patel has died here following prolonged illness. He was 72.
- Patel, who was suffering from cancer, was admitted to a private hospital few days ago and passed away yesterday.

## Former Czech PM Stanislav Gross dies at 45

- Stanislav Gross, who became the Czech Republic's youngest prime minister but was forced to resign nine months later, has died at the age of 45.
- The Social Democratic Party said Gross died Thursday but offered no details. Public television said he had been battling illness.
- Gross became premier at the age of 34 in July 2004 and took over as chairman of the leftist Social Democrats.

## Czechoslovakia hockey great Jaroslav Holik dies

- Jaroslav Holik, an offensive forward who helped Czechoslovakia win a hockey world title and an Olympic bronze medal in 1972, has died. He was 72.

## Actor Ben Powers dies at 64

- Actor Ben Powers, known for his role on the classic sitcom "Good Times", has passed away aged 64.

### Actor Jonathan Crombie dies at 48

- Actor Jonathan Crombie, best known for his role of Gilbert Blythe in “Anne of Green Gables” TV movies, has died of a brain hemorrhage. He was 48.

### 20yrs old Bengal Batsman Ankit Keshri dies after fielding collision

- The former Bengal Under-19 cricket captain, **Ankit Keshri** sustained a head injury in an on-field collision during a local game in Kolkata on Friday during a senior knockout match against Bhowanipore.
- The opening batsman, who was also a member of the Under-23 Bengal squad this year, passed away following a massive heart attack on Monday.

### Defence PRO in Chennai N Andavan Dies in A Road Accident

- A Defence Public Relations Officer, who recently met with a road accident here, today died at a hospital.
- 52-year-old Natesan Andavan, the PRO of the Ministry of Defence in Chennai succumbed to a grievous injury he had suffered in a road accident on Monday

### Sunita Tomar, anti-tobacco campaign girl died

Sunita Tomar, face of the anti-tobacco campaign of health ministry, passed away in Mumbai, According to an Indian Express report, Sunita, 32, was admitted to Mumbai’s Tata Memorial Hospital after doctors suspected cancer relapse. She had complained of breathing difficulty and weight loss.

### German Nobel laureate novelist Gunter Grass passes away

World renowned **German Writer Günter Grass** passed away at a Lübeck-hospital. He was aged 87. He had been hospitalized a few months back due to illness. His end came as a surprise to many, including his trusted secretary Hilke-Ohsoling. He was lucky to have his family members with him when he breathed his last.

### Assamese Filmmaker Bidyut Chakraborty passes away

- **Bidyut Chakraborty**, A well-known Assamese Filmmaker and Actor, breathed his last breath at a Private Hospital in **Guwahati** on 15th April. He was **55 Years old**.
- He had bagged the **Indira Gandhi award** for Best First Film of a Director in 1996 for his film “**Rag-Birag**”. He made his debut through a small role in Bhabendra Nath Saikia’s “Anirban” in 1981, and then later went on to acting and making a lot of Films. His famous works are Raag-Biraag, Goon Goon Gaane Gaane, Dwaar, etc.
- Chakraborty ‘s **last film was Dwar (2012)** which was based on a short story by Swarnakamal winning film critic Apurba Sharma.

### Former Nepal PM Shri Surya Bahadur Thapa Passes Way

Former Nepal Prime Minister **Surya Bahadur Thapa** passed away at Medanta Hospita in Gurgaon, **Eighty-seven-year-old** Mr. Thapa served as Prime Minister of Nepal for **five terms**, under three different Kings, in a political career spanning more than 50 years.

### Former Chief Minister of Odisha J. B Patnaik passes away

**J B Patnaik**, who was a three time Odisha Chief Minister and Assam Governor, passed away in **Tirupati** on 21st April. He was **89 Years old**. He was in Tirupati to attend the Convocation Ceremony of the Rashtriya Sanskrit University. His funeral will be held at **Puri**.

### Telugu film choreographer K Vijay dies in Nepal

- An upcoming Telugu actor and choreographer, Vijay Singh Kavadia, 22, died in Nepal Monday morning in a car accident caused by a powerful aftershock.
- Part of a crew shooting in Nepal, Vijay was travelling with three others from Kathmandu towards the Indian border when the car hit a crack and overturned.

### Veteran Marathi actor Bimba Modak passes away

- Eminent Marathi film and stage actress, Shanta alias Bimba Modak of yesteryear passed away on 28 April 2015 in Pune. She was 97.
- Modak, had entered into the film industry during the time when it was considered as taboo for women to work in cinema.

### Oscar-winning cinematographer Andrew Lesnie passed away

- Oscar-winning Hollywood cinematographer Andrew Lesnie has passed away at the age of 59.
- Lesnie gained fame from his work in movies namely 'Lord of the Rings', 'Rise of the Planet of the Apes' and 'I Am Legend' among others.

### Louie Louie' singer Jack Ely dies at 71

- Jack Ely, lead singer of band The Kingsmen, which was best known for 1960s hit 'Louie Louie', has died aged 71.



## Books and Authors

### Vice president releases a book 'My Little Epiphanies'

The Vice President of India Shri **M. Hamid Ansari** released a book entitled **"My Little Epiphanies"** written by Late **Ms. Aisha Chaudhary** at a function. Addressing on the occasion, the Vice President said that this book is perhaps poetry of pains by a young writer and is a tribute to her for her capacity to experience pain and to transform that in to words. It is a must read for all.

### Vice President Releases a Book "India and the World"

The Vice President of India **Shri M. Hamid Ansari** released a book entitled **"India and the World – Through the eyes of Indian Diplomats"** edited by Amb. Surendra Kumar at a function here today. Addressing on the occasion, the Vice President said that the book has been very rightly described as a Bouquet of 33 Flowers as it is a fair description of experiences of 33 distinguished diplomats in a book. These essays are perhaps in 3 categories – Narrative; Analytical; and Argumented. He commended the Editor of this useful book and hoped that this book will be read by the young entrants in this service and the public at large.

### Vice President released a book titled Aatank Ke Saaye Men written by Garima Sanjay

Vice President of India Hamid Ansari released a book titled Aatank Ke Saaye Men written by Garima Sanjay. She is a professional author & documentary filmmaker by profession.

The book mainly dwells upon the menace of the burning problem of terrorism in most of the countries worldwide and highlights that with the problem of terrorism, not only that individual who is affected but his family, social circle and the society at large get affected. It says that how terrorism has hampered the path of growth in these countries.

### Prime Minister released a book titled Pre-Modern Kutchi Navigation Techniques and Voyages

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 6 April 2015 released a book titled Pre-Modern Kutchi Navigation Techniques and Voyages transcribed and edited by Ashok B. Rajeshirke in New Delhi.
- The book is an outcome of the collaborative effort by the National Museum, New Delhi and the Darshak Itihas Nidhi, a Foundation for Research and Studies in History.

### Book titled Suleiman Charitra written by Kalyana Malla translated from Sanskrit to English

The book Suleiman Charitra written by Kalyana Malla was in news because on 9 April 2015 the translated version of it Suleiman Charitra of Kalyan Malla was released. The book has been translated from Sanskrit to English by diplomat-writer A.N.D. Haskar.

# Sports

## ICC President Mustafa Kamal Resigns

**International Cricket Council (ICC) president A.H.M. Mustafa Kamal** has announced his resignation to protest the “denial” by the governing body to let him give away the trophy to the champions in the World Cup and also the “controversial” umpiring during the Bangladesh-India quarterfinal match at Melbourne.

Mr. Kamal, who is also **Bangladesh’s Planning Minister**, said his decision was “final” and “not negotiable.” His resignation was in protest against the “flagrant violation” of the ICC rules and constitution. He was critical of the “poor” and “controversial” umpiring decisions in the Bangladesh-India match and said he would step down as president, if needed. In response, ICC chief executive David Richardson said the remarks were “very unfortunate.” Richardson also backed the umpires decisions .

He has been associated with **cricket for 30 years** and served cricket in different capacities. In 2012, he was named as the Vice-President of the ICC for the term 2012-2014. He served as the President of Asian Cricket Council from 2010 to 2012 and served as the Chairman of the Cricket Committee of Abahani Limited from 1990 to 2010.

## Kyle Mills retired from all forms of International Cricket

New Zealand fast bowler Kyle Mills announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a 14-year international career on Wednesday.

Mills made his one-day international debut against Pakistan in 2001, and his test debut in 2004. Mills reached No. 1 on the world one-day international bowler rankings in 2009 after taking nine wickets in New Zealand’s series against Australia.

### Details of his cricket career

**Test:** Batted in 30 innings of 19 matches and had scored 289 runs of which 57 was his highest score. He bowled in 31 innings and took 44 wickets.

**ODI:** Batted in 101 innings of 170 matches and had scored 1047 runs of which 54 was his highest score. He bowled in 169 innings and took 240 wickets.

**T20Is:** Batted in 19 innings of 42 matches and had scored 137 runs of which 33 not out was his highest score. He bowled in 42 innings and took 43 wickets.

## Sebastian Vettel wins the Malaysian Grand Prix 2015

Four-time world champion **Sebastian Vettel** wins the **Malaysian Grand Prix 2015** by defeating the **Mercedes AMG team** for the first time since the Belgian Grand Prix in 2014. Vettel, who is from Germany, drives Ferrari, won the Malaysian Grand Prix in 2012 and topped by Lewis Hamilton since then. This is Vettel’s first win with Ferrari. As of now Vettel has a total of 40 career wins.

It should be taken into account that Mercedes was having tyre problems as **Lewis Hamilton** complained about being on wrong tyre after his final pit stop. This led Sebastian Vettel to overtake Hamilton whilst he was in the pits.

## Miami Open Titles 2015 Winners

### Men's Singles Title

- Novak Djokovic extended his winning streak against Britain's Andy Murray to seven matches with victory in a grueling Miami Open
- The world number one prevailed 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 6-0 in hot and humid conditions to win his fifth Miami title.

### Women's singles Title

- World number one Serena Williams thrashed Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro to win her eighth Miami Open
- The 33-year-old raced to a 6-2 6-0 victory in 56 minutes to secure her third straight title at Crandon Park.

### Men's doubles Title

- American Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan pair has won the 2015 Miami Open Men's doubles Title. In the final match they defeated Vasek Pospisil (Canada) and Jack Sock (US) pair by 6-3, 1-6, 10-8 score.

### Women's doubles Title

- Sania Mirza achieved yet another career milestone by capturing her 25th WTA doubles title as the Indian continued her dream start with Martina Hingis to win the Miami Open
- The top-seeded Indo-Swiss pair overcame a sluggish start to take the title with a 7-5, 6-1 scoreline against second-seeded Russians Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina.
- They had beaten the same Russian duo at Indian Wells to win their first title together.

## Dronavalli Harika won women's world chess championship 2015

**Dronavalli Harika**, the Indian grandmaster has won **bronze** prize for the **World Women's Chess Championship** 2015 held at Sochi, Russia on April 6th 2015. She shared the prize along with Pia Cramling, the Swedish grandmaster. In the semifinals she lost to **Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine**.

Mariya Muzychuk defeated Natalia Pogonina of Russia to claim the 15th Women's World Chess Champion title. Hou Yifan of China, the former women's world chess champion has not attended the tournament. Mariya Muzychuk was awarded with 60,000 USD while Natalia Pogonina with 30,000 USD and Dronavalli Harika with 20,000 USD for their achievement.

The Women's World Chess Championship was attended by 64 participants from 28 countries. It was a knock-out tournament and the first edition of the 2 editions of 2015.

## New Zealand win Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2015

New Zealand beat Australia in the 24th Sultan Azlan-Shah-Tournament 3-1 in the Shoot-out stages at Malaysia. The two teams were locked at 2-2 at the end of full-time. New Zealand was put ahead by Penalty-Corner-goal from Andy-Hayward, until 29 minutes before close when Australia equaled the scores. New Zealand won the cup for the second time; first was in 2012 when they beat Argentina.

- **India Beat Korea** on Penalties to Win **Bronze Medal** in Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2015
- **Devon-Manchester**, the New Zealand goal-keeper was the star of the final-showdown with 3-saves at the shoot-out-stage. He was named the **best goal-keeper of the 2015-event**.
- It is the first time, which a final has been won on shoot-out basis. It is also the first final between two Asia-Oceania-nations.
- **Australia** has won the title **8 times** (1983, 1996, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013 and 2014).
- Hosts **Malaysian-team** has never won the tournament even once. Best performance; **runner-up in 2014**.

## Lewis Hamilton wins Chinese Grand Prix of Formula One

Mercedes Formula 1 driver **Lewis Hamilton** wins **Chinese Grand Prix of Formula One**. He outpaced his team-mate Nico-Roseberg to the second spot. Vettel came 3rd and Kimi-raikkonen came 4th. Lewis-Hamilton drove his famous Benz while the others drove their Ferraris.

## Sania Mirza Becomes No 1 in WTA Tennis Doubles Rankings

**Sania Mirza** becomes first Indian female tennis player **ranked World No.1 in Women's Doubles**. She partnered with **Martina-Hingis**, from **Switzerland**. They beat Casey from Australia and Darija Jurak from Croatia in straight-sets, 6-0 and 6-4. The final lasted for just 57-minutes.

With this win **Sania scored 470 points**, making her tally to **7965** and surpassing **Italy's Sara Errani** (7640) and **Roberta Vinci** (7640) to the number one rank in the ranking table. The WTA Family Circle Cup tournament was held at Charleston, U.S.A.

## Brij Bhushan re-elected as president of WFI

In an Election conducted for the office bearers of the **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**, Bharatiya Janta Party's (BJP) Lok Sabha member Brij bhushan Sharan Singh was re-elected as the **President** of the WFI unopposed, for the next term of **4 years**.

All the other office bearers and Executive Committee members of the Federation were also elected for the term of next 4 years unopposed. The Election was conducted under the control of Retired **Justice S.R. Singh of Allahabad High Court**.

**The following is the list of the office bearers:**

**President:** Brijbhushan Sharan Singh

**Sr. Vice President:** I D Nanavati

**Secretary General:** V N Prasood

**Treasurer:** Bhola Nath Singh

**Vice Presidents:** Raj Singh, Hamza-Bin-Omer, Asit Kumar Saha, B C Das, K Ravi Kumar, N Phoni, Neikhrolo Khalo, R K Hooda.

### Jitu Rai wins Bronze at ISSF World Cup

Ace Indian Shooter **Jitu Rai** (an Indian Army Sub), has won the **Bronze medal** in the **10 Meter Air Pistol (men)** Event in the ongoing **ISSF**(International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup Rifle/ Pistol Shooting Competition on 12th April. The Competition is being held at **Changwon in South Korea** from the 8th to 16th of April.

**Jin Jongoh** (206 Points) of South Korea won the **Gold Medal** and **Naung Ye Tun** (201 Points) of Malaysia won the **Silver Medal** followed by the Ace Indian Shooter fetching the Bronze medal with 181.1 Points. Jitu Rai is at the 2nd Position in the 50 meter Pistol Men and **7th Position** in the **10 Meter Air Pistol Men Category** according to the latest **ISSF World Rankings**.

### Allan Donald resigned as South Africa Bowling Coach

Former South African Fast Bowler, Allan Donald has resigned from being the South African Bowling Coach after serving the team for 4 years. He was the bowling coach of South Africa from **June 2011 to April 2015**. He resigned on the 14th of April 2015.

### Pakistani Cricketer, Raza Hasan Banned for two years

**Raza Hasan**, Pakistan's **Left arm spinner** who has played for Pakistan in One Day International Match and T20 Internationals has been suspended from all forms of Cricket for two years. The Ban comes after the Spinner had been tested positive for **Cocaine**. The Pakistan Cricket Board tested Raza Hasan who is 22 years old, during the Pentangular Cup at Karachi and the samples were sent to World Anti- Doping Agency-Accredited Lab in India.

The Sample A has proved him positive of Cocaine consumption. The Board has placed a 2 member Committee, before whom, Raza has been asked to explain himself. Failing which, or if the Sample B's results too prove him positive of Cocaine, he will have to face the ban of two years. The PCB also said that Raza Hasan will also have to go through a Police Investigation, since Cocaine is banned in Pakistan.

### 1st Shenzhen International Golf Tournament 2015

**Shenzhen International Golf tournament** saw the down-slide of Indian Challenge **Shiv Kapur**. He was placed in the **52nd position** at the end of tournament. He had had a great start to the tournament with a score of 67.

However, he ended up with 1-over-289. The tournament was won by **Kiradesh-Aphibarnrat** from Thailand. In the final he beat **Li Hao-Tong** of China. The inaugural tournament will be played from 16–19 April 2015 at the **Genzon Golf Club, in Shenzhen China**.

### Indian women-hockey team finishes 7th in Hawke's Bay-Cup Hockey

The **Indian Women's hockey** team trounced Japan to ear the **7th place** at the **Hawke's Bay-cup Hockey** tournament in **New Zealand**. The battle for the 7th place was held on Sunday. Indian won the match 3-2. India has won over Japan for the second-time in a row.

In 2014, India had beaten Japan in the 17th Asian-Games at Incheon in Korea. Ms. Rani scored the winning-goal for India, after Deepika scored the equalizer after the fourth-quarter of the game.

**Australia** won the final by beating **New Zealand** by 3-2. China beat Korea 3-2 to win the Bronze medal. U.S.A beat Argentina to finish 5th in the tournament. The standings at the end of the Tournament are

1. Australia
2. New Zealand
3. China
4. Korea
5. U.S.A
6. Argentina
7. India
8. Japan

### Monte Carlo Masters Title 2015

In the recently concluded Monte Carlo Masters Title tennis tournament at **France**, **Novak Djokovic**, won against **Tomas Berdych**, to claim the **Singles Title**. He looks in good form ahead of the French open and this is the Serbian's 17th straight win.

With this win, Novak Djokovic became the first player to win the first three Masters events of a year. Djokovic has lost only two matches in 2015.

In the **Monte Carlo Masters Double event**, the World No. 1 duoble, **Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan** got their 106th tour level team title. This is the fifth time that they have won the Monte-Carlo Masters Crown. The Americans Bryan brothers defeated **Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini** in the final. The Bryans have now won 34 ATP World Tour Masters 1000 titles and closed the gap on Bloelli and Fognini at the top of the Emirates ATP Doubles Team Rankings.

### Presidents Cup Open International Boxing Tournament – India Crowned Champions

India's boxers Pinki Jangra and Shamjetsabam Sarjubala Devi got gold medals at the 22nd President Cup Open Boxing Tournament held in Indonesia. Pinki Jangra won the gold medal by beating Nandintsetseg of Mongolia in the 51kg category.

Sarjubala won by defeating Russias Iseva joya in the 48kg category. Both of them helped India to win two gold medal.

- In this competition, more than 130 boxers from over 30 countries participated.
- **Preeti Beniwal, Bilao Basumatary, and Priya Dayal** also participated in 60kg, 57kg and 54 kg category respectively.



- Pinki, a commonwealth bronze medallist defeated Mongolia's Nandintsetseg 2-1 to get the gold medal.
- In men category **gold** was won by **Rakesh Kumar and Harpal Singh** in 69kg and 75kg respectively.
- Rakesh defeated Hiroaki Kinjo of Japan and Harpal Singh beat Jee Deok-Seong of Korea .
- Manish Kumar won the bronze medal in 60kg category after he lost to Mongolia's Otgondalai in the semifinals.
- India finished at the top having **33points** that included 4Gold and 1 Bronse medals.
- Mongolia came second in the tournament.
- The tournament was held on 27th April 2015 at **Palambang, South Sumatra, Indonesia.**
- **This was the first time India was crowned champions.**

### Magnus Carlsen Wins Shamkir Chess Tournament 2015

World champion **Magnus Carlsen** of Norway won **Shamkir Chess Tournament** held in **Azerbaijan**. In the ninth and final round he won against **Rauf Mamendov of Azerbaijan** in 35th move and scored 7 points. Former World Champion Viswanathan Anand drew with Fabiano Caruana of Italy.

As a result of this win, **Magnus Carlsen** took his ratings to **2875 points** and **Anand entered 2800 club** to become **second in world rankings**.

- This tournament is played in Shamkir, Azerbaijan also called as **Glasimov Memorial**.
- Its was established in 2014 and played in the honour of **Vugar Gashimov**.
- The **prize money amount** in this tournament is **100000 euros**.
- Double round robin format is followed in this competition .
- After this tournament there will be many such competitions with excess of million dollars as prize money.
- As a part of deal signed Anand will be playing in these tournaments.

### World Team Chess Championships – Silver for Harika & Bronze for Humpy

In **women's World Team chess** championships held in **Chengdu, China**, India's **Dronavalli Harika** and **Koneru Humpy** got silver and bronze medals respectively. It was a great consolation for India through Harika's and Humpy's medals, as Indian women performed disappointingly.

The medal was always within the reach of Indian team, but it failed to finish off well. Indian team entered the event as wild card but finished 4th. Harika played well against Lilit Galojan and Humpy was very clinical in her approach and was unlucky as she ran out of time.

- **Georgia beat China** in the finals to clinch the precious gold medal and it finished with tally of **17points**.

- **Russia defeated United States** in the final round to get the silver medal with a tally of **15points**.
- In the last two rounds, Padmini Rout and Sowmya Swaminathan won their games and lived up to their expectations.
- **India finished fourth below China**. China won the bronze medal.

### Men's World Team Chess Championships

- China wins gold in men's world team chess championship title for 1st time.
- Ukraine won silver & Armenia won bronze medal.
- Championships held in **Tsakhkadzor**

### India remains at number two spot in the latest ICC ODI rankings.

- With 122 points, Australia topped the chart.
- With 116 points, India are placed just six points behind Australia.
- India are followed by South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, England, Pakistan.

### The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has suspended the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)

- IPC has suspended the PCI for an indefinite period
- Problem started when PCI came under the scanner for providing inadequate and poor facilities during the National Para-Athletics Championships last month in Ghaziabad.
- IPC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Xavier Gonzalez on April 15 wrote in a letter, made public on Friday, to PCI president Rajesh Tomar saying that they are suspending the NSF.

### Britain's Adam Peaty sets 100 metres breaststroke world record

- Britain's Adam Peaty smashed the world record for the 100 metres breaststroke at the British swimming championships on Friday.
- The 20-year-old, who also holds the 50m world record and won European and Commonwealth titles last year, finished in 57.92 seconds, beating the 58.46 mark set by South Africa's Cameron van der Burgh on his way to Olympic gold at London 2012.

### Pranjala wins Asian junior championship

- India's Y Pranjala clinched the Asian Junior Tennis championship title after a come-from-behind victory over top seed Chinese Zheng Wushuang and match held at India New Delhi
- The second seeded Indian won with a 5-7 6-2 7-5 scoreline in the final against her formidable rival, who happened to be her doubles partner in the event.

- It was double delight for the 16-year-old Pranjala as she had won the doubles trophy yesterday. Coached by former Davis Cup player Ilyas Ghouse, Pranjala trains at GVK Tennis Academy in Hyderabad.

### Ashish Jakhar from Haryana sets National Youth record in hammer throw

- Haryana's Ashish Jakhar has set a national youth record in boys' hammer throw on the second day of the 12th National Youth Athletics Championships.
- Ashish hurled the 5kg ball-and-chain to a new distance of 71.92m on his opening throw and went on to improve it further to 72.04m to stamp his class with fine rotations on the circle to set the first national record of the meet.
- The previous national record had stood in the name of Haryana's Sukhdev Singh (70.35m) since 2009. Only Chinese thrower Xu Wenjie has a better mark than Ashish in the Asian rankings, with a 72.35m throw, so far this season.

### Mumbai boy Mudit Dani becomes third Indian to enter top ten of junior TT rankings

- Mumbai's **Mudit Dani** has followed in the footsteps of current national men's table tennis champion Soumyajit Ghosh and Harmeet Desai as the third Indian to enter the top ten of the (International Table Tennis Federation) ITTF world junior boys' circuit standings.
- The 16-year old lad, who is ranked 10th, has become the first and only player from Mumbai and Maharashtra to achieve this feat.
- Qatar's Al-Naggar Abdulrahman (No. 3), Japan's Yuki Matsuyama, China's Wei Shihao (both joint No. 5) and Qatar's Abdulhussein Mohammed (No. 7) are the other Asians in the top ten of the rankings.
- ITTF **Headquarters** in Lausanne, Switzerland and **President:** Thomas Weikert

### Teliana Pereira wins Claro Open Colsanitas tennis tournament

- Brazil's Teliana Pereira won the Claro Open Colsanitas on Sunday to become the WTA Tour's first Brazilian winner in 27 years, beating fifth-seeded Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan 7-6 (2), 6-1.
- The 26-year-old Pereira is the first Brazilian woman to win on tour since Neige Dias in Barcelona in April 1988.
- In the doubles final, Brazil's Paula Cristina Goncalves and Beatriz Haddad Maia topped Americans Irina Falconi and Shelby Rogers 6-3, 3-6, 10-6.

### Mohammad Nabi quits as Afghanistan captain

- Mohammad Nabi resigned as captain of Afghanistan on Sunday (April 19) following the team's 2015 World Cup campaign in Australia and New Zealand last month.

- Nabi said his lack of form was one of the primary reasons for stepping down. “I have served Afghanistan’s national team as captain for more than two years. I tried my best to bring victories to our team and the nation,”

### Formula One: Lewis Hamilton wins again in Bahrain Grand Prix

- Formula One world champion **Lewis Hamilton** won the Bahrain Grand Prix for the second year in a row with Ferrari’s **Kimi Raikkonen** back on the podium to deny Mercedes another one-two finish under the floodlights.

### Three Indian race walkers qualify for 2016 Rio Olympics

- Three Indian race walkers, Khushbir Kaur, Manish Rawat and Sandeep Kumar on 19 April 2015 qualified for 2016 Rio Olympics. They qualified for the Olympics during the **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** Race Walking Challenge at Rio Maiorin Portugal.
- IAAF **Headquarters** in Monaco & **President** Lamine Diack

### Cricket South Africa launched Africa T20 Cup

- Cricket South Africa (CSA) on 21 April 2015 announced a new tournament to be known as the Africa T20 Cup.
- The tournament was planned to promote the game and nurture young talent in the continent.
- The tournament featuring Zimbabwe, Kenya, Namibia, hosts South Africa and 12 CSA affiliates will run from 4 September to 4 October 2015.

### Bangladesh won 3-match ODI series against Pakistan, 3-0

- Bangladesh on 22 April 2015 won the three-match One Day International (ODI) Series against Pakistan in Dhaka by 3-0.
- This was Bangladesh’s first series whitewash against an Asian Test-playing nation.
- Man of the Series award went to Tamim Iqbal.

### Mohammed Shami officially ruled out of IPL-8

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday confirmed that India’s pace spearhead Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of the ongoing Indian Premier League due to a knee injury sustained during the ICC Cricket World Cup last month.

### **Railways won 5th Senior Men's National Hockey championship**

- Railway Sports Promotion Board has won the 5th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship 2015.
- In the final match, they defeated Uttar Pradesh Hockey by 5-3 goals which was played at Pune.
- While in this championship, the 3rd Position was secured by Air India Sports Promotion Board who had outplayed Hockey Gangpur-Odisha by 5-3 goals.

### **ITTF becomes world's largest sports body**

- The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has become the world's largest sports body in terms of membership (222).
- The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) is second largest sports body with 220 members.

### **India won a Gold and a Bronze at 2015 Asian Indoor Rowing Championship**

- India won a Gold and a Bronze at the 2015 Asian Indoor Rowing Championship. The championship was held from 25 April 2015 to 26 April 2015 in Pattaya, Thailand.
- Dushyant Singh and Succha Singh Tomar won the gold in the 2000m men's light weight pair category, clocking 6:26.50. In the 2000m men's open-pair event, Om Prakash and Rajesh Verma settled for a bronze with a timing of 6:22.50.
- This is the first time the Indians were competing in an indoor event.

## **Current Affairs April Quiz Competition on May 14 & 15**

**GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!!!**

Suggestions are welcomed; Contact us any time at  
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