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## COMPETITION

# BOOSTER





## Eco/Banking/RBI

### ECONOMY

- APRIL 1** : India's GDP growth to pick up again to 7.6 pc next year: DBS According to DBS report India's GDP growth is expected to pick up again to 7.6 per cent next year thanks to improving consumption, timely rains, higher public sector spending, and better export growth.
- APRIL 5** : IPL sponsorship: Gionee partners RCB; Kings XI with Hero Cycles. Mobile handset maker Gionee India announced its association with Royal Challengers Bangalore, while Kings XI Punjab has roped in bicycle maker Hero Cycles as principal sponsor.
- APRIL 5** : BHEL sets up over 45K MW capacity; beats 12th Plan target. State-owned power equipment maker BHEL said it has added 45,254 MW capacity during the 12th Five Year Plan period (2012-17) beating the targets set for the company.
- APRIL 5** : YouTube Go beta app launched in India. After announcing its "Made for India" YouTube Go app during last September's 'Google for India' event here, Google's video-hosting platform YouTube released a beta version of the YouTube Go app in the Play Store in India.
- APRIL 7** : Twitter launched a lighter version of its platform — Twitter Lite — in India, which is among its top five audience markets globally. With the help of this, Twitter services can be used by spending less data and fastly.
- APRIL 7** : Homegrown auto major Tata Motors has received an order for 500 buses from Ivory Coast. Tata Motors said in a statement that as part of the deal, the company has handed over the first lot of 117 low-floor urban city buses to the African nation.
- APRIL 8** : India's Internet economy is set to touch USD 250 billion, driven by strong addition in online users and explosive growth in data consumption.
- APRIL 10** : Skills and talent development firm NIIT said a consortium led by its Canada unit has bagged a five-year deal from Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO).
- APRIL 11** : Runaya Metsource, a company promoted by Vedanta Ltd Chairman Navin Agarwal's son Naivedya Agarwal, has signed an agreement with Russian aluminium firm UC Rusal for a 50:50 joint venture in India.
- APRIL 11** : Global e-commerce company eBay and Flipkart, have agreed to jointly pursue opportunities in the Indian market. Under this agreement, eBay will make a USD 500 million cash investment in and sell its eBay.in business to Flipkart in exchange for an equity stake in Flipkart.
- APRIL 12** : Electronics maker Micromax has roped in actor Anil Kapoor as its brand ambassador. Electronics maker Micromax expects its consumer durables vertical to contribute 25 per cent of total revenue in three years.
- APRIL 13** : Food regulator FSSAI said it has entered into an agreement with US-based Decernis Ltd which will enable it to access various international regulations.
- APRIL 17** : India's current account deficit (CAD) is expected to widen to 1.6 per cent of GDP this year from 0.5 per cent in 2016, owing to higher commodity prices and an expected strong domestic recovery.
- APRIL 17** : Anil Ambani group firm Reliance Defence Limited (RDL) has entered into a strategic partnership with a leading South Korean defence major to jointly manufacture military hardware for India's armed forces.
- APRIL 18** : According to World Bank's report on South Asian Economy, Indian economy will claw back to 7.2 percent growth in the current financial year 2017-18 and rise further to 7.5 per cent in 2018-19.

**APRIL 18** : According to SBI's research report Ecowrap, retail inflation is expected at 4.8 per cent for the current fiscal and fears in this regard are exaggerated as the country will continue to witness benign prices.

**APRIL 19** : India signed a USD 175 million loan pact with the World Bank for National Hydrology Project that aims to improve management of water resources.

**APRIL 19** : The IMF trimmed India's annual growth forecast by 0.4 percentage points to 7.2 percent for 2017, citing the impact of demonetization.

**APRIL 23** : India's finished steel products output is likely to reach 88.6 million tonnes in the current year, registering an increase of 5.7 per cent.

**APRIL 23** : Energy management and automation firm Schneider Electric India will develop Greenfield integrated smart city of Naya Raipur, the company announced.

**APRIL 23** : India's fourth largest software services firm HCL Technologies said it will acquire US-based Urban Fulfillment Services (UFS) for up to USD 30 million (over Rs 193 crore) in cash.

**APRIL 25** : Reliance Communications' (RCom) shareholders approved the merger of its wireless division with Aircel.

**APRIL 29** : Payments app Paytm launched 'Digital Gold' on its platform to allow customers to buy and sell gold through electronic platform.

### RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

**APRIL 5** : The Aditya Birla Group said it has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India to start payments bank.

**APRIL 7** : The Reserve Bank has decided to slash clearance time for National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) in an attempt to enhance efficiency of the electronic payment system and add to customer convenience.

**APRIL 7** : The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the repo rate unchanged but raised the reverse repo rate by 25 basis points to narrow the corridor in which overnight money moves.

**APRIL 8** : The Reserve Bank has issued a Certificate of Registration to Kotak Infrastructure Debt Fund, subsidiary of the Bank.

**APRIL 19** : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to invest up to 10 per cent of the unit capital of a Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) or Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).

**APRIL 28** : The Reserve Bank will soon put into circulation new Rs 10 coins that have been minted to commemorate 125th year of National Archives of India.

### BANK

**APRIL 12** : Department of Posts has joined hands with State Bank of India to promote SBI buddy e-wallet and POS machines for cashless transactions at Post Office counters while booking speed post and registered post items.

**APRIL 19** : State Bank of India (SBI) surpassed ONGC to become the country's most valued state-owned firm in terms of market valuation.

**APRIL 19** : Public sector Bank of Baroda has inked a pact with EM3 Agri Services to give loan to farmers and rural entrepreneurs for purchase of farm equipment and related machinery. BoB said the pact has been signed keeping in mind the government focus on doubling farmer's incomes by 2022.

**APRIL 20** : Jaipur-based Au Small Finance Bank started its operations as a small finance bank. Au Small Finance Bank Limited has commenced operations as a small finance bank with effect from APRIL 19, 2017.



## National & State News of the Month

- APRIL 1** : President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the river festival Namami Brahmaputra, which is aimed at promoting trade, tourism and cultural aspects linked to the mighty river.
- APRIL 3** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's longest road tunnel that links Kashmir Valley with Jammu by an all-weather route and reduces the distance by 31 kms.
- APRIL 3** : The Government has launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive scheme for powerloom sector development, simultaneously at over 45 locations in the country.
- APRIL 4** : Six Delhi University colleges have made it to the list of top 10 colleges in the country under a national ranking released by the HRD ministry, with Miranda House being ranked at number one.
- APRIL 6** : The Cabinet initiated a major reform by approving the setting up of a regulator called the Rail Development Authority (RDA).
- APRIL 7** : Parliament cleared the decks for the rollout of the historic Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1 as it approved four supporting legislations to usher in the one-nation-one-tax regime.
- APRIL 8** : The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 in New Delhi.
- APRIL 10** : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to prepare an elaborate work plan to establish the largest business incubator in the country near Lucknow airport.
- APRIL 11** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull inaugurated TERI-Deakin nanobiotechnology research centre, a joint venture of TERI and Deakin University.
- APRIL 11** : A new web portal "nakshe" was launched by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi, on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Survey of India (SoI).
- APRIL 14** : President Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone for the Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics in bengaluru.
- APRIL 15** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated 1980 MW of the Koradi super-critical thermal power project of state-run Mahagenco near Nagpur in Maharashtra to the nation.
- APRIL 15** : The CMD, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Development Commissioner (Handlooms) under Ministry of Textiles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment and Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textiles. The objective of signing this MoU is to help Scheduled Caste weavers and their families by promoting production and marketing of high value quality Handlooms products at Block level Cluster in various States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha etc.
- APRIL 15** : The Congress launched "Quest for Equity" website on the occasion of Dr B.R. Ambedkar on his 126th birth anniversary. The website contains pictures of his achievements and a copy of the original Constitution of India.
- APRIL 17** : Union Power and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal dedicated to the nation 4 wind power plants built by NALCO and announced an expansion plan for the Aluminium major to raise its capacity to 1 MTPA.
- APRIL 17** : Javadekar launches 17 RUSA projects. A cluster university in Jammu and Kashmir and language laboratories in Jharkhand's Ghatsila



**APRIL 18** : Higher education stakeholders and institutional leaders will now be able to track the progress of projects under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) with the HRD Ministry launching a 'Fund and reform' tracker.

**APRIL 18** : Naval ship INS Chennai was formally dedicated to the city in the presence of Chief Minister K Palaniswami, Eastern Naval Command, Flag Officer and Commanding-in-Chief, Vice-Admiral, H C S Bisht.

**APRIL 18** : Vistadome, India's First Train with Glass Ceiling, LED Lights and Rotable Seats Launched. With Suresh Prabhu's countless accomplishments in a bid to make Indian Railways the marvel that it has become now, there's hardly any room for us to ask for anything.

**APRIL 25** : India has become world's fifth largest military spender after the expenditure grew around 8.5 per cent in 2016. According to figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India spent \$55.9 billion in 2016.

**APRIL 25** : The government started an awareness campaign on intellectual property rights (IPRs) in schools across the country.

**APRIL 28** : India successfully test-fired 3000 kilometre range Agni-III ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast. The test was aimed at re-establishing the operational effectiveness of the weapon system.

**APRIL 28** : The International Road federation (IRF) announced that India will host the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) which will be held on 13 November 2017.

**APRIL 29** : The Nalanda University (NU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kanazawa University of Japan for academic collaboration, a NU statement said.

**APRIL 29** : Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Minister

M. Venkaiah Naidu has launched two important initiatives of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ministry of MSME), viz. Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal and MyMSME Mobile App on the occasion of the 15th Meeting of the National Board for MSME.

**APRIL 29** : Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar inaugurated Sportsmed Activ, an enhancement and rehab arm of speciality clinic Sportsmed Mumbai.

### STATE

**APRIL 3** : The Madhya Pradesh government has launched an app to provide various municipal services online.

**APRIL 3** : Mizoram has become the 27th state to join UDAY scheme meant for revival of debt-stressed discoms which will help it get overall benefits of Rs 198 crore during the period of turnaround.

**APRIL 4** : The ambitious e-vetting system of replies to be filed in the court has been implemented in the Haryana police department.

**APRIL 6** : School Education Department of Haryana has launched Skill Passbook and Catchup Programmes to improve the quality of education in government schools.

**APRIL 7** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones of several development projects including a multi-modal terminal and a four-lane bridge over River Ganga at Sahebganj in Jharkhand.

**APRIL 7** : The Madhya Pradesh government launched Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana in its districts.

**APRIL 8** : The Maharashtra government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Trusts to fast track efforts for eliminating malnutrition in Palghar and other districts of the state.

**APRIL 10** : Bollywood actor Vidya Balan will be the brand ambassador of silk materials produced in Jharkhand.

**APRIL 14 :** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation-stone for the Rs 100 crore Dr B R Ambedkar Smriti Vanam (memorial park) at Inavolu village here, marking the 125th birth anniversary of the architect of Indian Constitution.

**APRIL 18 :** World Bank Group IFC has said that Madhya Pradesh has signed project agreements with solar power companies for Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Park.

**APRIL 21 :** The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Shamshabad has been given

the carbon neutrality status by Airports Council International (ACI) under its Airport Carbon Accreditation programme.

**APRIL 22 :** Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated a 100 mw solar power plant at Bhalsawagaj in Haridwar district.

**APRIL 29 :** The sleepy village of Bhilar, in the heart of Maharashtra's famed 'strawberry country' will soon get another identity as India's first "book village", Education Minister Vinod Tawde said.

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## International News of the Month

- APRIL 6** : The Union Cabinet approved a MoU between India and Australia on cooperation in the field of communicable diseases and mental health.
- APRIL 6** : The Cabinet approved signing of air services agreement (ASA) with Georgia, which will help in establishing air connectivity between the two countries.
- APRIL 6** : The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and its French counterpart, Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC), France to implement Technical Cooperation Program in civil aviation sector.
- APRIL 7** : Israel has signed a USD 2 billion contract with India to supply it with missile defence systems, the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries said.
- APRIL 8** : India and Russia signed a joint declaration to stimulate cooperation in the field of promoting innovation ecosystem between the two countries.
- APRIL 8** : President Joseph Kabila has named a politician Bruno Tshibala who was recently kicked out of Congo's main opposition party as the country's new prime minister.
- Bruno Tshibala, 61, had been a key player in the opposition coalition known as the Rassemblement that signed a political agreement with the ruling party in December.
- APRIL 11** : Reliance Power executed project agreements with Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for Phase I of the 750 MW liquefied natural gas (LNG) power project at Meghnaghat, near Dhaka.
- APRIL 12** : India-Australia signed six agreements
- India and Australia signed 6 agreements to boost the bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The signed agreements include cooperation in combating international terrorism and transnational organised crime.
- APRIL 12** : Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai addressed Canadian Parliament and received the honorary citizenship bestowed upon her in 2014. Justin Trudeau says the 19-year-old Pakistani activist became the youngest person to address the Canadian Parliament.
- APRIL 13** : The Union Cabinet approved signing of an agreement between India and Bangladesh for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.
- APRIL 14** : The Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the French civil aviation authority DGAC to further technical cooperation between the two countries.
- APRIL 15** : Indian Academy of Highway Engineers has inked a pact with University of New South Wales for building an advanced transportation technology and systems.
- APRIL 17** : Indian Railways will supply modern locomotives and train sets worth Rs 680 crore to Sri Lanka, in the largest export order for the public transporter.
- APRIL 20** : UN Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of stamps showing 10 yoga asanas (poses) to commemorate the International Day of Yoga on June 21 in New York. The 10 stamps of \$1.15 denomination each depict a different yoga pose next to a large 'Om' in Devanagiri script.
- APRIL 21** : India has made a quarter-million-dollar contribution to the UN programme for helping countries to hold elections and develop their electoral systems.
- Eenam Gambhir, a First Secretary in India's Mission to the UN, presented the cheque to Kyoko Shiotani, Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General at the UN Department of Political Affairs.



**APRIL 22** : India and South Korea signed an agreement to firm up bilateral cooperation in defence shipbuilding.

Under the MoU, conceived under the umbrella of the special strategic partnership, the two sides will nominate one shipyard each for this purpose.

**APRIL 22** : India has won elections to two subsidiary bodies of a UN organ focused on social and economic issues.

India along with 12 other members was elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

**APRIL 23** : Egyptian and US navies launched a joint exercise named "Eagle Salute 2017" in the waters of the Red Sea, media reports said.

According to a press release by Egypt's army, "Eagle Salute 2017", come as part of an Egyptian army's plan for joint exercises with friendly countries to improve mutual military capabilities on the use of latest technologies.

**APRIL 29** : Two Indian-Americans - Ritu Raju and Sundeep R Muppidi are among 46 emerging college and university leaders selected by American Council on Education for its prestigious fellowship, the longest-running leadership development programme in the US.

**APRIL 29** : India and Cyprus signed four pacts, including one for air services and another for cooperation in merchant shipping. The two countries also signed an agreement on Executive Programme on Culture Education and Scientific Cooperation (EPCEC) for the year 2017-2020.



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## Sports News of the Month

- APRIL 3** : Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu produced a superlative performance beating reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain to win her maiden India Open Super Series title. In front of a partisan home crowd at the Sirifort Sports Complex, the third seeded Indian dominated the match from the start to win the summit clash in 46 minutes.
- APRIL 3** : Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated Chinese Taipei's Tien Chen Chou to win the India Open Super Series badminton tournament men's singles title.
- APRIL 3** : Johanna Konta defeated Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 to win the Miami Open - the biggest title won by a British woman in 40 years.
- APRIL 3** : Roger Federer defeated Rafael Nadal to clinch his third Miami Open title. Federer has named this title for the third consecutive time. With this, Federer has become the oldest champion at the Miami Open.
- APRIL 3** : Senior tennis player Leander Paes, along with his Canadian partner Adil Shamasdin, won the men's doubles title of Leon Challenger Tennis Tournament. Paes and Shamasdin defeated Luca Margaroli (Switzerland) and Caro Zampieri (Brazil).
- APRIL 3** : Long-serving national squash coach Cyrus Poncha has been chosen to receive the 2016 Asian Squash Federation 'Coach of the Year' award.
- APRIL 4** : Ravindra Jadeja has been voted as the best player of India's home season in a poll conducted by ESPN Cricinfo.
- APRIL 5** : Indian captain Virat Kohli was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016, adding another feather to his already crowded cap.
- APRIL 6** : India's Jeremy Lalrinnunga has won a silver in 56 kg category in IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships
- APRIL 6** : Teenage leg-spinner Rashid Khan Arman created history by becoming the first player from the war-torn Afghanistan to play an Indian Premier League match.
- APRIL 10** : Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton delivered a commanding performance to win the Formula One World Championship's Chinese Grand Prix, after starting from pole position at the Shanghai International Circuit.
- APRIL 10** : Indian team ruled the roost at the Asian Youth Chess Championship in Tashkent, where they finished on top with a rich haul of 12 medals, including four gold.
- APRIL 11** : The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Intel as its Innovation Partner for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2017, beginning June 1, making the Champions Trophy the first 'smart cricket tournament'.
- APRIL 12** : Alishan Mohammad and Pratap Lakra scored a brace each as India emerged champion at the 5th Asian School Hockey Championship with a convincing 5-1 win over Malaysia in the final.
- APRIL 15** : Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani won his seventh Asian title by defeating Sourav Kothari 6-3 in an entertaining final of the Asian Billiards Championship.
- APRIL 17** : Promising Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth clinched his maiden Super Series title at the Singapore Open after defeating compatriot Kidambi Srikanth in a historic all-Indian final in Singapore.
- APRIL 17** : Indian golfer Mukesh Kumar, played a card of five under 67 in the fourth and final round and won the PGTI Cochin Masters title.
- APRIL 18** : Former Indian National Rally Championship winner Amanpreet Ahluwalia claimed the JK Tyre Arunachal Festival of Speed crown.
- APRIL 19** : Swashbuckling West Indian batsman Chris Gayle became the first cricketer to score

10,000 runs in T20 cricket during the IPL match between his side Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Lions.

**APRIL 23** : Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record-breaking 10th time with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas.

**APRIL 23** : Indian star Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas defeated the Spanish team of Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez in a tough three-set battle to win the men's doubles title at the Monte Carlo Masters tennis tournament.

**APRIL 25** : Harbhajan Singh became the third Indian bowler to take 200 wickets in T20 cricket, when he sent back Rising Pune Supergiant captain Steven Smith.

**APRIL 25** : 101- year-old Man Kaur celebrated winning the 100 metres sprint at the World Masters Games in Auckland, the 17th gold medal in the Indian athlete's remarkable late-blooming career.

Kaur clocked one minute 14 seconds as a small crowd cheered her on -- ending a mere 64.42 seconds off Usain Bolt's 100m world record set in 2009.

**APRIL 25** : Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur clinched a gold in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet with a national record and world season- leading effort.

**APRIL 30** : Rafael Nadal defeated Austria's Dominic Thiem to win his 10th Barcelona Open title. Nadal won in Barcelona between 2005-2009 and 2011-13 and now in the last two years.

**APRIL 30** : The Indian men's U-21 handball team defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the International Handball Federation Trophy in Bangkok, their maiden title in a top-flight international event.

**APRIL 30** : Ramavtar Singh Jakhar has taken over as Secretary General of Volleyball Federation of India after the Delhi High Court permitted release of results of the elections held in April 2016.



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## Science & Miscellaneous News of the Month

### SCIENCE

- APRIL 10** : Scientists have for the first time detected atmosphere around an Earth-like planet beyond our solar system.
- APRIL 13** : China successfully launched a new communication satellite which will enable passengers of high-speed trains to watch high-definition videos smoothly and help those at the scene of natural disasters.
- APRIL 17** : China's first cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1 is to be launched into space between APRIL 20 and 24 to dock with the orbiting experimental space station.
- APRIL 28** : Scientists have discovered a new, frozen planet that has the same mass as that of Earth and is located 13,000 light-years away.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- APRIL 4** : A two-week long multi-national military exercise 'Shanti Prayas III' of the armies from 28 countries, including India and the US, concluded in Nepal.
- APRIL 4** : Microsoft India rolled out 'Teach Your Children' program under Microsoft Aspire School Program Suite for advancing its efforts to digitally transform education in the country.
- APRIL 4** : Sporting minnows India has been ranked third for the third year in a row in a doping violation report published by World Anti-Doping Agency for 2015 with 117 athletes from the country being punished after testing positive for banned substances.
- APRIL 5** : Delhi's Connaught Place is the world's 9th most expensive office location with annual prime rent of USD 105.71 per sq ft, says property consultant CBRE.
- APRIL 5** : According to the auction house a stunning 59.6 carat diamond known as the "Pink Star" sold for USD 71.2 million at a Sotheby's auction in Hong Kong, setting

a new world record for any diamond or jewel.

- APRIL 6** : South Korean consumer durables firm Samsung has emerged as the most trusted brand in the country followed by Sony and LG, while Tata Group is the only Indian company to feature in the top five.
- APRIL 7** : India has jumped 12 places to 40th rank globally in travel and tourism competitiveness list by World Economic Forum.
- APRIL 7** : According to the findings of a recent survey, India ranks ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses.
- APRIL 11** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book 'Matoshree' authored by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan. The book release function was followed by a 105-minute play based on the book.
- APRIL 12** : Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, released a book titled Gandhi in Champaran at National Mahatma Gandhi Museum in New Delhi.
- APRIL 13** : According to global automobile industry body Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India was the second fastest growth market for passenger vehicles among the top five nations globally, behind China, having expanded by 7 per cent last year.
- APRIL 13** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with a whopping 6.9 million followers, surpassing US President Donald Trump.
- APRIL 14** : Nepal and China started the joint military exercise 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017'. This is the first-ever joint military exercise between both the nations.
- APRIL 14** : Actress Alia Bhatt has been featured in Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list. She is the only Bollywood actress who has made it to this year's list.



**APRIL 17** : Controversial Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not garner any votes in the online survey.

**APRIL 19** : India has jumped one spot to rank 8th in the 2017 AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index with 31 per cent of the surveyed respondents being more optimistic on economic outlook over the next three years.

**APRIL 23** : Actor Rajkummar Rao-starrer "Newton" has won the best film honour

at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.

Amit Masurkar-directed "Newton", which also stars Anjali Patil, is a political satire.

**APRIL 29** : Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan became the first Indian actor to deliver TED speech in Vancouver, Canada.

**APRIL 30** : Noted sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik from Odisha has won the jury prize gold medal at the 10th Moscow Sand art Championship.



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## Appointments of the Month

**S K Patyal :** Lt Gen S K Patyal took charge as Deputy Chief of Army Staff succeeding Lt Gen Subrata Saha.

**Sandeep Kumar Jajodia :**

Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd (MIEL) reappointed Sandeep Kumar Jajodia as Chairman and Managing Director of the company.

**Maninder Singh Juneja :**

National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC), India's leading provider of integrated commodity and collateral management services of agri-commodities announced appointment of Maninder Singh Juneja as the managing director and CEO.

**Indira Banerjee :**

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

**Badar Durrez Ahmed :**

Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

**B P Kanungo :**

B P Kanungo took over as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**David R. Syiemlieh :**

Prof. David R. Syiemlieh took the Oath of Office and Secrecy as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, under clause (1) of Article 316 of the Constitution of India.

**Aruna Sethi :** Aruna Sethi, 1985 batch officer of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) has been elevated to the position of Chief Adviser (Cost) in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure w.e.f. 1st APRIL, 2017.

**Mahesh Jain :** Mahesh Kumar Jain took over as the new managing director and chief executive

officer of IDBI Bank.

**Kishor Kharat:**

Public sector Indian Bank has appointed Kishor Kharat as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

**Kenichi Yokoyama :**

Kenichi Yokoyama has taken over as the new Country Director of India Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Yokoyama has replaced M Teresa.

**Geetha Johri :**

Senior IPS officer Geetha Johri was appointed Gujarat's new DGP-in-charge, becoming the state's first woman police chief as incumbent PP Pandey quit the post following the apex court's reservation against him.

**Dr Ching-Kuo Wu :**

International Boxing Association (AIBA) President Dr Ching-Kuo Wu has been re-elected a council member of the Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) for a four-year term.

**Malvika Sinha :**

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

**Durga Prasanna Choudhury, Jatindra Prasad Das and Krushnaram Mohapatra :**

Three additional judges of Orissa High Court were sworn-in as permanent judges of the High Court.

**S N Subrahmanyam and A M Naik :**

Engineering conglomerate L&T has named S N Subrahmanyam as its new CEO with effect from July, while long-serving head A M Naik will move to a new position of non-executive Chairman effective October 1.

**Vishal Amin :** President Donald Trump has tapped Indian-American Vishal Amin as his new 'IP czar' to coordinate US law-

enforcement strategy around copyright, patents and trademarks.

**Anuja Ravindra Dhir :**

Indian-origin Anuja Ravindra Dhir, has become the first non-white judge to sit at the Old Bailey Court of London.

**Neil Gorsuch :**

Neil Gorsuch was sworn in as the new judge of the US Supreme Court, capping a grueling confirmation process and filling the seat once held by the late conservative icon Antonin Scalia.

**Sunita Sharma and B Venugopal :**

Sunita Sharma and B Venugopal were appointed as Managing Directors in Life Insurance Corporation of India.

**Rohit Sawhney :**

India Ratings, the domestic subsidiary of Fitch Ratings, appointed Rohit Sawhney as the chief executive with immediate effect.

**Ravi Venkatesan :**

Infosys appointed Independent Director Ravi Venkatesan as co-Chairman.

**Achal Khare :** Achal Khare was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of National High Speed Rail Corporation.

**Ashwini Aggarwal :**

Indian electronics industry body IESA announced appointment of Ashwini K Aggarwal as its new chairman and Anilkumar Muniswamy vice-chairman.

**Manish Sinha :**

Commercial data provider Dun & Bradstreet India said it has appointed Manish Sinha as Managing Director, effective from May 8 this year.

**Devendra Kumar Sharma :**

Devendra Kumar Sharma, the Managing Director of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation, joined as the chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

**Sulkhan Singh:**

In a major rejig of the Uttar Pradesh Police, the state government named 1980-batch Indian Police Service officer Sulkhan Singh the new Director General of Police in place of Javeed Ahmad.

**Mridul Gehlot :**

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

**Himanta Biswa Sarma :**

BJP leader and Assam Badminton Association President Himanta Biswa Sarma was appointed Badminton Association of India's interim head during its executive council meeting.

**B S Sandhu :** The Haryana government appointed senior IPS officer B S Sandhu as the Director General of Police. 1984 batch IPS officer, Sandhu will replace K P Singh.

**Bharat Kaushal :**

Japanese Company Hitachi appointed Bharat Kaushal as the Managing Director of its Indian operations.

**TKK Krishna Kumar :**

Beverages major Coca-Cola announced appointment of T.K.K. Krishnakumar as president of its India & South West Asia Business Unit, replacing Venkatesh Kini, who will exit the company after heading it for over three years.

**N Kamakodi :**

Private sector City Union Bank said Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of N Kamakodi as MD and CEO, for a period of three years with effect from May 1.

**Shobana Kamineni :**

Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, assumed office as the president of industry body CII.

## Awards of the Month

### Businesswoman of Year Award :

Asha Khemka, Principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College, has been named the 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year' for her efforts in the field of education and skills at the Asian Business Awards ceremony.

### Pulitzer Prize for Fiction :

Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad," his celebrated novel about an escaped slave that combined liberating imagination and brutal reality, has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

### SCOPE Award :

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), nation's largest steelmaker and a 'Maharatna' Public Sector Enterprise has been awarded with the prestigious SCOPE Award for Best Practices in Human Resource Management for the year 2014-15.

### Living Legend Lifetime Award :

Veteran actor Dilip Kumar was honoured with the Living Legend Lifetime Award by the Punjab Association.

### Grand Jury Prize :

"The Golden Wing" has received the grand jury prize for best feature at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) 2017.

### Cannes Cinefondation Award :

A film directed by a third-year student of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) here has been selected for Cinefondation under the aegis of the upcoming Cannes Film Festival.

### American Helicopter Society Award :

An India-born aeronautics engineer Arvind Sinha from Australia has been honoured with the World's Outstanding Aerospace Engineer Leadership Award by the American Helicopter Society (AHS) International.

### Emerging Young Leaders Award :

A Hindu youth from Pakistan has been selected for the prestigious Emerging Young Leaders Award given by the US State Department for the positive role played by youngsters in building sustainable peace.

### Sahitya award for translation :

Aniruddhan Vasudevans "One Part Woman", a translation of Perumal Murugans controversial Tamil novel "Maadhorubaagan" has been chosen for the Translation Prize in English 2016, Sahitya Akademi has announced.

### Vega Medal in Stockholm :

Chinese scientist Yao Tandong received 2017 Vega Medal in Stockholm, recognizing his contributions to research on glaciers and the environment on the Tibetan Plateau.

### P C Chandra Puraskar 2017 :

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

### Dadasaheb Phalke award :

Renowned director Kasinadhuni Viswanath, known for award-winning movies like "Sankarabharanam", "Sagara Sangamam" and "Swati Mutyam", was named for the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award for outstanding contribution to the film industry.

### Goldman Environmental Prize 2017 :

Social activist Prafulla Samantara was selected for the Goldman Environmental Prize 2017 from Asia Region for his historic twelve year long legal battle that affirmed the land rights of indigenous Dongria Kondh and protected the Niyamgiri Hills from a massive aluminum ore mine.

### Dinanath Mangeshkar Award :

Superstar Aamir Khan was honoured with the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award for his blockbuster "Dangal".

**Jnanpith Award :**

Eminent Bengali poet and literary critic Sankha Ghosh was conferred the 52nd Jnanpith Award by President Pranab Mukherjee.

**CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award :**

The President Pranab Mukherjee presented CII Presidents Award for Lifetime Achievement to Rahul Bajaj and CII foundation Woman Exemplar Award in New Delhi.

**National Orders Award :**

Two Indian-origin women veterans of the freedom struggle in South African were conferred the highest National Order awards by President Jacob Zuma.

**K Chandrasekharan Memorial Award :**

Chairman and Managing Director of Malayalam daily Mathrubhumi M P

Veerendra Kumar has been chosen for the seventh K Chandrasekharan Memorial Award for his contribution to the nation as a socialist, Parliamentarian, administrator and travel writer.

**Imperial Decorations Award :**

Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar has been selected by Japan for this year's Spring Imperial Decorations award, for his contribution to strengthening of bilateral ties and promotion of friendship between the two countries.

**Aga Khan Foundation gets award for Swachh-themed initiative :**

The Aga Khan Foundation has bagged an award for implementing a development model that aims to improve access to water and sanitation for marginalised communities across urban and rural areas of the country.



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## Eulogies of the Month

### Julian Stanczak :

Julian Stanczak, an artist known worldwide for his brightly colored, geometric Op art, has died.

### Ajeay Jhankar :

Noted author and filmmaker Ajeay Jhankar passed away. He was 57.

### Kishori Amonkar :

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away. She was 84.

**G R Reddy :** Long-time hockey administrator G R Reddy, fondly known as Raju among the sports fraternity died. He was 70.

### Akhilesh Das Gupta :

Former Union Minister and former President of the Indian Badminton Association, Akhilesh Das died. He was 56.

### Narsingh Baitha :

Former Bihar minister Narsingh Baitha died. He was 100.

**Munshi Venu :** Malayalam actor Munshi Venu passed away. He was 63.

### Girish Gary Saxena :

Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Saxena, lovingly called Gary, died. He was 90.

### Emma Martina Luigia Morano :

Emma Morano, the world's oldest woman and the last surviving person born in the 19th century, died at the age of 117 at her home in Italy's Verbania town.

### Devineni Nehru :

Former Andhra Pradesh minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Devineni Nehru died. He was 65.

### Ali Mohammad Naik :

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

### Raj Kumar Bagri :

Indian - born prominent businessman Raj Kumar Bagri died. He was 86. He was the longest-serving chairman of the London Metal Exchange.

### Santo Mitra :

Former East Bengal captain Santo Mitra passed away. Mitra was 75.



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## IMPORTANT DAYS

April 05	National Maritime Day
April 07	World Health Day
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day
April 13	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
April 17	World Hemophilia Day
April 18	World Heritage Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day
April 30	Anti-Child Labour Day

## ABBREVIATIONS

NTDPC	National Transport Development Policy Committee
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### UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

### NASSCOM

National Association of Software and Services Companies

### NCLT

National Company Law Tribunal

### BEREC

Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications

### SASEC

South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation

### TDSAT

Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal

### INVENT

Innovative Ventures & Technologies for Development

### CERC

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission



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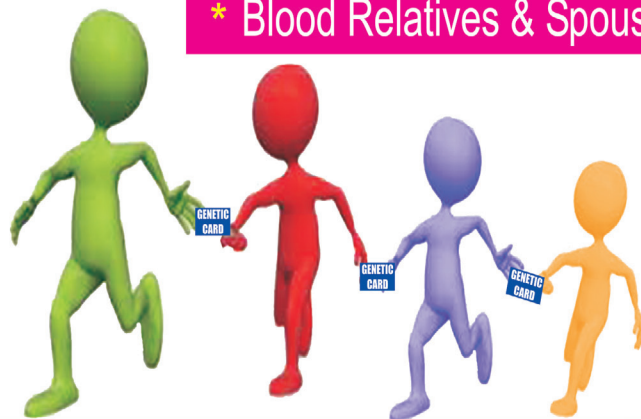
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## SPECIAL FEATURES

### India's growth to accelerate to 7.4% in 2017-18: Asian Development Bank



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that India's growth rate will improve to 7.4 per cent during 2017-18 and go up further to 7.6 per cent in the next financial year, remaining ahead of China.

The impact of the demonetization of high-value banknotes is dissipating as the replacement banknotes enter circulation. Stronger consumption and fiscal reforms are also expected to improve business confidence and investment prospects in the country. India recorded a growth rate of 7.1 per cent during 2016-17, notwithstanding the fears that demonetization of high-value currency notes of Rs 500/1,000 in November last year would adversely impact the economic growth.

In India, the sub region's largest economy, growth is expected to pick up to 7.4 per cent in the fiscal year (2017-18) and 7.6 per cent in 2018-19, following the 7.1 per cent registered last FY. With regard to China, the report said, the overall output is expected to slow to 6.5 per cent in 2017 and 6.2 per cent in 2018, down from 2016's 6.7 per cent.

Efforts of the Chinese government to maintain financial and fiscal stability would continue to be a modest drag on growth going forward, adding the continued structural reform would help in maintain growth in the government's target range.

Over the last few years, India has taken a host of economic reforms initiative, including the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and liberalization of the FDI regime, with a view to improve the business climate and promote growth. The GST is expected to roll out from July. The report further said that South Asia would remain the fastest growing of all sub regions, with growth reaching 7 per cent in 2017 and 7.2 per cent in 2018.

Commenting on the future prospects, it said that in two-thirds of economies in developing Asia, the growth is being supported by higher external demand, rebounding global commodity prices, and domestic reforms, making the region the largest single contributor to global growth at 60 per cent.

### RBI permits banks to invest in REITs and InvITs



The Reserve Bank allowed banks to invest in Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), a move that will help revive the cash-starved infrastructure sector.

Banks are allowed to invest in equity-linked mutual funds, venture capital funds (VCFs) and equities to the extent of 20 per cent of their Net Owned Fund (NOF).

RBI stated in its first bi-monthly monetary policy for 2017-18 that it is proposed to allow banks to invest in REITs and InvITs within this umbrella limit. Detailed guidelines will be issued by May-end 2017.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has put in place regulations for REITs and InvITs and requested the RBI to allow banks to participate in these schemes.

The policy also lays down other important developmental policies such as expanding investor base in REITs, which will help expand and deepen domestic financial markets.

Assocham President Sandeep Jajodia said this will give a boost to the sector which has been witnessing tough times in the past few years and the decision "really augurs well" for the real estate sector.

### Indian, Malaysian firms exchange MoUs worth \$36 bn

Indian and Malaysian firms signed 31 pacts envisaging investments of about USD 36 billion in sectors including construction, pharma and education.



These MoUs were exchanged in the presence of Malaysian Prime Minister Mohd Najib Tun Abdul



Razak and Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Addressing business leaders from industry bodies including Ficci, Najib said this "whopping figure" of USD 36 billion is an indication of positive feelings, sentiments and assessment of the business communities of the both sides for each other.

Najib, accompanying a huge business delegation, is currently on a six-day visit to the country. He has held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on wide ranging issues including trade ties and counter-terrorism.

The Indian firms that signed the MoUs include Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd; Adani Realty; Natco Pharma Ltd; VBC Fertilisers Chemicals; Andhra Pradesh Gas Distribution Corporation; GMR Energy Ltd, National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd and Jaiprakash Associates.

Mumbai Dabbawala Association also inked a pact with Malaysian Palm Oil Council. The Malaysian firms that exchanged the agreements include Sime Darby Property Berhad; MMC Ports Holding Sdn Bhd; Malaysia Resources Corporation; Isomeric Holdings; TNB Repairs & Maintenance; Malaysian Palm Oil Council; and CIDB Holdings.

### WiFi Services in National Rail Museum

The National Rail Museum, New Delhi, became a high speed RailWire Wi-fi zone , 30th March 2017, when Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu dedicated the facility to the visitors of this heritage site. The Wi-Fi facility has been commissioned by RailTel in



association with Google for providing high speed state of the art world class internet experience to the hundreds of people visiting the National Rail Museum every day.

RailTel is also in process of providing fast Wi-Fi at 5 more tourists' sites of Delhi namely Red Fort, Humayun Tomb, Safdarjung Tomb, QutubMinar and Rajpath Lawns being maintained by Archaeological Survey of India. Wi-Fi services to visitors are being provided

Under 'Railwire', the retail Broadband distribution model of RailTel. Designed to offer users the best Internet experience, Railwire Wi-Fi will be available to any user who has a working mobile connection on a smartphone.

### Weak market, low salary budget to keep average increment flat at 9.7%: KPMG



According to a KPMG survey, the average increment for the year 2017-18, is expected to remain almost flat from last year at 9.7 per cent, mainly driven by weak market performance and low salary budget.

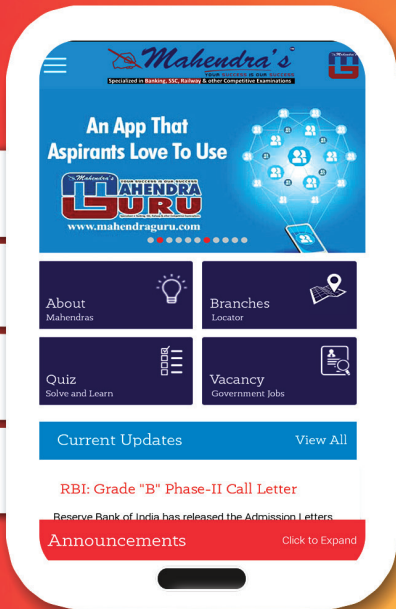
According to KPMG's India's Annual Compensation Trends Survey, the projected increment for the 2017-18 is 9.7 per cent, a drop of 0.6 per cent from 2016-17. This is mainly because the markets have not done well last year, low salary budget, cost-cutting within companies and higher pay packets.

The highest increment of 12.5 per cent is reported by the e-commerce sector, the lowest of 8.1 per cent is that of logistics.



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