

CCEA approves amendments in Mega Power Policy 2009

01-Apr-17

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved amendments in the Mega Power Policy, 2009 to push 31 GW stranded projects entailing an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore. The initiative mainly aims at bringing down power tariff for making electricity more affordable and achieving the ambitious goal of 24X7 power for all.

Barmer-Munawab, Pipad Road-Bilara rail routes declared as Green Corridors

01-Apr-17

- ✓ The North Western Railway has declared the **Barmer-Munawab** and **Pipad Road-Bilara** rail routes in Rajasthan as **Green Corridors**. With this total number of green corridors has increased to five. The 114-km-long **Manamadurai– Rameswaram** stretch of Southern Railway was India's first 'Green corridor'. **Okha-Kanalus** and **Porbandar-Wasjaliya** railway sections of Gujarat also have been declared green corridors.

What is green corridor?

- ✓ The Green Corridor ensures zero toilet discharge on rail tracks as part of its commitment to clean environment under the 'Swachh Rail-Swachh Bharat' initiative. Trains in the section have been equipped with **bio-toilets** to ensure **zero discharge of human waste** on the rail tracks and preventing corrosion of the tracks.

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Tamil Nadu wins Deodhar Trophy

✓ 01-Apr-17

- ✓ Tamil Nadu won the Deodhar Trophy by defeating Parthiv Patel-led India 'B' by 42 runs in the match held at Vizag. With this win, Tamil Nadu became the first state side to win the three-team one-day tournament.

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N Chandrababu Naidu selected for US India Business Council Award

✓ 01-Apr-17

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was selected for the US India Business Council Award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'

What is Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) or superbugs?

- ✓ Antimicrobial resistance happens when microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites change when they are exposed to antimicrobial drugs. These microorganisms are also termed as "superbugs". As a result, the medicines or drugs become ineffective and infections persist in the body further increasing the risk of spread to others.

India becomes associate member of IEA

✓ 01-Apr-17

- ✓ India, world's 3rd largest energy consumer has joined International Energy Association (IAE) as associate member. India will also now have a greater say in global energy issues. With India as a associate member, IEA now formally covers 70% of the world's energy consumption, thus increasing its relevance

About International Energy Association (IEA)

- ✓ IEA is an inter-governmental organization established in 1974 as per framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It was established in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis after the OPEC cartel had shocked the world with a steep increase in oil prices.

Members: Presently it has 29 member countries. India is lone associate member of IAE. **Headquarters (Secretariat):** Paris, France

India's first International research centre for Foot, Mouth disease of cattle inaugurated in Odisha

01-Apr-17

India's first International research centre for Foot and Mouth disease of cattle and buffalos was inaugurated at Argul (Bhubaneswar), Odisha.

2nd unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power plant starts commercial power generation

01-Apr-17

- ✓ The second unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power plant (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu has started commercial generation of power. It had attained its full power generation capacity of 1000 Megawatt in January 2017. It had attained criticality in July 2016 and was synchronized with southern grid in August 2016. From the first unit of KNPP, Tamil Nadu is getting 562 MW, Telangana 50 MW, Karnataka 221 MW and Kerala 133 MW Puduchery 33 MW. Tamil Nadu is expected to get 562MW from second unit also. The nuclear power generation has gone up to 6,780MW in the country with power generation in the second unit. The 1000MW KNPP is built with Russian expertise.

Mizoram becomes 27th state to join UDAY scheme

03-Apr-17

Mizoram became 27th state to join Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme meant for revival of debt-stressed discoms

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Five State Banks, Bharatiya Mahila Bank merge with SBI

03-Apr-17

- ✓ Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank have officially merged with country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI). With this merger, SBI joins the league of top 50 banks globally in terms of assets. **The five associate banks are:** State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.

Government launches PowerTex India scheme for powerlooms

03-Apr-17

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched PowerTex India, a three-year comprehensive scheme for Powerloom Sector Development. The PowerTex India scheme aims to boost common infrastructure and modernisation of the powerloom sector in the country.
- ✓ The two new schemes are **Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme (PMCS) for powerloom weavers and solar energy scheme (SEC) for powerlooms. PMCS for powerlooms:** Under it, financial assistance,

including margin money subsidy and interest reimbursement, will be given as against the credit facility under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to the decentralised power loom units.

✓ **Myanmar becomes 7th member of SASEC**

✓ 03-Apr-17

✓ Myanmar became the 7th member of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program of Asian Development Bank (ADB)

About South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)

✓ SASEC program is a project-based partnership to promote regional prosperity by improving cross-border connectivity, boosting trade among member countries and strengthening regional economic cooperation. It was established in 2001 in response to the request of the four countries of South Asia – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal – from ADB to assist in facilitating economic cooperation among them.

✓ ADB is the secretariat and lead financier of the SASEC program. So far, it has supported 46 projects worth \$9.17 billion in transport, trade facilitation, energy and information and communications technology (ICT). Its seven members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates India's longest road tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir

03-Apr-17

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Chenani-Nashri Tunnel**, country's longest road tunnel that links Kashmir Valley with Jammu by an all-weather route. The 9-km-long tunnel passes through the lower Himalayan mountain range on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway 44. It cuts the distance between Jammu and Srinagar to around 250 km from the current 350 km.

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✓ 03-Apr-17

✓ American singer and song writer Bob Dylan has finally accepted 2016 Nobel Prize for literature since December 2016 awards ceremony. He is the first song writer to win this prestigious award

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✓ **PV Sindhu wins India Super Series tournament**

✓ 03-Apr-17

✓ Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu won the India Open Super Series title in women's single category. In the final match, she defeated Rio Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain by 21-19, 21-16 score

✓ Justice Nandrajog was the Delhi High Court judge.

Government launches BS-IV grade fuels

03-Apr-17

Government has formally launched Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) grade transportation fuel across the country to keep carbon emission in check

BS-IV fuels

✓ BS-IV fuels contain far less sulphur than BS-III fuel. Sulphur in fuel makes it dirtier and lowers the efficiency of catalytic converters, which control emissions. The BS-IV complaint vehicles release less pollutants Carbon Mono-oxide (CO), Hydrocarbon (HC), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), Sulphur (SOx) and particulate matter (PM) compared to BS III complaint vehicles.

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✓ **Sunaina Singh appointed as Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University**

- ✓ 03-Apr-17
- ✓ Sunaina Singh was appointed the new vice chancellor of Nalanda University (NU). Currently, she is vice chancellor of the English and Foreign Language University (EFLU), Hyderabad
- ✓
- ✓ **April 2: World Autism Awareness**
- ✓ 03-Apr-17
- ✓ The World autism Awareness Day is observed every year on 2 April across the world to raise awareness about autism and problems faced by people suffering from it.

About FAME India Scheme

- ✓ The FAME India scheme was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) with an aim to promote eco-friendly vehicles in the country. Its objectives is to provide fiscal and monetary incentives for adoption and market creation of both hybrid and electric technologies vehicles in the country.

Government launches Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana in Nellore

04-Apr-17

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

Key Provisions of the Scheme

- ✓ The scheme will be distribute free of cost physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to BPL category in Camp mode. It is the first-of-its-kind Central Sector Scheme (CCS) in India, to be fully funded by the Union Government.
- ✓ It is expected to benefit 5,20,000 Senior Citizens and its expenditure implementation will be met from the “Senior Citizens’ Welfare Fund“. **Implementing Agency:** Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It will also undertake one year free maintenance of the devices.

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Scientists identify fungus that eats plastic

✓ 04-Apr-17

Scientists from Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) have identified a soil fungus **IISc ranked India's top**

u

niversity in 2017 NIRF Survey

04-Apr-17

- ✓ The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru was adjudged as the best Indian university in the 2017 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by Union Human Resource Development Ministry. **Aspergillus tubingensis** that uses enzymes to rapidly break down plastic materials

DAC approves proposals to buy Barak missiles for naval warships

04-Apr-17

- ✓ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of the Union Defence Ministry has approved proposal to procure fresh batch of Barak surface-to-air missiles (SAM) for the Indian Navy's warships from Israel.

The procurement of the missiles will enhance India's maritime capability in view of the changing security dynamics in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

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✓ **19th commonwealth forestry conference held in Uttarakhand**

✓ 04-Apr-17

✓ The 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference was held at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

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✓ **Prof. David R. Syiemlieh takes Oath as Chairman of UPSC**

✓ 04-Apr-17

✓ Prof. David R. Syiemlieh took the Oath of Office and Secrecy as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

✓ **About World Anti-Doping Agency**

WADA is global Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that aims at harmonizing antidoping regulations in all sports and countries. It is collective initiative led by the **K Prithika Yashini becomes India's first-ever transgender police official**

05-Apr-17

✓ K Prithika Yashini became India's first-ever transgender person to become a police official, after she took charge as sub-inspector in Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu International Olympic Committee. It was established in 1999

Rajiv Chander appointed as India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN

05-Apr-17

✓ Rajiv Kumar Chander was appointed as India's new Ambassador and permanent representative of India to the United Nations (UN) Offices in Geneva

Haryana Government to provide one-time grant of Rs. 21,000 to families for third girl child

05-Apr-17

✓ Haryana Government has decided to provide one-time grant of Rs 21,000 to all those families whose third girl child was born on or after August 24, 2015 under the 'Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti' scheme. Under the scheme, the eligible families will receive the amount irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, income and number of sons. Its purpose is to combat the problem of declining child sex ratio and promote girls' education in the state.

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✓ **Union Cabinet approves setting up Rail Development Authority**

✓ 06-Apr-17

✓ The Union Cabinet has cleared approved setting up an independent rail regulator, named **Rail**

✓

✓ **Development Authority (RDA)**. It will be based in Delhi and will be set up through an executive order. It will be responsible for recommending passenger fares, setting performance standards for rail operations and creating level playing policy for private sector participation

✓

✓ **Cabinet approves closure of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana**

✓ 06-Apr-17

✓ The Union Cabinet has approved closure of the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY). The scheme was launched in 2012 to address the social security-related issues of the Emigration Check Required (ECR)-category workers going abroad for employment to ECR countries.

✓ **April 5: National Maritime Day**

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✓ **Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat conferred with honorary rank of general of Nepal Army**

✓ 07-Apr-17

✓ General Bipin Rawat, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was conferred with honorary rank of general of Nepal Army. The title was conferred by Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari during a special function at the President's Office.

April 7: World Health Day

National Children's Film Festival held in Vishakhapatnam

✓ 07-Apr-17

✓ The National Children's Film Festival was held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

✓ **Iceland set to become world's first country to neutralise gender pay gap**

✓ 07-Apr-17

✓ Iceland is set to become the first country in the world to neutralise gender pay gap.

Raman Roy appointed as new chairman NASSCOM

✓ 07-Apr-17

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Quattro Raman Roy was appointed as the new chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for **India, Russia ink deal on Unit 1 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant**

07-Apr-17

✓ India has signed a joint statement with Russia takeover full operational control of Unit 1 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP). It formally marks the full transition. The agreement was signed between representatives of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and the ASE Group of Companies, a subsidiary of ROSATOM State Atomic Energy Corporation of Russia.

✓ the year 2017-18

Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar posthumously conferred Kirti Chakra

07-Apr-17

President Pranab Mukherjee has posthumously conferred Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award on Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar of Gorkha Rifles

North India to get first wildlife DNA bank in Bareilly

07-Apr-17

North India will soon get its first DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) bank for wildlife at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly

India ink defence deals with Israel for advanced MRSAM

07-Apr-17

India and Israel have inked defence deals worth over \$2 billion for advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) systems. As part of the deal, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will provide the Indian Army with Barak-8 advanced MRSAM systems

April 8, 2017

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

08-Apr-17

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has clarified that the ban on cash transaction in excess of Rs. 2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts. Central Government has banned cash transactions of over 2 lakh through the Finance Act 2017

Sex ratio in Haryana touches 950 mark for first time

08-Apr-17

The sex ratio in Haryana for the first time in the history has touched the 950 mark in March, 2017. It was announced by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

Boxer Shyam Kumar wins gold medal at Thailand International

08-Apr-17

Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar has won gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament in the 49-kilogram category held in Bangkok

Malala Yousafzai to become youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace

08-Apr-17

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has selected Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai (19) as Messenger of Peace

April 6: International Day of Sports for Development and Peace

Madhya Pradesh Government launches Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana

08-Apr-17

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

Key Facts

- ✓ Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana will provide a full nutritious meal to poor people, workers and their families at subsidised rate of Rs. 5. To implement the populist subsidised meal scheme, food centres (canteens) will be opened at each district. In case of big districts, more than one centre will be set up in accordance to local needs.

PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone of multimodal terminal in Jharkhand

08-Apr-17

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a multi-modal terminal and a four-lane bridge on the Ganga river in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district. The multi-modal terminal is an important component of the development of the National Waterway-1 (NW-1) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal, a distance of 1,390 km. The four-lane bridge on the Ganga river will be connecting Sahibganj to Manihari in Bihar's Katihar district

About Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

- ✓ RKVY is a special Additional Central Assistance Scheme which launched in August 2007 as a part of the 11th Five Year Plan. It was aimed to orient agricultural development strategies, to reaffirm its commitment to achieve 4% annual growth in the agricultural sector during the 11th plan (2007–11). It was launched to incentivize the States to provide additional resources in their State Plans over and above their baseline expenditure to bridge critical gaps.

India ranks 40 in WEF's 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index

08-Apr-17

- ✓ India was ranked 40th among the 136 economies across the world in 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). In this edition of index, India has jumped 12 places from earlier 52nd position in 2015. But it lagged behind its other Asian peers like Japan (4th) and China (13th).

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April 10: World Homoeopathy Day

Government launches Bharat ke Veer web portal and application

✓ 10-Apr-17

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched web portal and mobile application named “**Bharat ke Veer**” to enable people to contribute towards family of martyrs from central paramilitary forces

About Schemes

- ✓ Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana are award based schemes launched by NITI Aayog to encourage consumers and merchants for transition to digital payments in post demonitisation. These schemes aim to give cash awards to consumers and merchants who utilize digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditures.

12th Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant held in Vairengte

10-Apr-17

- ✓ The twelfth edition Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise **Nomadic Elephant 2017** has begun at Vairengte in Mizoram. Vairengte houses Indian Army's elite Counter-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School.

✓

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates exhibition marking 100 years of Champaran Satyagraha

✓ 10-Apr-17

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an exhibition titled “**Swachhagraha – Bapu Ko Karyanjali – Ek Abhiyan, Ek Pradarshani**” in New Delhi mark the 100 years (centenary year) of Champaran Satyagraha.

Pakistan sentences alleged RAW agent Kulbhushan Jadhav to death

10-Apr-17

- ✓ Pakistan's Field General Court Martial has sentenced to death Indian national and alleged RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) agent Kulbhushan Jadhav (46) who was arrested last year on charges of spying.

About China's One Belt and One Road (OBOR) Initiative

- ✓ OBOR initiative is China's ambitious development strategy and framework that aims to boost its connectivity and trade across Asia, Africa and Europe. It was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013. It has been launched as part of China's revived 21st century Silk Road diplomacy that seeks to

push it to take a bigger role in global affairs as a major global power. It is basically investment and trade promotion scheme aiming to deepen economic connections between China and rest of the world. It comprises two components viz. the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Background

- ✓ **Article 341** of the Constitution empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Castes in various states and UTs. Further, it permits Parliament to modify this list.

Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 passed in Lok Sabha

10-Apr-17

- ✓ Lok Sabha has passed Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 which seeks to give constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes. The bill was passed by the house with 360 MPs voting in favor and 2 against the bill.

Objectives of the Bill

The Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill seeks to make the following changes: It seeks to *insert a new article 338B in the constitution* which provides for NCBC, its composition, mandate, functions and various officers. Insert a new article 342-A which empowers the president to notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes of that state / union territory

Malala Yousafzai made youngest UN Messenger of Peace

11-Apr-17

United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres has bestowed the highest honour UN Messenger of Peace upon Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai

Government sets up inter-ministerial panel to monitor UDAN

12-Apr-17

- ✓ The Union Government has set up an 'Inter- Ministerial Monitoring-cum-Coordination Committee' to monitor the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme. UDAN is regional air connectivity scheme (RCS) which seeks to make flying affordable by connecting unserved and under-served airports.

Parliament passes HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017

12-Apr-17

- ✓ Parliament has passed the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017. It is the first national HIV law in South Asia. The Bill seeks to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It aims to prevent social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV).

Government launches URJA MITRA app

12-Apr-17

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Power has launched URJA MITRA app for empowering citizens by real time information sharing on power supply. The app is a first of its kind which provides a central platform, web-portal (www.urjamitra.com) as well as mobile app for state power Distribution utilities to disseminate power outage information to rural/ urban power consumers through SMS/ push/email notifications across the country.

✓ **G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting on Digital Economy held in Germany**

✓ 12-Apr-17

- ✓ The G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting on Digital Economy was held in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Government to launch SAMPADA scheme for food processing

12-Apr-17

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Food Processing is going to launch **Scheme for Agro-Marine Produce Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA)** for food processing sector. The scheme will integrate current and new schemes aimed at reducing food wastage and doubling farmers' income by 2022. It will help to create infrastructure for linkage of entire supply chain.

Cabinet approves setting up of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy at Visakhapatnam

13-Apr-17

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of **Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE)** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh as **Institute of National Importance** through an Act of Parliament.

5 Facts: Operation Meghdoot

13-Apr-17

- ✓ Operation Meghdoot was an Indian armed forces operation launched 33 years ago on 13 April 1984. Here are the Five Facts about this operation: 1. Operation Meghdoot was an operation launched by Indian Armed Forces to capture the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir. 2. The operation was entrusted to one of the Kumaon Battalions, supported

FRBM Panel for 3% fiscal deficit target

- ✓ The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) committee has made recommendations of a fiscal deficit target of 3% by 2020. The Committee has also suggested an escape clause for over-riding considerations of national security, calamities of national proportion and collapse of agriculture etc. which has drastic effects on output and incomes. The Committee was headed by NK Singh.

Jharkhand police initiates Tare Zameen Par programme for underprivileged kids

13-Apr-17

- ✓ Jharkhand Police has initiated Tare Zameen Par programme to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas in the Palamau district of Jharkhand. This programme is aimed to restore confidence in the state police force and to encourage children to lead happy lives.

Haryana launched Operation Durga to ensure women Safety

13-Apr-17

- ✓ Similar to that of Uttar Pradesh's 'anti-romeo squad', the Haryana government has launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state. Under this operation, teams formed by the Chief Minister's Flying Squad visited public places such as schools, colleges, bus stands and railway stations and caught persons indulging in crime activities against women like eve-teasing, stalking, harassment and other such activities. Since women are hesitant in reporting incidents involving antisocial elements to the Police, the campaign, 'Operation Durga' was launched so that flying squads patrol those areas where such anti-social elements committed crimes against women.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

- ✓ The objective of this scheme to launch a Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank to support the entrepreneurs of Scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes entrepreneurs in the MSME sector.

Income Tax Department launches Operation Clean Money-II

14-Apr-17

- ✓ The Income Tax department has launched the second phase of the 'Operation Clean Money' to investigate over 60,000 individuals with an aim to detect black money generation post demonetisation. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the policy-making body of the income tax department has detected flow of black money into the banks amounting to over Rs 9,334 crore between November 9, 2016 and February 28 this year.

Government launches Operation Clean Money 2.0

- ✓ The Income Tax department has launched another drive to catch the tax evaders who had deposited large sums during the demonetisation drive. The first phase of the Operation had scrutinised deposits worth Rs. 10 lakhs. The second phase will examine deposits between Rs. 5-10 lakhs.

India-UK jointly make latest jet engine

- ✓ Indian and UK governments are jointly making the most powerful jet engine for fighter jets of the future

✓ Dipa and Sakshi have been conferred Padma Shri.

Gymnast Dipa Karmakar and wrestler Sakshi Malik have been bestowed Padma Shri Award from President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhawan

Fact Box: Teesta River Issue

14-Apr-17

- ✓ Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his hopes for the earliest solution to Teesta Water Dispute to his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina

✓ 126th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Celebrated

✓ 14-Apr-17

- ✓ 126th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated at the Parliament House complex.

✓ Nepal and China to conduct Sagarmatha Friendship-2017

✓ 14-Apr-17

- ✓ Nepal and China is all set to hold their *first ever joint military exercise* named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017' from April 17 to April 26. The 10 day long joint exercise will focus on combating terror and disaster management.

Depression in Bay of Bengal named "Tropical Cyclone Maarutha"

16-Apr-17

B Sai Praneeth wins Singapore Open Super Series Title

17-Apr-17

- ✓ Sai Praneeth defeated the world No 29 Kidambi Srikanth in an all-Indian men's singles final and clinched Singapore Open Superseries badminton title

Government to allow 100% FDI in Cash and ATM Management companies.

The Central government has given its nod to allow Cash and ATM management companies to attract 100% foreign direct investment and exempted them from compliance to the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (PSARA).

Vastu Shashtra to be introduced in IIT Kharagpur

17-Apr-17

IIT Kharagpur plans to introduce Vastu Shashtra to the architecture students from this year August

Turkey Referendum: President Erdogan wins sweeping powers

Prime Minister felicitates family members of Paika rebellion

17-Apr-17

- ✓ Prime Minister felicitated the descendants of 16 families associated with Paika Rebellion of 1817 and other freedom struggles of Odisha in Bhubaneswar. In this year's budget speech, Finance Minister had mentioned about the Paika rebellion led by Bakshi Jagabandhu and stated that the event will be commemorated appropriately.

Paika Rebellion

Paika Rebellion of 1817 is an **armed rebellion against British colonialism**. The revolution was in response to the tinkering of the revenue system by the British in 1803

INS Chennai dedicated to Chennai

PM inaugurates phase-I of the Link-2 pipeline canal of SAUNI project

18-Apr-17

Prime Minister has inaugurated phase-I (Link-2) pipeline canal of the ambitious *Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI)* Yojana in Botad district of Gujarat. He laid foundation stone for the Phase- II (Link-2) of the SAUNI Yojana in Saurashtra

SAUNI project

- ✓ The entire SAUNI project envisages supplying water for irrigation purposes to 10.22 lakh acres of land in Saurashtra region. Under this project, one million acre feet (MAFT) of floodwaters of Narmada will be diverted to the Saurashtra region. In total, 1,126-kilometre-long network of giant pipelines would be laid to fill up 115 reservoirs in the Saurashtra region by diverting flood waters overflowing from the *Sardar Sarovar Dam* across the Narmada in south Gujarat. The project aims to utilize the floodwater which otherwise overflows the Narmada dam during monsoon and drains into the sea.
- ✓ Under the SAUNI project, instead of open canals, pipelines are used. The massive pipelines of SAUNI project will run underground and thus requires no acquisition of farmer's land and results in less water loss. The pumping stations for the project will be constructed on government land. The project envisages filling irrigation dams that already have canal networks to channel water to farms. Therefore, technically, SAUNI project is a link project.

H1-B Visas

- ✓ The 'H' visas are for temporary workers. The H1B Visas are for foreign skilled workers in occupations that generally require higher education, including science, engineering or computer programming. The H1B visas are given through a lottery system. Every year, the US government awards 65,000 H1B visas and randomly distributes another 20,000 to graduate student workers

IMF

- ✓ IMF came into existence on December 27, 1945. The IMF works to improve the economies of its member countries. IMF was established to promote international economic cooperation, international trade, employment, and exchange rate stability
- ✓ **IMD forecasts**
- ✓ The IMD was set up in 1875. It produced its first monsoon forecast in 1886 after the famine of the 1870s. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issues forecasts for the country as a whole and five regions

VVPAT machines- Significance

- ✓ The usage of VVPAT machines of the Election Commission is expected to ensure free and fair elections. In the VVPAT system, when a voter presses the button for a candidate of his choice in the electronic voting machines (EVM), a paper ballot containing the serial number, the name of the candidate and poll symbol will be printed for the voter

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

19-Apr-17

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has selected Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura for the Krishi Karman awards for their record performance in the production of food grains during 2015-16

Krishi Karman Awards

Krishi Karman awards were instituted in 2010-11 by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to reward the best performing States in the production of foodgrains and individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses and Coarse Cereals.

RGIA gets carbon neutrality status

20-Apr-17

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

ISRO to test launch GSLV-Mk III-D1 in May 2017

GSAT-19

- ✓ GSAT-19 would be the payload for the first developmental flight of the indigenous GSLV-Mk III-D1 Launcher. GSAT-19 has a mass of 3200 kg and would carry Ka and Ku band payload along with a Geostationary Radiation Spectrometer Payload (GRASP). The spectrometer would be used to monitor and study the nature of the charged particles and influence of space radiation on spacecraft and electronic components.
- ✓ GSAT-19 would also make use of advanced spacecraft technologies such as bus subsystem experiments in the electrical propulsion system, indigenous Li-ion battery and indigenous bus bars for power distribution etc.

About GSLV-Mk III

- ✓ The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III is the next generation launch vehicle of ISRO which will be capable of launching four-tonne class satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). It has an indigenous cryogenic third stage, designated as C25. The C25 stage is considered as the most powerful upper stage developed by ISRO which uses Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) propellant combination.

✓ Srimanta Sankardeva

- ✓ Srimanta Sankardeva (1449–1568) is a 15th – 16th century social and religious reformer, poet, playwright and preacher of the vaishnavite cult. He was born at Alipukhuri-Bordowa in 1449. Sankardev is credited for inspiring the Bhakti Movement in Assam just like how Guru Nanak, Ramananda, Kabir, Basava and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu inspired in the rest of the Indian subcontinent. The ideas of Sankardev were based on Bhagavata Purana

NALCO Disinvestment: Government raises Rs 1200 crore

✓ 21-Apr-17

- ✓ The Central Government has raised Rs. 1,200 crore by divesting 9.2% of paid-up capital in National Aluminum Company Ltd. (NALCO).

Pakistan Leases Gwadar port to a State-run Chinese firm for 40 years

✓ 21-Apr-17

- ✓ Pakistan has leased the operations of its strategic Gwadar port to a State-run Chinese firm, the *China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC)* for a period of 40 years

China announces names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh

21-Apr-17

- ✓ China has unilaterally announced 'standardised' names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh. It is felt that Chinese move comes as a retaliation against Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Experts feel that China's announcement is aimed at reaffirming its territorial sovereignty over the region. According to the Chinese foreign ministry, change of names was a legitimate action carried out in line with Chinese law. China has named the six places in Arunachal Pradesh with Roman alphabet as *Wo'gyainling, Mila Ri, Qoidengarbo Ri, Mainquka, Bümo La and Namkapub Ri*. The name *Wo'gyainling* is likely to be given to the Ugyen Ling monastery (birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama), *Qoidengarbo Ri* is likely to be the name given to Choten Karpo Ri, *Mainquka* is likely to be *Mechuka* in West Siang district and *Bümo La* is likely to be *Bumla*.

April 21: Civil Services Day

April 22: Earth Day

World Bank approves \$375 million loan for National Waterway-1

22-Apr-17

- ✓ The World Bank has approved a loan of \$375 million (around Rs 2,421 crore) for capacity augmentation of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) between Haldia in West Bengal and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on the river Ganga under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- ✓ PMUY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2016 with the tagline of *Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan*. The scheme's motive is to provide free of cost LPG (cooking gas) connections to women from BPL Households. The scheme seeks to empower women and protect their health by shifting them from traditional cooking based on unclean cooking fuels or on fossil fuels to clean cooking gas. It is being implemented by Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The scheme will be implemented over three years' time period until the financial year 2018-19.

April 24: National Panchayati Raj Diwas

India becomes world's fifth largest military spender 24-Apr-17

- ✓ According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), India has become world's **fifth-largest** military spender spending at \$55.9 billion in 2016. The US remains the world's largest military followed by China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.

K Viswanath wins Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2016

24-Apr-17

Veteran filmmaker and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath has been conferred Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The award consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs and a shawl

Elephanta Island

Elephanta Island is a 16 sq. km island that has several archaeological remains famous for its cave sculptures. The island is locally known as *Gharapuri Caves*

Cows to have Aadhaar like ID

25-Apr-17

The central government has informed the Supreme Court that it intends to provide unique identification number for cows as suggested by an expert committee to track cattle and prevent their trafficking.

PM launches UDAN Scheme

27-Apr-17

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the UDAN (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) scheme from Jubbarhatti, an airport on the outskirts of Shimla. 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' means 'the common man flies'. He flagged off the first UDAN flight under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on **Shimla-Delhi sector**. UDAN flights on Kadapa-Hyderabad, and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors were also flagged off.

Salient Highlights

- ✓ Around 45 unserved and under-served airports are set to be connected under UDAN scheme to make flying more affordable. The airports to be connected under UDAN include Bhatinda, Bhavnagar, Durgapur, Jaisalmer, Puducherry, and Shimla. Under this scheme, five operators will operate flights services on 128 routes that will connect 70 airports through 19-78 seater aircrafts. The operators are *Air India subsidiary Airline Allied Services, Air Deccan, Air Odisha, Turbo Megha, and Spice Jet*.
- ✓ As per the modalities of the scheme, airfare for a one-hour journey of 500 km has been capped at an all-inclusive charge of Rs. 2,500. For longer routes and flight duration, the pricing will vary. A single person will be entitled to buy 9 to 40 seats in a flight. However, only 50% of the seats will be sold at Rs 2500 per seat per hour. The airlines can sell the rest of the tickets at market rates.
- ✓
- ✓ **NASA's Cassini spacecraft successfully travels between Saturn and its rings**
- ✓ 27-Apr-17
- ✓ Recently, NASA's Cassini spacecraft completed its final close flyby of Saturn's moon Titan and has now started its final set of 22 orbits before plunging into Saturn on September 15, 2017,

UNESCO to screen Indian short film as part of World Press Freedom Day celebrations

UNESCO to screen Rahul V. Chittella's short film "**Azaad**" as a part of World Press Freedom Day event that is scheduled to be held from May 1-4 in Jakarta, Indonesia

India successfully carries out fresh user trial of Agni-III ballistic missile

29-Apr-17

India has successfully carried out a fresh user trial of Agni-III ballistic missile from a defence test facility in the Abdul Kalam Island.

Agni-III Ballistic Missile

Agni-III is an intermediate range (3,000 km to 5,000 km) missile with two stages. It is **surface-to surface nuclear capable intermediate-range** ballistic missile indigenously developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads weighing up to 1.5 tonnes

Mission XI Million

Mission XI Million is a grassroots programme designed to encourage children to play football. It is school contact programme aimed at improving the football ecosystem and enlarge the talent pool for the national team.

Prime Minister inaugurates International Basava Convention

29-Apr-17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled translated volumes of *Vachana* in 23 Indian languages on the occasion of Basava Jayanti

Basavanna

Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet and a social reformer who lived in Karnataka during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I. He served as the chief minister of his kingdom. Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.