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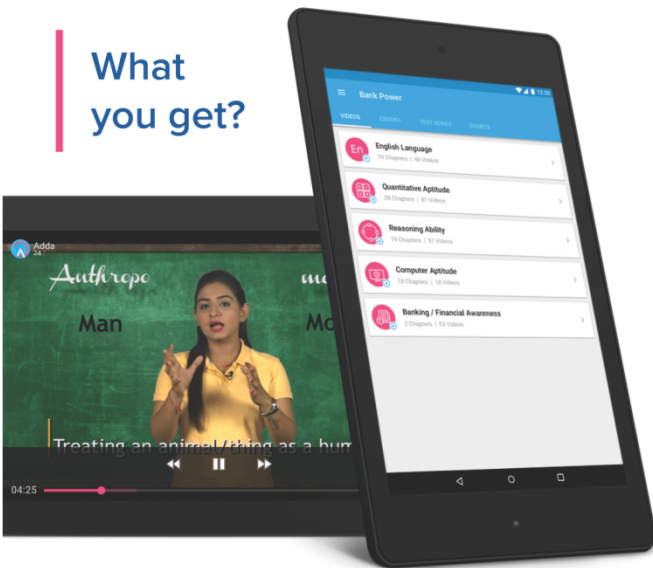
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THE HINDU REVIEW: APRIL 2017

- ✦ The government launched two mobile apps, eChallan and mParivahan, that provide access to various services and information, and enable citizens to report any traffic violation or road accident.
- ✦ Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak Visited India. Year 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- ✦ Japan has committed an 'Official Development Assistance' (ODA) of 371.345 billion yen (about Rs 21,590 crore) under 2016-2017 for various infrastructure projects, including the dedicated freight corridor, in India.
- ✦ Kanha tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot of its own which has been named 'Bhoorsingha the Barasingha'.
- ✦ Indian Army has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) to identify and enhance the critical technological areas that can be enhanced in the armed forces.
- ✦ Vanaja N. Sarna was appointed as the new chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- ✦ Axis Bank has tied up with Wells Fargo (the third largest American bank by assets) to offer real-time remittances from the Indian diaspora to their relatives back home.
- ✦ Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the '811 banking app' which is part of the lender's vision to double customer base in 18 months.
- ✦ Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhakar released the book titled 'Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry' jointly authored by Shri Bibek Debroy (Member, NITI Aayog) Shri Sanjay Chadha (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce) & Ms. Vidya Krishnamurthi.
- ✦ State Bank of India started functioning as unified entity from 01st April 2017 post merger of its five associate banks, besides Bharatiya Mahila Bank. The five associate banks merged with the SBI are State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore. With the merger, the SBI joins the league of top 50 banks globally in terms of assets.
- ✦ American singer and song writer Bob Dylan has finally accepted his Nobel Prize for literature, more than three months after the awards ceremony.
- ✦ BRICS-backed New Development Bank (NDB) has invested in seven projects totaling \$1.5 billion in about two years of its operation.
- ✦ Kenya's Joyciline Jepkosgei has broken the world half marathon record as well as the 10km and 15km marks at

the Prague Half Marathon on the way to winning the IAAF Gold Label Road Race in one hour, four minutes and 52 seconds.

- ✦ The World Autism Awareness Day 2017 has been observed across the world on 2 April 2017. The 2017 theme for the day is "Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination".
- ✦ New Delhi is playing host to Second Annual Meeting of the New Development Bank (NDB) also known colloquially as BRICS bank. This is the first time the meet took place in India.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 9.2 km long Chenani-Nashri all-weather road tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The road tunnel will reduce the travel time between the two state capitals of Jammu and Srinagar by approximately two hours.
- ✦ 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference (CFC) 2017 held at Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ✦ The Government has launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive scheme for power loom sector development, simultaneously at over 45 locations in the country.
- ✦ The Madhya Pradesh government has launched an app named 'MP e-nagarpalika' to provide various municipal services online.

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- ✦ Mizoram has become the 27th State to join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

- ✦ Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Delhi's Miranda House have made it to the top of respective categories in the country's official higher education rankings announced by the government.
- ✦ Tax evasion of over Rs 5 crore under the GST regime would be a non-bailable offense and the police would have the authority to make an arrest without a warrant.
- ✦ Rajiv Kumar Chander has been appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Offices in Geneva.
- ✦ Justice Indira Banerjee, a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- ✦ Diplomat Vipul, a 1998 batch Indian Foreign Service officer took up the charge as the new Consul General of Dubai.
- ✦ Olympic silver-medalist P.V. Sindhu has defeated Carolina Marin (Spain) in straight sets 21-19, 21-16 in 47 minutes at the India Open badminton championship 2017 in New Delhi.
- ✦ Roger Federer (Switzerland) defeated Rafael Nadal (Spain) to win Miami Open 2017 Singles title. Miami Open 2017 was held in Florida, USA.
- ✦ The Centre has constituted National Board of Electric Mobility (NBEM) to promote electric mobility and manufacturing of electric (& hybrid) vehicles and their components which will be chaired by Shri Girish Shankar.
- ✦ The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) has tied up with Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB), an arm of Human Resource Development Fund under Ministry of HRD, Malaysia for skill development.
- ✦ Phoenix India Research and Development Group launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in Kolkata keeping a flat fare of just Rs 1.
- ✦ Malaysian company MTN has agreed to help set up a technology park in Andhra Pradesh that's expected to attract private sector investment of \$100 million in the first phase.
- ✦ The country's largest bank, State Bank of India has reduced its benchmark lending rate by 0.15%.
- ✦ Cab aggregator Ola has integrated with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) to simplify digital payment options for its customers.
- ✦ FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) banned Guatemala's former football chief Brayan Jimenez for life over corruption, bribery and other offences.
- ✦ India has been ranked third for the third year in a row in a doping violation report published by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for 2015 with 117 athletes from the country being punished after testing positive for banned substances.
- ✦ Ruling Party of Ecuador, Alianza PAIS candidate Lenin Moreno won the Ecuador's presidential election to sworn in as the Ecuador President.
- ✦ Ajey Jhankar, the noted author and filmmaker passed away.
- ✦ Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passes away. She was 84.
- ✦ Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley chaired the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Finance Ministers meeting in New Delhi.
- ✦ National conference on Communicating India will be organized in New Delhi which will be inaugurated by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore.
- ✦ Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared Jhargram as the 22nd district of West Bengal.
- ✦ The first express highway project in the northeast region will be developed along the Brahmaputra river in Assam at an estimated investment of Rs 40,000 crore inaugurated by Union Road Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ✦ Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas officially launched the low emission Bharat stage (BS)-IV Grade fuel in Bhubaneswar.
- ✦ ICICI Bank and Axis Bank sold Rs.1,800 crore of loans to paper maker Ballarpur Industries Ltd to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company.
- ✦ A 1982 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) Geetha Johri has been appointed as the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Gujarat.
- ✦ Amazon India has launched an initiative called Amazon Classroom, a virtual training program to help teach them the nuances of online selling.
- ✦ The famous Berhampur Thakurani Yatra, one of the biggest festivals of southern Odisha, has been celebrated with pomp and gaiety.
- ✦ The WTO's dispute settlement set up a panel to resolve the dispute between Japan and India over imposition of safeguard import duty on iron and steel products.
- ✦ The former Indian cricket team skipper MS Dhoni became an acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gulf Oil India just for a day.
- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India has released the first Bi-monthly Monetary policy of the new financial year (2017-18). GDP growth has hiked to 7.4% from 6.7%.
- ✦ The Cabinet Approves-
 - MoU between India and Australia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine
 - Agreement on Audio Visual Co-Production between India and Bangladesh

- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Mass Media between India and Bangladesh
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of a multi-modal terminal on River Ganga at Sahebganj in Jharkhand.
- ✦ 6 April was declared as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) by the UN General Assembly.
- ✦ Haryana government has decided to provide a one-time grant of Rs 21,000 to all those families whose third girl child was born after August 24, 2015, under the 'Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti' scheme.
- ✦ The BJP-led government in Uttar Pradesh decided to waive off crop loans of up to Rs 1 lakh of small and marginal farmers in the state.
- ✦ Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd becomes the seventh entity to receive a final licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up a payments bank.
- ✦ IDBI Bank has reduced interest rates, ranging from 50 to 75 basis points, on retail term deposits (RTD) with effect from April 5, 2017.
- ✦ India and the UK decided to set up a 240 million pound fund to finance clean energy projects.
- ✦ India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to a new report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), 2016.
- ✦ The Manila-headquartered Asian Development Bank (ADB) lends a \$175 million loan to the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

Director of Quattro Global Services) as its chairman for 2017-2018.

- ✦ Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry has emerged as the highest paying industry in India with an average annual cost to company (CTC) of Rs. 11.3 lakh across all levels and functions according to Randstad survey, 2017.
- ✦ India, the world's biggest sugar consumer, will allow imports of 500,000 tonnes of duty-free raw sugar, as a drought has cut output below consumption levels for the first time in seven years.
- ✦ NTPC has appointed Sanjeev Kishore as Group General Manager at Kudgi Super Thermal Power Project, Karnataka.
- ✦ Because of the implementation of a new law in Japan, it categorizes Bitcoin as a legal payment option within the country.
- ✦ India's Virat Kohli was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016.
- ✦ The 64th National Film Awards were announced in which the Directorate of Film Festivals presents its annual National Film Awards to honor the best films of 2016 in the Indian cinema.
- ✦ World Health Day is celebrated on 7th of April every year to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization.
- ✦ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Urban Development M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a three-day National Children's Film Festival in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ India and Israel signed a mega defense deals worth over 2 billion dollars for advanced surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, to further tighten the bilateral strategic partnership ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in July, 2017.
- ✦ Ratnakar Bank limited (RBL) Bank announced the opening of its Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) Banking Unit (IBU) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to slash clearance time for National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) in an attempt to enhance the efficiency of the electronic payment system and add to customer convenience.
- ✦ Bhimaraya Metri has taken over as Director of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Trichy (IIM Tiruchirappalli).
- ✦ K Prithika Yashini, aged around 25 years, is the first transgender person to become a police official in India, appointed in Tamil Nadu.

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- ✦ National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) appointed Raman Roy (Managing

- ✦ Facebook launched its digital assistant named 'M' for US users of its Messenger application, ramping up the social network's efforts in artificial intelligence.
- ✦ Germany is the first North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) state to launch a 'self-contained' cyber command unit designed to shield IT and weapons systems from growing attacks.
- ✦ Sports Minister Mr. Vijay Goel has approved the appointment of two top foreign athletics coaches, one each in race walking and 400m race. Australian Dave Smith has been appointed as the coach in race walking & American Galina P Bukharina as coach of national 400m and 400m relay teams.
- ✦ Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu jumped three places to achieve a career-best world number two ranking in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings.
- ✦ Ban on cash transaction in excess of Rs 2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts, the Income-Tax department announced.
- ✦ India and Bangladesh have signed 22 agreements in strategic sectors like defence and civil nuclear cooperation during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India.
- ✦ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has initiated a Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) program.
- ✦ India has jumped 12 places to 40th rank globally in total 136 countries in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness report 2017 by World Economic Forum.
- ✦ HDFC Bank announced its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will also be available on Chillr, a multi-bank mobile payments app.
- ✦ Canara Bank, a public sector bank, has embarked upon an ambitious project of upgrading the bandwidth at all its branches to 2 Mbps in partnership with BSNL.
- ✦ South Indian Bank has entered into an agreement with Flyworld Money Exchange to facilitate remittances by Indian expatriates in Australia.
- ✦ Malala Yousafzai, the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize has become the youngest United Nations Messenger of Peace.
- ✦ Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar won a gold medal in the 49- kilogram category at the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok.
- ✦ National Basketball Association (NBA) announced the setting up of its first basketball school, a network of tuition-based basketball development programmes, in Mumbai.
- ✦ Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the National Convention on World Homeopathy Day on 10 April 2017 at New Delhi.
- ✦ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved 26 projects worth Rs 2,154.28 crore under the Centre's 'Namami Gange' programme, aiming to reduce the river's pollution load.
- ✦ India has signed a joint declaration with Russia to promote innovation and the R&D ecosystem between the two countries.
- ✦ India and Australia inked six pacts including one aimed at boosting counter terrorism cooperation after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull.
- ✦ Madhya Pradesh government kick-started its ambitious 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojana' under which subsidised meals will be available at Rs 5 per plate to people, especially the economically disadvantaged sections of society.
- ✦ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the website and app named 'Bharat Ke Veer', to facilitate the monetary contribution to the kin of soldier personnel killed in action.
- ✦ North India is all set to get its first Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) bank for wildlife in Bareilly.
- ✦ Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu launched 352 projects in 53 cities in 17 States across the country with an investment of Rs 38,003-cr to build 2,03,851 affordable houses.
- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India has 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.
- ✦ Saraswat Bank, the largest lender in the co-operative space, has appointed Smita Sandhane as its Managing Director (MD) with effect from 01st April 2017.
- ✦ Indian-origin Asha Khemka was named 'Asian Businesswoman of the Year' at an event in Birmingham, England.
- ✦ Samsung R&D Institute India filed the maximum number of patent applications in the IT sector in 2015-16, followed by home-grown TCS and Wipro according to Indian Patent Office survey.
- ✦ India's largest e-commerce player Flipkart buys eBay's India business, and closing a \$1.4 billion fund-raising round from Tencent, eBay and Microsoft.
- ✦ The 12th edition Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2017 held at Vairengte in Mizoram.
- ✦ The Agriculture Ministry joined hands with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), a wing of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to geo-tag agricultural assets for their real-time monitoring and effective utilization.

- ✦ Mercedes' British Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton defeated Ferrari's four-time Formula One World Champion Sebastian Vettel to lift his fifth title at the Chinese Grand Prix.
- ✦ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi finally inaugurated an exhibition titled "Swachhagraha - Babu Ko Karyanjali - Ek Abhiyan, Ek Pradarshani" in the New Delhi to mark the 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's first experiment of Satyagraha in Champaran.
- ✦ The Survey General of India (SOI) completes 250 years.
- ✦ The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 on April 7, 2017, in New Delhi.
- ✦ The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council in New Delhi.
- ✦ The Reserve Bank has appointed Malvika Sinha as Executive Director following the appointment of B P Kanungo as Deputy Governor.
- ✦ Kerala-based NBFC Manappuram Finance will launch its own co-branded prepaid card in the tie-up with YES Bank to promote digital financial transactions.
- ✦ Fino Paytech, which just received the Reserve Bank of India's licence to launch a payments bank, has inked a deal with ICICI group companies to distribute insurance products and tied up with Exide Life insurance to sell products via its distribution channel.
- ✦ Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were appointed members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex policy making body of the Income Tax department.
- ✦ Mukta Dutta Tomar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Germany.
- ✦ For the first time since Nagaland officially gained recognition as a state, a state Police Officer Atu Zumvu has been awarded one of the nations' military honour, 'Shaurya Chakra' award at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✦ The government has appointed retired Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh as the next chairman of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) after replacing of Justice Aftab Alam who was retired in June 2016.
- ✦ UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist Kristin Davis as its Goodwill Ambassador.
- ✦ Carme Chacon, the first female defense minister of Spain and a prominent socialist party leader, has died aged 46.
- ✦ The government has set up an 'Inter-Ministerial Committee' to monitor the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) which seeks

to make flying affordable by connecting unserved and under-served airports. It is Chaired by Civil Aviation Secretary Shri Rajiv Nayan Choubey.

- ✦ The government has reduced the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) to 28 umbrella schemes from 66.
- ✦ India's first ever micro-drama festival, named Thespis, was held recently in New Delhi.
- ✦ ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched a social deposit scheme called 'Hrudaya Deposit scheme' in Thrissur, Kerala.
- ✦ Nokia and Airtel along with state-owned network BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd) have announced that they have partnered to set up 5G internet speed in India to introduce a fast internet ecosystem in the country.
- ✦ Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, becomes the first noble prize winner to address Canadian parliament.
- ✦ The literary blockbuster novel 'The Underground Railroad' authored by Colson Whitehead, which depicts the journey of a young woman escaping from slavery via a fantastical train system has won the Pulitzer prize for fiction.

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- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book 'Matoshree', authored by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan in New Delhi.
- ✦ The first rail freight service British goods from the UK to China has departed on its 17-day, 7,500-mile journey.
- ✦ CCEA has given its approval for the listing of 11 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on stock exchanges. As approved, the listing of CPSEs will be through the public

- offer of shares up to 25 per cent of Government of India's shareholding.
- ✦ State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) will launch a pilot for daily price revision in five select cities which are Puducherry, Vizag in Andhra Pradesh, Udaipur in Rajasthan, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand and Chandigarh from May 1, 2017 stated by Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan
 - ✦ 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.
 - ✦ The Government has set up an Inter-Disciplinary Committee to examine the existing framework with regard to Virtual Currencies. It will be headed by Shri Shaktikanta Das.
 - ✦ India and Australia have started a partnership aimed at increasing cooperation in sports, in the presence of visiting Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and batting legend Sachin Tendulkar.
 - ✦ Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana scheme' for improving traditional occupations.
 - ✦ A fleet of pink patrol vehicles to attend to the distress calls from women and an exclusive police mobile phone distress application have been introduced in Bengaluru as part of an effort to improve the safety and security of women in the city.
 - ✦ As part of Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) compliance, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has asked the banks/financial institutions to link their accounts with Aadhaar number and self-certification from customers by April 30, 2017, to avoid closure of accounts.
 - ✦ World Bank has approved a \$375 million loan to India's first inland water transport fairway National Waterway 1 (NW1) project on a 1,360 km stretch of the Ganga river between Varanasi and the seaport of Haldia for bringing thousands of jobs in cargo logistics and transportation.
 - ✦ Amazon India has received the RBI's approval for an e-wallet 'Amazon Pay', which the e-tailer had applied for early last year.
 - ✦ Mahabaleshwara Mavinakudige Subrahmanya has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank Ltd.
 - ✦ Haldia Port in West Bengal has topped the List in the First-Ever Ranking of Ports on Sanitation Parameters.
 - ✦ United Nation (UN) chief Antonio Guterres has named a German Achim Steiner, as the new administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP).
 - ✦ TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has launched a Made-in-India robot catering primarily to micro, small and medium industries.
 - ✦ Nation remembers Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 126th birth anniversary on 14 April 2017.
 - ✦ The French Minister of State for Transport Alain Vidalies signed an agreement with Indian Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu for collaboration in railway areas such as high-speed and semi-high speed rail, modernisation of current operations and infrastructure, station renovation and operations, suburban trains and safety systems.
 - ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that women are free to retain their maiden names in their passports now after the marriage.
 - ✦ Haryana government has launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state.
 - ✦ Jharkhand Police has initiated 'Tare Zameen Par programme' to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas in the Palamau district of Jharkhand.
 - ✦ Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has evolved a Governance, Reward and Accountability Framework (GRAF) for public sector banks to ensure that they have the ability to compete successfully with private sector banks, small finance and payments banks, foreign banks and non-banking finance companies.
 - ✦ Department of Posts has joined hands with State Bank of India to promote 'SBI buddy e-wallet' and Point of Sale (POS) machines for cashless transactions at post office counters while booking speed post and registered post items.
 - ✦ Taxpayers wanting to send their paper Income Tax Return (ITR) acknowledgment forms or documents related to refunds and others to the I-T department's CPC in Bengaluru can now send it to a unique pin code '560500'.
 - ✦ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has launched a web portal for insurers that will allow them to register and sell policies online.
 - ✦ The Reserve Bank has allowed Aditya Birla Group firm Grasim Industries to raise the foreign shareholding to 49% from the existing limit of 30%.
 - ✦ Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi.
 - ✦ Union Ministry of Agriculture has selected Himachal Pradesh for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for the commendable increase in food grains production.
 - ✦ US-based tech giant Cisco launched its fifth global cyber range lab in Gurugram, Haryana with an aim to train Indian firms and government agencies on real-world cyber-attacks.

- ✦ A book on Draupadi named 'the Flaming Tresses of Draupadi' written by senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily was released by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched in Nagpur, a cashless/less cash township model, developed by Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (GNFC), across 81 townships in 12 States.
- ✦ Loans extended under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) during 2016-17 have crossed the target of Rs 1,80,000 crore for 2016-17.
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh government and the Centre have signed an MoU for the 'Power for All' scheme in the state.
- ✦ RBI has issued a new set of enabling provisions titled 'Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework' to resolve the problem of banks mounting non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Nepal and China will hold the first-ever joint military exercise named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017' from 17 April 2017 with a special focus on combating terror and disaster management.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on the 2-Day visit to Gujarat. Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari on a five-day visit to India.
- ✦ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched two web applications named Anti-Corruption Cell and Digital Application for Review by Public And Nation (DARPAN) to check corruption and keep track of government activities.
- ✦ Maharashtra has become the first state to launch a special awareness drive to ensure that transgenders in the state register as voters in greater numbers.
- ✦ Finance Ministry have permitted the Labour Ministry to go ahead with 8.65% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17.
- ✦ Human Resource and Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- ✦ For the first time in Indian Railway history Habibganj station in Bhopal has been handed over to the private firm to be operated by it.
- ✦ Over 50 Indians, including gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik and actress Alia Bhatt, are among Forbes' list of super achievers from Asia under the age of 30 who are "pushing boundaries of innovation".
- ✦ India's gross domestic product is expected to spike to 7.2% in the 2017-18 financial year from 6.8% the previous fiscal, according to a new World Bank report titled "Globalization Backlash".
- ✦ The sixth prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award for contribution in the field of agriculture given to R.R. Hanchinal, Chairperson of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, the government of India.
- ✦ An Indian environmental engineer Trupti Jain has won 2017 prestigious 'Cartier Women's Initiative Award' for providing women working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash flood.
- ✦ Google has launched a new food delivery and home services aggregator called Areo for the Indian market.
- ✦ Emma Morano, an Italian woman believed to have been the oldest person alive and the last survivor of the 19th century died at the age of 117.
- ✦ Author Arjun Gaiind launched his latest book, 'Punjab: Building the Land Of Five Rivers' in Mumbai.
- ✦ Sai Praneeth has won the title match of Men's singles at Singapore Open Badminton beating his compatriot Kidambi Srikanth.
- ✦ Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won his sixth Asian Billiards title and seventh overall Asian championship.

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- ✦ Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Saxena has passed away at the age of 90.

- ✦ Every year on 18 April, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) celebrates the International Day for Monuments and Sites (also called as World Heritage day). The theme is "Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism".
- ✦ Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched India's First Train With Glass Ceiling, LED Lights And Rotable Seats in 'Vistadome' Coaches. He has flagged off the train with Vistadome coaches between Visakhapatnam and Araku.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated phase-I of the Link-II pipeline canal of the ambitious Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana in Botad district of Gujarat. The project is related to pump the Narmada water in 115 dams of arid Saurashtra region.
- ✦ President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Kempegowda Festival in New Delhi.
- ✦ Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) successfully commissioned two units of 270 MW at RattanIndia Nasik Power Ltd's, Maharashtra.
- ✦ Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) a defence public sector has received the Hindustan PSU Award under the category 'Fastest Growing Organisation - Miniratna'.
- ✦ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched three new products which are automated electronic toll collection to facilitate hassle-free toll payment/ collection, a credit card mobile App and a scheme for financing a grid connected Roof Solar Power Project.
- ✦ SBI surpassed oil exploration major Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to become most valued public sector undertaking (PSU) stock in terms of market capitalization (m-cap) in intra-day trade.
- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to help develop low-cost lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles.
- ✦ Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- ✦ National Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri Pullela has bagged both the singles and doubles crown at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix in Jakarta.
- ✦ Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) won the Bahrain Grand Prix 2017 by defeating Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes).
- ✦ Gorakhpur Airforce Station has been renamed as Mahayogi Goraknath Airport after the founder of the Nath monastic movement. Agra Airport will be renamed after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport. The Department of Disabled Welfare will now be known as 'Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment'.
- ✦ In Rajasthan, the state government and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) signed an agreement for the Rs 43,129 crore Barmer refinery. The Barmer refinery will be the first in the country to produce BS-6 standard fuel.
- ✦ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami dedicated the Indian Navy's indigenously designed 'P15A Guided Missile Destroyer', INS Chennai to the city Chennai. INS Chennai is commanded by captain C. R. Praveen Nair.
- ✦ India has jumped one spot to 8th rank in the 2017 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index. USA has topped A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index for the fifth year in a row.
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India has set up two new Offices of the Banking Ombudsman for the State of Jammu and Kashmir (in Jammu) and Chhattisgarh (in Raipur).
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information" with the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.
- ✦ ICICI Bank Data Centre in Hyderabad has achieved the distinction of becoming the country's first Platinum rated project under IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Green Data Centre Rating System.
- ✦ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed Vinay Shah as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Director of its mortgage loan arm and listed entity LIC Housing Finance. He comes in place of Sunita Sharma.
- ✦ Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Devineni Rajashekhar had died due to cardiac arrest in Hyderabad.
- ✦ Madhya Pradesh government has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to supply 24 per cent of electricity generated from the Rewa ultra mega solar project to be set up in the state.
- ✦ IMF projected the world economy to grow at a pace of 3.5 percent in 2017, up from 3.1 percent in 2016, and 3.6 per cent in 2018.
- ✦ 2017 BRICS Film Festival will be held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- ✦ TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has launched India's first industrial-articulated robot and it goes by the name "BRABO".
- ✦ RBI permitted banks to invest up to 10% of the unit capital of a Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) or Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). Banks' exposure to REITs/InvITs will be within the overall ceiling of 20% of the net worth permitted for direct investments in shares, convertible bonds/ debentures,

units of equity-oriented mutual funds and Venture Capital Funds (VCFs).

- ✦ The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan's novel Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman) has won the Sahitya Akademi's award for translation in English 2016. The translation was done by Aniruddhan Vasudevan.
- ✦ Bangalore-based Sagar Baheti has become the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete the historic Boston Marathon, the world's oldest and the hardest marathon to qualify for.
- ✦ Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day 11th Civil Services Day program (20-21 April) in New Delhi. Civil Services Day is celebrated in India every year on 21st April.
- ✦ The 3rd edition of International Conference and Exhibition on Steel Industry 'India Steel 2017' was held at Mumbai Exhibition center in Mumbai from 19th-21st April 2017.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' 2017, released by the Time magazine.
- ✦ Tata Power has signed an agreement with Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (AVVNL) for electricity distribution in Ajmer for 20 years.
- ✦ 14th Edition of United Nations International Day of Vesak 2017 will be hosted by Sri Lanka. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest for UN Vesak Day. Vesak Day is regarded by all Buddhist traditions as the anniversary of the birth of the Buddha. The theme of this edition is 'Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace'.
- ✦ United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) has awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees.
- ✦ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) regained its status as India's most valued firm by market capitalization. RIL overtook Tata Group's crown jewel TCS.
- ✦ Mongolia launched its first satellite named Mongol Sat-I, part of its efforts to make use of new technology to diversify its resource-dependent economy.
- ✦ Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has announced Video gaming as full sports at the 2022 Asian Games which is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from 10-25 September 2022.
- ✦ The World Earth Day is being observed all over the world on 22 April with the message to protect the environment. The campaign theme for 2017 is 'Environmental and Climate Literacy'.

- ✦ Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated three welfare initiatives of the Department of Justice which are-
- ✦ **Pro-bono legal services-** Lawyers who want to provide legal services free of cost can register themselves on a web-based platform.
- ✦ **Tele-law service-** Aims to connect marginalized communities with lawyers through video conferencing facilities.
- ✦ **Nyaya Mitra Project-** Aims to reduce pendency in lower courts, with a special focus on cases which are more than ten years old.
- ✦ Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal and Indonesia's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Ignasius Jonan met for the 1st 'India Indonesia Energy Forum', held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ✦ General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) has become the first re-insurer to open an office at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- ✦ China successfully launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft named Tianzhou 1.
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India signed an MoU on "Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information" with Bank of Guyana.

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- ✦ AU Financiers India, a non-banking finance company (NBFC), has converted itself into a small finance bank by the name AU Small Finance Bank.
- ✦ The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted its first-ever mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand to help improve the preparedness and response mechanism in the event of a forest fire.

- ✦ India and South Korea have signed an Inter-governmental MoU for Defence Industry cooperation between their shipbuilding yards.
- ✦ Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model.
- ✦ Veteran Journalist Nora Chopra passed away at 64 due to multi-organ failure.
- ✦ Every year April 24 is being observed as National Panchayati Raj Diwas across India.
- ✦ World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) is being observed on 23rd April 2017. The capital of Guinea has been designated World Book Capital 2017.
- ✦ National Health Mission (NHM) in Haryana launched a mobile-based application named 'Kilkari' to create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers on the importance of ante and post-natal care.
- ✦ Maharashtra government recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Railways, under which trees will be planted on the land adjacent to the railway tracks in the state.
- ✦ China and Iran have signed the first agreement on the reconfiguration of Iran's Arak reactor.
- ✦ Veteran actress Moushumi Chatterjee has received the lifetime achievement award, at the 80th Bengal Film Journalists' Association (BFJA) awards.
- ✦ Bollywood film "Newton" has won the best film honor at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. The lead actor of the film is Raj Kumar Rao. Amit Masurkar-directed "Newton", is a political satire.
- ✦ **Golf Industry Awards 2017: Aditi Ashok bagged Outstanding Achievement as a Player award. SSP Chawrasia bagged the Award for the Men's Player of the Year. Ali Sher was feted for an Outstanding Playing Career.**
- ✦ One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang is cricket. Apart from cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing are among the other sports which have been removed from the programme in order to reduce the burden on Indonesian organisers.
- ✦ Rafael Nadal has won the Men's Singles title of Monte Carlo Masters Tennis tournament 2017. India's Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas lifted the men's doubles crown.
- ✦ World Malaria Day is observed globally on 25th of April every year.
- ✦ India has replaced Japan as world's number two importer of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). China continues to occupy the top position as world's largest LPG importer.
- ✦ India's military expenditure grew around 8.5 percent in 2016, making it the world's fifth largest spender at \$55.9 billion, figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). US remains the world's largest military spender.
- ✦ India's first and longest ropeway to connect Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust. The 8-km ropeway will begin from Sewri in Mumbai's east coast and end at Raigad district's Elephanta Island, globally renowned for Elephanta Caves.
- ✦ Indian Navy has begun a joint maritime 'Varuna' exercise with the French Navy at the Mediterranean Sea to further deepen combat coordination between the two navies.
- ✦ SBI & real estate developers' body CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India) MoU to jointly conduct various initiatives towards development of the realty sector. The MoU will be in force for a period of 3 years.
- ✦ Renowned Director and actor Kasinathuni Viswanath has won the Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2016 for his outstanding contribution to the film industry. He will be the 48th recipient of the award.
- ✦ Top environmental activist Prafulla Samantara of Odisha has been selected for Goldman Environmental Prize 2017 (also called as Green Nobel) from Asia region for championing the cause of State's Dongria Kondh tribals and safeguarding their land and culture.
- ✦ Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur has clinched a gold in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jinhua, China.
- ✦ Every April 26, is observed as the World Intellectual Property Day. It is organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- ✦ Northeast India's largest Information Technology (IT) hub was inaugurated at Agartala to boost employment and e-governance besides to export software technology.
- ✦ India and Sri Lanka have signed an MoU on economic co-operation. Signed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan PM Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- ✦ Belgium has become the first country to open an honorary consulate office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Hari Sankaran was nominated as Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Belgium to the state of Gujarat.
- ✦ India and Armenia signed three agreements after Vice President Hamid Ansari held a bilateral meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan in Yerevan, Armenia. MoU's on peaceful uses of outer space, cooperation in youth matters and a program of cultural cooperation for the years 2017-2020 was signed.

- ✦ Yes Bank announced the alliance with Paisabazaar.com under which the bank will offer conditionally approved loans to the latter's existing customers.
- ✦ The White House has named a retired Marine major general Randolph Ailes as the new Director of the Secret Service.
- ✦ The youngest chancellor of any university in the nation, Dileep K Nair has bagged Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Foundation award for excellent performance in the field of education in Trivendurum, Kerala.
- ✦ India is set to host the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) on November 13, 2017 according to the International Road Federation (IRF). The theme is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.
- ✦ With a view to digitally empower the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers and improve the quality of service, the facility of online viewing of the statement of the transaction (e-SOT) and also the e- Permanent Retirement Account Number (e-PRAN card) have been launched.
- ✦ India successfully carried out a fresh user trial of 3,000-kilometer range Agni-III ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.
- ✦ India's first woman International Olympic Committee member Nita Ambani has made it to two important commissions of the global sports governing body, including the prestigious Olympic channel.
- ✦ She has also been made a member of Olympic education Commission.
- ✦ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully launched its football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) from Wanaka, New Zealand.
- ✦ Srishti Kaur was crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017. The event was held in Managua, the capital of Central American country Nicaragua.
- ✦ India's fifth largest private sector Bank, the YES BANK has won the prestigious 'Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award 2017' (in Financial sector Banking). It received the prize for its innovative mobile technology product, SIMsePAY.
- ✦ Veteran actor Vinod Khanna passed away in Mumbai. He was an active politician, and Member of Parliament from Gurdaspur, Punjab.
- ✦ India and Cyprus have signed four agreements after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades. The areas in which the MoUs have been exchanged are Air Services, Agriculture, Merchant Shipping and Culture Education.
- ✦ Odisha's capital city, Bhubaneswar has become, the first Indian city that has won Pierre L'enfant Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards-2017. Smart City Bhubaneswar received this award for good and advanced town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process.
- ✦ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is India's first public hospital to start plaque brachytherapy facility for the treatment of eye tumors.
- ✦ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced the renaming of Ballabgarh town in Faridabad as Balramgarh. The princely State was founded by Balram Singh in 1739.
- ✦ An android App 'Solar Calculator' for the computation of solar energy potential has been developed by Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad at the behest of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India.
- ✦ T Krishnakumar has been appointed as the president of India and South West Asia Business Unit for the Beverage major Coca-Cola Company. He has replaced Venkatesh Kini.

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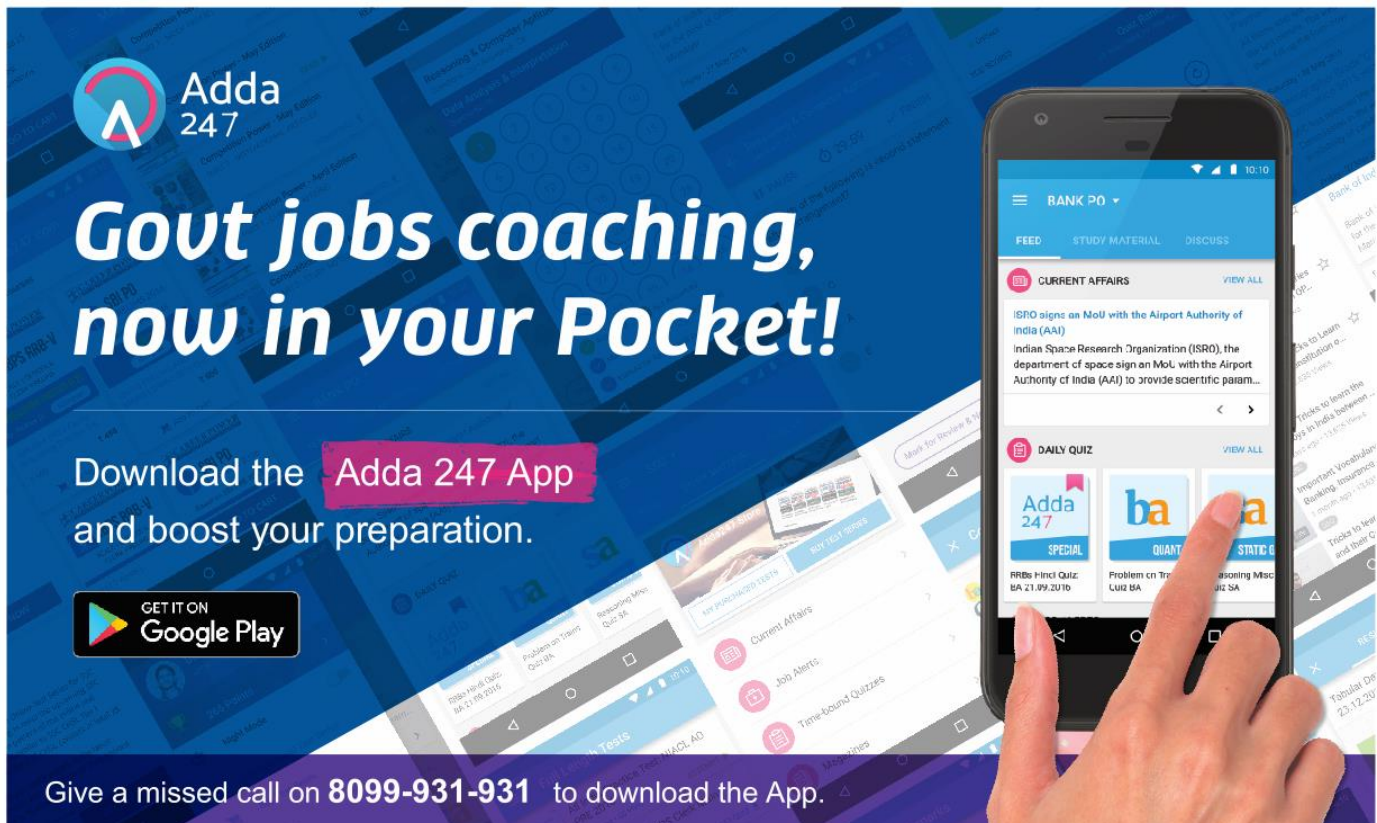
- ✦ India won six medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jiaxing, China. This included the gold medal bagged by Neena Varkil in women's long jump. World junior record holder javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra took the silver.
- ✦ American Director Jonathan Demme, the Oscar-winning director behind classics like The Silence of the Lambs and Philadelphia, died in New York.
- ✦ Union Health Minister JP Nadda has launched the Test and Treat policy for providing treatment to patients suffering from Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Under this, the government will provide Anti- Retroviral Therapy (ART) treatment to the patients free of cost.

- ✚ From May 4, Bhilar will become India's first 'book village' where tourists and locals can come and read books, magazines, newspapers stacked at 25 premises.
- ✚ Kerala has organized the country's first transgender one-day athletic meet at Thiruvananthapuram in which 132 participants from 12 districts participated.

✚ Internationally renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik from Odisha won the jury prize gold medal at the 10th Moscow Sand art Championship. The theme for the competition was "The world around us".

✚ Jehan Daruvala became the first Indian to take pole in the F3 European series, securing the top spot on the starting grid for Race 1 of the second round of the championship in Monza, Italy.



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