

- Bihar Government has banned the sale of country-made liquor and spiced liquor throughout the state in the first phase. Person found indulging in manufacturing trade, transportation, sale and consumption of country-made and spiced liquor across the state will be punished under the stringent provisions of the Bihar Excise (Amendment) Act, 2016. The Act has various stringent provisions including awarding ‘capital punishment’ for those who manufacture and sell illicit liquor that causes death. However this ban will be not valid to Indian Manufactured Foreign Liquor (IMFL) sold in Municipal and Town Council areas through retail outlets of the Bihar State Beverage Corporation Limited. However state government is also planning to ban the sale of foreign liquor in the second phase.
- The Union Government has launched the Startup India portal and mobile application. It was launched by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) Ramesh Abhishek in New Delhi as an integral component of the Action Plan of the Startup India. Key features Information Availability: The portal and mobile app provide up-to- date information issued by various Government ministries/ departments. They will also provide information regarding incubators and funding agencies recognized for the purpose of

recommending Startups. Startup India Hub: It was established within Invest India, will be a single point of contact for the entire Startup ecosystem. It would enable exchange of knowledge and will work in a hub and spoke model with Governments, Angel Funds, VCs, Incubators, Mentors, etc. It will assist Startups on all aspects through their lifecyclesuch as providing mentorship, incubator facilities, IPR support, funding etc. Application for Startup Recognition: It provides simple and user friendly process of recognition for start-ups listed in the Startup India Action Plan. Real Time Startup Recognition: Provide a real time digital version final recognition certificate is provided to Startups on completion of the application process. Verification of Recognition Certificate: The portal and mobile app will help in process of verification of certificates by entering the Startup Recognition/ Certificate Number. Approval of Inter-Ministerial Board: Inter-Ministerial Board set up DIPP will verify the eligibility of Startups opting to avail Tax and IPR related benefits. Background The “Startup India” initiative was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 16, 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. As part of it Startup India Action Plan was released. It highlights initiatives envisaged by the Government to develop a conducive Startup ecosystem in the country.

- The fourth edition of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) began in Washington, United States to discuss a gamut of issues pertaining to nuclear security. In this edition of summit, heads of about 53 countries and representatives of five international organisations including the UNO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union (EU), Interpol are taking part. India is being represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the two-day summit. The fourth summit is the last summit under the current format and also under the presidency of Barack Obama. Key facts The summit will highlight achievements and commitments of several countries towards safeguarding nuclear devices and technologies and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism. This edition of summit is expected to take stock of the measures being taken by all countries to safeguard nuclear materials and facilities and also prevent non-state actors gaining access to them. It is also a crucial element of the US strategy to keep terrorists from acquiring fissile material to make nuclear weapons. The prime focus of the summit will be on North Korea and the terrorist organisation ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).
- Vietnam's National Assembly (NA) has elected Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan as the country's first female house speaker She was sworn in as speaker after getting elected for the post with 472 (95.5%) yes votes in her favour out of 481 valid

ballots at the ongoing 11th session of the 13th NA. She was also elected as the Chairperson of the National Election Council of the Vietnam with 467 yes votes in her favour out of 477 valid ballots.

- India has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States for setting up Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) in India. LIGO is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory to detect gravitational waves. The MoU was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.
- The Haryana Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed two bills to make minimum educational qualification criteria mandatory for the urban local bodies election (ULBs). These bills are (i) The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (ii) Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
- World Number One tennis player Novak Djokovic from Serbia has won the 2016 Miami Open Title in the men's singles category. In the final match played on outdoor hard courts at the Tennis Centre at Crandon Park Florida, US, he defeated Kei Nishikori (Japan) by 6-3, 6-3 score.

- India has been ranked sixth among the world's Top-Ten largest manufacturing countries in the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) 2015 Yearbook report. In this edition of report India has jumped by three positions to sixth position compared to earlier ninth position in the previous report.
- UNIDO It is a specialized agency in the United Nations and is member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour- the King Abdulaziz Sash. The prestigious award was bestowed upon Indian Prime Minister by incumbent Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz at the Royal Court.
- West Indies has won the ICC Cricket World Men's T-20 Cup 2016 by defeating England by 4 wickets in the final match played at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. In the final match, England batting first had scored 155 runs for 9 wickets. West Indies successfully chased the target by scoring 161 runs in 19.4 over at the loss of 4 wickets.

- ICC Cricket World Women’s T-20 Cup 2016 West Indies has won their maiden Women’s World T-20 title by defeating reigning champions Australia by 8 wickets at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Batting first Australia had score of 148 runs for 5 wickets. West Indies in reply scored 149 runs in 19.3 over at the loss of 2 wickets.
- Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed (56) took oath as the first woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing to an end the three-month Governor’s Rule in the state. She was administered oath to the office by Governor NN Vohra at Raj Bhawan in the winter capital city of Jammu. Along with her 22 member council of ministers from BJP-PDP alliance also took oath. BJP leader Nirmal Singh took oath as Deputy Chief Minister of the state.
- Every year 5th April is being observed as National Maritime Day of India. 2016 was the 53rd edition of National Maritime Day and the theme was “Ease of doing business in the maritime sector”. Significance of the day: On this day in 1919 navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, journeyed to the United Kingdom. It was

a crucial step for India shipping history when sea routes were controlled by the British.

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted high-level committee to suggest ways to tighten security along India-Pakistan border. The committee will be headed by former Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta. It will suggest (i) ways to strengthen the security along the India-Pakistan Border and (ii) address the issue of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Stand-up India scheme aimed at providing credit to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and women borrowers in the non-farm sector. The scheme is intended to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women and further give a push to government's financial inclusion programme. The broad features of the scheme Composite loan between 10 lakh rupees and up to 1 crore rupees will be provided to SC/ST and women and also inclusive of working capital component for setting up any new enterprise. Debit Card (RuPay) for withdrawal of working capital. Credit history of borrower to be developed of these under-banked sections of society. Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of 10,000 crore

rupees. Creation of a corpus of 5,000 crore rupees for credit guarantee through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). Handholding support for borrowers with comprehensive support for pre loan training needs, facilitating loan, factoring, marketing etc. Web Portal for online registration and support services will be provided. Under the scheme, 1.25 lakh bank branches will provide loans up to 1 crore rupees to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs. Thus it will help in creating 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs throughout the country.

- Every year World Health Day (WHD) is being observed on 7 April to disseminate knowledge and awareness about human health. The day focuses on increasing life expectancy by adding good health to the lives of people and promoting healthier living habits across the globe. 2016 theme: “Beat Diabetes”.
- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Sweden on Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector. It was signed between both countries on 15th February, 2016 and it will enable technical cooperation in the following areas

- A bronze bust of ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata was unveiled at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. It was unveiled by Union Human Resource and Development Minister Smriti Irani. She was in the French capital to attend the International Conference on Zero.
- Retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court Justice Permod Kohli was sworn in as the Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). He succeeded Justice Syed Rafat Alam and will have tenure of 5 years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 68 years, whichever is earlier.
- The third phase of Union Health Ministry's universal vaccination programme Mission Indradhanush It depicts 7 colours of the rainbow which aims to cover all those children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against 7 vaccine preventable diseases. The diseases include diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B. Under this universal vaccination programme, all vaccines will be made available free of cost.

- Researchers have developed the world's smallest nanoscale diode or molecular rectifier that could impact the development of molecular electronic devices in future. The breakthrough was achieved by the researchers from the University of Georgia and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). It has size of single molecule and facilitates electronic current flow in one direction.
- Private SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket contracted by NASA has successfully launched the first inflatable habitat room that will attach to the International Space Station (ISS). The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off on schedule from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, United States. In another major success for SpaceX, the reusable main stage booster of Falcon 9 rocket for the first time successfully landed on an ocean (floating) platform, known as a drone ship, off the coast of Florida.
- Saudi Arabia and Egypt have decided to build bridge connecting each other over the Red Sea to boost trade and commerce. In this regard, Saudi Arabi has announced that an agreement has been reached with Egypt. The announcement was made by Saudi Arabia's king Salman during his official state visit to Egypt. However it was not mentioned where the bridge would be built.

- The Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry has constituted a three-member Committee to see that guidelines set for government advertisements by the Supreme Court are followed. The committee will be headed by the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) B B Tandon.
- For the first time, United Nations (UN) will observe the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, father of the Indian Constitution on April 13, 2016, a day before his date of birth.
- Pakistan and China have launched a joint bilateral air force exercise named Shaheen (Eagle) 5 in Pakistan. This is the fifth edition of such drill between the two countries that will take place from April 9 to 30, 2016.
- Investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova of Azerbaijan has been chosen for the prestigious 2016 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. She will be bestowed with this award during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day

- Chinese researchers have developed Graphene based all-weather solar cell that can generate electricity even during rains.
- According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Global Tiger Forum (GTF), the global tiger population has increased by 22 per cent after a century of constant decline. The number of wild tigers across the globe has gone up globally by 22 per cent to 3,890, from the 2010 estimate of 3,200. The data was based on national estimates of countries reported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Tiger population in different countries: India (2226), Russia (433), Indonesia (371), Malaysia
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third edition of Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi to save wild tigers. India is host of this edition of conference in which more than 700 tiger experts, scientists, managers, donors and other stakeholders are participating.

Keyfacts

- The Constitutional Council of Nepal has selected Justice Sushila Karki (63) for the post of Chief Justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court of the country. With this selection she will become 26th chief justice of the apex court and the first

female CJ in Nepal's histor

- India and Germany have signed an Implementation Agreement for Ganga Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange Programme in New Delhi. It was signed between the Union Ministry of Water Resources and German International Cooperation (GIZ) of Germany. Indigenously developed surface-to-air supersonic Akash missile System was successfully test fired from complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipuri in Odisha. Test: Two rounds of Akash missiles were fired against Pilot less target aircraft (PTA) Lakshya, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Banshee and Para-barrel. It successfully destroyed the targets coordinated by the user, demonstrating its 'killing' efficiency. About Akash Missile Akash (in English it means sky) is a mid-range surface-to-air missile (SAM). It is medium range nuclear capable supersonic missile.
- The Republic of Nauru, a tiny South Pacific island nation in Pacific Ocean became the 189th member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank i.e. Bretton-Woods institutions.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Maritime India Summit 2016 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. This is India's first ever Maritime Summit and the flagship event organised by Union Ministry of Shipping. Key facts The first of its kind two day summit (from April 14 to 16, 2016) will be held at the Bombay Convention and Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan' (Village Self Governance Campaign) to strengthen Panchayati Raj in villages and ensure social harmony in villages. It was launched on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at his birthplace at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Agriculture Market portal eNAM to connect e-mandis in several States. eNAM is an online inter-connectivity of e-mandis, aimed at ushering in much needed agriculture marketing reforms to enable farmers to get better price of their produce.
- Delhi government has banned the manufacture, distribution, storage and sale of all forms of chewable tobacco for one year in the interest of public health. The ban includes all forms of chewable tobacco including scented, flavoured or

mixed and sold in other forms such as gutkha, pan masala, khaini and zarda

- Delhi Government has launched the second phase of odd-even car rationing scheme to check pollution in the national capital. The second phase will be from 15 April 2016 till 30 April 2016. The scheme aims at curbing vehicular pollution and reducing traffic congestion on the roads of NCR Delhi.
- Jharkhand Government has launched Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana for widows to create equality and harmony in society, ensuring all round development enshrined in the Constitution. It was launched by Chief Minister Raghubar Das on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar.
- The scheme (Yojana) aims at building 11000 units (houses) for widows in 2016-17 financial year with the budgetary allocation of 80 crore rupees. Under it, beneficiaries would get an amount of 75000 rupees to build a house in hilly terrains districts and 70000 rupees in plains area.
- Supercomputer Param Kanchenjunga was unveiled at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Sikkim. It has been named after Kangchenjunga mountain (8,586 m), the third highest mountain in the world which lies partly in Nepal

and partly in Sikkim.

- The Indian Army conducted major battle exercise named as ‘Shatrujeet’ in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan near to the border with Pakistan. The sole purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the capability of the Indian Army and fine tune its proactive war strategy to respond swiftly to any threat to nation’s security.
- Every year World Heritage Day is being observed across the world on April 18. It is also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- Australia has won the 25th edition of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2016 for record ninth time. In the final match played at Ipoh, Australia defeated India by 4-0 goals. With this India settled at the second position and was followed by New Zealand (defending champion) at the third position. This was the second time India had finished with the silver medal in seven final appearances.
- The Union Government has leased a commemorative coin of 200 rupees and a circulation coin of 10 rupees on freedom fighter Tatya Tope. It was released by the Union Culture Minister Dr. Mahesh on the occasion of the Martyrdom Day

of Tatya Tope in New Delhi. The Union Ministry of Culture has been celebrating the 200th Birth Anniversary of Tatya Tope during 2015-16 in association with State Government of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. About Tatya Tope Tatya Tope was one of the notable generals in India's First War of Independence (1857-58) i.e. Revolt of 1857. He was born as Ramachandra Pandurang Tope in Yeola in Nashik District of Maharashtra.

- World No 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic from Serbia has won the 2016 Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award. He has won it for second time after winning it in 2012. US tennis legend Serena Williams has won the 2016 Laureus Sportswoman of the Year Award. It was her fourth Laureus Awards after she won it in 2003, 2007 and 2010.
- The Uttarakhand High Court has observed that the legitimacy of President's decision to suspend the state assembly under President's rule is subject to judicial review.

In recently released 2016 World Press Freedom Index (WPF), India ranked 133rd out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of press freedom in 2015. In this edition, India with a score of 43.17 has jumped three spots from the 136th position it had in 2015. The Index was published by Reporters

Without Borders (RSF). Key facts Top 10 Countries: Finland (Rank 1st), Netherlands (2nd), Norway (3rd), Denmark (4th)

- Europe has become the world's first region to wipe out Malaria, a mosquito-borne vector disease with zero cases reported in the year 2015. It was revealed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its World Malaria Report 2015. Particular region or country is declared Malaria free by WHO after it has zero locally acquired malaria cases for at least three consecutive years.
- Scientists from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have indigenously developed world's lightest synthetic material called 'silica aerogel' or 'blue air'. It was developed by the team of scientist from ISRO's e Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. Silica Aerogel is the lightest synthetic material ever made by man.
- The Union Government has merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) with the Khelo India Programme for development of sports. The RGKA was a centrally sponsored scheme launched by then Congress-led UPA government in 2014.

- Every year Earth Day is being observed on the 22nd April to build support for environmental protection around the world. This year is 46th anniversary of Earth Day. Significance of the Day: It recognises that Earth and its ecosystems provide its inhabitants with life and sustenance. It also aims to raise awareness that humans have a collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and to balance the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations. 2016 Theme: ‘Trees for the Earth!’
- Bollywood actor Salman Khan was named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Olympics to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This is the first time when a Bollywood superstar has been chosen as a goodwill ambassador for the Indian contingent at the Olympics. He was chosen by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from a list of two to three candidates which also included Shah Rukh Khan and veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan.
- Every year World Book and Copyright Day is being observed on 23 April to promote reading, publishing and copyright.

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- India and France have launched a programme with \$1 trillion Potential Solar Programme under the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Ace tennis player Rafael Nadal (World No 5) from Spain has won the 2016 Barcelona Open title of Tennis. It was Nadal's overall 9th Barcelona Open title and 69th win from 101 finals on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour.
- Every year April 24 is being observed as National Panchayati Raj (PR) Diwas across India. Significance of the day: It marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993. Significance of Amendment Act: It had led a defining moment in the history of India which helped in decentralization of political power to the grassroots level. In turn it had led to institutionalization of Panchayati Raj (PR) through the village, Intermediate and District level Panchayats.
- World Malaria Day (WMD) is being observed annually on 25 April across the world to recognise the global efforts to control preventable vector borne disease malaria. It also seeks to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for elimination and control of malaria. 2016

Theme: “End Malaria For Good”.

- The eleventh edition of India-Mongolia joint military training Exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant – 2016’ has commenced at Mongolia. It seeks to promote military associations between India and Mongolia. The first joint exercise was held in 2004 and since then it is annually held.
- The Union Government has recently constituted 8-member inter-ministerial committee to prepare a blueprint for doubling farmers’ income by 2022. The committee will be headed by Ashok Dalwai, Additional secretary at the Union Agriculture Ministry and is expected to submit the report in two months.
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- Every year World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD) is being observed on 26 April to highlight importance of intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) in encouraging innovation and

creativity. 2016 Theme: “Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined“.

- The Heart of Asia (HoA) conference began in New Delhi with the objective of bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan. The conference was attended by officials of a number of countries and is likely to deliberate on a host of issues like combating challenge of extremism and terrorism.
- Every year 28 year is being observed as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The day is observed mainly by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as an awareness-raising campaign to raise awareness of safety in the workplace.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched India’s 7th navigation satellite IRNSS 1G of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS). The satellite was launched into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO) on-board of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-33 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

- Indian Naval Ships (INS) Veer and Nipat were decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The decommissioning ceremony of these ships was held in the presence of Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command.
- Pakistani women’s rights activist from Swat valley Tabassum Adnan has won prestigious 2016 Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award. Pakistani women’s rights activist from Swat valley Tabassum Adnan has won prestigious 2016 Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into collaboration with German Government for a special programme on ‘Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security’. The programme is part of the German government’s recently introduced special initiative ‘One World, No Hunger’ initiative.
- Gujarat Government has decided to provide 10 percent reservation for economically backward classes (EBCs) in general category.