

CLATGyan Compendium – 1st April, 2015 to 30th April 2015

1st April

- Mustafa Kamal resigns from the post of President of International Cricket Council. The Bangladeshi cricket administrator had succeeded Alan Isaac as the 11th President of the ICC in June 2014 for a period of two years.
- E-commerce marketplace Snapdeal has acquired a majority stake in digital financial distribution platform RupeePower for an undisclosed amount. Snapdeal's entry into online financial services is a first for an e-commerce company in India. Following the deal, the SoftBank-backed Snapdeal will offer consumer loans through the RupeePower network. Founded in 2011, RupeePower has partnered 12 banks, including the State Bank of India, and other non-banking financial companies.
- The merger deal between Kotak Mahindra Bank and ING Vysya Bank has received the Reserve Bank's approval. This merger would create the country's fourth largest private sector lender and all the tangible and intangible assets have been transferred to Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India has penalized 16 central cooperative banks with a fine of Rs 5 lakh each for non-adherence of the Know Your Customer and Anti-Money Laundering guidelines. The lenders were issued show-cause notices and the action was taken after going through the responses.
- New Zealand pace bowler Kyle Mills announced his retirement from all cricket, after Daniel Vettori quit from cricket after the World Cup final. He was ranked among the world's top 10 one-day bowlers throughout his 14-year career, and for a long time was ranked number one. Mills represented New Zealand in 170 ODIs and took 240 wickets to be the Black Caps' second highest wicket-taker only behind Vettori, who took 297.

2nd April

- The Odisha government's much-hyped subsidized Aahar scheme was launched on the occasion of the state's Foundation Day by the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The scheme was launched in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela in the first phase. Four Aahar outlets each have been opened in five towns where meal consisting of rice and Dalma is being provided at a subsidized. Three State run corporations and Tata Steel is providing financial assistance for the same.
- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approved that Amaravathi will be the new capital city of the state. The capital will come up at Tullur in Vijayawada-Guntur region of the state. The name of as state capital was finalised in view of its historical, spiritual and mythological significance. Currently, Hyderabad remains the join capital for both the states for a period of 10 years.
- Former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari has become Nigeria's president elect after defeating Goodluck Jonathan in the first democratic change of power ever in the country. Nigeria is the most populated country of the African continent. Mr. Jonathan's defeat is the first time in Nigeria's brief democracy that a sitting president has not won a second term or handed power to a nominated successor.

- Punjab Government has launched 'Padho Punjab- Khedo Punjab Mission' which translates to 'Learn Punjab - Play Punjab' Mission. It is a special mission launched to provide school students a separate period in the curriculum for playing along with studies. The government aims to encourage more youngsters towards sports to produce quality players for the country along with inculcating the sportsmanship spirit and competitiveness amongst them.
- The Union Government on 1 April 2015 launched Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME) – India Scheme. The said scheme is launched as part of the National Mission for Electric Mobility to boost eco-friendly vehicles sales in the country. The main objective of the scheme is to support the hybrid or electric vehicles market development and its manufacturing eco-system in the country in order to achieve self-sustenance in stipulated period. It is proposed to implement over a period of 6 years i.e., until 2020
- Gulshan Rai, the Director General of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), will take over as India's first Cyber Security chief. Rai heads the eSecurity and Cyber Law division in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The appointment comes at a time when cyber security assumes importance in the backdrop of growing network intrusions and hacking attempts on not just businesses but also on the government.
- India is all set to operationalize its own navigational system with the successful launch of IRNSS-1D, the fourth in the series of seven navigational satellites, onboard PSLV-C27 from Sriharikota. The expendable rocket had a single but important luggage, the 1,425 kg IRNSS-1D. The IRNSS will provide two types of services - standard positioning service and restricted service. The former is provided to all users and the latter is an encrypted service for authorized users.

3rd April

- The land acquisition ordinance, re-promulgated, a day before it is to lapse. The government failed to get it converted into legislation in Rajya Sabha due to stiff opposition from the other parties. The fresh ordinance, which is the 11th by the Narendra Modi government, incorporates nine amendments that were part of the bill passed in Lok Sabha. Under the Constitution at least one of the Houses has to be prorogued for Government to issue an ordinance.
- Subadhra Devi Rai, a senior lecturer at the School of Health Sciences (Nursing) at Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP), has been named winner of the 2015 International Achievement Award by the International Council of Nurses' Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF). She was named for the award for her work in the healthcare sector of women and refugees and will receive the award on 21 June 2015 at a conference in Seoul. She also became the first Singaporean to get the prestigious biennial prize since its introduction in 1999.
- In recently released 2015 FM Global Resilience Index, India has been ranked a low 119 out of 130 countries. In the risk quality factor, India is ranked 109 for its quality of natural hazard and fire risk management. Norway topped the list in terms of business resilience and Venezuela came at last out of the 130 countries and regions assessed.
- Former Finance Commission chairman Vijay Kelkar has resigned from the Tata Chemical's Board. He has also served as chairman of the National Stock Exchange and the 13th Finance Commission, besides being adviser to Finance Minister.

- Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan received the honorary doctorate from the Egyptian Academy of Arts for his contribution to cinema. He took to micro-blogging site Twitter to share the news. This is the first time that the Academy of Arts has given a doctorate to an international actor.
- Kiwi captain Brendon McCullum has been awarded Sir Richard Hadlee medal, the country's highest cricketing honour, for his inspirational leadership and exemplary batting at a glittering ceremony, in Auckland. McCullum, 33, led the Kiwis to their first World Cup final where they did lose to Australia by seven wickets.

4th April

- The Indian Chess grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand added another feather in his cap with a minor planet being named after him. The planet was discovered back in 1988 but had not been formally named until recently. The minor planet, now known as Vishyanand, was previously identified as planet 4538. Anand joins former world chess champions Alexander Alekhine and Anatoly Karpov who have had a similar honour bestowed on them.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance (GI) Company Ltd. has launched 'Smart Traveller' offering global coverage for students, individuals, families and frequent travellers.
- Union Government again has extended rolling out deadline for National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 by six months. This was announced by Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan to give more time to states to roll out NFSA. The extension will help remaining states adopt and implement the law within next six months. It is third time, this deadline has been extended and the second deadline was to end on 4 April 2015. 11 states and UTs that have implemented NFSA fully or partially are- Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi and Chandigarh.
- The Indian Weightlifting Federation has provisionally suspended 21 weightlifters after testing positive for banned substances. The most numbers of offenders were caught at the National Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, which was held in Yamunanagar in January.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Give it Up' campaign. The campaign was launched at the annual energy-focused summit 'Urja Sangam 2015'. The campaign seeks to extort the better off sections of society to forego their liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) subsidy, which would be utilised in providing subsidised LPG connections to the poor. The Prime Minister has asked companies and banks to encourage their employees to give up the subsidy on LPG.
- Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal bowed out of the Malaysia Open badminton championship following a semifinal defeat in a thrilling three-set game against tournament top seed Li Xuerui of China in Kuala Lumpur.

5th April

- West Bengal and Bihar Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi took additional charge of Mizoram. He was sworn in as 16th Governor of Mizoram after Union Government had sacked then Governor Aziz Qureshi.

- Pedro Cateriano Bellido was appointed as Prime Minister of Peru by the President Ollanta Humala replacing Ana Jara, who had lost a confidence vote and was sacked by Peruvian Congress amid allegations of corruption.
- Malli Mastan Babu, one of India's top mountaineers passed away. His dead body was recovered in the Andes Mountains between Argentina and Chile after he went missing on 24th March, 2015 during an expedition to Cerro Tres Cruces Sur. Babu was regarded as the fastest "7 summiteer" that is fastest mountaineer to climb summits in all seven continents from India. He was also the first Indian mountaineer to summit the tallest peak in Antarctica, Mt Vinson Massif. Babu hailed from Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh and was a 2000-2002 IIM Kolkata pass out. He also had a degree from IIT Kharagpur.

6th April

- Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has bagged the prestigious Golden Peacock National Quality Award for the year 2015. The award highlights the best in class quality process that the country has been building up at DIAL over the years, which have brought significant results and many awards and accolades. Golden Peacock Awards were founded by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991 and are globally regarded as a benchmark of corporate excellence.
- India will host the fifth meeting of SAARC health ministers next week to deliberate on key issues including HIV/AIDS, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases and to strengthen collaborations amongst the nations. It will also deliberate on a road map for strengthening collaboration among SAARC countries on a number of issues and challenges faced by them. Discussion for adoption of the "Delhi Declaration" affirming their commitment to work together in identified areas and further strengthen health collaboration with agreed road map and timelines, in the meeting scheduled to take place on April 8.
- After shutting down its mobile website last month, online fashion retailer Myntra is now moving to an app-only strategy by shutting down its desktop website. Myntra, which was acquired by Flipkart last year for a sum of Rs 2,000 crores claims that around 85 percent of all users come to the site via the app anyway, and that around 63 percent of all purchases happen on the app.
- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar launched the country's first indigenously-built Scorpene submarine at the Mazagaon Dockyard Ltd in Mumbai. The submarine is part of the ambitious 'Project 75' of Indian Navy's submarine programme, which is undertaken with French collaboration, which will include six such vessels joining the fleet over the next few years. The submarine is expected to be commissioned by September 2016.
- A three party MoU has been signed between Union Ministry of Textiles, Maharashtra government and National Textile Corporation for transfer of land of Indu Mills for construction of the memorial for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar memorial in Mumbai. The memorial will be constructed on the site where the last rites of architect of the Indian Constitution, Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar were performed after his death on December 6, 1956.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first Air Quality Index in a concerted effort to tackle the menace of air pollution,. The index will be operational in ten Indian cities to start with and will inform the public about the level of pollution in the air on a daily basis in real-time.

- World No. 1 and Serbian ace tennis player Novak Djokovic has won the 2015 Miami Open Men's Singles Title defeating Britain's Andy Murray. World No. 1 and American ace tennis player Serena Williams has won the 2015 Miami Open Women's singles Title defeating Spain's Carla Suárez Navarro. American Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan pair has won the Men's doubles Title and India's Sania Mirza and Switzerland's Martina Hingis pair has won Women's doubles Title.

7th April

- Dena Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India to provide insurance cover to all Aadhaar-linked savings account holders of the bank in the age group of 18 to 50 years. The insurance cover will be provided under the Prime Minister's Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJBY) scheme.
- World Health Day (WHD) 2015 was observed globally on 7 April 2015. The theme for the year is "From farm to plate, make food safe" to bring focus on growing global burden of food borne diseases and underscore the need for coordinated cross-border action across the entire food supply chain i.e. from farm to plate. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the WHO formation in 1948.
- Cricketer Yuvraj Singh is set to start his new innings as businessman with YouWeCan Ventures, aiming to support young entrepreneurs by investing in startups across sectors. Yuvraj will put about INR 50 crore - mostly his own money - over a period of 3-5 years in the fund, YouWeCan Ventures.
- An Indian origin school boy Pratap Singh, 15, in the UK has been chosen for the Institute of Physics (IOP) Prize, which carries 500 pounds sterling and a trip to a national physics-related activity. Pratap Singh was given the award for carrying out a verifying experiment on the effect of Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity.
- Chinese phone maker Xiaomi ended its exclusive partnership with Flipkart and joined hands with new online partners Amazon and Snapdeal to sell its products in the country. This means that customers can now purchase Mi products from Flipkart, Snapdeal, Amazon, The Mobile Stores and Airtel India stores.
- Indian Grandmaster Dronavalli Harika won the bronze medal along with Swedish Grandmaster Pia Cramling by virtue of making it to the semi-finals of World Women's chess championship. She lost to the eventual winner Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine in the semi-finals. She entered the semis by defeating top seeded Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy.

8th April

- PM Narendra Modi launched the Rs 20,000 crores Micro Units Development Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank. The bank is set up with the aim to fund the unfunded small entrepreneurs and to strengthen savings habit in the country. MUDRA Bank will provide credit of up to Rs 10 lakh to small entrepreneurs and act as a regulator for 'Micro-Finance Institutions' (MFIs). The roles envisaged for MUDRA include laying down policy guidelines for micro enterprise financing business and registration of MFI entities as well as their accreditation and rating.

- Online vendor Snapdeal has acquired India's fastest growing mobile transaction platform FreeCharge. With this acquisition, Snapdeal has become India's largest mobile commerce firm with 40 million users and the largest mobile transactions base for any company.
- Mayilsamy Annadurai has been appointed as Director of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), Bengaluru taking over from Dr SK Shivakumar who superannuated on 31 March 2015. As the Director of ISAC he will oversee development of satellite technology and implementation of satellite systems for scientific, technological and application missions.
- IFCI Ltd has now become a state-owned firm with the government increasing its stake in the infrastructure financing firm to 51.04 per cent. Government has acquired IFCI's 6,00,00,000 Preference shares of Rs 10 each from certain scheduled commercial banks and has consequently increased its holding from 47.93 per cent to 51.04 per cent of the paid-up share capital.
- The Indian Premier League (IPL) begins its eighth edition on 8th April 2015. The T20 tournament brings together the superstars of the game in an epic festival of club cricket at its best. Yuvraj Singh - bought by Delhi for Rs 16 crores - is the most expensive player in the tournament.

9th April

- Global financial ratings agency Moody's reaffirmed India's rating at Baa3 but raised the rating outlook to 'Positive' from "Stable", a step closer to an upgrade of the credit rating, as it expects actions by policymakers to lift the country's economic growth. According to Moody's, the policymakers are establishing a framework that will allow the country's growth to continue to outperform that of its peers over the medium-term and improve India's macro-economic, infrastructure and institutional profile.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flies out today for his visit to France, Germany and Canada, in which he plans to take his "Make in India" push to Eurozone's two biggest economies. The focus of the visit is to shore up as much foreign direct investment (FDI) and technological expertise as he can for the BJP-led NDA Government's pet projects: Make in India, Smart Cities, Clean India, Skill Development, Defense, Energy Security, Railways, Roads and Ports Management.
- The Reserve Bank notified government's decision to raise foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to 49% from the present 26%. FDI up to 26% will be under automatic route and beyond 26% and up to 49% will be allowed with the approval of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).
- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed the senior-most Election Commissioner, Dr Nasim Zaidi, as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) replacing the incumbent Harishankar Brahma.
- China's Olympic gold medal-winning hurdler Liu Xiang has retired. The 31-year-old won the country's first Olympic men's athletics gold in the 110m hurdles in Athens in 2004 and added a world title in 2007.
- Sumit Mazumder, CMD, TIL Limited, has been elected as the President of CII for the year 2015-16. He succeeds Mr. Ajay Shriram as the new President. TIL is the manufacturer of India's largest range of material handling equipment in technical collaboration with world leaders – Manitowoc Crane Group, USA; Hyster (a part of NACCO Materials Handling Group, USA) etc.

- Gursimran 'Sim' Bhullar became the first player of Indian descent to play in the high-profile National Basketball Association (NBA) league as he made his debut for Sacramento Kings. The 7-foot-5-inch Canada-born had signed a 10-day contract to join the Kings' roster.

10th April

- Retirement fund body EPFO has suspended the Rs 1,000 minimum monthly pension scheme from this month. The scheme was launched with effect from September 2014, hiking the pension amount to a flat Rs 1,000 per month for those who were getting lower amount earlier. With the suspension of the scheme, the beneficiaries will get pension at earlier rates.
- Seoul city, the capital of South Korea was awarded the title of Global Earth hour Capital 2015 after it won the Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) of World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The challenge saw the participation of 163 cities from 16 countries. The award ceremony was held in Seoul, South Korea. The city of Balikpapan, Indonesia was recognized as the Most Loveable City for 2015 and Thane city was named as the National Earth Hour Capital 2015 of India.
- NASA's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutioN (MAVEN) probe - the first mission ever devoted to understanding the Martian upper atmosphere - has completed 1,000 orbits around the Red Planet, four-and-a-half months into its one-year primary mission. Maven started its venture on November 18, 2013 and successfully entered the martian orbit on September 5, 2014. The prime objective of Maven is to observe the Mars atmosphere and give an insight into how the transition from moist and warm planet to dry and cold planet took place on Mars.
- India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable Dhanush ballistic missile with a strike range of 350 km from a naval ship off the Odisha coast. The surface-to-surface Dhanush, a naval variant of India's indigenously-developed Prithvi missile, was test fired from a ship in the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast by the Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the defence force. It is one of the five missiles developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

11th April

- India has been designated to chair the 9th meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Council. The meeting is scheduled to be held in June in Abu Dhabi. IRENA is an intergovernmental organization that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future.
- CWG gold medal winning Indian shooter Apurvi Chandela today qualified for next year's Olympic Games after notching up the 10m air rifle bronze in the ongoing ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) in Changwon, Korea.
- India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat became operational today. The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley unveiled rules and regulations for this global financial hub which are aimed at creating a vibrant IFSC on the lines of those in Dubai and Singapore and check the flight of trading in rupee and Indian securities to such offshore financial hubs.

- Every year on 11 April, National Safe Motherhood day is being observed across India. The main objective is to create awareness on proper healthcare and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women. It also aims to create awareness about the institutional delivery, reducing anemia among women and better pre and post-natal health care are necessary for mothers.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on 10 April 2015 imposed ban on all construction activities in the National Capital Region (NCR) that do not follow the guidelines provided by the then Union Ministry of Environment and forest in 2010. The directive is aimed to check growing menace of air pollution in the NCR. Justice Swatanter Kumar is the current NGT chairman.
- The Indian government announced it has "temporarily" suspended the registration of Greenpeace India under the foreign contributions law for "under-reporting" such funding it and conducting transaction of such funds without informing the authorities as required by the law. Along with the 180-day suspension, the ministry of home affairs froze all seven bank accounts of the organisation and served it a show-cause notice seeking explanation why its license should not be cancelled.

12th April

- Indian shooter Jitu Rai won a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Changwon, South Korea. Jitu Rai after winning silver in the 50m Free Pistol event in 2014 at the World Championships in Granada, Spain had qualified for the 2016 Olympics.
- India and France have signed 17 agreements in various fields during Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to France. They were signed in presence of Indian PM and his counterpart French President Francois Hollande after they had held wide-ranging talks in Paris.
- Yuki Bhambri won the 15,000 US Dollar ITF Futures tournament title. In the final he recorded a straight-set win over Dzmitry Zhyrmon of Belarus played at Karshi, Uzbekistan. This win also has ensured Yuki's entry into the French Open qualifying event which will be the Clay Court Grand Slam that will begin on the 19 May 2015.
- President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated first Songs and Dances of the North East, a cultural festival in New Delhi organized by Government of Meghalaya and sponsored by the North Eastern Council (NEC). The purpose of festival is to showcase the culture of India's northeast region and highlight the immense contribution made by the people of the region in nation building.
- Asteroid 316201 has been named as '316201 Malala' after the youngest Nobel laureate and girls' education campaigner Malala Yousafzai. The asteroid was named after her by Amy Mainzer, astronomer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, United States under the International Astronomical Union rules. Asteroid 316201 Malala is located in the Main Belt between Mars and Jupiter. It orbits around the Sun every 5.5 years and is more than 2 mile wide.
- Bharat Hari Singhania assumed the presidency of JK Organization succeeding Gaur Hari Singhania who died on 4 April 2015. The JK Group is 125-year-old and has footprint in 100 countries having overseas manufacturing operations in Indonesia, Mexico, Romania, Belgium, Portugal and the UAE.

- Arun Kumar Jha has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). He will oversee the day-to-day functioning of the commission and report about its activities to the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). KVIC is a statutory body established by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. Its primary objective is to create self-reliance amongst the poor and build strong rural community spirit by producing saleable articles and providing employment.
- Mercedes Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton from Britain won Chinese Grand Prix of Formula One on the Shanghai International Circuit in China. This was his second win of the season and his fourth Chinese Grand Prix win. It was also Lewis Hamilton's overall 35th Grand Prix win.

13th April

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the Hanover Messe, the world's largest industrial fair, alongside German Chancellor Angela Merkel. India is the partner country of this year's trade fair, which brings together about 6,500 exhibitors from 70 nations. Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe with more than 1,600 Indo-German business collaborations and 600 Indo-German joint ventures in operation.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with AREVA of France for co-operation to maximise localisation of the EPR nuclear power plant to be built at Jaitapur, Maharashtra. AREVA will transfer technology to utilise the forging capabilities of L&T Special Steels and Heavy Forgings (a joint venture with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.).
- In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Gujarat government is promoting a tour package covering major industrial installations which have earned global acclaim for the state. The major attractions of this recently launched tour package include a visit to Tata Nano plant in Sanand, Pipavav port near Amreli, Alang ship breaking yard in Bhavnagar and Amul Dairy in Anand. The package is being offered by city-based Akshar Travels Pvt Ltd, official partner of state-run tourism agency Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd (TCGL).
- Guenter Grass, the Nobel-winning German writer who gave voice to the generation that came of age during the horrors of the Nazi era has died at the age of 87. Grass was lauded by Germans for helping to revive their culture in the aftermath of World War II and helping to give voice and support to democratic discourse in the post war nation. Grass made his literary reputation with "The Tin Drum," published in 1959. It was followed by "Cat and Mouse" and "Dog Years," which made up what is called the Danzig Trilogy after the town of his birth, now the Polish city of Gdansk.
- Sania Mirza has created history by becoming the first female tennis player from India to achieve the world number one rank in doubles. She achieved her title win at the WTA Family Circle Cup with partner Martina Hingis. The top-seeded Indo-Swiss pair defeated Casey Dellacqua and Darija. Before Sania, only Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi had achieved the top rank when they dominated men's doubles circuit in the last 90s.

14th April

- Following popular outrage against net neutrality violations to “internet apartheid”, Flipkart pulled out of the controversial Airtel Zero preferential access platform. Flipkart was one of the partners in the Airtel Zero platform which allowed subscribers to access select websites and services for “zero data charges”, as long as owners of these websites/services paid Airtel.
- The popular ‘Vividh Bharati’ services of All India Radio (AIR) will now be available to listeners in and around Delhi on mobile handsets with the launch of FM transmission of the channel. Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitley, who launched the FM transmission, also delivered a message to the listeners of the channel, saying Vividh Bharati services would reach people within a range of 60-65 km with much clarity at all times in all weather conditions.
- The World Bank has predicted a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent for India by 2017 along with a strong expansion in the country, coupled with favourable oil prices. In India, GDP growth is expected to accelerate to 7.5 per cent in fiscal year 2015/16.
- FDI inflows into services sector grew by about 47 per cent to \$2.64 billion in April-January last fiscal. It was helped with the growth in FDI in important sector like services, overall foreign inflows in the country rose by 36 per cent to \$25.52 billion during the ten months of 2014-15.
- This comes after the government raised the FDI cap in insurance sector to 49 per cent from 26 per cent. The policy was also relaxed in other sectors such as defence, railways and medical devices.
- The BJP government in Haryana has decided to give the status of cabinet minister to yoga guru Baba Ramdev, who was earlier made the state’s brand ambassador to promote yoga and Ayurveda. The government has announced to make yoga compulsory in all schools and equip all sports stadiums in every district with a yoga center.
- North Korea’s top diplomat, Ri Su-yong, arrived in India on a rare visit to become the first North Korean foreign minister to visit India in at least 25 years.

15th April

- The government has formed an inter-ministerial committee headed by cabinet secretary to review the Official Secrets Act. This is done in context of demands to declassify files related to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death or disappearance. RAW, IB, Union home ministry and PMO officials will be part of the panel. This comes after the PM met Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew, Surya Bose, in Berlin and promised to examine the request for declassification of all files related to events since his death or disappearance in Taiwan on August 18, 1945.
- Renowned Assamese filmmaker and actor Bidyut Chakraborty dies in Guwahati after brief illness. His directorial film Rag-Birag is based on a novel written by Jnanpith award-winner Mamoni Raisom Goswami.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has renamed Tourist Visa on Arrival-Electronic Travel Authorization scheme (TVoA-ETA) to e-Tourist Visa with effect from 15 April 2015. The aim is to remove the ambiguities faced by foreign tourists especially by scheme’s nomenclature VoA, presuming that they would be granted visa on arrival upon landing will be removed. e-Tourist Visa Scheme is a pre-authorization of Visa to foreigners that being

given prior to travel. TVoA-ETA was launched in November 2014. It had enabled Electronic Travel Authorization to 44 countries at nine airports across India.

- Online restaurant guide Zomato announced the acquisition of MaplePOS, a cloud-based point of sale product for restaurants developed by a group of techies from Delhi. Gurgaon based Zomato has already renamed the MaplePOS product to 'Zomato Base' which will help the company and its restaurant partners to manage business into online orders and payments. MaplePos, a sale product offers various features of restaurants such as inventory and menu management, and also has in-built payment solution to accept debit and credit card payments.
- Meenakshi Madan Rai was sworn in as the first lady judge of the Sikkim High Court.
- Union Government constituted a task force on interlinking of rivers in the country. The Task Force will be chaired by former Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources B N Navalawala and comprises experts and senior officials.

16th April

- Canada and India have signed with a series of agreements and promises that will send Canadian uranium to the South Asian nation, liberalize visas for Canadian travellers, “soon” ratify a long-awaited foreign investment deal and lay a road map to complete stalled trade talks. Under an agreement signed between Modi had Harper, Cameco Corporation will supply 3,000 metric tonnes of uranium over five years to India for \$254 million. Canada's PM Stephen Harper returns 900-year-old Khajuraho temple sculpture to PM Narendra Modi. The sculpture, known as 'Parrot Lady', was handed over by Harper to Modi yesterday in accordance with 1970 UNESCO Convention.
- India has successfully test-fired nuclear weapons-capable Agni-III ballistic missile from the Wheeler Island off Odisha coast. The missile has a strike range of more than 3,000 k.m. Agni-III is one of the sophisticated and accurate missiles of its class and has already been inducted into armed forces. It is capable of carrying a payload weighing 1.5 tonnes.
- Leaders of six Janata Parivar parties announced their decision to merge into one larger entity. Mulayam Singh Yadav will the head new party. The new party will have a strength of 15 members in the Lok Sabha and 30 in the Rajya Sabha.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), an engineering and manufacturing company announced that it has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Russian company named INTMA with an aim to set up a gas-based power project in Kazakhstan as well as further boost its presence in the CIS countries. INTMA is one of the leading general Engineering Procurement and Construction contractors (EPC) in Russia and Kazakhstan.
- Asia Cup 2016 will undergo a radical change and will be a Twenty20 competition instead of the 50-over game. It would be revamped to include more Associate nations and to give some practice prior to the T-20 World Cup. However, the tournament would then revert to a 50-over tournament in 2018 ahead of the 2019 World Cup in England and be played as a T20 competition again in 2020.

- Sachin Tendulkar was inducted as one of the five new members into the prestigious Laureus Sports Academy in a glittering annual award ceremony at the Shanghai Grand theatre. Along with him, retired Chinese professional basketball player Yao Ming, Kenyan long-distance runner Tegla Loroupe, Chinese gymnast Li Xiaopeng and former Chinese short track speed skater Yang Yang were the other athletes to be inducted into the Laureus academy.

17th April

- US President Barack Obama will honour Microsoft's Indian-origin CEO Satya Nadella with the 'Champions of Change' award for bringing about change within his company to support working families. The 'Champions of Change' programme was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.
- Reliance Industries has regained its status as the most profitable Indian company after posting an 8.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the March quarter. The operator of the world's biggest refining complex reported a net profit Rs 6,381 crore for the three months to March, 2015. RIL had lost its crown as India's most profitable firm to outsourcing giant TCS in the December quarter.
- United Nation (UN) peace envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar has resigned, after losing support from Gulf countries for his mission in the conflict-riven nation. His resignation comes after UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for the swift resumption of peace talks and an end to violence in Yemen. The adopted resolution adopted calls on the Huthis to withdraw from Sanaa and all other areas they have seized.
- Senior diplomat Mohan Kumar, currently India's top envoy to Bahrain, has been appointed the next Ambassador to France to succeed Arun Kumar. He is 1981-batch IFS officer.

18th April

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada has generated business worth more than 1.6 billion Canadian dollars, according to official figures released by the Harper government in Toronto with sixteen commercial agreements and announcements were made by Canadian and Indian companies and organisations during Prime Minister Modi's visit.
- The East China Normal University (ECNU), one of the prestigious universities in China, announced the appointment of Dr. Vishal Sikka, Chief Executive Officer of Infosys, as Advisory Professor. East China Normal University, commonly referred to as ECNU, is a comprehensive research university in Shanghai, China. Established in 1951, it is the first national normal university of the People's Republic of China.
- Two Indians are among 16 people named by Yale University as its 2015 World Fellows, the signature global leadership development initiative at the prestigious US institution.

Zeena Johar, SughaVazhvu Healthcare Founder and journalist and author Rahul Pandita are the Indians who are named by the university.

- World Heritage Day was observed across the world on 18 April 2013. The day is observed with an aim to create awareness among the people to conserve and protect the valuable assets and cultural heritage across the world. The first world Heritage Day was celebrated on 18 April 1982 by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in Tunisia and was approved in 1983 by UNESCO. The 2015 World Heritage Day also marked 50th anniversary of ICOMOS.
- World Haemophilia Day was observed globally on 17 April 2015 with theme Building a family of support. The day provides an opportunity to talk to your extended family and friends, colleagues, and caregivers to raise awareness and increase support for those living with an inherited bleeding disorder. Hemophilia day was established in 1989 with the support of the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH). The date of 17 April was chosen to honor Frank Schnabel the founder of WFH, whose birthday falls on the same date.
- NRI industrialists Hinduja brothers – S P Hinduja and G P Hinduja – have won the Business Leader of the Year 2015 award at the prestigious 5th Asian Awards for their outstanding achievement in the field of business. The Asian Awards honouring Asian Excellence is founded by businessman Paul Sagoo.

19th April

- Vankadarath Saritha, a 30-year-old driver became first woman bus driver to be inducted in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). Saritha hails from Nalgonda district in Telangana. Delhi government's step will allay its concern regarding women's security in the capital and also encourage women's contribution to such sectors where they're currently not participating.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 18 April 2015 between Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and Dighi Port Limited. The MoU will facilitate construction of 34 km of railway link between Roha and Dighi Port in Raigad district of Maharashtra. The project cost is estimated around Rs. 723 crore.
- Andhra Pradesh Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IISL Company to replace the existing streetlights in 13 municipalities with LED lights in the state. As per the agreement, IISL will maintain replace and maintain LED streetlights in the 13 municipalities for seven years. The state government aims to reduce the power consumption by 50 per cent by this step.
- The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has suspended the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for indefinite period. This move comes after PCI had provided shoddy treatment to athletes during the National Para-Athletics Championships held in Ghaziabad from March 20 to 22, 2015. With this suspension, Indian para-athletes will not be able to participate in any IPC-sanctioned competition, including 2016 Paralympic Games at Rio

de Janeiro. In this regard, Union Sports Ministry also has issued a show cause notice to PCI.

PCI was founded in 1992 as the Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India. It was recognized in November 2011, as National Sports Federation (NSF) for promotion of sports amongst the physically challenged sportspersons in the country. It is also responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Paralympic Games and other international athletic meets.

- Supreme Court has appointed Vivek Priyadarshi to head an investigating team to further probe the Indian Premier League (IPL) season 6 spot-fixing and betting scandals. The bench took this decision on the recommendation of a three member panel headed by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) RM Lodha which was appointed in January 2015.

- Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on 17 April 2015 approved release of Gharials in Sutlej and Beas rives in the state to promote eco-tourism. Initially, 10 Gharials (last surviving species of the family Gavialidae) will be released in the Harike Wildlife Sanctuary as a part of 'Gharial Recovery Action Plan'.

The gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) is also known as the gavial. It is a fish-eating crocodile and belongs to one of the three crocodylian species found in the Indian Sub-Continent. It is listed in Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It is also listed as Critically Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species. In historic times it was present in Indus River system, including Beas and Sutlej rivers, indicating healthy river system.

- Vijender Gupta was appointed the leader of opposition (LoP) in the Delhi. Delhi Assembly Speaker has recognized him as LOP as per Section 2 of the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi (Salary and Allowances) Act, 2001. In February 2015 Assembly election, BJP had won three seats which is less than one-tenth of the total strength of 70 of the Delhi assembly. While, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had won 67 seats.

20th April

- Rajya Sabha member Sitaram Yechury was elected the 5th General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). To ensure a smooth transition by averting a vote, Mr. Pillai's candidature was withdrawn paving the way for the unanimous election of the 91-member CC, after which Mr. Karat proposed Mr. Yechury for general secretary which was unanimously accepted.
- ICICI Bank in collaboration with Tech Mahindra launched a payment service 'Tap-n-Pay' based on the near-field communications (NFC) technology, enabling customers to make over-the-counter payments without using cash. For making payments, the user will have to bring the NFC tag or the mobile phone near a device at the merchant's facility and the amount will automatically get debited from the prepaid account.

- The Indian Navy launched 'Visakhapatnam', the first of stealth destroyers under the P15-B project. The warship is 163 metres in length and has a displacement of 7,300 tonnes.
- The Kerala government launched a major campaign "Subodham" to help people in the state overcome alcohol, drug and other substance abuse. The project was launched by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Art of Living Foundation founder Sri Sri Ravishankar in the presence of religious leaders, representatives of student organisations and NGOs working against drug abuse.
- In a tragic on-field incident a promising Bengal batsman Ankit Keshri passed away owing to an injury sustained during a Cricket Association of Bengal's senior one-day knock-out match. The 20-year-old, a talented right-hander, had captained the Bengal U-19 team in Cooch Behar Trophy and was in the 30-member India U-19 probable's list for the 2014 Colts World Cup in the United Arab Emirates.
- Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton won the Bahrain Grand Prix for the second year in a row with Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen back on the podium to deny Mercedes another one-two finish under the floodlights.

21st April

- Former Governor of Assam and three-time Chief Minister of Odisha Janaki Ballav Patnaik passed away in a private hospital at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. He was Chief Minister of Odisha from 1980 to 1989 and again from 1995 to 1999.
- An Egyptian criminal court sentenced ousted President Mohamed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012. The case stems from violence outside the presidential palace in December 2012.
- A Japanese magnetic levitation train has broken its own world speed record, hitting 603km/h (374mph) in a test run near Mount Fuji. The train beat the 590km/h speed it had set last week in another test. Japan is known for its shinkansen that run on steel rails, but has been investing in maglev technology which it is hoping to sell overseas. Central Japan Railway (JR Central), which owns the trains, wants to introduce the service between Tokyo and the central city of Nagoya by 2027.
- With an aim of monitoring implementation of various ongoing projects including Rail Budget proposals, railways today launched E-Samiksha, an online monitoring mechanism. Designed by NIC, the software is currently being used by Cabinet Secretariat, PMO and other Ministries for monitoring progress implementation of various programmes and follow-up of meetings.
- Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd has entered into MoUs with New India Assurance Company Ltd and Life Insurance Corporation of India to provide insurance cover to its accountholders. The insurance covers are being provided under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Suraksha Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Jeevanjyoti Bima Yojana schemes respectively.

22nd April

- The BJP-led NDA government has dropped the names of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi from two awards for propagating Hindi. The 'Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar' and 'Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar', launched more than two decades ago, have given way for 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' and 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar'.
- The six-member NJAC headed by the Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu will be constituted by the Centre. National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is a body responsible for the appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary in India. The Commission is established by amending the Constitution of India through the 99th constitution amendment vide the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 passed by the Lok Sabha on 13 August 2014 and by the Rajya Sabha on 14 August 2014.
- Metals and mining conglomerate Sesa Sterlite has changed its name to Vedanta Ltd. to better align with its international identity — Vedanta Resources. The company produces and processes oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, aluminum and commercial power and is present in India, South Africa, Namibia, Ireland, Australia, Liberia and Sri Lanka.
- International Mother Earth Day was observed globally on 22 April 2015 with the theme "It's our turn to lead". The theme highlights the need for change and seeks to inform the communities and leadership that action needs to be taken on climate by promoting a goal of environmental awareness through developing sustainable initiatives and galvanizing every human to pledge Acts of Green.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has accorded final approval to two national parks i.e. Kudermukh National Park, Karnataka and Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand for being declared as tiger reserves. In accordance to this approval, Rajaji National Park is declared as India's 48th Tiger Reserve. With this notification, Uttarakhand got its second tiger reserve after the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The Rajaji National Park that came into existence in 1983 is spread across three districts of Uttarakhand namely Haridwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal in an area over 820 square km.
- Pakistan conferred the Nishan-e-Pakistan, its top civilian award, on Chinese President Xi Jinping, lauding his "outstanding contribution in the promotion of the relationship between the two countries".

23rd April

- Indian railways launched mobile application for paperless unreserved tickets. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu introduced from here the mobile app for paperless unreserved ticketing for commuters in Egmore and Tambaram suburban sections in Chennai under Southern Railway zone.
- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award 2015 for his performance in the movie "Happy New Year". Actor

Rajkumar Rao won the prestigious award for his performance in the critically acclaimed film “Citylights”, which was released in 2014. Actress Huma Qureshi bagged an award for her memorable performance in the movie “Dedh Ishiqya”.

- Union Cabinet has approved lowering of age of juveniles from 18 to 16 years for heinous crimes. The cabinet also approved to introduce Amendment to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014. This amendment will propose and add special provisions to tackle heinous offences like murder and rape committed by juveniles in the age group of 16-18 years.
- World Bank established Pollution Management and Environmental Health (PMEH) program. The program was officially launched on Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day in Washington, D.C. The 45 million US Dollar PMEH program will initially run from 2015 to 2020 and focus primarily on air quality management in countries facing rapid urbanization and strong needs for pollution abatement measures, but also tackle water and land pollution. The program will focus in particular on air quality management in five major urban areas in India, China, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa.
- The top-ranked Serb Novak Djokovic won the first big clay-court tournament of the season defeating Tomas Berdych in the final of the Monte Carlo Masters. Djokovic, became the first player in tennis history to win the first three Masters tournament of the year after completing the Indian Wells-Miami sweep this spring.

24th April

- RBI has modulated PSL norms which stipulate that banks operating in India must offer 40% of all loans to farmers, small entrepreneurs and so-called weaker sections of society. The old norms had stipulated that 13.5% of agriculture loans should be given to the farmers directly as crop loans and the rest, 4.5%, could be indirect loans to the farm sector, to allied industries such as food processing and fertilizer. RBI has also abolished the distinction between direct and indirect loans.
- Indian-American Vivek Murthy was sworn-in as the US Surgeon General by Vice President Joe Biden at a ceremony, becoming the youngest-ever in-charge of the country's public health and is now the highest ranking Indian-American in the US President Barack Obama Administration.

The Surgeon General of the United States is the operational head of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC) and thus the leading spokesperson on matters of public health in the federal government of the United States. U.S. Surgeon General is nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate. The Surgeon General serves a four-year term of office.

- India is one of the unhappiest countries in the world. It ranks 117 out of the 158 countries surveyed for the World Happiness Report 2015. The top country in the list is Switzerland with a score of 7.587

- The Rajya Sabha, unanimously handed a personal member's bill to protect the rights of the group. The personal member bill supplies for the formulation and implementation of a complete national coverage to guarantee general improvement and welfare of transgender community by the State. A National Transgender Welfare Commission and a special transgender court will also be set up.
- National Panchayati Raj Day was observed across India on 24 April 2015. The day is observed to mark the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993. The Amendment institutionalized Panchayati Raj through the Village, Intermediate and District levels Panchayats which registers a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power to the grassroots level.

25th April

- A massive 7.9-magnitude earthquake struck in Nepal, causing widespread damage to buildings in the capital Kathmandu and killing more than 100 people in the country. It was the worst quake in the Himalayan nation in over 80 years, the world's strongest earthquakes since 1900.
- The Delhi government today announced that it will launch 'Labour Development Mission' on May 1, aimed at ensuring payment of notified minimum rates of wages to all contractual workers in the national capital. To ensure payment of notified minimum wages to workers and bring transparency in the system, the employers were also directed to pay wages to workers by ECS/Cheque.
- India has delivered three military choppers "Cheetal" to Kabul weeks ahead of the first visit by Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani to New Delhi since taking over charge. The choppers are suited for operations from high altitude regions as well as areas with difficult terrain and unprepared landing areas, for which Afghan pilots and technicians have been trained.
- World Malaria Day (WMD) was observed on 25 April 2015. The theme for the 2013-2015 campaign is 'Invest in the Future. Defeat Malaria.' The day is observed to recognise the global efforts to control malaria. It is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria control and elimination
- FIFA confirmed that Japan will host the 2015 and 2016 editions of the FIFA Club World Cup, the tournament that has been held annually since 2005 among the champions of each member confederation.
- World record holder Paula Radcliffe will receive the inaugural John Disley London Marathon Lifetime Achievement Award after she completes the 2015 London Marathon. The three-time winner will run what is expected to be her final competitive race at the 35th London Marathon.

26th April

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded the 50th Jnanpith Award to eminent Marathi litterateur Bhalchandra Nemade whose several books, including Kosala and Hindu, have influenced Indian writing. Nemade's contribution rests in initiating Deshivad, a theory of nativism that negated globalisation, asserting the value of a writer's native heritage, and language.
- Bank of Baroda, a leading Indian public sector bank, has tied up with UAE Exchange to offer an instant cash transfer facility to NRI customers. UAE Exchange, a global remittance and foreign exchange company, serves over 7.9 million customers worldwide and currently has over 750 branches across 32 countries. Following the agreement, customers can send money to their desired bank accounts in Bank of Baroda in India, within minutes.
- Government detected a whopping over Rs 7,800 crore of illegal monies within the country and abroad during 2013-14 as the elite Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) found all-time high cases of suspicious transactions in the country's economic channels. CTR is fund movement of the value more than Rs. 10 lakh in one tranche or a series of transactions internally connected to each other in either Indian currency or foreign in the country's banking or any other channel.
- Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor conferred with prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2015. He was presented the award by noted historian and writer Babasaheb Purandare. Apart from Anil Kapoor, veteran Marathi actor Dilip Prabhavalkar was also bestowed with the prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2015. Dinanath Mangeshkar Award was instituted in 1999 in memory of Dinanath Mangeshkar, father of Lata Mangeshkar.
- Iconic business leader Ratan Tata has acquired a stake in Chinese handset maker Xiaomi, the first investment by any Indian in the smartphone maker. In December last year, Xiaomi raised \$1.1 billion, valuing the firm at \$45 billion. Often touted as the 'Apple of China', the company has grown to become a major competition to global giants like Samsung and Apple.

27th April

- The government plans to push through an amendment to the Child Labour Prohibition Act in the current session of Parliament, which will allow children below the age of 14 to work in select family enterprises if it doesn't hamper their education. Children between 14 and 18 years will not be allowed to work in hazardous industries. According to the labour ministry official, this provision is in conformity with the ILO convention. India has seen a sharp drop in the number of child labourers in the last decade, down to 4.3 million from 12.6 million.
- Capgemini and iGATE have entered into a definitive merger agreement under which Capgemini will acquire iGATE for a cash consideration of \$48 per share. The transaction will amount to \$4 billion and is expected to be immediately accretive to Capgemini's

normalized Earnings Per Share (EPS)1. iGATE is US-listed IT services company headquartered in New Jersey.

- Chief Justice of India H L Dattu has refused to participate in a three-member panel for selecting two eminent persons in the six-member National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). The five-judge constitution bench, headed by Justice J S Khehar, which is hearing the issue of constitutional validity of the new law on appointment of judges to higher judiciary, was told by Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi that Dattu has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he would not participate in the meeting of the panel till the matter is decided by the apex court.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes will settle all minimum alternate tax (MAT) matters of FIIs coming under the ambit of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements within a month of filing of claims. The move is aimed at quickly resolving the controversial tax issue facing foreign portfolio investors.
- Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) has won The Asian Banker Achievement Award 2015. The award was presented to the BMB in the Technology Implementation category of Best Outsourcing Project (New Bank). Usha Ananthasubramanian is the Chairman and Managing Director of BMB, which is India's first all-women public sector bank and was formally launched on November 19, 2013. Its objective is to focus on the banking needs of the women and promote economic empowerment.
- The government has raised the limit of foreign direct investment in pension sector to 49% in line with the FDI cap in the insurance sector. In pursuance of the enactment of Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority Act, 2013, government has decided to permit FDI in the pension sector.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has nominated Rohit Sharma for the Arjuna award for 2015. Since January 1, 2014, he has averaged 55.05 from 21 innings with 3 centuries and 5 fifties, with the epic 264 his highest score.

28th April

- In a key stride in collaboration between the State and Israel, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai agreed to cooperate in building smart cities. Maharashtra has decided to create sustainable and friendly urban spaces that integrate the use of technology, social media, community participation and e-governance to build smart cities of Maharashtra like Nagpur, Mumbai, Amravati, Aurangabad and Nashik to a global standard.
- Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari has been sworn-in as a criminal court judge in New York. She became the first India-born woman to be appointed a judge in New York City. Currently, there are two male judges of Indian descent in civil court settings — Jaya Madhavan on the New York City Housing Court in Bronx County, and Anil C. Singh of New York County Supreme Court, 1st District.

- The Trinamool Congress (TMC) party retained control of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) apart from emerging the winner in 73 other municipal bodies in West Bengal.

29th April

- Bringing corruption into the heinous crime category, the Union Cabinet approved official amendments to an anti-graft legislation enhancing the penalty under it to a maximum of seven years imprisonment from the present five years. The proposed amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 provides for more stringent punishment for the offences of bribery--both for the bribe giver and the bribe taker.
- The Union Cabinet approved Central Government spending of about one lakh crore on urban development under two new urban missions over the next five years. The Cabinet has approved the Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation of 500 cities (AMRUT) with outlays of Rs.48,000 crore and Rs.50,000 crore respectively.
- The Cabinet approved the continuation of Rs 1,000 minimum monthly pension for pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme beyond the financial year 2014-15.
- Online marketplace Flipkart has acquired Delhi-based mobile engagement and marketing automation company Appiterate. Appiterate started as an A/B testing product for native mobile apps later on expanded into a full-fledged mobile marketing automation platform.
- D Harika and Koneru Humpy win silver and a bronze respectively at the World Women Chess Championship. Indian eves finished fourth in the women's world team chess championship. Georgia defeated China in the finals.
- The Delhi government today gave approval for the setting up of a farmer compensation scheme to be named after Gajender Singh, who allegedly committed suicide during an AAP rally on April 22. The government has also decided to give job to a member of Gajendra's family and martyr status for him, as demanded by the farmer's kin.
- An indigenous cryogenic engine, that will help India put satellites of upto four tonnes in geostationary orbit, was tested successfully at ISRO's propulsion complex at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. The powerful version of the cryogenic engine was successfully ground tested at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) which makes India independent foreign launch vehicles to send heavier satellites to the required orbits.

30th April

- India and Japan on Thursday signed an action agenda for boosting investment and trade. The five agenda points included in the action agenda are: Development of selected townships in India as Japanese industrial townships, promotion of investment and infrastructure development, further development and cooperation in information technology, enhancing cooperation in strategic sectors and Asia-Pacific economic integration.

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 crore each on Dena Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and Oriental Bank of Commerce and cautioned eight other public sector banks following its investigation into last year's fixed deposit fraud. The fraud, which ran into several hundred crores, affected organizations such as Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority, South Indian Education Society and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared Nadia as the first Open Defecation Free (ODF) district in the country. Thanking UNICEF and the World Bank for helping the district achieve this feat, Ms. Banerjee declared April 30 as the “Nirmal Bangla Diwas” to be observed in the years to come.
- Rajya Sabha passed the Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014. With this, the bill has been passed by both houses of the Parliament. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on 18 December 2014. The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014 that seeks to amend the Regional Rural Banks (RRB) Act, 1976 was introduced by the Union Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley. It removes the five year limit cap that was put on the sponsor banks to assist the upcoming RRBs under the RRB Act, 1976. As per the Act, sponsor banks were liable to train personnel and provide managerial and financial assistance for the first five years.
- A Pakistani court jailed 10 men for 25 years each for involvement in the 2012 shooting of teenage activist Malala Yousafzai, targeted for her campaign against Taliban efforts to deny girls education.