

## **1<sup>st</sup> APRIL to 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. El Salvador first nation to impose ban on metal mining**

El Salvador has made history after becoming the first country in the world to ban metal mining.

- Lawmakers in the water-parched country passed the ban in a unanimous vote, declaring El Salvador a mining-free territory.
- The decision followed a long and bitter struggle to protect the Central American country's diminishing water sources from polluting mining projects.

#### **Points to Remember**

- El Salvador is in a state of water crisis, hence it has banned metal mining because it causes water pollution.
- El Salvador is the smallest and the most densely populated country in Central America.
- San Salvador is the capital of El Salvador while Dollar is its currency.
- Salvador Sanchez Ceren is the President of El Salvador.

#### **2. Myanmar joins ADB's South Asia economic body**

Myanmar has formally become a full member of **South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)** programme of Asian Development Bank (ADB) being the **seventh country** to join the group.

- The SASEC programme of ADB was formed in 2001 in response to the request of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal to assist in facilitating economic cooperation among them.
- Sri Lanka and Maldives joined the sub-regional group in 2014.

#### **Points to Remember**

- Asian Development Bank was founded in 1966. Its headquarters is in Manila, Philippines.
- Takehiko Nakao is the President of Asian Development Bank.

#### **3. Japan commits 371 billion Yen assistance for infrastructure projects in India**

Japan will provide 371 billion Yen or Rs 21,590 crores as official development assistance(ODA) to India for various infrastructure projects, including the dedicated freight corridor.

- A finance ministry statement issued in New Delhi said the total commitment of Japan International Cooperation Agency ODA during two financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 is 761.40 billion yen, which is 43.50 per cent of the total target for five years.
- **Country : Japan                      Currency : Yen                      Prime Minister : Shinzo Abe**

#### **4. Moreno wins Ecuador presidential race**

The National Electoral Council said Mr. Moreno beat Mr. Lasso 51 percent to 49 percent.

- **Capital : Quito                                      Currency : Dollar**

#### **5. World Autism Awareness Day 2017: 2 April**

- The ninth annual World Autism Awareness Day was observed on April 2, 2017.
- Theme for the year 2017 is "**Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination**".

#### **6. Bangladesh is organising World parliamentarians conference**

A mega conference of world parliamentarians is being held in Dhaka to focus on ways and means to end political and economic inequality for upholding democracy and human rights.

- Some 687 members of 131 national parliaments of as many countries are expected to join the five-day conference organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad.

#### **7. Malaysia to set up technology park in Andhra Pradesh**

A Malaysian company 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 MoU was exchanged in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak.

#### **8. International Mine Awareness Day: 4 April**

- Theme for the year 2017 is **Needs driven. People Centred.**

#### **9. Iceland to make equal payment law for men and women**

Iceland's parliament has presented a bill that would require public and private businesses to prove they offer equal pay to employees, in what would be the first such requirement in the world.

- Iceland ranks first on the World Economic Forum's 2015 Global Gender Gap Index, followed by fellow Nordic nations Norway, Finland and Sweden.

- The new law aims to close a seven percent wage gap between men and women in the island nation

#### Points to Remember

- Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic Ocean.
- Reykjavik is the capital of Iceland while Krona is the Currency.
- Guoni Johannesson is the President of Iceland while Bjarni Benediktsson is the Prime Minister.

#### 10. WTO sets up panel to decide on import duty on steel

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has decided to set up a panel to resolve dispute between India and Japan on safeguard duty imposed by India on certain categories of steel.

- India had imposed safeguard duty in September 2015 to protect domestic steel manufacturers.
- Japan, which is the second largest steel producer, had argued that duties imposed by India are against the WTO norms.

#### Points to Remember

- China is the largest steel producer in the world. Japan ranks second while India is on third place.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization which regulates international trade.
- The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948.
- WTO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Roberto Azevedo is the Director General of WTO, which has 164 members.

#### 11. World Health Day - 7 April 2017

The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO).

- In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day.
- The Theme for the year 2017 is 'Depression: Let's talk.'

#### 12. Japan Officially Recognises Bitcoin as Currency Starting April 2017

Bitcoin has finally gained the recognition of a mainstream currency along the lines of other fiat currencies.

- The privilege follows the implementation of a new law in Japan which categorizes Bitcoin as a legal payment option within the country.
- The much-awaited law went into effect on April 1, 2017.

#### Points to Remember

- Bitcoin is both a cryptocurrency and an electronic payment system invented by an unidentified programmer, or group of programmers, under the name of Satoshi Nakamoto.
- Bitcoin was introduced on 31 October 2008 to a cryptography mailing list, and released as open-source software in 2009.

#### 13. India jumps 12 spots in WEF's global travel & tourism ranking

India has jumped 12 places to 40th rank globally in travel and tourism competitiveness list by World Economic Forum (WEF).

- Spain is ranked at the top in the list.
- India has seen continued growth in international arrivals over the past 15 years, reaching the 8 million mark in 2015, WEF said.

#### Points to Remember

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a Swiss nonprofit foundation, based in Cologny, Geneva.
- Klaus Schwab is the executive chairman of the World Economic Forum. It was established in 1971.
- The motto of WEF is 'Committed to improving the state of the world'.

#### 14. India ranks 9th in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses

India ranks ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses, as per the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017.

- The ranking has improved marginally from the survey findings in 2015 when India was at the sixth position.

## **NATIONAL**

#### 15. All India Institute of Ayurveda established at New Delhi

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Sarita Vihar, New Delhi has been established as an Autonomous Body under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH at a cost of Rs. 157 crore.

- AIIA is a 200 bedded referral hospital and shall impart PG & Ph.D degree courses in Ayurveda.
- 1st Batch of P.G. course has been started in 2016. Institute has started OPD & IPD facility with major specialties in Ayurveda. Presently AIIA is functional.

#### 16. Kanha tiger reserve (Madhya Pradesh) becomes first in India to get official mascot

Kanha has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot — Bhoorsingh the Barasingha.

- The step aims to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction.
- Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The Kanha tiger reserve, spread over Mandla and

Balaghat districts, is the only place in the world where the species exists.

#### **17. Govt lowers interest rate on small savings schemes by 0.1%**

The government has lowered the interest rates on small savings schemes like PPF, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samridhi scheme by 0.1 per cent for the April-June quarter, a move that would prompt banks to cut their deposit rates.

##### **New Rates are:**

- Public provident fund (PPF) scheme: 7.9 per cent
- Five-year National Savings Certificate: 7.9 percent
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP): 7.6 per cent and mature in 112 months.
- Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme: 8.4 per cent
- Five-year senior citizens savings scheme: 8.4 per cent

#### **18. Coal India director R Mohan Das' services terminated**

State-owned Coal India has announced the termination of the services of one of its directors R Mohan Das.

#### **19. Life imprisonment for cow slaughter in Gujarat**

The Gujarat Assembly has passed a bill against cow slaughter in the state with life imprisonment from the present seven-year term.

- The bill also stated 10 years of imprisonment for transportation of cows. People in possession of beef will be slapped a fine of Rs.1-5 lakh along with a jail term of 7-10 years.
- Earlier, the maximum jail term for possession of cow meat was seven years and minimum of three years with a fine of Rs.50,000.

#### **20. eChallan, mParivahan mobile apps to report traffic violations**

The government has 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.

- e-Challan is an integrated enforcement solution to manage traffic violations through an Android-based mobile app.
- m-Parivahan is an empowering app for the citizen which provides access to various services, information and utilities related to the transport sector.

#### **21. IIT Madras, Indian Army sign MoU to strengthen critical technological areas**

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) and the Indian Army have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to identify the critical technological areas that can be enhanced in the armed forces.

As per the MoU, the Army will sponsor four officers for doctoral programmes besides a five-day Technology Development Programme for 15 officers on a biannual basis.

#### **22. Union Textiles Minister launches PowerTex India**

The Government has launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive scheme for powerloom sector development, simultaneously at over 45 locations in the country.

- Launching the scheme in Bhiwandi, Thane district, Maharashtra, the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani said that Bhiwandi will be known for resurgence in Powerloom sector.
- Recalling that the powerloom sector alone employs over 44 lakh people, the Minister said that the scheme will especially benefit small powerloom weavers.

#### **23. "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" launched in Andhra Pradesh**

Union Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' in Vellore, Andhra Pradesh on April 1, 2017.

- "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" is a scheme for providing physical aids and assisted-living devices to senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
- The ambitious scheme, first of its kind in the country, is expected to benefit 5,20,000 senior citizens over a period of the 3 years.

#### **24. Agriculture Min Radha Mohan Singh inaugurates ICFMD in Odisha**

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has inaugurated International Centre for Foot and Mouth Disease (ICFMD) at Argul which will work towards protecting livestock from foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV).

#### **25. First bio-gas bus launched in Kolkata**

A city based company has launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in Kolkata keeping a flat fare of just Re 1.

- All buses will have a flat fare of Re 1 irrespective of the distance, even in excess of 40 km.
- Presently, the lowest fare in a Kolkata bus is Rs 6.
- The first bus will run a distance of 17 km between Ultadanga and Garia in the southern fringes of the city and Phoenix India will run the bio-gas service from its Corporate Social Responsibility fund.

#### **26. Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission to go paperless**

Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) is all set to launch e-Governance Project to start paperless functioning, making it the first PSC of the country to do so.

- Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) Chairman K S Tomar informed the e-Governance Project would be launched within a week as the Commission has got nod for the same from Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEIT) of Union Communications and IT Ministry.

##### **Points to Remember**

- Acharya Dev Vrat is the Governor of Himachal Pradesh while Virbhadra Singh is the Chief Minister.

- Recently Dharmashala was approved as the Second Capital of the state for the winters.

### 27. PM dedicates Chenani-Nashri Tunnel to the Nation

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated India's longest road tunnel, the 9 kilometre long Chenani-Nashri Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir, to the nation.

### 28. Record Capacity Addition of Wind Power of 5400 MW in Last Fiscal

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set another record in the wind power capacity addition by adding over 5400 MW in 2016-17 against the target of 4000 MW.

- This year's achievement surpassed the previous higher capacity addition of 3423 MW achieved in the previous year.
- The leading States in the wind power capacity addition during 2016-17 are Andhra Pradesh 2190 MW, followed by Gujarat 1275 MW and Karnataka 882 MW.

### 29. Connaught Place world's 9th most costly office location

Delhi's Connaught Place is the world's 9th most expensive office location with annual prime rent of USD 105.71 per sq ft, says property consultant CBRE.

- Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) is at 19th position while the central business district (CBD) of Nariman Point is at 30th place in the CBRE's Global Prime Office Rents report.
- With annual prime rent of USD 264.27 per sq ft, Hong Kong (Central) is the world's most expensive office Market.

### 30. Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar Releases 'India Rankings 2017'

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar, released the India Rankings 2017 for the Educational Institutions and dedicated it to the nation in New Delhi.

List of top 3 India Rankings 2017 is as follows:

#### Overall:

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore  
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras  
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

#### Engineering

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras  
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay  
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

#### Management

- Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
- Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta

#### University

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi  
Banaras Hindu University

#### Colleges

Miranda House, Delhi,  
Loyola College, Chennai  
Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi

#### Pharmacy

Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi  
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali  
University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chandigarh

### 31. Thaawarchand Gehlot Inaugurates "National Conference on Autism"

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated a "National Conference on Autism" in New Delhi.

- It is being organized by The National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

### 32. Jet Airways Launches UPI-based Online Ticket Booking

Private carrier Jet Airways fliers can now buy tickets online, using the industry's latest payment mechanism, Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

- Launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI is one of the various measures by the RBI towards a less-cash and a more digital society.
- The UPI allows money to be transferred instantaneously between any two bank accounts instantly, using a smartphone.

### 33. 19th commonwealth forestry conference begins in Uttarakhand

The 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference is being held at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India from 3rd to 7th April, 2017.

- The ICFRE and FRI will be the Focal point of the conference, with support from MOEF & CC, Government of India.
- It is being Organized by Forest Research Institute, CFA, Govt. of India.

#### Points to Remember

- It is often referred to as the Devbhumi due to many Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state.
- Trivendra Singh Rawat is the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand while Krishan Kant Paul is the Governor.

### 34. Madhya Pradesh government launches app to provide municipal services online

- The mobile app 'MP e-nagarpalika' was launched by state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

### 35. Centre sets up National Board of Electric Mobility

The Centre has notified the constitution of the National Board of Electric Mobility (NBEM).

- It also nominated six members of eminence and expertise from the automobile industry into it, including Vikram Kirloskar (Toyota Kirloskar Motors), Vinod Dasari (Ashok Leyland), Pawan Goenka (Mahindra & Mahindra and

Sudarshan Venu (TVS Motors).

- The nominated members will have a tenure of two years or until further government order, whichever is earlier.
- The members can be re-nominated for additional terms, if needed.
- The Board will be chaired by the Secretary, the Department of Heavy Industry, and will comprise senior bureaucrats as members.

### 36. National conference on Communicating India organized

A day-long national conference on Communicating India was organized in New Delhi on 5 April which was inaugurated by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore while his senior cabinet colleague Venkaiah Naidu delivered the valedictory address.

- The conference has been organized by the Vivekananda International Foundation in collaboration with the India Media Centre, University of Westminster, London, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

### 37. Jhargram becomes 22nd Bengal district

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has declared Jhargram as the 22nd district of West Bengal, fulfilling a longstanding demand of its residents.

### 38. Gadkari announces Rs 40K cr expressway project in northeast

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, Union Road Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

- The agreement was signed between the Assam government, the National Highways Authority of India and the Inland Waterways of India.

#### Points to Remember

- Nitin Jayram Gadkari is an Indian politician and the current Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping.
- Gadkari earlier served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2010-2013.
- He represents Nagpur constituency in the Lok Sabha.

### 39. Haryana govt to provide Rs 21,000 to families for third girl child

Haryana government would provide 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.

- Under the scheme, the eligible families would receive the amount irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, income and number of sons.
- The scheme is aimed to combat the problem of declining child sex ratio and promote girls' education in the state.

### 40. India's is the world's 7th largest tourism economy in terms of GDP

India's travel and tourism sector ranks 7th in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's GDP, according to a new report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

- According to data, the travel and tourism sector generated Rs 14.1 trillion (USD 208.9 billion) in 2016, which is world's 7th largest in terms of absolute size; the sum is equivalent to 9.6% of India's GDP.
- Additionally, the sector created 40.3 million jobs in 2016, which ranks India 2nd in the world in terms of total employment generated. The sector accounts for 9.3% of the country's total jobs.
- India's Travel and Tourism sector was also the fastest growing amongst the G20 countries, growing by 8.5% in 2016. A further 6.7% growth is forecast for 2017.

### 41. Cabinet approves setting up rail regulator

- The Union government has approved setting up Rail Development Authority (RDA), an independent regulator to recommend passenger and freight fares and set service level benchmarks.
- The Authority, with an initial corpus of Rs. 50 crore, will have a Chairman along with three members with a fixed term of five years and it can engage experts from relevant areas.
- The Chairman of the Authority can be from the private sector and will be selected by a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

### 42. Cabinet approves closure of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved closure of the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) which was set up in 2012 to address the social security-related issues of the Emigration Check Required (ECR)-category workers going abroad for employment to ECR countries.

- The subscription under the MGPSY was very low and no new subscription was received for more than a year.
- Closure of the scheme will, therefore, obviate the avoidable recurring administrative and record-keeping expenditure.

## **TRADE / BANKING**

### 43. SBI all set to become 45th largest bank

State Bank of India will be merging its five associate banks with itself from April 1 to become the 45th largest bank in the world.

- The five associate banks are State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Hyderabad.
- It is estimated that after the merger, SBI will have a combined balance sheet size of Rs 41 lakh crore, with 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs servicing over 50 crore customers.

- SBI was founded on 1 July 1955. Earlier it was known as Imperial Bank of India and Bank of Calcutta
- **Head Quarters:** Mumbai.
- Arundhati Bhattacharya is the Chairperson of SBI.

#### 44. Karnataka Bank, SBI Card launch co-branded credit card

Karnataka Bank and SBI Card have launched co-branded credit cards for the customers of Karnataka Bank.

- Through this alliance Karnataka Bank and SBI Card will launch two variants of the co-branded credit card – ‘Karnataka Bank Platinum SBI Card’ and ‘Karnataka Bank SimplySAVE SBI Card’.

#### 45. Exim Bank to work with African Development Bank on co-financing of projects

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) plans to work with African Development Bank (AfDB) on co-financing of projects in Africa, David Rasquinha, Managing Director, Exim Bank has said.

- To begin with, both are likely to focus on co-financing of projects in power, agriculture and irrigation over the next 2-3 years.
- At their bilateral talks, both sides also discussed the aspect of getting the recently formed Kukuza Project Development Company (KPDC).

##### Points to Remember

- Export-Import Bank of India is the premier export finance institution in India, established in 1982 under Export-Import Bank of India Act 1981.
- African Development Bank was established on 10 September 1964. It is Headquartered in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

#### 46. ICICI, Axis Bank sell Rs 1800 crore of loans to Ballarpur to Edelweiss

ICICI Bank and Axis Bank sold Rs.1,800 crore of loans to paper maker Ballarpur Industries to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company, said two people familiar with the matter. Bankers said this is possibly the first instance of a potential bad loan being sold off.

- It's also the first time that loans have been sold to an asset reconstruction firm at book value without a haircut.
- Axis Bank sold loans of Rs. 1,200 crore and ICICI Bank sold loans of Rs.600 crore.

#### 47. India, UK to set up 500 mn pound fund to finance green energy

India and the UK has decided to set up a 500 million pound fund, with both governments together investing 240 million pound, to finance clean energy projects here.

- The fund will be set up as a sub-fund of the Rs 40,000 crore National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), which was formed in 2015 to finance greenfield as well as brownfield projects.
- While India and the UK will be the anchor investors to the 'Green Growth Equity Fund' and invest 120 million pound each, the remaining 260 million pound has to come in from private investors.

#### 48. RBI clears proposal to introduce Rs 200 notes

The board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared a proposal to introduce banknotes of Rs 200 denomination.

- The decision was taken at the RBI board meeting in March.
- The process of printing the new Rs 200 notes is likely to begin after June, once the government officially approves this new denomination.

##### Points to Remember

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee.
- It commenced its operations on 1 April 1935 during the British Rule in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- It was established on the recommendations of Hilton-Young commission.
- Urjit Patel is the 24th Governor of RBI. It is headquartered in Mumbai.

#### 49. India's growth to accelerate to 7.4 per cent in 2017-18: ADB

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

- India recorded a growth rate of 7.1 per cent during 2016-17.
- The report further said that South Asia would remain the fastest growing of all subregions, with growth reaching 7 per cent in 2017 and 7.2 per cent in 2018.

##### Points to Remember

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- At the end of 2014, Japan holds the largest proportion of shares at 15.7% in ADB. The United States holds 15.6%, China holds 6.5%, India holds 6.4%, and Australia holds 5.8%.
- Takehiko Nakao is the president of ADB, which has 67 member countries.

#### 50. Israel signs \$2 billion missile deal with India

Israel has signed a \$2 billion contract with India to supply it with missile defence systems, the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries said.

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in an announcement said that it has been awarded its largest defence contract of almost \$2 billion for supplying advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile systems (MRSAM) to India.
- IAI said it would also supply additional long-range air and missile defence systems (LRSAM).

### 51. First bi-monthly monetary policy review 2017-18

The Reserve Bank of India, in its first monetary policy review of financial year 2017-18, kept the repurchase (repo) rate unchanged at 6.25%, citing upward risks to inflation and global uncertainty.

- The Monetary Policy Committee, however, raised the reverse repo rate by 0.25 basis points to 6%, and cut the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate to 6.5%.
- The RBI projects the GVA growth to strengthen to 7.4% in 2017-18 from 6.7% in 2016-17.

#### New rates are:

Repo Rate	: 6.25%	Reverse Repo Rate	: 6%
GVA growth forecast	: 7.4%	Marginal Standing Facility rate	: 6.50%
Cash Reserve ratio	: 4%	Bank Rate	: 6.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	: 20.50%		

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### 52. Dr. Navrang Saini takes charge as Whole Time Member, IBBI

Dr. Navrang Saini took charge as Whole Time Member, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi.

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which was passed by Lok Sabha on 5 May 2016.
- Madhusudan Sahoo is the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

### 53. Rajiv Kumar Chander appointed as India's Ambassador to the UN

Rajiv Kumar Chander has been appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Offices in Geneva.

- The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization to promote international cooperation.
- The organization was established on 24 October 1945 after World War II in order to prevent another such conflict.
- At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193. It also has 2 observers i.e. the Holy See and Palestine.
- The headquarters of the UN is in Manhattan, New York City.
- António Guterres (Portugal) is the Secretary General of UN while Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria) is the Deputy Secretary-General.

### 54. Vipul takes charge as new Consul General of Dubai

Diplomat Vipul, a 1998 batch Indian Foreign Service officer took up the charge as the new Consul General of Dubai.

- Vipul has succeeded Anurag Bhushan, who returned to New Delhi after a successful stint of three years to take up his assignment at the Headquarters.

### 55. Geetha Johri appointed as first woman DGP of Gujarat

Senior IPS officer Geetha Johri was appointed Gujarat's new DGP-in-charge, becoming the state's first woman police chief.

- She will replace incumbent PP Pandey.
- A 1982-batch IPS officer, Johri had a controversial stint in the the Supreme Court-appointed SIT appointed to probe the post-Godhra riots and was discharged as an accused in an alleged fake encounter case.

### 56. MS Dhoni Turns Gulf Oil India CEO for a day

MS Dhoni was appointed as 'CEO of the day' by an oil company Gulf Oil India.

- He has been a brand ambassador for the firm since 2011.

### 57. Former Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh to head TDSAT

The government has cleared retired Supreme Court judge Shiva Kirti Singh as the next chairman of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

- The appointment is for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office or "until further orders, whichever is earlier," a government notice said.
- The top slot in the telecom tribunal had been vacant since Justice Aftab Alam retired last June.

### 58. Nasscom appoints Raman Roy as chairman, Rishad Premji as vice-chairman

IT industry body Nasscom has appointed Raman Roy, CMD of Quattro, as its chairman for 2017-18.

- It has also named Rishad Premji, Wipro Chief Strategy Officer and son of technology czar Azim Premji, as the vice-chairman.
- Roy, who served as the vice-chairman in the previous fiscal, take on the new role from 6 April.
- He takes over the mantle from CP Gurnani, managing director and CEO of Tech Mahindra.

## **AWARDS**

### 59. AP Chief Minister bags US India Business Council award

The US India Business Council has selected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'

- Naidu would be receiving coveted award at second annual West Coast summit which is to be held in California on

May 8.

## **SPORTS**

### **60. Sachin Tendulkar Launches '100MB Cricket' app**

A new iOS exclusive app named 100MB Cricket, led by the cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, has been launched.

- The app allows its users to interact live with Sachin Tendulkar, while giving them access to latest scores, schedules & player statistics.

### **61. PV Sindhu dominates Carolina Marin to win India Open 2017 title**

India's badminton star PV Sindhu added yet another title to her name after winning the India Open Superseries title in New Delhi.

- This was her first title at home as she beat Rio Olympic gold medallist Carolina Marin in the final.

### **62. Roger Federer downs Rafael Nadal to win Miami Open Men's Title**

Roger Federer defeated long-standing rival Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-4 to win the Miami Open and continue his outstanding start to the year.

### **63. Johanna Konta beats Caroline Wozniacki in Miami Open Women's final**

Johanna Konta of Great Britain won the biggest title of her career when she beat Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 in the final of the Miami Open.

### **64. India ranks 3rd for third year in a row in world doping chart**

India has been ranked third for the third year in a row in a doping violation report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for 2015, with 117 athletes from the country being punished after testing positive for banned substances.

- India followed the Russian Federation (176) and Italy (129) in the chart, the same position as in the reports of 2013 and 2014.
- All the violations by the Indians came from urine samples.

#### **Points to Remember**

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- WADA was founded on November 10, 1999. Its motto is Play True.
- Craig Reddie is the President of WADA which is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.

### **65. Virat Kohli named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016**

India cricket team skipper Virat Kohli was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016.

- Kohli scored 1215 Test runs at a brilliant average of 75.93 last year. His 10 ODI appearances fetched him 739 runs at 92.37, while he scored 641 T20 International runs at 106.83.
- The 28-year-old became the third Indian cricketer to win the award.
- Former Indian opener Virender Sehwag earned the honour twice by Wisden, while legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar won it once.

### **66. India rises to 101 in FIFA rankings, best ever in two decades**

The Indian football team achieved its best ever FIFA ranking in over two decades as it jumped to 101 in the latest list.

- This is the team's best ever ranking since May 1996 — it was ranked 101 then also.
- Following a couple of wins in recent times, India is now ranked 11th in Asia.
- Brazil have taken over at the top of the FIFA rankings for the first time since 2010 replacing Argentina.

## **DEATHS**

### **67. Noted scriptwriter Ajey Jhankar no more**

Noted author and filmmaker Ajey Jhankar passed away in a private hospital.

- Writer of well-known Marathi novel "Sarkarnama", Jhankar later produced the Marathi movie with the same name in 1998, which had won many awards.

### **68. Kishori Amonkar passes away**

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away after a brief illness. She was 84.

- Amonkar was recognised as one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani tradition and as an innovative exponent of the Jaipur gharana

## **BOOKS**

### **69. "Portuguese India and Mughal Relations 1510-1735": A book by Luis de Assis Correia**

Goa-based author Luis de Assis Correia has released his book "Portuguese India and Mughal Relations 1510-1735" recently.

### **70. Piyush Goyal launches self-help book**

- Titled "The Entrepreneur's Guidebook," the book is authored by Suresh Bharwani, Chairman and Managing Director of Jetking Infotrain Limited.

#### **Points to Remember**

- Piyush Goyal is the Union Minister of Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy.

**\*\*\*\* ALL THE BEST \*\*\*\***