

25th to 31st MARCH 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT

INTERNATIONAL

- 1. SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya among Fortune's 50 greatest leaders of the world**
SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Indian-origin physician Raj Panjabi have been named by Fortune magazine among the world's 50 greatest leaders who are transforming the world and inspiring others to do the same.
 - Bhattacharya, Chairman of India's largest bank and the first-ever woman to do so, has been ranked 26th on the list while Panjabi, founder and CEO of Last Mile Health, follows closely on the 28th spot.
 - The list has been topped by President of Baseball Operations at Chicago Cubs Theo Epstein, followed by Alibaba Group Executive Chairman Jack Ma on the second spot, Pope Francis (3), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Cochair Melinda Gates (4) and Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (5).
 - 2. Afghan Taliban capture crucial town of Sangin**
 - 3. 'Earth Hour' 2017: 25 March**
2017 Earth Hour was observed worldwide on 25 March 2017.
 - Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
 - The event is held annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 - It was started as a lights-off event in **Sydney, Australia, in 2007.**
 - 4. Conference on 'Make in India' held in Houston**
A first-ever conference was held bringing together various constituencies that have an interest in India and discussing the latest developments and the best practices of doing business in India.
 - The two-day Houston India Conference was hosted by **Asia Society Texas Center**.
 - The theme of the Conference is **'Make in India -The Inside Story'**.
 - The central focus of the conference is to provide a collaboration platform and share today's India story with the audience in Texas who are interested in investing in India.
 - 5. World Theatre Day: 27 March**
World Theatre Day (WTD) is celebrated on March 27. It was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute.
 - 6. India Overtakes Japan to Become Third Largest In Domestic Air Traffic**
India has become the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic, beating Japan, an industry report has said.
 - India's domestic air passenger traffic stood at 100 million in 2016 and was behind only the US (719 million) and China (436 million), Sydney-based aviation think-tank **Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA)** said in its latest report.
 - 7. 9th World Environmental Education Congress to be held in Vancouver**
9th World Environmental Education Congress will take place from September 9-15, 2017 in Vancouver, BC, Canada.
 - **The World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC)** is an international congress addressing education for environment and sustainability.
 - WEEC 2017 is the 9th congress and will feature the theme of **Culture/Environment: Weaving New Connections.**
 - Country: Canada PM: Justin Trudeau Currency : Dollar
 - 8. India becomes associate member of International Energy Agency**
India has joined the International Energy Agency as an associate member, a development that the IEA said makes the prestigious Paris-based body more relevant and reflects the country's move to the centre stage of the global energy dialogue.
 - With India as a member, International Energy Agency now formally covers 70% of the world's energy consumption.
- Points to Remember**
- IEA has 29 members.
 - Fatih Birol is the executive director of IEA.
- 9. NATO formally invites Montenegro as 29th member**
NATO invited the Balkan nation of Montenegro to become its 29th member, agreeing to expand for only the seventh time in its history despite Russia's angry objections.
 - Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic attended the signing of an accession protocol at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Points to Remember

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949.
- It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It has **28 members**.
- Jens Stoltenberg is the Secretary General of NATO.

NATIONAL

10. Bengaluru gets India's first vertical garden

Bengaluru got its first vertical garden, which it hopes will help in curbing pollution and in beautifying the city.

- SayTrees, an NGO, installed the first vertical garden in the city on one of the pillars of the Hosur Road flyover
- The garden boasts of around 3500 saplings of more than 10 species

11. Petroleum Minister launches MoPNG e Seva

Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched MoP&NG e-Seva, a dedicated grievances redressal platform on Social Media for all queries and grievances relating to Oil and Gas Sector.

- The MOPNG e-Seva is an integrated grievances redressal platform across social media for all Oil & Gas related service issues.
- This portal will be a single point interface for all customers to reach out to the government for addressing their feedback or grievances related to Oil & Gas Sector on social media.
- MOPNG e-Seva will also deliver 24 x 7 support for consumers.
- The e-Seva portal will serve as a single point for queries on Twitter and Facebook to begin with; and other social media platforms in due course. A team of Nodal Officers from Oil Companies and Allied Services have been formed to address issues on real-time basis.

12. 33rd India Carpet Expo to be inaugurated by Union Textiles Minister

The Carpet Export Promotion Council is organizing the 33rd India Carpet Expo, a sourcing platform for handmade carpets and other floor coverings, from 27-30 March, 2017 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- The Expo, one of Asia's largest handmade carpet fairs, will be inaugurated by the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, on March 27, 2017.
- Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta; Textiles Secretary, Smt. Rashmi Verma, other officials and representatives from trade and media would also be present.

13. Pawan Hans to start 'Dilli Darshan' chopper rides at Rs 2,500

National chopper operator Pawan Hans is set to launch its "Delhi Darshan" rides from next month with a 10-minute sortie costing Rs 2,499 per person.

- Besides, the state-owned aviation firm will also offer a 20-minute helicopter ride for Rs 4,999.
- The company's Chairman and Managing Director, B P Sharma, had at the inauguration of its first heliport in north Delhi's Rohini area announced the roll out of these services from April 1.

14. CBEC to be as Renamed CBIC

The apex policy making a body for indirect taxes, CBEC is being rechristened as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) in the run up to the Goods and Services Tax regime to be rolled out from July 1.

- The CBIC will have 21 zones, 101 GST Tax payer Services Commissionerates comprising 15 sub-Commissionerates, 768 Divisions, 3,969 Ranges, 49 Audit Commissionerates and 50 Appeals Commissionerates.

15. Osmania University to host 105th Indian Science Congress

Osmania University will host the 105th edition of the Indian Science Congress during January 3-7, 2018.

- Achyuta Samanta, General President of the Indian Science Congress Association, (ISCA) and founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, said the conference will be on the theme 'Science and Technology - Reaching the Unreached'
- Five universities, including KIIT, had vied to host the event.

16. President of India inaugurates 'World Conference on Environment'

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'World Conference on Environment' organized by the National Green Tribunal in New Delhi on March 25, 2017.

17. Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurates 'National Conference on Down Syndrome'

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

- Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition associated with intellectual and learning disabilities.
- Persons with Down Syndrome have 47 chromosomes as compared to 46 in majority of people. This one Extra chromosome causes its own impact and slows down learning process.

18. Human Trafficking Cases Maximum in West Bengal

West Bengal topped the list of states with the maximum number of human trafficking cases in 2016 followed by Rajasthan as the two accounted for around 61 per cent of such cases in the country.

- Among the Union Territories, Delhi recorded the maximum number of human trafficking cases in 2016. Of the 75 cases registered among the UTs, 66 were registered in Delhi.

19. Third meeting of G-20 framework working group to be held at Varanasi

The 3rd G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) Meeting under the G-20 German Presidency is being co-hosted by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in Varanasi on 28th and 29th of March, 2017.

- The first two G 20 FWG meetings under the G-20 German Presidency have already been held at Berlin in Dec 16 and at Riyadh in Feb 17.
- The G-20 is the group of 19 countries and European Union (EU) deliberating on global economic issues and other important development challenges.

20. After Almost 30 Years in Service, TU142M to Retire

The Indian Navy is preparing for de-induction of TU142M Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft after its 29 years of dedicated service to the nation.

- The aircraft would be formally de-inducted by Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff at a special ceremony scheduled to be held at INS Rajali, India's premiere Naval Air Station in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu on 29 March 17.
- To commemorate the stellar service of the TU142M, a TU Static Display Aircraft would also be inaugurated by the Chief of Naval Staff at INS Rajali.
- The Indian Navy and the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh have decided to convert the aircraft into a museum at a cost of US\$ 0.75 million.

21. International Diamond Conference held in Mumbai

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC) organised International Diamond Conference at Hotel Hyatt Mumbai.

- The theme of this session was “Mines to Market 2017”.

22. Dr. Mahesh sharma inaugurates ‘national tribal and north east art conclave’

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism inaugurated the “National Tribal and North East Conclave-2017” organized by Lalit Kala Akademi under Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.

23. India and Bavaria to Set up Joint Group to Identify Areas of Co-Operation in Water Sector

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti has suggested formation of a joint group to identify areas of co-operation in water sector.

- This was stated that by the Minister, when Minister of Environment and Consumer Protection of the Free State of Bavaria, Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Ulrike Scharf called on her in New Delhi.

Points to Remember

- Danube River originates in Germany.
- Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade, reside on the Danube River.

24. India becomes Net Exporter of Electricity for the first Time

As per Central Electricity Authority, the Designated Authority of Government of India for Cross Border Trade of Electricity, 1st time India has turned around from a net importer of electricity to Net Exporter of electricity.

- During the current year 2016-17 (April to February 2017), India has exported around 5,798 Million Units to Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar which is 213 Million units more than the import of around 5,585 Million units from Bhutan.

25. Arun Jaitely was given additional of Defence Ministry as Manohar Parrikar resigned from the post to swear in as Goa Chief Minister.

- DB Shekatkar Committee was appointed by the government to enhance the combat potential of the armed forces and re-balancing defence expenditure.

26. Smart India Hackathon 2017 Grand Finale to be held in Nagpur

The Ministry of Road transport and Highways will host the Grand Finale of the Smart India Hackathon 2017 at Nagpur on 1st and 2nd April, 2017.

- Nagpur is one among 26 cities where the event will be held simultaneously, with the support and coordination of 29 Government departments.
- The Smart India Hackathon 2017 was launched on Nov 9, 2016 in New Delhi by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- It aims to harnesses the creativity and expertise of students, build funnel for ‘Startup India, Standup India’ campaigns, crowd source solutions for improving governance and quality of life and provide opportunity to citizens to contribute innovative solutions for nation building.

27. SC bans sale, registration of BS-III vehicles from April 1

Vehicles that are not BS-IV compliant, whether two-wheeler, three-wheeler, four-wheeler or commercial vehicles will not be sold in India by any manufacturer or dealer on and from April 1,” a Bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta ordered.

- The Court further prohibited all the vehicle registering authorities from registering BS-III vehicles on and from April 1 under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Points to Remember

- Bharat stage emission standards' are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles.
- All new vehicles manufactured after the implementation of the norms have to be compliant with the regulations.
- BS IV will be implemented from April 1, 2017.

28. President of India to Inaugurated 'Namami Brahmaputra' Festival

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee is on a visit to Assam on March 31, 2017 where he inaugurated the 'Namami Brahmaputra' festival in Guwahati.

- The five day long 'Namami Brahmaputra' festival is being organized by the Government of Assam with aim to strengthen the bonds among various communities of Assam.

29. Gujarat first in construction of houses for urban poor

Gujarat is far ahead of other States in construction of affordable houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 25, 2015.

- In Gujarat, 25,873 houses have so far been built for the benefit of urban poor accounting for 32% of the total 82,048 such houses built under PMAY(Urban) in 30 States and Union Territories.

30. Centre to build 1 crore houses under PMAY-G by 2019

The Government has said that it has approved the construction of 1 crore houses with the financial implication of Rs. 81,975 crore for the period 2016-17 to 2018-19 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Gramin.

- The Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Ram Kripal Yadav said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that as per provisional figures of Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, approximately 4 crore rural households face housing deprivation.
- After accounting for the houses that were constructed under Indira Awas Yojana, IAY and State sponsored housing schemes since 2011, it has been estimated that 2.95 crore more houses, with an anticipated variation of $\pm 10\%$, would need to be constructed to achieve the objective of 'Housing For All' by the year 2022.

TRADE / BANKING

31. As a small finance bank, Disha to offer gold, MSME loans to rural borrowers

Micro-finance platform Disha plans the formal launch of its small finance bank (SFB) in the next quarter, followed by 30-40 branches in the next three months.

- The SFB, under parent Fincare Business Services, also looks to offer products such as gold loans and micro-enterprise loans to rural customers.

32. 4 PSBs detect 315 cases of fake certificates for appointment

Four public sector banks (PSBs), including IOB and BoB, have detected 315 cases wherein candidates submitted fake certificate at the time of appointment.

- PSBs have managerial autonomy in recruitment of officers, clerical and sub-staff.

33. Assam govt showers subsidized loans on its employes

Assam government has signed two MoUs with SBI to provide housing loan at hugely subsidised interest rates of 5% for its women employees and 5.5 % for men, and education loan for higher education for their children at 4% interest rate.

- Both types of loans will be free of any collateral security and processing fee.
- State finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the children of government employees can avail educational loan for higher studies through the education loan portal www.vidyalakshmi.com launched by the centre on August 15, 2015 by the finance ministry under Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram (PMVLK).
- The housing loan for the employees will come under the state government's scheme "Apun Ghar."
- The maximum limit of the housing loan is Rs 15 lakh.

34. World Bank signs US\$ 100 million credit agreement with Centre, Uttarakhand

The World Bank has signed a 100 million US dollar credit agreement with the Centre and Uttarakhand in New Delhi to improve quality of health care services in all 13 districts of the state.

- World Bank said in a statement that most public health facilities in the middle and upper mountainous areas of Uttarakhand are unable to function optimally.

35. Vijaya Bank inks MoU with Piaggio Vehicles

Vijaya Bank entered into an MoU with Piaggio Vehicles for providing financial support for the purchase of vehicles under Small Road Transport Operators (SRTO) scheme in Bengaluru.

- Vijaya Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Dr Kishore Sansi flagged off the first batch of vehicles under the MoU in the presence of Executive Directors B S Rama Rao, Y Nageswara Rao, and Piaggio Vehicles Vice-President Praveen Nagpal.

36. KVB bags 'best small bank' award

Karur Vysya Bank has been adjudged the 'Best Small Bank for 2016' (balance sheet size of less than Rs.1-lakh crore).

- K Venkataraman, Managing Director, KVB, received the award from Sudhir Munguntvar, Minister of Finance and Planning, Government of Maharashtra, at a function in Mumbai.
- This is the eighth award won by KVB in the current fiscal.

37. Syndicate Bank opens 40 'Ananya' branches

Syndicate Bank has digitally inaugurated 40 'Ananya' transformed branches.

- The bank also launched its first micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) hub in Bengaluru.
- The hub is expected to cater to more than 150 branches across the Bengaluru region, and aims to reduce the turnaround time of the loan-sanctioning process.
- The bank embarked upon project Ananya in February 2016, and is operating under four pillars of transformation — business process re-engineering, digital channels, sales and customer relationship management, and HR transformation.

38. Odisha to bring banking to remote rural areas through Self Help Groups

Odisha became the first state in the country to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to unbanked areas through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

- The state government signed an agreement with State Bank of India in this regard.
- In the first phase SHGs would be engaged as Banking Correspondents in around 1,000 remote Gram Panchayats having no banking facilities.

39. ICICI Bank partners Truecaller for UPI-based payment

ICICI Bank has announced a partnership with mobile app firm Truecaller for a new UPI-based mobile payment service.

- Called Truecaller Pay, it will allow users of the app to instantly create a UPI id, send money to any UPI id or a mobile number registered with the BHIM app, ICICI Bank said in a statement.
- It will also enable users to recharge their mobile number from within the Truecaller app itself, it said.

Points to Remember

- ICICI Bank was founded in 1994. Its headquarters is in Mumbai.
- M. K. Sharma is its Chairman and Chanda Kochhar is MD & CEO.
- Truecaller is a software which finds contact details globally given name or telephone number.
- BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) is a Mobile App developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), based on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- BHIM app was launched by Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, at a Digi Dhan mela at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on 30 December 2016.
- BHIM app has been named after Bhim Rao Ambedkar and is intended to facilitate e-payments directly through banks.

40. IRDAI slaps penalty on ICICI Pru Life

The insurance regulator has imposed a penalty of Rs 20 lakh on ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company on various charges, including free look cancellations not being in line with regulations; maturity claims not being settled within prescribed time period, resulting in huge number of claims outstanding; and delay in processing surrenders/partial withdrawals.

Points to Remember

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory agency tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.
- It was founded in 1999 under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- Its headquarters is in Hyderabad and TS Vijayan is the Chairman.

41. CCI imposes Rs 591 crore penalty on Coal India

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 591.01 crore upon Coal India Limited (CIL).

- CIL and its subsidiaries violated the Competition Act by imposing unfair and discriminatory conditions in Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) with power producers for supply of non-coking coal.

Points to Remember

- Competition Commission of India was founded on 14 October 2003.
- Devender Kumar Sikri is the present Chairperson of CCI.

42. SBI to offer 'zero annual fee' credit cards to accounts with Rs 20,000

State Bank of India has said that it will offer credit cards to every account holder who has a balance of Rs 20,000-25,000, without going into credit history.

- This is the first major joint collaboration between Arundhati Bhattacharya-led SBI and SBI Card after the bank hiked its stake in the joint venture to 74% by buying out part of its partner GE Capital's stake for Rs 1,168 crore.
- GE Capital will sell its remaining stake to a private equity investor in coming days.

43. Tendulkar exited from Musafir.com

Sachin Tendulkar has exited travel portal Musafir.com as an investor after a period of five years.

44. SBI launched 'SBI Card Unnati'

SBI Card launched a unique credit card 'SBI Card Unnati' targeted at all SBI customers, including Jan Dhan account-holders across the country.

- Tailored for new users of credit cards — those who do not have a credit history — 'Unnati' would have no annual fees for the initial four years and will be offered through the 20,000-plus SBI branches.
- Any SBI customer with a balance of at least Rs 25,000 in his/her savings account with the bank would be eligible for the Unnati credit card.

45. Axis Bank ties up with Wells Fargo for Inward remittances

Axis Bank has tied up with Wells Fargo, the third largest American bank by assets, to offer real time remittances from the Indian diaspora to their relatives back home.

- Under the arrangement between the two banks, any member of the Indian diaspora with an account with the Wells Fargo will be able to transfer money to their relatives back home and there will be no transaction fee applicable to the money transfers from USA.
- But the relative or the beneficiary in India will need to have an account with Axis Bank.

46. Kotak Mahindra Bank launches scheme to double customers to 16 million

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a new zero balance digital banking account free of cost which is linked to Aadhaar system.

- Kotak expects to double its number of customers through this new account, called 811 signifying the date prime minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation of high value currency notes.
- The 811 account can be opened through the mobile phone using the Aadhaar one time password authentication and a income tax pan number, the bank said. It will offer 6% interest per annum.

APPOINTMENTS

47. BSF gets first woman combat officer after 51 years

Tanushree Pareek has become the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in the 51-year history of the BSF, the country's largest border guarding force.

- She will now be posted to command a unit along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab.

48. Sima Kamil becomes first woman to head a major Pakistani bank

Sima Kamil was named the first woman to head a major commercial bank in Pakistan.

- UBL, headquartered in the financial hub Karachi, employs 15,000 people and has branches in 15 other countries, including the US, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

49. Anil Ambani inducted into the Atlantic Council

Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani has been inducted into the international advisory board of global think-tank The Atlantic Council.

- Other global business leaders include Thomas Enders, CEO, Airbus Group, Rupert Murdoch, CEO, 21 Century Fox, Stephen A. Schwarzman, CEO of the Blackstone Group, and Marillyn A. Hewson, Chairman, Lockheed Martin Corporation.
- The Atlantic Council is a foreign policy think tank head quartered in Washington, DC.
- It aims to shape policy choices and strategies and provide a forum for navigating the economic and political changes.

50. U.N. picks former U.S. state governor to run World Food Programme

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has appointed former South Carolina Governor David Beasley to run the Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP).

- Beasley will replace another American, Ertharin Cousin, who has been the WFP executive director since 2012.
- America was the top contributor to WFP in 2016 with \$2 billion, a third of the agency's budget.

51. Nomura names Prabhat Awasthi as new India Head

Global investment bank Nomura has appointed Prabhat Awasthi as its new India head.

- Vikas Sharma has been elevated to Head of Asia Ex-Japan from April 1.

52. Sunaina Singh Appointed Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University

President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Sunaina Singh, currently head of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) in Hyderabad, as the new vice chancellor of Nalanda University.

Points to Remember

- Nalanda University (also known as Nalanda International University) is located in Rajgir, near Nalanda, Bihar.
- Vijay P Bhatkar is the Chancellor of Nalanda University.

53. Vanaja N Sarna appointed Central Board of Excise and Customs chief

Senior bureaucrat Vanaja N Sarna was appointed as chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

- She will take over charge from incumbent Najib Shah.

Points to Remember

- CBEC will be rechristened as Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) after necessary legislative approval in the GST regime.
- The CBEC - which works under Finance Ministry - comprises of a chairperson and a maximum of six members.

AWARDS

54. Venkaiah Naidu confers lifetime achievement award on photographer Raghu Rai

Photojournalist Raghu Rai was conferred with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry for "his remarkable contribution to the field."

- Rai was honoured with the award by I&B minister M. Venkaiah Naidu at 6th National Photography Awards organised by the photo division of the ministry in the capital.

55. HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri Among 3 Indians On World's 30 Best CEOs List

American financial magazine Barron's has listed the name of HDFC Bank managing director Aditya Puri's name in its list of world's 30 best CEOs.

- The 66-year-old holds 23rd position in the list beating social media giant Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg who is listed on the 30th spot.
- The top position has been secured by Mary Barra of General Motors.
- Microsoft's Indian Origin CEO Satya Nadella is on fifth spot. Another Indian Origin

56. Anupam Kher receives Kala Ratan Award

Veteran actor Anupam Kher was honoured with the Kala Ratan Award by Vice President Hamid Ansari.

- Anupam Kher was also honoured with the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.

57. Filmmaker Gurinder Chadha Honored with Sikh Jewel Award

Indian-origin British director Gurinder Chadha has been honored with the 2017 Sikh Jewel Award for her immense contribution to British cinema.

- Chadha, whose films include "Bhaji on the Beach," "Bend It Like Beckham" and "Bride and Prejudice," received the award from Michael Fallon, U.K. Defense Secretary.

58. Army Chief Bipin Rawat Conferred With Honorary Military Rank By Nepal

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat is in Kathmandu on a four-day official visit to Nepal during which he was conferred with the honorary rank of general of the Nepal Army.

- General Rawat's trip to Nepal comes days after Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan visited the country.

59. Indian-origin Priti Patel be awarded Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award

Priti Patel, the UK Government's Secretary of State for International Development and first ever UK-India diaspora Champion, has been awarded India's highest honour for members of the Indian diaspora.

- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award was granted to Patel by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, for her exceptional contribution to national and international politics, her role in strengthening UK-India relations, and for supporting the Indian diaspora in the UK.
- The award was presented to Patel by the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Mr Y K Sinha, at a special ceremony at India House in London.

60. ISKCON's Govardhan Eco Village gets 'Water' award

The Govardhan Eco Village of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) at Wada taluka near Mumbai, has received an award instituted by Water Digest, a news portal on water management.

- The Govardhan eco village received the award in the "Best Water NGO-Water Education" category.
- To commemorate the 'World Water Day 2017', Water Digest, in association with UNESCO, Ministry of Water Resources & ASSOCHAM, had recently announced the 11th Water Digest Water Awards which are given annually to organisations, industry members and NGOs.

61. S.V Sunil named Asian Hockey Player of Year

India forward SV Sunil was named the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Player of the Year for 2016.

- On the other hand, Harmanpreet Singh was chosen as the Promising Player of the Year in the continental body's annual awards.
- Sunil, regarded highly for his pace, played a vital role in India's memorable run in last year's Champions Trophy in London, where they claimed a silver for the first time

SPORTS

62. Shashank Manohar to remain ICC chairman

63. Santosh Trophy: Bengal beat Goa in final to win record 32nd title

Bengal lifted the Santosh Trophy for the 32nd time after Manvir Singh struck in the 119th minute for a 1-0 win over Goa, extending their domination in the premier domestic football tournament.

64. R Ashwin breaks Dale Steyn's record of most wickets in a Test season

R Ashwin has set yet another record of most wickets in a Test season.

- Ashwin eclipsed Dale Steyn's tally of 78 which was set in 2007/08.

65. Vettel beats Hamilton to win Australian Grand Prix

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel beat Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes in a straight fight as Formula 1's new era started at the Australian Grand Prix.

66. Shaun Tait announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Shaun Tait, the Australian fast bowler, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on March 27.

- Tait, who was nicknamed as "The Wild Thing", once bowled at 161.1km/h in an ODI against England at Lord's in July 2010.

67. 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup: Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium named as venue for final

The iconic Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata has been named as the venue for the final of the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, which will be held in India from October 6-28.

68. India ends with 73 medals from 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games

India finished its campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria with a total of 73 medals.

- Special Olympics Team India Competing against 2700 athletes from 107 countries won 37 gold, 10 silver and 26 bronze medals and secured 5th position in the overall medal tally.

69. Bhubaneswar to host men's Hockey World Cup 2018

The International Hockey Federation and Government of Odisha has officially confirmed that the Men's Hockey World League Final 2017 and Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 will be held in Bhubaneswar.

- The Kalinga Stadium will host the two of hockey's biggest events.

Points to Remember

- Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 will be held in Bhubaneswar.
- Men's Hockey World League Final 2017 will be held in Bhubaneswar.
- Kalinga Stadium is located in Bhubaneswar.

70. Tamil Nadu beat India 'B' to win Deodhar Trophy

Dinesh Karthik cracked 126 as Tamil Nadu defeated India B by 42 runs in the final to clinch the Deodhar Trophy 50-overs cricket tournament at the ACA-VDCA stadium in Visakhapatnam.

- The wicketkeeper-batsman shared a 136-run stand with Narayan Jagadeesan (55) for the fourth wicket which drove Tamil Nadu to 303/9 in 50 overs.
- India B were bowled out for 261 in 46.1 overs as Tamil Nadu completed a domestic double of winning the Deodhar Trophy as well as the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Points to Remember

71. Mohammad Irfan banned for a year

Pakistan pacer Mohammad Irfan was today slapped with a one-year ban and fined \$ 1,000 after he admitted to have failed in reporting a spot-fixing approach by bookmakers during the Pakistan Super League.

72. Bhubaneswar to host Asian Athletics meet from July 6-9

Bhubaneswar will host the Asian Athletics Championships from July 6-9, the continent's governing body of the sport announced at its Council Meeting in Bangkok.

- Kalinga Stadium of the Odisha capital will host the continent's flagship event.
- India has hosted the event earlier on two occasions -- in New Delhi (1989) and Pune (2013).

DEATHS

73. Renowned playwright Arun Sarma dies

Renowned playwright and Sahitya Akademi Award winner Arun Sarma died at a private hospital in the National Capital after a brief illness. He was 85.

74. Former solicitor general Andhyarujina passes away

Former solicitor general of India Tehmtan Andhyarujina passed away. He was 83.

BOOKS

75. Army Releases Book on Rashtriya Rifles

General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), on 27 March 2017 at South Block, New Delhi, released the book 'Home of the Brave' on the history of Indian Army's Counter Insurgency Force, the Rashtriya Rifles (RR).

- The book is authored by Nitin A Gokhale, Defence & Security Analyst and Brig S K Chatterji (Retired).
- Home of the Brave traces the early history of the RR, its organization, including its raising and subsequent deployment in Punjab, the North East and in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The RR, a formidable Counter Insurgency Force, has won many laurels in the operations.

76. Book to chronicle life of Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain

A book titled 'Zakir Hussain: A Life for Music, In Conversation with Nasreen Munni Kabir' will chronicle the Tabla maestro's life through a series of in-depth interviews.

Points to Remember

- Zakir Hussain is an Indian tabla player in Hindustani classical music.

77. Suresh Prabhu releases Book Titled "Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry"

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu released the book titled "Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry" jointly authored by Shri Bibek Debroy (Member, NITI Aayog) Shri Sanjay Chadha (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce) & Ms. Vidya Krishnamurthi.

- In addition, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu also launched Hi-speed free Wi-Fi services for the visitors at National Rail Museum. Chairman,
- Railway Board, Shri A. K. Mital, the three authors of the book, Shri Ashwani Lohani, CMD, Air India and other Railway Board Members and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

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