

4th MARCH to 10th MARCH 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT

INTERNATIONAL

1. Sri Lanka Wins Most Popular Tourism Destination Award

Sri Lanka won the "Most Popular Tourism Destination Award" at the Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) in China, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Sri Lanka

- **Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte** **Currency: Rupee** **President: Maithripala Sirisena**
- **Prime Minister: Ranil Wickremesinghe**

2. US, South Korea Kick Off Annual Foal Eagle Exercise

United States and South Korean troops kicked off the 2017 iteration of their large-scale annual Foal Eagle exercises.

3. Mumbai ranked 21st in City Wealth Index list

Mumbai has been ranked 21st, ahead of Toronto, Washington DC and Moscow, in the "City Wealth Index" list in the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2017.

4. World Wildlife Day: March 3

World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year on March 3 as proclaimed by the United Nations in 2013.

- This year's theme is "Listen To The Young Voices",
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed 2,599 species, subspecies and sub-populations of critically endangered animals.

5. India-Oman armies exercise, Al Nagah-II, begins

A 14-day joint training exercise of the armies of India and Oman has begun at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.

- The exercise, Al Nagah-II, drew contingents comprised of platoon strength troops from both the armies,

Oman

- **Capital: Muscat** **Currency: Rial** **Sultan: Qaboos bin Said al Said**

6. India to train Myanmar Navy

Indian Navy will set up meteorological facilities and impart training for the Myanmar Navy.

- This fits into India's overall effort to boost strategic cooperation under the 'Act East' policy and will help offset increasing Chinese presence in its neighbourhood.

Myanmar

- **Capital: Naypyidaw** **Currency: Kyat** **Sultan: Htin Kyaw**

7. 8 March: International Women's Day

8 March is International Women's Day, an event held around the world to commemorate the struggle for women's rights.

- Originally called International Working Women's Day, it was first celebrated on February 28, 1909, in New York
- This year's theme is "be bold for change".

8. Indo-Nepal joint Military exercise 'Surya Kiran- XI' begins

A joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran-XI' between India and Nepal has begun in Pithoragarh area of Uttarakhand.

This is a battalion level joint exercise between the two armies.

- The two-week long exercise is aimed at training of both the troops in the area of various counter insurgency operations over a prolonged period.

Nepal

- **Capital: Kathmandu** **Currency: Rupee** **President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari**
Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal

9. India has highest incidence of bribery in Asia Pacific: Survey

Over 900 million people—one in four—across the 16 nations in the Asia Pacific region paid a bribe in the past year when trying to access basic services like education or healthcare.

- India's neighbours like Pakistan (35%), Sri Lanka (21%) and Myanmar (22%) ranked lower in the list.

Transparency International

- **Aim: Its nonprofit purpose is to take action to combat corruption and prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.**
- **Headquarters: Berlin, Germany** **Founded: 1993** **Chairman: Jose Ugaz (Peru)**

10. South Korean President Park Geun-hye removed from office

South Korea's Constitutional Court voted unanimously to remove the country's President, Park Geun-hye, from office.

- As per the law of the country, Park's successor must be elected within 60 days.
- At present, Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn is serving as the acting President of the country.

NATIONAL

11. Assam to host river festival 'Namami Brahmaputra'

Assam Government has decided to host the biggest river festival 'Namami Brahmaputra'.

- The five-day festival to be held from March 31 to April 4 where the Assam Government has planned out a host of activities to showcase the region's art, heritage and culture.

12. BIRAC Regional Entrepreneurship Centre set up in Bengaluru

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms – C-CAMP, technology and innovation hub, will house the BIRAC Regional Entrepreneurship Centre (BREC) in Bengaluru.

13. Navy successfully test-fires anti-ship missile

The Navy has successfully test-fired an anti-ship missile for the first time from an indigenously built Kalvari class submarine.

14. Himachal Pradesh gets its second capital in Dharamsala

Himachal Pradesh state cabinet approved Dharamsala, situated in the snow-capped Dhauladhar range, as the second capital of the hill state.

- This comes following Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhada Singh's announcement, on January 19, that the government was actively considering a proposal to make Dharamsala as state's winter capital.

15. India to Host 10th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV in 2017) in Delhi

- Themed on Building Knowledge Societies: From Digital Government to Digital Empowerment,
- The key objective of ICEGOV2017 is to explore how Digital Government can lead to Digital Empowerment by local knowledge.

16. Sex-ratio in urban areas worse than rural areas: Survey

- The overall sex-ratio for the country is 991, while in rural India it was 1009 and in urban areas 956, according to the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4) for 2015-16.

17. Haryana announces TirthaDarshan scheme

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced that the state government had prepared a TirthaDarshan scheme under which senior citizens who are belonging to below poverty line (BPL) of any religion above 60 years of age and of Haryana domicile would be able to go on a pilgrimage within the country at government expense.

- In case of senior citizens of non-BPL families, the government would bear only 70 per cent of the cost.

18. Vice President Hamid Ansari to attend IORA Summit in Jakarta

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on March 7 in Jakarta, Indonesia where the 21-nation grouping will discuss ways to strengthen maritime cooperation and fight against violent extremism.

- The summit, with the theme of 'Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean',

19. President Inaugurates the Centenary Celebrations of Women's Indian Association

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Centenary Celebrations of Women's Indian Association at Adyar, Chennai.

20. Govt approves Rs 756 cr scheme to treat cataract patients

With an aim to free India from cataract by 2022, the government has approved a Rs 756 crore scheme to treat over 700 lakh such patients in the next five years.

- The scheme would render Rs 2,000 as financial assistance for each operation, including cost of lenses.

21. National Conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan to be held on 7th March

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has organized a national conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan in New Delhi on March 07, 2017.

22. NMCG Signs MoU with Rotary India for the Success of Namami Gange

- Rotary India will support clean Ganga mission through their 'WASH in Schools' program in various schools.
- The program includes the implementation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services in the targeted government schools and sensitizing all the stakeholders including school children, teachers, school management communities and communities etc. on practicing positive health behaviors for improving awareness on sanitation.
- Rotary India has planned to undertake WASH in Schools programme in 20,000 Government Schools.

23. National Conference on Innovation in Educational Administration begins

A three – day National Conference on Innovation in Educational Administration has begun at PravasiBhartiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

- About 150 district and block level education officers from across India and resource persons and faculty of the university are participating in the Conference.

24. India hoists tallest flag at Indo-Pak border

India has just hoisted the nation's tallest flag. Punjab Local Bodies Minister and senior BJP leader Anil Joshi hoisted the flag.

- The 360 feet flag was hoisted at the famous Indo-Pak (Attari-Wagah) border checkpoint in Punjab. The new flag can be seen from Lahore in Pakistan. The new flag is 120 feet in length, 80 feet in breadth and is hoisted on a pole which is 360 feet high.

25. Vijayawada, Tirupati airports renamed

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved proposals to rename the Vijayawada Airport and the Tirupati Airport.

- Vijayawada Airport in Gannavaram has been renamed as 'Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao-Amaravati Airport' after the legendary actor and founder of the ruling Telugu Desam Party, and the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Tirupati Airport has been renamed as 'Sri Venkateswara Airport' after Lord Venkateswara of the temple town.

26. Oldest serving aircraft carrier INS Viraat decommissioned

The world's oldest aircraft carrier in active service, INS Viraat, was decommissioned on 6 March 2017 after serving the Indian Navy for nearly 30 years.

27. IISc becomes first Indian university to be ranked among top 10 in world

For the first time, an Indian educational institute has broken into the top 10 of a global university rankings.

- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has been ranked eighth at the 'THE's Best Small Universities in the World 2017'.
- Small universities are those with fewer than 5,000 students.
- Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, and SavitribaiPhule Pune University which were ranked 14 and 18 respectively in the 2016 edition could not retain their spots in the top 20 this time.

28. Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 'Destination North East-2017'

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 3-day festival 'Destination North East-2017' in Chandigarh.

29. Tribal festival 'Bhagoria' begins

The annual tribal festival 'Bhagoria' was begin in Jhabua and in four other districts of Madhya Pradesh from March 6.

- The week-long festival is organised at different Bhagoriahaats (local markets) in Jhabua, Alirajpur, Dhar, Khargone and Barwani districts in western Madhya Pradesh.

31. Centre to pay rent through vouchers soon in 100 cities

The Centre is all set to roll out aRs 2,700-crore welfare scheme in 100 smart cities to give rent vouchers to the urban poor.

- The government would launch the new rental housing policy with the rent vouchers for below poverty line (BPL) families.
- Though the policy has been in the works for three years, the first component is likely to be rolled out in 2017-18 financial year in the smart cities.
- The scheme is expected to cost Rs 2,713 crore every year to implement in smart cities.
- Aimed directly at the urban poor and helping the migrant population, the scheme would involve distribution of rent vouchers by urban local bodies.

32. Mobile World Congress to be held in India on September 27

India will organize its first mobile congress in September with a special focus on reaching out to the South East Asian markets.

33. Two-day International Yoga festival begins in Delhi

The two-day International Yoga Fest has begin in New Delhi on 08 March 2017.

- More than 3,500 participants including eminent yoga gurus, yoga masters, scholars, policy makers and representatives from 15- 18 countries will participate in this mega event.
- It will comprise parallel yoga workshop, lectures, Satsang, cultural programmes and yoga demos.

34. First smart tribal village inaugurated in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir Minister for food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Zulfkar Ali, inaugurated the first tribal model village Habbi in Kotranka in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri District.

The village has been introduced with smart classes in the schools, better roads, electricity and water facility.

35. CBSE launches 'Exam Locator' app to help students to find exam centre

With the board exams just around the corner, the CBSE has come up with a mobile application to help students locate their examination centre.

- The app, named 'Exam Locator', will help students to quickly know the exam centre on the basis of their roll number.
- The student's information, address and photograph of the exam centre will be displayed on the screen for easy identification.

CBSE

Headquarters: New Delhi
Founded: 3 November 1962
Chairman: Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi

36. 11th North East Business Summit begins in New Delhi

The 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) begins in New Delhi.

- The two-day event is an initiative to facilitate investment, highlight strengths of the North-East Region (NER) and business opportunities which North-East has to offer.
- The 11th NEBS aims to display the strengths, potentials and initiatives of the NER, promote investment in the region and also have focused deliberations on strategic areas like healthcare, infrastructure and connectivity, agriculture and horticulture, food processing, service sector and energy to highlight the investment and business opportunities in these sectors as well as ease of doing business in the NE States and address the key issues.
- The Summit will also showcase the untapped business potential of North-East to investors worldwide.

37. Karnataka CM launches 'Pratibimba' to project achievements

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has launched a comprehensive web-based platform showcasing the government's performance and achievements to the citizens.

- Developed as the Chief Minister's dash board, 'Pratibimba,' which means reflection, will serve as a tool to improve efficiency in governance and allow citizens to track government's progress, officials said.
- They said 'Pratibimba' is a reflection of the growth story and development of the state, and the dash board will reflect the works of all the departments across flagship schemes, key programmes and projects undertaken in the state.

38. Odisha launches helpline service for women

To deal with cases of violence against women, Odisha on Wednesday launched a statewide women's helpline number — 181.

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the helpline service at a function organised by the Women and Child Development department.

- On the other hand, The Himachal Pradesh government would also launch 'Women Helpline' number 181 soon for ensuring safety of women, Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh said.

39. President of India inaugurates the 12th CII-Exim bank conclave on India Africa Project Partnership

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 12th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership today (March 9, 2017) in New Delhi.

40. Navy commissions INS Tillanchang at Seabird naval base in Karwar

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, chief commanding flag officer of the western command of the Indian Navy, commissioned INS Tillanchang, the water jet fast attack craft at the Seabird naval.

41. Himachal Pradesh launches mobile App 'MeraHunar'

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh has launched mobile App and website 'MeraHunar HP', a first of its kind in the country.

- 'MeraHunar' is a web based platform where the skilled, semi-skilled persons can apply for various jobs as per their convenience like plumber, carpenter, mechanic, security guards, drivers, tourists guides, etc online. The platform is available both in English and Hindi.
- This platform will directly connect the prospective employers with the job seekers as the application, will contain the address and the phone numbers of those looking for jobs and other details as well.

TRADE / BANKING

42. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches 'Paisa Ki ABCD'

Ujjivan Small Financial Bank Ltd. (Ujjivan SFB) has launched a powerful, educational film on Financial Literacy titled 'Paisa Ki ABCD'.

43. All savings bank a/cs to have net banking by March 31st

The government has asked banks to link all savings bank accounts with net banking facility by March 31, 2017, in order to encourage digital transactions, and to promote transparency.

- Till now, 65% bank accounts are already linked with mobile numbers, and the remaining 35% would be seeded with mobile numbers by March 31st.
- It is also said the government wants people to make use of the newly launched BHIM App.

44. SBI to levy fine on low account balance

According to the new rules of the country's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), from April 1, savings account holders with less money in their account than minimum prescribed balance, would be fined.

- SBI currently has 25 crore savings accounts.
- This penalty depends on the difference between the difference between minimum prescribed balance and current balance.
- For Metropolitan banks, minimum prescribed balance is Rs 5,000, Rs 3,000 for urban areas and for rural areas, it has been fixed at Rs 1,000.

45. Rs 10,000 penalty for bank branches refusing to exchange soiled notes

The Reserve Bank of India has clarified that currency notes which have messages scribbled on it are legal tender.

- The notes however, cease to be legal tender if message scribbled on it is political in nature.
- The last circular on this had come from the central bank in 2016 wherein it was stated that bank branches that refuse to exchange soiled notes from people will have to pay a penalty of Rs 10,000.
- The restriction for exchanging soiled notes is that if one exchanges more than 20 notes or notes worth Rs 5,000 in a day, then banks will levy service charge.

46. Google India inks MoU with Telangana government

47. Vijaya Bank opens its 2,000th branch in Tirupati

Vijaya Bank has opened its 2000th branch in Tirupati.

Vijaya Bank

- **Headquarters: Bengaluru** **Founded: 1931** **CEO: Kishore Kumar Sansi** **Tagline: A friend you can bank on**

48. NPAs at record high of Rs 6.8 lakh crore

As NPAs of public sector banks soared to a staggering Rs 6.8 lakh crore, the chairman of a key Parliamentary panel has favoured naming and shaming corporate houses which default on repayment of bank loans.

- Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chief K V Thomas hopes "naming and shaming" such corporate houses may help financial institutions get back their money.

49. Irdai proposes up to 50% hike in motor insurance premium from April 1

Regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has proposed up to 50 per cent increase in insurance premium for cars, motor cycles as well as commercial vehicles from April 1.

IRDAI

- **Headquarters: Hyderabad** **Founded: 1999** **Chairman: T.S. Vijayan**

50. SBI launches 'Work from Home' facility for employees

Country's largest lender State Bank of India has launched a new facility to enable its employees to work from home.

- The Board of the bank has recently approved the 'Work from Home' policy to enable its employees to work while at home using mobile devices to address any urgent requirement they may have, that prevents their travelling to work.
- The lender will be using mobile computing technologies and shall have continuous control over all the enabled devices centrally to manage and secure the data and applications on the mobile devices, the bank said in a statement.

51. **HDFC Bank launches Artificial Intelligence driven chatbot EVA**

HDFC Bank has announced the launch of an electronic virtual assistant (EVA), an artificial intelligence-driven chatbot, for customer services.

- Eva is India's first AI-based banking chatbot and can answer millions of customer queries across multiple channels instantly.

HDFC Bank

- **Headquarters: Mumbai** **Founded: 1906** **Chairman: Aditya Puri** **Tagline: We Understand Your World**

52. **Canara Bank bags medals at PR Council's communication conclave**

Public sector Canara Bank has won a number of medals in the Collateral Awards Category at the 11th Global Communication Conclave held in Bengaluru by the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI).

- The bank won a gold medal for a radio jingle and silver medals for Corporate Film and Brochure (CSR).
- It won bronze medals for its in-house magazine (regional language), corporate advertisement – print, table calendar - 2017 and Big Diary 2017.

Canara Bank

- **Headquarters: Bengaluru** **Founded: 1906** **Chairman: T.N. Manoharan** **CEO: Rakesh Sharma**
- **Tagline: Together We Can**

53. **BCCI confirms OPPO as Indian cricket team's new sponsor**

Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) has confirmed Oppo as its new sponsor. Oppo will replace Star on India's jersey after the latter's contract ran out.

APPOINTMENTS

54. **Senior IAS officer T Jacob Appointed as Secretary UPSC**

Senior IAS officer T Jacob was appointed as Secretary, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

UPSC

- **Formation: 1 October 1926**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Chairman: David R Syiemlieh**

55. **Sanjiv Singh appointed Indian Oil Corporation chairman**

Sanjiv Singh was on Tuesday appointed chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), the country's largest commercial enterprise.

AWARDS

56. **Rihanna awarded with Humanitarian Of The Year Award**

Harvard University honored Rihanna's social work and selected her as their Humanitarian of the Year.

- Rihanna received Award in recognition for her work to improve cancer treatment in her home country of Barbados and for setting up a college scholarship to bring Caribbean students to study in the United States.

57. **Jio-Samsung Win 'Best Mobile Innovation for Emerging Markets' Award**

Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd have won the 'Best Mobile Innovation for Emerging Markets' from Global Mobile Awards 2017 at ongoing Mobile World Congress 2017 (MWC) in Barcelona.

58. **M P Veerendra Kumar presented Moortidevi award**

Eminent Malayalam author and journalist M P Veerendra Kumar was presented the 30th Moortidevi award by BharatiyaJnanpithorganisation here.

59. **Hyderabad, Delhi airports ranked high in service quality**

Delhi International Airport (P) Ltd and Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, both managed by GMR-led consortium, have secured top rankings in airport service quality by the Airports Council International.

60. **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan wins best actress award at IFFAA**

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who played the character of Sarabjit Singh's sister Dalbir Kaur in the film Sarabjit, has won the Best Actress award at the International Film Festival and Awards of Australia (IFFAA).

56. **Viola Davis named Harvard Foundation 'Artist of the Year'**

Actress, award-winner and New England native Viola Davis has been named the 2017 Harvard Foundation Artist of the Year.

57. **Konkani author Mahabaleshwar Sail gets SaraswatiSamman**

Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with the 26th SaraswatiSamman 2016 for his novel 'Hawthan'.

58. **IIT-M solar inverter system wins award**

Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has won the 2017 IEEE Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society Award for its solar-direct current (DC) inverter system.

- The system, developed using micro grid technology, converts in-home power distribution from 230V Analog Current to 48V DC to directly power appliances and devices.
- The system is also equipped to tap rooftop solar power.

SPORTS

59. **Australian cricketer Sarah Coyte announces retirement**

Australian women cricketer Sarah Coyte, who was also a part of Australia's 2014 World T20-winning squad, has announced her retirement from all forms of the game.

60. Andy Murray beats Fernando Verdasco to win first Dubai Championships title

Britain's Andy Murray saw off Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in straight sets to win the Dubai Championships for the first time.

61. Mexican Open: Sam Querrey shocks Rafael Nadal to win title

- American Sam Querrey claimed the biggest title of his career after defeating Rafael Nadal in straight sets in the final of the Mexican Open.
- The world number 40 won 6-3 7-6 (7-3) against the second seed, who was chasing his 70th career title.

DEATHS

62. Raymond Kopa, French Football Legend Passes Away

Former France soccer great Raymond Kopa has died at the age of 85.

63. Former Member Of Parliament Syed Shahabuddin Dead At 82

Former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and MP Syed Shahabuddin, who was suffering from prolonged illness, died at a hospital in Noida. He was 82.

64. Rabi Ray, former Lok Sabha Speaker, passes away

Eminent socialist leader, former Union Minister and former Speaker of Lok Sabha Rabi Ray passed away in Cuttack. He was 91.

BOOKS

65. 'Number Do Lie' authored by former cricketer Aakash Chopra

Former Indian cricketer Akash Chopra released book titled Numbers Do Lie, 61 Hidden Cricket Stories which takes a different look at stats.

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