

National News

Indo German Agreement on Namami Gange

- Agreement has been signed for **Ganga Rejuvenation** under the Namami Gange Program in New Delhi
 - Agreement signed between **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and German International Cooperation**
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125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar

- **125th birth anniversary Dr. Ambedkar** was commemorated on **13th April 2016** at the UN headquarters in New York.
 - **First time United Nations observed the birth anniversary** of B.R. Ambedkar.
 - Hyderabad will feature a **125-foot tall statue of B R Ambedkar**
 - **PM Narendra Modi launches National Agriculture Market portal**
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Maharashtra Government first to bring law against Social boycott

- Maharashtra Assembly passed the **Prohibition of Social Boycott Bill 2016**
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Transgenders to man a poll booth in Kolkata

- They have been deployed at a **polling booth in Kolkata for the April 30 assembly polls, one booth in south Kolkata**
 - West Bengal has **758 members of the third gender enlisted as voters** and **two transgender candidates** out of the **6.5 crore voters**
 - **Two transgender candidates contesting from high-profile seats** in Kolkata Bhawanipore and Jadavpur.
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Government reconstitutes IGNC board

- Government has reconstituted **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) board**.
 - **Ram Bahadur Rai, Senior Journalist has been appointed as Chairman of the Board.**
 - **Dr Sushmita Pandey, head of School of Studies in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology in Ujjain's Vikram University, appointed as chairman of National Monument Authority**
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HC upholds legal provision against foreign tax havens

- Seen as a **major boost to the Centre's efforts to prevent infusion of black money through shell companies** in foreign tax havens.
 - Madras High Court has upheld the **Constitutional validity of Section 94A(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**
 - Empowers the government **to declare any country, with which it lacks effective exchange of information, a 'notified jurisdictional area.'**
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Statute of SAWEN to check wildlife crimes

- Statute of the **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)** which will help in checking cross border wildlife crimes.
 - MoU allows the country to become a **formal member of SAWEN** in order to **strengthen ties with the member countries in controlling the trans-boundary wildlife crimes**
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International

India ranks 44 in 2016 Global Connectivity Index

- **50 countries assessed by GCI 2016** account for **90% of global GDP** and **78% of the world's population**.
 - Report has been compiled by **Electronics major Huawei**.
 - GCI also includes **survey results from 3,000 firms across 10 verticals in 10 nations**.
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Investing in treatment for depression and anxiety leads to four-fold return - UN

- Between 1990 and 2013, the **number of people suffering from depression and/or anxiety increased by nearly 50%**, from **416 million to 615 million**
 - Close to **10% of the world's population is affected**,
 - **Mental disorders** account for **30% of the global non-fatal disease**
 - Scaling up mental health services will contribute to **achievement of 1 of the targets of the SGD Goals by 2030, according to UN**.
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South Korea's opposition party wins general election

- Main opposition **Minjoo Party won 123 in the 300-member National Assembly**
 - Park's Saenuri Party yesterday won **122 seats in the 300-member National Assembly**.
 - Splinter opposition **People's Party bagged 38 spots**, and another **six seats went to the Justice Party**.
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World output faces risk of 3.9 % drop by 2021

- **Decline in oil prices** has helped **countries such as India improve their external positions**
- **Low commodity prices** have kept risks elevated in emerging market economies
- **Financial stability report assesses the risks faced by the global financial system** and the current edition surveys the issues that surfaced since **October 2015**.

- **Spill-over effects of the growing uncertainty about China's economy and setbacks to growth and confidence in advanced economies are other factors undermining global financial stability.**
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Business and Economy

Jaypee offers 2,200-acre land to banks for loan settlement

- Banks have shown their interest to take over the land to avoid putting a non-performing asset (NPA) tag on the two Jaypee group companies namely Jaiprakash Associates Limited (JAL) and Jaypee Infra.
 - NPA tag will force banks to set aside funds for potential losses, known as provisioning, and impact their finances.
 - For the company, it will make virtually impossible to raise fresh loans.
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Aadhaar, net banking-based I-T e-filing appeal system activated

- Facility of filing the appeal form, like filing Income Tax Returns (ITRs), can also be done using a digital signature on the official web portal of the tax department.
 - EVC works by way of generating a personalized OTP by using the Aadhaar database
 - Initiative is to reduce the interface between taxman and the taxpayer
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India world's largest remittance recipient in 2015

- According to the World Bank India named as the world's largest remittance recipient in 2015
 - Experienced a \$ 1 billion drop from the previous year, the first decline in its remittances since 2009.
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Unified Payments Interface Launched by NPCI

- Initiative aims to provide a safe, efficient, accessible, inclusive, interoperable and authorized payment and settlement system for the country.
 - Will enable anyone with a bank account to complete a transfer or make a payment without having to share bank account or credit/debit card details.
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World Bank and AIIB Sign First Co-Financing Framework Agreement

- AIIB expects to approve about USD 1.2 billion in financing,
 - World Bank will prepare and supervise the co-financed projects in accordance with its policies and procedures in areas like procurement, environment and social safeguards.
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Science and Technology

BSNL to launch data sharing service facility for users across India

- It will allow **4 users to share data among themselves**
 - **No charges will be levied** for availing this facility.
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Nuclear-capable K-4 undersea ballistic missile successfully test fired from INS Arihant

- India has conducted a **secret test of the nuclear-capable undersea ballistic missile K-4 SLBM** in the **Bay of Bengal**.
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Proposals on Biology of childhood under nutrition

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the union Ministry of Science and Technology has called for **proposals on Biology of childhood undernutrition and healthy growth**
 - **Emphasis on linear growth retardation.**
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Akash missile test fired in Odisha

- **Indigenously developed surface-to-air missile**
 - Test fired for **second consecutive day from the Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at Chandipur near Balasore in Odisha.
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People in News

Barack Obama appoints MasterCard CEO Banga to key administration post

- **MasterCard CEO Ajay Singh Banga** appointed to **key administration post** as a member of the **Commission on Enhancing National Cyber security**.
 - Banga is **one of the nine members of the Commission**
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Soumen Mitra takes over as new Kolkata Police Commissioner

- A **1988-batch IPS officer**.
 - Ram Phal Pawar, a 1988 batch IPS officer, who was holding the post of ADG, Anti-Corruption Branch in West Bengal, would now take over as ADG, CID in the State police.
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Flipkart Chief Product Officer Punit Soni Quits

- A **former Google executive** with **expertise in mobile technology**
 - Most **high-profile recruitment made by Flipkart**
 - Helped build products such as **Ping, a chat application on the mobile app, and relaunch its mobile website, Flipkart Lite.**
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Ajay Devgn, Kajol to be brand ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh tourism

- **8 million tourists visited Andhra Pradesh in 2015, a 30% increase over the previous year**
 - **237,000 were foreign tourists** mainly from Southeast Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and West Asia.
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Vijay Shekhar Sharma appointed chairman of IAMA payments banks group

- **Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma** has appointed as the **chairman of IAMA**.
 - **Vodafone India business head Suresh Sethi** as **Vice chairman of IAMA**.
 - IAMA Payments Banks is an **innovative model of bringing unbanked population into the formal banking fold**
 - includes **global companies such as Google, Facebook and LinkedIn** as members
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Sports

Wisden's top five cricketers of 2015 announced

- **New Zealand captain Kane Williamson** and predecessor **Brendon McCullum** are included
 - Other **3 players** are **Australia captain Steve Smith**, and **England's Ben Stokes** and **Jonny Bairstow**.
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Bombay HC orders IPL matches to be shifted out of Maharashtra from April 30

- Verdict came after a **PIL questioned the hosting of matches in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur due to a severe drought in Maharashtra**.
 - **Ruling affects 13 matches, including the final** which was to be held in Mumbai on May 29.
 - BCCI had supplied **40 lakh litres of water to stadiums per day for IPL tournaments** so far
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