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**Ronen Sen, Farida Khambata as Directors of Tata Sons**

Tata Sons has appointed Ronen Sen, former Ambassador of India to the U.S., and Farida Khambata, former member of IFC's Management Group as Non-Executive Independent Directors of Tata Sons Limited.

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**L&T bags NTPC contract**

L&T has bagged a 5,580 Crore contract for setting up thermal power plant at Khargone in Madhya Pradesh.

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**Cars sales decline for Maruti and Hyundai in March, rise for Honda and Ford**

Maruti had a 1.6% drop in total sales for March compared to the same month a year ago. Hyundai saw a drop of 3.8%. Honda and Ford saw sales growth of 23% and 33.62% respectively.

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**Naohiro Yamaguchi appointed as MD of Isuzu Motors India**

Naohiro Yamaguchi has been appointed as Managing Director with immediate effect for Isuzu Motors India.

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**\$10m investment by De Beers in Surat Grading Diamond Unit**

The most technologically advanced 'Forevermark' diamond inscription and grading operation of De Beers has been set up at Surat at an investment of \$10 million.

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**Port Blair Magnetic Observatory set up completed**

The Port Blair Magnetic Observatory to monitor seismic activities has been set up by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG).

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**16 banks fined 5L each by RBI**

16 central cooperative banks have been fined 5L each for non-adherence of KYC (Know your customer) and Anti-money Laundering guidelines.

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**Odisha launches 'Aahar'**

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched 'Aahar' - a scheme for providing subsidised food to the poor people - on the occasion of State's Foundation Day.

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### **Air Pegasus ready to take to the Skies**

New Airline Air Pegasus is ready for its maiden flight after getting all clearances from the DGCA. The airline will begin operations by operating on 2 sectors from April 12th - Bangalore to Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore to Hubli.

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### **Essar Shipping appoint new CEO**

Anoop Kumar Sharma has taken over as full time CEO of Essar Shipping taking over from AR Ramakrishnan, who retired on March 31st.

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### **Gulshan Rai appointed as 1st Cyber Security chief**

Gulshan Rai has been appointed as the countries 1st Cyber Security Chief. He was earlier Director General of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team

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### **Amravathi is the new capital of Andhra Pradesh**

Andhra Pradesh cabinet has approved Amravathi in Vijayawada-Guntur region as the new capital of the state.

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### **India ranked 119 in Global resilience index**

India has been ranked 119 out of a nation of 130 countries in global resilience index. The index was calculated using economic, risk quality and supply chain factors.

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### **Gujarat leads in Swachh Bharat Mission**

As per a report by Union Urban Development Ministry for 2014-15, Gujarat leads the country in implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission. Odisha leads in community toilet building.

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### **Total Lunar eclipse**

The moon will disappear behind Earth on April 4th night when a total lunar eclipse occurs.

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### **Minor Planet named after Vishwanathan Anand**

A Staff member at the Minor Planet center, Michael Rudenko, has named planet 4538 as "4538 Vishyanand" after the Indian chess grandmaster Vishyanand Anand.

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**Bharati Axa launches "Smart Traveller"**

Bharati Axa has launched a "Smart Traveller" program, that offers global insurance coverage for frequent travellers.

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**Sim Bhullar becomes First Indian to join a NBA team**

7'5" Sim Bhullar has become the first player of Indian origin to join a NBA team. He joined the Sacramento Kings.

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**"Give it Up" campaign for LPG**

PM Narendra Modi has asked companies and banks to encourage their employees to give up their subsidy, which will then in turn be used to provide subsidised LPG to the poor who use wood as fuel currently.

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**Cadbury - 570 Crore excise duty evasion**

The Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence has raised a demand of Rs. 570 Crore against Cadbury India limited for allegedly evading excise tax duty.

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**KN Tripathi sworn in as Mizoram governor**

KN Tripathi has become the 16th governor of Mizoram. KN Tripathi is already the governor of Bihar and West Bengal.

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**Pedro Cateriano is the new Prime Minister of Peru**

President Ollanta Humala has named Defense Minister Pedro Cateriano as the new Prime Minister of Peru.

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**21 weightlifters suspended**

Indian Weightlifting federation has suspended 21 weightlifters after they tested positive for banned substances.

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**Dena Bank ties up with Life Insurance Corporation**

Dena Bank has signed a MoU with Life Insurance Corporation(LIC) under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana to provide insurance cover to all Aadhaar-linked savings account holders of the bank in the age group of 18 to 50 years.

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### **Air Quality Index launched**

Realtime information about pollution levels will be available through "Air Quality" index across 10 Indian cities. The Index announced by PM Narendra Modi urged the nation to think of ways to reduce emissions.

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### **Delhi Airport wins Golden Peacock National Quality Award 2015**

Delhi International Airport Limited has won the 2015 Golden Peacock National Quality Award. The award will be presented on April 20th at Dubai.

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### **IPL to begin on April 8th**

Indian Premier League T20, will begin on April 8th at Kolkatta. The first game to be played this year will be between Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians at Eden Gardens in Kolkata

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### **"Airtel Zero" to provide free access to apps**

Telecom Major Bharti Airtel has launched "Airtel Zero" which will provide free internet access to certain apps. The internet charges will be paid by the application developers in this case.

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### **5% disinvestment in REC**

The Government will sell 5% stake in Rural Electrification Corporation with floor price of Rs. 315 a share, to generate close to 1550 crores. This will be the first disinvestment in the current Fiscal year.

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### **RBI leaves rates unchanged**

RBI has left key rates unchanged in the first monetary policy of the new Fiscal year. RBI also expressed disappointment that rate changes made earlier have not been passed on to the customers.

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### **Rajeev Shukla appointed as chairman of IPL Governing Council**

Rajeev Shukla has been re-appointed as the chairman of the IPL Governing Council. Former Cricketer Sourav Ganguly was also added as a member to the governing council.

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### **World Health Day observed across the Globe**

World Health Day was observed on April 7th across the globe. This year's slogan associated with Food safety was "From farm to plate, make food safe".

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### **ICICI bank to launch "Voice authentication"**

ICICI bank will launch "Voice authentication" for verifying identity when a call is made to the Bank's customer care. A voice sample will be analysed and matched with an existing sample to authenticate.

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### **"Operation Rahat" completes the evacuation of Indians in Yemen**

Indian Air Force and Navy launched "Operation Rahat" to rescue stranded Indians in the war ravaged country Yemen. Close to 4000 Indians were evacuated during this operation.

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### **"MUDRA" Yojana launched by PM**

To support small entrepreneurs in India, PM has launched MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana. PM Narendra Modi stressed on importance of small entrepreneurs to help the Indian economy grow and prosper.

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### **US FAA upgrades India's aviation safety ranking**

The US Federal Aviation Administration has upgraded India's Aviation safety ranking, allowing an increase in the number of flights that can be operated in the US. This will benefit Air India and Jet Airways as they look to expand operations in the US.

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### **Shell to buy BG Group for \$70 billion in Super Merger**

Dutch company Shell has agreed to purchase British oil and gas group BG, in a deal worth close to \$70 billion. This will be the 1st Super Merger of 2 big Oil firms in over a decade.

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### **Snapdeal acquires Freecharge**

Online marketplace Snapdeal has acquired mobile and DTH recharge platform Freecharge in Cash plus Stock deal. The details of the detail were not made public by Snapdeal.

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### **Dr Nasim Zaidi appointed as chief election commissioner**

The President has appointed senior-most Election Commissioner, Dr. Nasim Zaidi as the chief election commissioner. Dr. Zaidi will assume office from April 19th after the incumbent Harishankar Brahma's retirement on April 18.

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### **Satyam Case: Raju Brothers sentenced to 7 years in Jail and fined 5.5 Crores**

A special court found Raju, and 9 others including his brother guilty in the country's largest-ever corporate fraud. They were sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment and fined 5.5 Crores each.

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### **Roaming charges slashed by TRAI**

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) slashed ceiling tariffs to make calls on roaming upto 23% cheaper. SMS rates are also expected to drop by 40% on roaming. This new rates come into effect on May 1st.

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### **Flipkart partners with Mumbai Dabbawalas**

Online e-commerce site Flipkart has partnered with Mumbai Dabbawalas for last mile delivery. The Dabbawalas will partner with Flipkart's logistics company e-Kart, and will pick up shipments from delivery hubs and deliver it to customers while picking up their dabbas.

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### **Sumit Mazumder elected as president of CII**

Chairman & Managing Director, TIL Limited Sumit Mazumder has been elected as the new president of Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) for the year 2015-16.

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### **TRAI to set up a single emergency number**

Indians may soon have a Pan-India emergency number 112, as per TRAI. This service will be similar to the 911 service in the US.

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### **Dr. M Annadurai takes over as Director of ISRO Satellite Centre**

Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai has assumed office of the Director, ISRO Satellite Centre at Bengaluru. Dr. Annadurai has made major contributions in India's Mars and Moon missions.

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### **India's 1st IFSC becomes operational**

India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) near Gandhinagar became operational on April 10th, 2015. Rules and Regulations for this financial hub were unveiled by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

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### Accounts of Greenpeace India Suspended

The Ministry of Home Affairs has suspended all bank accounts of Greenpeace India. The Ministry alleged the organization did not inform the authorities concerned about transfer of foreign contributions received in the designated accounts.

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### India and US sign Memorandum of Cooperation for transportation

A Memorandum of Cooperation for transportation was signed by Nitin Gadkari and Anthony Foxx. This will help India use the latest technology for development of waterways and multi-modal hub.

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### Earth hour capital 2015

Seoul has been selected as the Global Earth Hour Capital 2015, while Thane was selected as the winner of India Earth Hour Capital 2015.

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### Chief Commercial Officer of SpiceJet resigns

Kaneswaran Avili, SpiceJet's Chief Commercial Officer, has resigned from his post to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities.

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### Car Sales rise by 5% in 2014-15

As per a report, Car sales in 2014-15 grew by 5%, after the previous 2 years had shown decline in sales. Car Sales for the year 2014-15 stood at 18,76,017 units compared to 17,86,826 units in the previous fiscal.

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### India elected to 4 key UN Subsidiaries

India has been elected to 4 subsidiary agencies of the UN. These are UN-Habitat, World Food Program (WFP), Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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### "Dhanush" missile successfully test fired

India successfully test fired surface-to-surface nuclear weapons capable missile from a ship off the Odisha coast.

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### **India to chair 9th Renewable Energy Agency Council meet in June**

India has been selected to chair the 9th International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Council, which is scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi in June. India is one of the founding members of the IRENA.

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### **Arun Kumar Jha appointed as CEO of KVIC**

Arun Kumar Jha has been appointed as the CEO of Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC). He is currently working as the Director General, National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

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### **Indian shooter Jitu Rai wins Bronze at ISSF World Cup**

Ace shooter from the Indian Army Jitu Rai has won Bronze medal at 10m air pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation(ISSF) world cup being held in South Korea.

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### **Apple India set to earn \$1 billion revenue for the fiscal year 2014-15**

Apple India looks set to earn \$1 billion revenue for the fiscal year 2014-15 after selling more than 1.3 million phones in India, a leap of close to 42% compared to the previous fiscal.

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### **Amitabh Bachchan receives Padma Vibhushan from President**

The President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Padma Vibhushan on Bollywood Superstar Amitabh Bachchan last week. Awards were also conferred to Malur Ramaswamy Srinivasan for his work in science, and Jurist K.K. Venugopal for his work in public affairs.

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### **SBI De-lists shares from non-operating Madras Stock Exchange**

SBI said that it has voluntarily delisted its equity shares from the now non-functional Madras Stock Exchange (MSEL). MSEL became non-operational last year following instructions from SEBI.

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### **Retail inflation in March down to 3 month low of 5.17%**

The Retail inflation for March 2015 was 5.17%, lower than 5.37% and 5.19% in February and January respectively. The retail inflation in March 2014 was 8.25%.

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### **L&T signs MoU with AREVA**

Larsen & Toubro has said that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with French company AREVA for co-operation in the construction of the Nuclear power plant at Jaitapur, Maharashtra.

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### **2nd 600MW Thermal plant commissioned by BHEL in Chhattisgarh**

State owned BHEL has commissioned 2nd 600MW Thermal plant for Dainik Bhaskar Power Limited at Janjgir Champa District in Chhattisgarh.

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### **India's GDP to grow by 7.9% as per Morgan Stanley report**

A Morgan Stanley report says that India's GDP during the Financial Year 2016 will grow by 7.9%, and 8.4% in 2017.

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### **Deepak Fertilisers sells 12.1% stake in MCFL**

Deepak Fertilisers has sold 12.1% stake in Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited(MCFL) in the open market for a value of Rs. 125.69 crore.

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### **Newzealand wins Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

Newzealand defeated Australia in the finals to win Hockey's Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

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### **Yamaha launches new Superbike at 29 Lakhs**

Yamaha India has launched its latest Superbike YZF-R1M prized at Rs. 29 Lakhs. The Superbike would only be available on order.

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### **FM channel of Vividh Bharati launched**

Transmissions of the popular "Vividh Bharati" by All India Radio has been launched on FM. With this, mobile users can listen to this channel on their handsets within a range of 60-65Km in all weather conditions. Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting Arun Jaitley inaugurated the service in Delhi.

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### **FDI jumps by 47% in services sector between April 2014 and Jan 2015**

FDI in services sector grew by almost 47 per cent to \$2.64 billion in April-January last fiscal. During the same period a year earlier, FDI was \$1.8 billion in the services sector.

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### **CIL to import about 2 million tonnes of Coal**

Coal India Limited will import close to 2 million tonnes of Coal during the current Fiscal for supply to the power plants.

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### **Godrej Nature's basket partners with Amazon**

Godrej Nature's basket, food retail arm of Godrej group, has entered into a partnership with Amazon for selling its products through Amazon's platform in India.

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### **Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai sworn as first lady judge of Sikkim HC**

Justice Meenakshi Meenakshi has become the first lady judge in Sikkim High Court. She was sworn in on 15th April, 2015.

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### **Normandy Group meeting held in Berlin**

Fifth meeting of Normandy group of foreign ministers was held in Berlin. The Normandy group includes Ukraine, Germany, Russia and France.

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### **Government renames visa-on-arrival scheme to e-tourist visa**

The Union Home Ministry has decided to rename the tourist visa-on-arrival scheme as 'e-tourist visa' scheme. This will be effective from 15th April 2015.

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### **Nobel winning author Gunter Grass passed away**

Germany's Nobel winning author Gunter Grass died at the age of 87 on April 13th, 2015. Grass is best known for his first novel, The Tin Drum (1959), a key text in European magic realism.

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### **RBI to launch Rs. 10 coins on centenary of Gandhi's return from SA**

The Reserve Bank will launch Rs. 10 coins to commemorate the centenary of return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa.

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### **175 million new bank accounts created**

As per a report by World Bank, 175 million new bank accounts have been created in India between 2011 and 2014, increasing India's bank account penetration from 35% to 53%.

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### **Nokia buys Alcatel Lucent**

Finnish company Nokia has bought French firm Alcatel Lucent in an all shares deal worth close to 15.6 billion Euros. The deal will be finalised in the first half of 2016, the companies said.

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### **EU files anti trust charges against Google**

The European Union has launched an antitrust complaint against Google that it has been abusing its dominance in Web Search, and will also open an investigation into the Android mobile eco system.

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### **Tech Mahindra teams up with Comverse**

Tech Mahindra has teamed with Comverse is the latest example of booming trades between India and Israel. The 2 companies will together set up a research and development centre in Israel.

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### **SEBI bans 9 entities for fraudulent trading**

SEBI has imposed market ban on 9 entities for upto 3 years for indulging in fraudulent trading of shares in Kinetic Capital Services Ltd and Shubh International Ltd. back in 1999.

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### **Clearip, Times Group and NDTV pull out of Internet.org**

In a major win for net neutrality, 3 major Indian companies, Clearip, Times Group and NDTV pulled out of Internet.org.

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### **India below Bhutan and Srilanka in Broadband reach**

TRAI has mentioned that in the wireless or mobile broadband segment, India is ranked at 113th with a penetration of 3.2%. This ranks below Bhutan and Srilanka.

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### **ECNU appoints Vishal Sikka appointed as Advisory Professor**

The East China Normal University (ECNU), one of the prestigious universities in China appointed Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka as an Advisory Professor.

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### **Canada agrees to sell Uranium to India**

An agreement was signed by PM Narendra Modi with Canada for supply of Uranium over the next five years to meet India's growing Energy demand.

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### **Reliance partners with Pocket Gamer Connect**

Pocket Gamer Connect(PGC), a mobile gaming conference began in Bengaluru in partnership with Reliance Entertainment Digital. This is the first time PGC event is happening in India.

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### **CII expects 7.8% to 8.2% growth in current Fiscal**

The Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) said it expected India's economy to grow in the range of 7.8-8.2 per cent in the current financial year.

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### **4 Indian's in TIME Magazine's 100 most Influential People**

TIME Magazine had 4 Indian's in the list of 100 most Influential People in the world. These are: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, and Noted Goa-based psychiatrist Dr. Vikram Patel.

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### **World Hemophilia Day observed**

World Hemophilia day was observed globally on April 17th with the theme "building a family of support".

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### **DTC gets its first woman bus driver**

Vankadarath Saritha has become the first woman driver of Delhi Transport Corporation. Delhi has already seen woman drivers of autos, cabs and will now have a bus driver as well.

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### **Satya Nadella wins Champions of Change award**

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella was honored with "Champions of Change" award at the Whitehouse.

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### **Pakistan and Russia to hold 1st ever joint military exercise**

Pakistan and Russia have agreed to conduct their 1st ever joint military exercise to enhance the defense co-operation.

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### **LIC buys Rs.300 Crore Infosys shares**

LIC bought shares worth Rs. 300 Crore in Infosys during Q4, increasing its stake to 4.81%. This marked the 4th consecutive quarter when the firm has purchased shares in Infosys.

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**Alto is the best selling car for the 10th year in a row**

According to data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers(SIAM), Maruti's Alto sold 2,64,492 units in 2014-15 and continues to remain the best selling car in India for the 10th year in a row.

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**Sitaram Yechury elected as General Secretary of CPI (M)**

Sitaram Yechury has been elected as the new General Secretary of Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]. He becomes the 5th General Secretary, and takes over from Prakash Karat who served 3rd terms as the party head.

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**"Sholay" released in Pakistan**

40 years after the movie was released in India, iconic Hindi movie "Sholay" starring Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra, hit theaters in Pakistan for the first time.

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**ICICI launches "Tap-n-Pay"**

ICICI Bank has launched Near-Field Communications(NFC) enabled payment service called "Tap-n-Pay" in collaboration with Tech Mahindra.

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**Lupin launches its first brand medicine in Canada**

The Canadian arm of the Indian pharmaceuticals firm Lupin launched Zaxine under a strategic licensing agreement with US based Salix Pharmaceuticals Inc.

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**MTR to enter e-commerce space**

Ready-to-eat food manufacturer MTR foods plans to open its e-commerce portal by the 3rd quarter of the current Fiscal year.

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**MNP to be delayed by 8 weeks**

Nationwide Mobile number portability(MNP) will take an additional eight weeks to implement after Department of Telecommunications has asked operators to make some technical changes. The service that was to launch in early May will now be available in July.

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**Investments via Participatory Notes surges to highest level in 7 years**

Investments into Indian markets through Participatory Notes(P-Notes) surged to \$43 billion in March 2015, the highest in nearly 7 years.

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### **Tea Industry launches pilot project on Drip irrigation technology**

The Indian Tea Industry has launched a pilot project on Drip irrigation in association with Israeli company. After suffering from reduced rainfall over the last 2 years, the industry is launching this scheme to maintain yield.

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### **Japan's Daiichi exits Sun Pharma**

Japanese drug company Daiichi has sold its entire stake in Sun Pharma and exited. This happens after the Sun Pharma and Ranbaxy deal.

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### **Tamil Nadu cancels plot allocated to Coca Cola**

Tamil Nadu government has cancelled the plots allocated to Coca Cola in State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) region due to non-compliance of terms and conditions of allotment.

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### **Amazonbusiness.in launched**

Amazon has launched online marketplace Amazonbusiness.in for B2B (Business to Business) companies. This will allow businesses to purchase their frequently needed business supplies and products for retail in bulk quantities at wholesale prices. The facility is currently available in Bengaluru.

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### **Rishad Premji joins Wipro Board**

The eldest son of Azim Premji, Rishad Premji, was appointed to the Wipro Board as a full time Director.

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### **Ashok Leyland overtakes Tata in pick-up trucks**

Ashok Leyland has overtaken Tata to become the country's 2nd largest pick-up truck brand. Mahindra & Mahindra continues to lead the segment.

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### **Chennai to host Global App Summit**

The first edition of Global Mobile App Summit & Awards (GMASA) will be held in Chennai on May 28 and 29. This will feature the theme "Make-in-India", where students being allowed to showcase their app building skills.

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### **Indian Railways to raise money through bond Offshore**

Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC) plans to raise up to \$1 billion through sale of offshore rupee bonds. The money will be used to upgrade infrastructure of the Railways.

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### **MakeMyTrip acquires travel guide company Mygola**

Online travel booking site MakeMyTrip has acquired Mygola. Mygola helps people plan their trips through their travel guides.

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### **Sesa Sterlite is now Vedanta Ltd.**

Metals and Mining firm Sesa Sterlite has renamed itself to Vedanta Ltd., to better align with its International brand Vedanta Resources.

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### **48th Tiger Reserve declared**

Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand has been declared as India's 48th Tiger Reserve. The decision was taken by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

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### **Maglev train breaks its own record**

Japanese Maglev train, world's fastest passenger train, broke its own world record by setting a speed of 603 kmph. The earlier record held by the train was 581 kmph.

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### **RBI makes 3 new additions to priority sector**

The Reserve Bank of India has added Medium Enterprises, Social Infrastructure and Renewable Energy to be part of priority sector lending in addition to the existing categories.

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### **NIELIT and Snapdeal sign MoU**

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology(NIELIT) has signed a MoU with Snapdeal for its digital marketing courses to help small and medium business.

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### **BSNL to offer Unlimited Free Calling at Night**

As per a statement by BSNL, starting May 1st, landline customers can make unlimited calls to anywhere in India to all networks from 9PM to 7AM without paying call charges.

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**Uber and Zomato enter into partnership**

Restaurant guide Zomato and Taxi Service Uber have entered into partnership to enable users to book cabs to the restaurant they are planning to visit.

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**Railways launches new app to book unreserved train tickets**

Indian Railways launched a mobile application for paperless unreserved tickets called 'utsonmobile'.

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**GPF rate retained at 8.7% for 2015-16**

The government has maintained the interest rate for General Provident Fund (GPF) at 8.7 per cent for the fiscal year 2015-16.

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**Government allows investing 5% of EPFO Corpus in stock markets**

The Government has allowed investing 5% Corpus of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in stock markets, which will result in an inflow of close to Rs. 5,000 crore into the stock markets during this fiscal.

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**Indo-French Naval Exercises begin**

India and France have started a 10 day Naval Exercises called 'Varuna'. The joint exercise is being conducted along the Goa Coast.

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**World book and Copyright day observed**

The United Nations observed "World book and Copyright day" on April 23rd to showcase the power of books to transform our lives, and to support books and their publishers.

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**World Happiness report released**

Switzerland ranked as the happiest country followed by Iceland and Denmark in the World Happiness report released by the United Nations.

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**Crompton Greaves to exit consumer products business**

Avantha Holdings Ltd., the parent company of Crompton Greaves has decided to exit the consumer products business and will sell its stake to American private equity firm Advent International Corporation and a subsidiary of Singapore's Temasek Holdings for Rs.2,000 crore.

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## Reliance Capital and Samsung Asset Management Company sign MoU

India's largest asset management company Reliance Capital and Korea's largest asset company Samsung Asset Management have signed a MoU to explore areas for developing, managing, marketing and distributing each other's investment products in India and Korea.

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## Turrialba Volcano erupts

Costa Rica's Turrialba Volcano erupted and released thick ash to the sky multiple times, causing multiple flights in the region to be diverted and delayed.

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## 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake rocks Nepal

An Earthquake of Magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal's capital Kathmandu and its neighboring areas. The epicenter of the quake was 80 km east of Pokhara near Kathmandu at a depth of 11 kilometers.

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## Ratan Tata picks up stake in Xiaomi

Ratan Tata has acquired a stake in Chinese handset maker Xiaomi, the first investment by any Indian in the smartphone maker.

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## Indian diplomat awarded for his services in Singapore

National University of Singapore has awarded Indian origin diplomat Mr. Gopinath Pillai with 'Outstanding Service Award' for his services to the city.

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## Telcos slash call rates to Nepal

Indian telecom companies have slashed rates of phone calls to Nepal. Airtel and Aircel have made calls free to Nepal for 48 hours.

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## Capgemini acquires iGATE for USD 4 billion

In one of the largest buy-out deals in IT Services Industry, French firm Capgemini has decided to acquire iGATE for USD 4 billion. This will help Capgemini expand into the North American Market.

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**Air India shuts down few local and foreign booking offices**

National carrier Air India has closed down few of its offline booking offices in an effort to cut costs. The booking offices with negligible sales have been closed. The foreign offices shut down include Zurich, Chittagong and Vienna, while decision to close Cairo and Tehran offices has also been taken.

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**Akshaya Tritiya sales for Hero Motor corp touches 41,000**

Hero Motor corp said that it had sold over 41,000 two-wheelers on Akshaya Tritiya, a jump of more than 50% compared to last year.

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**FDI jumps 63% to 3.28 billion USD in Feb 2015**

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India jumped by close to 63% in Feb 2015 compared to Feb 2014, and touched USD 3.28 billion.

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**Maharashtra collaborates with Israel on Smart Cities**

Maharashtra CM and Tel Aviv Mayor have agreed to cooperate on building smart cities in the state.

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**Coca Cola veteran joins Snapdeal**

Idi Srinivas Murthy has been appointed as the Senior Vice President of Marketing at Snapdeal. He comes after successes at Coca Cola and GlaxoSmithKline.

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**Reliance pulls out of Tilaiya Ultra Mega Power Project**

Reliance Power has pulled out of Tilaiya Ultra Mega Power Project citing reasons relating to delay in allotment of land for the project.

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**Babajob.com gets \$10m funding**

SEEK Limited, the largest global online employment marketplace, has invested \$10m in Babajob.com. Babajob.com helps in bringing better jobs to delivery staff, office helpers, drivers, cooks, maids, security guards.

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**Omar al-Bashir extends his 26 year presidency**

Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, was reelected as the president after securing 94.5% of the vote.

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### **Loretta Lynch appointed US Attorney General**

Loretta Lynch has been sworn in as the first African-American woman to be an Attorney General in United States.

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### **Samsung reclaims world's largest Smartphone Maker**

As per a report by Strategy Analytics, Samsung has overtaken Apple to reclaim its position as the world's largest smartphone maker in the first quarter of 2015.

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### **TRAI to add service quality benchmarks**

To tackle the problem of call drops, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) will soon put in a place "service quality benchmarks". Non adherence to this will result in strict action against the operators.

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### **IT department launches "Tatkal" to aid Nepal**

The Income Tax (IT) department has launched a "Tatkal" approval mechanism for charitable organizations who desire to help the victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

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### **Motorola to continue exclusive tie up with Flipkart**

Motorola will continue its exclusive partnership with Flipkart. It does not plan to sell its devices through offline distribution or other portals.

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### **Government hikes MSP of cotton**

The Government has hiked the Minimum support price of cotton by Rs. 50 per quintal, after taking note of distress to cotton growers due to fall in cotton prices.

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### **India pharma companies get US FDA nod for schizophrenia drug**

The US Food & Drug Administration has given approval to Alembic Pharma, Hetero Labs, Torrent Pharma and Teva Pharma to market generic drug for treatment of schizophrenia.

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### **Core sector production drops to 15 month low**

Eight core industries registered a -0.1% (negative 0.1%) growth in March 2015, the lowest performance in 15 months. The slowdown was largely due to steep decline in production of steel, cement and refinery

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