

DAILY UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS**National**

- North India & North Eastern India felt a tremor as the massive earthquake hit Nepal Himalayan region. Many killed in Bihar, UP & West Bengal.
- 42,273 NGO's are under the scanner of the Financial Intelligence wing to check suspicious foreign funding and crackdown on same top international donors for flouting the law of the land.
- The GST Bill introduced in Lok Sabha has been opposed by the opposition.
- More than 257 farmers have been reported of committing suicide in Maharashtra in this year due to crop loss.
- Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani has invited suggestions on the new education policy to be released later this year.
- Aadhar Cards has emerged as the world's largest biometric identification programme.
- Indian Army tested new generation arms named Akraman-II in Rajasthan.
- 10-day naval exercise 'Varuna' between India and France began off the Goa coast. It is the fourteenth edition of this naval exercise which will host of naval assets of both countries and will conclude on 3 May 2015.
- Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) received an ISO 9001:2008 certification from the British Standards Institute (BSI). The ISO certification was granted to Ministry in respect of various permissions and licences issued by it for the broadcasting and print media and films. These licences or permissions include for satellite Television channels, multi-system operators, teleports, community radio stations and DTH services.
- India's largest power producer, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) flagged off a Mobile Science Lab (MSL) as part of its efforts to promote scientific learning. MSL seeks to revolutionize rural education in India and make hands-on learning accessible to underprivileged children.
- Indian Army conducted a major exercise 'Akraman-II' in Rajasthan. The exercise was conducted by the Chetak Corps, a part of South Western Command based in Bhatinda, Punjab. The exercise aimed to test a new generation of weaponry and platforms which are employed in the desert region to provide 'real time battle and situational awareness' to its commanders.
- Chief Justice of India H L Dattu has refused to participate in a three-member panel for selecting two eminent persons in the six-member National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).
- Union Government cancelled the licences of around 9000 NGOs for violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010. These foreign funded NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) failed to file annual returns for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Bilateral

- Union Cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for signing of a shipping agreement between India and Jordan. The agreement aims at strengthening cooperation between both nations in the area of shipping and to provide sustained mutual assistance and advice on merchant shipping and other related maritime matters.

International

- Govt. of India is considering e-visa facility to Chinese nations on the eve of PM Modi's visit to China in May 14 to 16.
- Iran has jumped decisively on the "Belt and Road" bandwagon, flagging its interest in linking China with its proposed natural gas pipeline to Pakistan.
- Ministers from Arctic Nations gathered in northern Canada to shine a spotlight on one of the planet's most remote region.

- Sri Lankan govt. decided to pass its RTI Act.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin called on French leader Francois Hollande to restore relation after a year of tension over Ukraine.
- China will provide 110 fighter jet to Pakistan (JF-17 Thunder Fighter).
- Britain's Prince Charles and Turkish President Tajyip Erdogan led commemorations in the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey to mark 100 yrs anniversary of a World War-I battle that hipped shape the birth of new nations.
- A high-intensity earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale had struck central Nepal between its capital Kathmandu and the city of Pokhara. Earthquake's epicenter was 80 kilometers east of Pokhara near Kathmandu. It had a depth of only 11 kilometers (7 miles) i.e. in geological terms it was a shallow depth.
- Every year World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed on 25 April. The day is observed to recognise the global efforts to control preventable disease malaria. The theme of this year WMD-2015 is "Invest in the Future and Defeat Malaria".
- Loretta Lynch has sworn-in as United States' first African-American woman Attorney General. She is 83rd Attorney General of country. Loretta Lynch succeeded Eric Holder who left the position after serving Attorney General for six years.
- Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir has won Presidential re-election by securing 94 per cent of the vote. With this win he will have additional term of five years in office which will extend his current 25-year rule. He is in power since 1989.
- Notice has been sent to 68 _____ for Rs. 602 cr. tax due on MAT.
- After the Planning Commission the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) created 40 yrs ago for revival of sick industries has been shut down.
- Leading Indian public sector bank Bank of Baroda (BoB) has partnered with UAE Exchange to offer Non-resident Indian (NRI) customers an instant cash transfer facility. In this regard agreement was signed between both parties. This agreement will facilitate customers can send money within minutes to their desired bank accounts in BoB in India.
- National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with e-commerce giant Snapdeal to roll out digital marketing courses. The MoU aims at helping small and medium enterprises/businesses and artisans who want to take the online route to become entrepreneurs.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to export petroleum products to Bangladesh. The petroleum products will be exported through the proposed Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) of 130 km length and capacity of one Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA).
- Capgemini and iGATE have entered into a definitive merger agreement under which Capgemini will acquire iGATE for a cash consideration of \$48 per share. The transaction will amount to \$4 billion and is expected to be immediately accretive to Capgemini's normalized Earnings Per Share (EPS)1.
- The government has raised the limit of foreign direct investment in pension sector to 49 per cent in line with the FDI cap in the insurance sector. The FDI cap in the sector has been hiked to 49 per cent and that includes foreign investment in the forms of FPI, FII, QFI, FVCI, NRI and DR.

Economy & Banking

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued a note instructing tax officials to decide on the cases in which foreign institutional investors are seeking MAT exemption under treaty _____ within the month of the clearing.

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

Award

- Sangeeta Bhatia, an Indian-Origin scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has won prestigious Heinz award for year 2015. She had won this award for her work in tissue engineering and disease detection in the Technology, the Economy, and Employment category of the award.
- 50th Jnanpith Award was conferred on eminent Marathi litterateur Bhalchandra Nemade 2015. He was presented award comprising of 11 lakh rupees and a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Saraswati by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function in Parliament House Complex in New Delhi.
- French Government has honoured former Union Finance Minister and veteran BJP leader Yashwant Sinha with Officier de la Légion d'Honneur (Officer of the Legion of Honour). It is the highest French civilian distinction bestowed upon him in recognition of his international action taken during his stint as Union Minister of Finance, Minister External Foreign Affairs and for his invaluable contribution to international issues.

Person in News

- United Nations (UN) has nominated Peter Jan Graaff of the Netherlands as the new chief of UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER).
- The Andhra Pradesh Government appointed Chadalavada Krishnamurthy as the Chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Board of Trustees, a body which administers Tirupati's Lord Venkateswara temple.

Sports

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has nominated Rohit Sharma for the Arjuna award for 2015. Rohit has had an excellent last year for India in international cricket.
- Lin Dan of China won the men's title at Badminton Asia Championships 2015 held in the central city of Wuhan, China. He won the title by defeating compatriot Tian Houwei 21-19, 21-8. With this he won the Asian championship for the fourth time. Lin, the No. 2 seed, is a five-time world champion and twice Olympic gold medallist.
- India won a Gold and a Bronze at the 2015 Asian Indoor Rowing Championship. The championship was held from 25 April 2015 to 26 April 2015 in Pattaya, Thailand. Dushyant Singh and Succha Singh Tomar won the gold in the 2000m men's light weight pair category