

TIM BERNERS-LEE WINS 2016 ACM A M TURING AWARD



Sir Tim Berners-Lee in the first week of in April 2017 was honoured with the 2016 ACM A M Turing Award. Berners-Lee received the 2016 Turing Award “for inventing the World Wide Web, the first web browser, and the fundamental protocols and algorithms allowing the Web to scale”. The computer scientist is one of the world’s most influential voices for online privacy and government transparency.

PADMA SHRI AWARDEE SUDARSAN PATTNAIK TO COMPETE IN MOSCOW CHAMPIONSHIP



World-renowned sand artist, Sudarsan Pattnaik has been selected as the Indian representative in the 10th edition of Moscow Sand Art Championship, to be held later in April 2017. The theme selected for this year’s championship is ‘The World Around us’. It would be held from 22 April to 28 April at Kolomenskoye in Moscow, Russia. The event is going to witness participation from noted sand sculptors from across the world. Pattnaik had won the gold medal in the championship’s 9th edition in 2016 for his sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi on World peace.

LITERARY CRITIC M ACHUTHAN PASSES AWAY ON 9 APRIL 2017



Literary critic M Achuthan passed away on 9 April 2017 following age-related illness at a private hospital in Kochi. He was 87. He is survived by his wife and daughters. Achuthan began his career as a critic by challenging the views of literary stalwarts Kuttikrishna Marar and Joseph Mundassery. Achuthan had 10 works to his credit. His book on the poems of Edassery is one of his noted works. His works include 'Swathanthrya Samaravum Malayala Sahithyavum', 'Paschathya Sahitya Darshanam' and 'Cherukadha Innale Innu' among others.

MANIPUR GOVT TO HOLD PEOPLE'S DAY ON 15TH OF EVERY MONTH



The new BJP-led government in Manipur state has decided to hold People's Day on the 15th of every month. The announcement was made by the state's Chief Minister, N Biren Singh during a function held at Khwairamband Bazar in Manipur's capital city, Imphal on 9 April 2017.

DIGITAL WALLET COMPANY PAYTM MALL LAUNCHES QR CODE FEATURE



The Digital wallet company Paytm in April 2017 announced the launch of new feature QR code on its Paytm Mall application. This QR code will allow consumers to place online orders at physical stores. With this launch, Paytm becomes the first company to invest in QR code-based payment solution. The company in a statement said that the move is aimed at smartphone users of non-metros cities who still do not shop online.

LARGE ASTEROID 2014 JO25 TO FLY PAST EARTH ON 19 APRIL



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced on 8 April 2017 that a big asteroid will fly safely past Earth on 19 April 2017 at a distance of about 1.8 million kilometres. Although there is no possibility for the 2014 JO25 to collide with Earth, this will be a very close approach for an asteroid of this size. It is known as 2014 JO25.

INDIAN-ORIGIN ANUJA RAVINDRA DHIR BECOMES FIRST NON-WHITE JUDGE AT LONDON COURT



Indian-origin Anuja Ravindra Dhir on 9 April 2017 became the first non-white judge of the Old Bailey Court of London. She is also the youngest circuit judge currently to sit at the court. The Old Bailey Court of London is the Central Criminal Court of London. It houses 15 judges including 10 men and five women.

LOK SABHA PASSES THE MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016



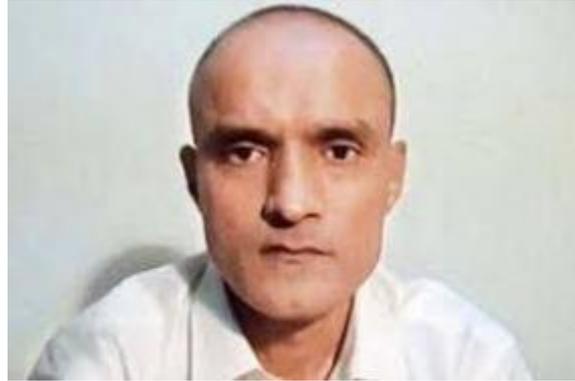
The Lok Sabha on 10 April 2017 passed a draft legislation to amend the Motor Vehicles Act to impose stiffer penalties on traffic rules violations and to protect the Good Samaritans from legal harassment. The changes in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016, were approved by the Union Cabinet on 31 March 2017. The Bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to address issues such as third party insurance, regulation of taxi aggregators and road safety.

LOK SABHA PASSES CONSTITUTION (123RD AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017



The Lok Sabha on 10 April 2017 passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017. It was passed by the house with 360 MPs voting in favour and 2 against the bill. The Bill seeks to give constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes. The Bill seeks to insert a new Article 338B in the Constitution.

KULBHUSHAN JADHAV SENTENCED TO DEATH IN PAKISTAN



Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a military court of Pakistan on 10 April 2017. He was accused of espionage and sabotage activities in Pakistan, mainly Balochistan and Karachi. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) of Pakistan in a release said Jadhav was arrested on 3 March 2016 in Balochistan's Mashkel area for his involvement in espionage and sabotage activities against Pakistan.

CARME CHACON, SPAIN'S FIRST FEMALE DEFENCE MINISTER, DIES



Carme Chacon, Spain's first female defence minister and a prominent socialist party leader, has died aged 46. The party said Chacon died on Sunday from a congenital heart condition. Chacon helped modernise the armed forces when she took the helm of the Ministry of Defence in 2008, in the government of prime minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. The socialist party (PSOE) said Chacon had always been "at the vanguard" of the party.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA SIGNED SIX AGREEMENTS INCLUDING COOPERATION IN CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY



India and Australia on 10 April 2017 signed six agreements to boost the bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The signed agreements include cooperation in combating international terrorism and transnational organised crime. These agreements were signed during Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's four-day visit to India. He will be in India from 9 April to 12 April 2017. This is Turnbull's first visit to India since he assumed office in 2015.

GOVERNMENT OF CHINA LAUNCHED FIRST RAIL FREIGHT SERVICE BETWEEN CHINA AND LONDON



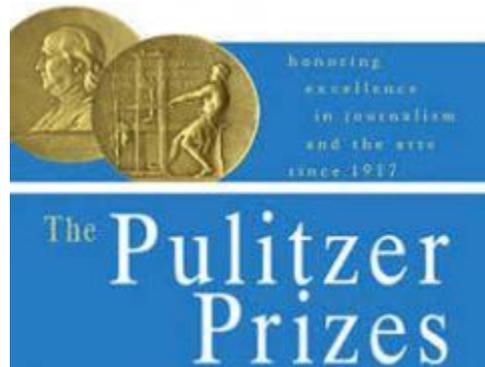
The Government of China on 10 April 2017 launched a rail freight service between China and London. The train is loaded with whisky, soft drinks, vitamins and baby products. The train, with thirty containers filled with UK-produced goods, set off on the 7500-mile journey from Stanford-le-Hope in Essex. The train will reach its destination in 18 days. It is the first direct rail link between China and Great Britain.

UNION MINISTER LAUNCHES NAKSHE PORTAL TO CELEBRATE SURVEY OF INDIA'S 250 ANNIVERSARY



The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan launched a new web portal called nakshe in New Delhi on 10 April 2017. The launch commemorates the 250th anniversary of Survey of India (Sol). The event saw in attendance Y.S. Chowdary, the Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Swarna Subba Rao, the Surveyor General of India and other top scientists and professionals from the Geospatial Industry.

COLSON WHITEHEAD'S "UNDERGROUND RAILROAD" WINS PULITZER



2017 Pulitzer Prizes were announced on 10 April 2017 by Pulitzer Prize Administrator Mike Pride in at Columbia University in New York. The announcement marks the 101st year of prizes. The awards were announced in 21 categories and they include Letters, Drama & Music and Journalism.

VENKAIAH NAIDU LAUNCHES 352 HOUSING PROJECTS IN 53 CITIES



Private real-estate developers on Sunday launched 352 housing projects in 53 cities across 17 States with an investment of ₹38,003 crore to build 2,03,851 affordable houses. "These housing projects are to be taken up by the members of CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India) across the country in the first major private investments into affordable housing," according to an official statement. The projects were launched by Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu at Ahmedabad.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ALLOWS BANKS TO INVEST IN REITS & INVITS



Banks will be allowed to invest in real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), attracting more institutional investors to such assets and expanding the investment scope of banks. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday proposed to allow banks to invest in such investment trusts following a request from the markets regulator. The central bank will issue detailed guidelines by end May.

INDIA'S LARGEST E-COMMERCE PLAYER FLIPKART BUYS EBAY INDIA



India's largest e-commerce firm Flipkart said Monday it has raised \$1.4 billion led by China's internet giant Tencent, with participation from the online auction site eBay and Microsoft, valuing the Bengaluru-based company at \$11.6 billion, post the investment. This marks the largest capital infusion for any privately-held Indian internet venture and surpasses the earlier high set by Flipkart itself when in July 2014 it picked up \$1 billion and set the stage for a funding boom in the local startup ecosystem.

CENTRE RELEASES NEARLY RS. 23,443 CRORE TO STATES UNDER MGNREGS



The Centre has released Rs 23,443 crore to the states under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as part of the its early spending push. Funds released would be used to undertake priority work under water conservation measures. The amount released also includes all pending liabilities as on March 31, 2017. The government had allocated Rs 48,000 crore to MGNREGS in this year's budget.

PM MODI LAUNCHED SPECIAL DIGITAL EXHIBITION MARKING 100 YEARS CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a special digital exhibition on 'Bapu Ko Karyanjali – Re-envisioning the Champaran Satyagraha on its 100th anniversary at National Archives in New Delhi today. April 2017 marks the centenary of the Champaran Satyagraha – Mahatma Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India.