

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF APRIL - May 2017

Awards

- The Indian city which has become the first Indian city to be chosen for the American Planning Association's Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Excellence Award 2017 – **Bhubaneswar**
- The Bengali poet and literary critic who has been awarded the 52nd Jnanpith Award by the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee – **Prof. Sankha Ghosh**
- The noted playback singer who has been awarded the Ghantasala National Award instituted by the Ghantasala National Art Academy – **Vani Jairam**
- The Bollywood actor who has been awarded the 75th Dinanath Mangeshkar Award for his film Dangal – **Aamir Khan**
- The social activist from Odisha who has been chosen for the Goldman Environmental Prize 2017 along with 5 other recipients (He led a historic 12-year legal battle for the indigenous Dongria Kondh's land rights and protected the Niyamgiri Hills from a massive, open-pit aluminum ore mine) – **Prafulla Samantara**
- The renowned director and film actor who has been chosen to be awarded the Dada Saheb Phalke Award for the year 2016 – **K. Viswanath**
- The Mayor of Italian island Lampedusa who has been awarded the Félix Houphouët Boigny Peace Prize (UNESCO Peace Prize) jointly with nongovernmental organization SOS Méditerranée (France) for their work to save the lives of refugees and migrants and welcome them with dignity – **Giuseppina Nicolini**
- The Tamil author whose book Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman) translated by Aniruddhan Vasudevan has been awarded Sahitya Akademi's award for translation in English – **Perumal Murugan**
- The renowned historian and archaeologist who has been conferred the Paduru Gururaja Bhat Memorial Award 2017 by the Union Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation D.V. Sadananda Gowda – **A.V. Narasimha Murthi**
- The American novelist who has been awarded Pulitzer Prize 2017 in the fiction category for his novel The Underground Railroad – **Colson Whitehead**
- The Swedish-Eritrean journalist, currently in prison in Eritrea, who has been chosen for the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2017 – **Dawit Isaak**

Defence

- The joint naval exercise carried out by the Indian and French navies in the Mediterranean Sea from 24 to 30 April 2017 – **Exercise Varuna**
- The web portal and mobile app inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh on the occasion of Valour Day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with an objective to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a braveheart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty is named – **Bharat ke Veer (bharathkeveer.gov.in)**
- The twelfth edition of Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise conducted at Vairengte in Manipur from 05 April 2017 to 18 April 2017 – **Nomadic Elephant**

Sports

- The slogan of the World Masters Games held in Auckland from April 21 to April 30, 2017 – **For the love of sport**
- The 101-year old woman from Chandigarh who has won the 100 metres at the World Masters Games 2017 held in Auckland, New Zealand – **Man Kaur**
- The Bangalore based athlete who has become the first visually impaired Indian athlete to complete the Boston marathon – **Sagar Baheti**
- The Indian badminton player who has won the Singapore Open Super Series 2017 men's singles title defeating Kidambi Srikanth in the finals – **B Sai Praneeth**
- The Australian cricketer who has been named Wisden's Leading Woman Cricketer in the World for 2016 – **Ellyse Perry**
- The Indian cricketer who has been named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016 (becoming the third Indian to be so named after Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar) – **Virat Kohli**
- The Pakistani cricketer and captain of its test team who has announced his decision to retire from international cricket after the current tour of West Indies which concludes in May 2017 – **Misbah-ul-Haq**
- The badminton player from Denmark who has won the India Open Super Series badminton tournament 2017 men's single title defeating Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei in the finals – **Viktor Axelsen**
- The Indian badminton player who has won the India Open Super Series badminton tournament 2017 women's singles title defeating Carolina Marin of Spain in the finals – **P.V. Sindhu**

Places

- The Central American nation which has become the first country in the world to ban mining of metals – **El Salvador**
- The place in New Zealand from where NASA has launched its football-stadium-sized, heavy-lift super pressure balloon (SPB) on a mission designed to run 100 or more days floating at 110,000 feet (33.5 km) about the globe in the southern hemisphere's mid-latitude band – **Wanaka**
- The new name of Ballabgarh in Faridabad, Haryana as announced by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar – **Balramgarh**
- The city from which the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme named UDAN. (flights have also started from Nanded and Kadapa Airports.) – **Shimla**
- The place in Madhya Pradesh where a massive explosion in a kerosene fair price shop killed 13 people and injured several others – **Chhindwara**
- The State which has launched Operation Durga, a campaign to protect the safety of women – **Haryana**
- The African nation which has declared a three-month emergency after attacks on churches resulted in the death of several people – **Egypt**
- The States which have declared imposing prohibition of liquor in a phased manner recently – **Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**
- The venue of 3-day National Children's Film Festival held from April 07 to April 09 – **Visakhapatnam**
- The Russian city in which a terrorist strike at a metro station left 11 people and several others injured – **St. Petersburg**
- The country which has become the seventh member of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program (Headquarters: Manila, Philippines) – **Myanmar**
- The country which has recognized crypto currency Bitcoin as legal payment method with effect from 01 April 2017 – **Japan**

Persons

- The Indian contestant who has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017 at a beauty pageant held in Nicaragua – **Shristi Kaur**

- The Academy Award winning director of the movie The Silence of the Lambs who passed away on 26 April 2017 – **Jonathan Demme**
- Italian super-centenarian and world's oldest living person who passed away on 15 April at the age of 117 years 137 days – **Emma Morano**
- The Nobel Peace Prize winner from Pakistan who has been chosen to be the youngest UN Messenger of Peace – **Malala Yousafzai**
- The Hindustani vocalist of Jaipur Gharana, Padma Vibhushan (2002), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985), who passed away on 03 April 2017 – **Kishori Amonkar**

Themes

- The theme of World Immunization Week observed by World Health Organisation from 24 to 30 April 2017 – **Vaccines Work**
- The theme of Civil Service Day, 2017 held on 21 April 2017 – **Making New India**

Railways

- The route on which the Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu has launched Vistadome coaches with glass ceiling, rotating seats, LED lighting and a GPS-based passenger information system (built by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai) – **Visakhapatnam to Araku**

Miscellaneous

- The new name of domestic airport at Agra in Uttar Pradesh – **Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Airport**
- The new name of domestic airport at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh – **Mahayogi Gorakhnath Airport**
- The Indian Institute of Technology which has decided to introduce Vaastu Shastra to its first and second-year undergraduate architecture students – **IIT, Kharagpur**
- The Indian dhow (a type of sailing vessel) which was hijacked by Somali pirates on 01 April and later released along with its crew was named – **Al-Kausar**
- The first ever micro-drama festival held in India organised by theatre group Vriksh in New Delhi was named – **Thespis**
- The web portal launched by Survey of India to enable free download of maps in pdf format in 1 : 50,000 scale – **nakshe (soinakshe.uk.gov.in)**

- The exhibition inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to mark 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi's first experiment of Satyagraha in Champaran is named – **Swachhagraha-Bapu Ko Karyanjali- Ek Abhiyan, Ek Pradarshani**
- The scheme set up in 2012 by the Central Govt to address the social security-related issues of the Emigration Check Required (ECR)-category which has been closed by the Union Cabinet – **Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana**

64th National Film Awards 2016

Sr.No.	Name of the Award	Name of the Film	Awardees
1	Best Feature Film	Kaasav (Marathi)	Producer: Sumittra Bhave, Sunil Sukthankar Director: Sumittra Bhave, Sunil Sukthankar & Mohan Aghase
2	Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	Alifa (Bengali)	Producer: Amaan Ahmed Director: Deep Choudhury
3	Best Popular Film	Sathamnam Bhavathi (Telugu)	Producer: V. Venkata Ramana Reddy Director: Satish Vagesna
4	Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration	Dikchow Banat Palaax (Assamese)	Producer: Canvascope Director: Sanjib Sabha Pandit
5	Best Film on Social Issues	Pink (Hindi)	Producer: Rashmi Sharma Films Director: Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury
6	Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Loktak Lairembee (Manipuri)	Director & Producer: Haoban Paban Kumar
7	Best Children's Film	Dhanak (Hindi)	Producer: Dhrishyam Films Director: Nagesh Kukunoor
8	Best Animation Film	Mahayodha Rama (Hindi)	Producer: Contiloe Pictures Pvt Ltd Director: Rohit Vaid
9	Best Direction	Ventilator (Marathi)	Director: Rajesh Mapuskar
10	Best Actor	Rustom (Hindi)	Akshay Kumar
11	Best Actress	Minnaminungu-The Firefly	Surabhi C.M.
12	Best Supporting Actor	Dashakriya (Marathi)	Manoj Joshi
13	Best Supporting Actress	Dangal (Hindi)	Zaira Wasim
14	Best Child Artist	(a) Kunju Daivam (Malayalam) (b) Sahej Pathar Gappo (Bengali) (c) Railway Children (Kannada)	(a) Adish Praveen (b) Nur Islam & Samiul Alam (c) Manohar K.

15	Best Male Playback Singer	Film : Joker (Tamil); Song: Jasmine E	Sundharayyar
16	Best Female Playback Singer	Film: Praktan (Bengali); Song: Tumi Jake Bhalo Basho	Iman Chakraborty
17	Best Book on Cinema	Lata: Sur Gatha	Author: Yatindra Mishra
18	Most Film Friendly State	Uttar Pradesh	

This is only a selective list of awards. For complete awards please visit Govt of India website <http://www.dff.nic.in/writereaddata/NFA64PressNote2016.pdf>

Important Days of April

<p>World Autism Awareness Day: 02 April 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2008</p>	<p>International Mine Awareness Day: 04 April 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly Theme: Needs Driven. People Centred First Observed in: 2006</p>
<p>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: 06 April 2017 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly, First Observed in: 2014</p>	<p>World Health Day: 07 April 2017 Designated by: World Health Organisation Theme: Depression: Let's Talk First Observed in: 1950</p>
<p>International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2011</p>	<p>World Haemophilia Day: 17 April 2017 Designated by: World Federation of Haemophilia Theme: Hear their voices First Observed in: 1989</p>
<p>International Mother Earth Day: 22 April 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Environmental & Climate Literacy First Observed in: 2010 Note: Earth Day was first observed in 1970 in the United States and it went global in 1990. The same day was adopted by the UN in 2009 as the International Mother Earth Day.</p>	
<p>UN English Language Day: 23 April 2017 Designated by: UN Dept of Public Information First Observed in: 2010 Significance: Birthday of William Shakespeare</p>	<p>World Malaria Day: 25 April 2017 Designated by: World Health Organisation First Observed in: 2007 Theme: Malaria Prevention: Let's close the gap</p>
<p>World Day for Safety and Health: 28 April 2017 Designated by: International Labour Organisation First Observed in: 2003 Theme: Optimize the collection and use of OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) data</p>	<p>International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day): 18 April 2017 Designated by: UNESCO Theme: Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism First Observed in: 1983</p>

Books in News

- Gandhi in Champaran - **DG Tendulkar**
- The Underground Railroad - **Colson Whitehead**
- The Flaming Tresses of Draupadi - **Veerappa Moily**

Abbreviations in News

SAUNI: Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation

Confederation of Indian Industry Awards

- CII President's Lifetime Achievement Award: **Rahul Bajaj**
- CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award for Education and Literacy: **Jayamma Bandari**
- CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award for Health: **Monika Majumdar**
- CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award for Micro Enterprise: **Kamal Kumbhar**

Maharashtra Government Film Awards 2017

- Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award: **Saira Banu**
- Raj Kapoor Special Contribution Award: **Jackie Shroff**
- V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award: **Vikram Gokhale**
- V Shantaram Special Contribution Award: **Arun Nalawade**

GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast

- Commonly known as: **Mother of All Bombs**
- Features: It is termed as the most powerful non-nuclear weapon in the American arsenal. The bomb is designed to be delivered by a C-130 Hercules
- Made by: **Air Force Research Laboratory**
- Used by: **United States Air Force**
- Weight: 9800 kg
- Used for the first time on: **13 April 2017**
- Used on: Islamic State of Iraq and Levant's Khorasan cave complex in Achin District, Nangarhar Province, **Afghanistan**

India Rankings 2017

The second edition ranking of Indian institutions was released by HRD Ministry on 03 April 2017. The following are the first ranked institutions in each category.

- **Overall 1.** Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- **Engineering 1.** Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- **Management 1.** Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- **University 1.** Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- **Colleges 1.** Miranda House, New Delhi
- **Pharmacy 1.** Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

Source : www.leadthecompetition.in
