

★★★★**Starred Articles**★★★★

11 Justice RM Lodha to be next Chief Justice of India

Apr **India > Chief Justice**

Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha will take over as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI) replacing present Chief Justice P Sathasivam who retires later this month. The 64 year old Justice, who is the most senior judge of the Supreme court after Justice Sathasivam, will assume his new charge on April 27 and will have a brief tenure of five months as CJI and is due to retire on September 27 this year. Born in Jodhpur, Justice Lodha enrolled with Bar Council of Rajasthan in February 1973. Since then, he has been involved in various important capacities in High Courts throughout the country, before being elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court in December, 2008.

Justice Lodha heads the bench which is monitoring CBI's probe into the coal blocks allocation scam. He was also instrumental in passing orders making the CBI independent from government sanction to prosecute senior officials in cases being monitored by courts.

12 Jaipur girl Koyal Rana wins Miss India 2014 title

Apr **Awards > Miss India**

Jaipur girl Koyal Rana was crowned the new Miss India 2014 in a star studded event at the Yash Raj Studio in Mumbai on Saturday (12th March) night. She was selected amongst 24 other gorgeous finalists and will now contest for the Miss World title. The runners up were Jhataleka Malhotra (1st runner-up) from Mumbai and Gail Da'Silva (2nd runner-up) from Goa. Rana was crowned at the event by Navneet Kaur Dhillon, Miss India 2013 and Miss World 2013 Megan Young. To ensure national representation, the Miss India 2014 team traversed through the length and breadth of the country to scout talent. The selection process was spread across three stages; City Auditions, Regional Auditions and City Pageants. The city auditions took place across 14 cities, with Regional auditions in 3 cities. There were two city Pageants, one being in Delhi and the other in Kolkata that culminated into the final round of auditions in Mumbai.

12 Gulzar, Bollywood's famous lyricist, wins Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2013

Apr **Awards > Dadasaheb Phalke**

Fifty years after he started his career, Bollywood's prolific lyricist Gulzar has been conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in Cinema. Gulzar was born Sampooran Singh Kalra in 1934 in Punjab. He started work in a motor garage in Mumbai and went on to become Bollywood's favourite lyricist-filmmaker. Gulzar got his first break in Bimal Roy's 'Bandini' (1963) with the song 'Mora Gora Ang Layle'. He went on to work with several senior composers of his generation as well as with younger artists to create several evergreen hits like 'Tere Bina Zindagi Se', 'Aanewala Pal Jaane Wala Hain' and 'Mera Kuchh Saamaan'. He also wrote script, story, and dialogue and also directed critically acclaimed films like 'Aandhi', 'Mausam', 'Lekin' and 'Maachis'. On television, he created standout series like 'Mirza Ghalib' and 'Tahreer Munshi Premchand ki'. In recent years Gulzar has re-invented himself and written surprisingly peppy numbers which have become a rage with the youth. He has been praised for his versatility and his ability to mould with the times. He has received several awards including many National awards and Filmfare awards, the Sahitya Akademi award, the Padma Bhushan as well as an Oscar (Academy Award) for best original song for 'Jai Ho' (shared with Rahman) for Danny Boyle's 'Slumdog Millionaire' in 2009.

15
Apr **India-born poet Vijay Seshadri wins 2014 Pulitzer Prize, newspapers
Washington Post and Guardian also win for NSA revelations**

Awards > Pulitzer Prize

India-born poet Vijay Seshadri has won the prestigious 2014 Pulitzer Prize in the poetry category for his collection of poems "3 Sections". A Columbia University alumnus, Seshadri would receive USD 10,000 reward. Born in Bangalore in 1954, Seshadri came to America at the age of five and grew up in Columbus, Ohio.

The Washington Post and The Guardian won the Pulitzer Prize in public service for revealing the U.S. government's sweeping surveillance efforts in stories based on thousands of secret documents handed over by National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

The Pulitzer for breaking news was awarded to The Boston Globe for its coverage of the deadly Boston Marathon bombing.

The awards are American journalism's highest honor.

16
Apr **Arvind Mayaram named new finance secretary**

Politics and Government > Finance Secretary

The appointments panel of the cabinet of India has named Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram as the new finance secretary, replacing Sumit Bose, who had retired last month. Mayaram is a 1978 batch Indian Administrative Service officer from the Rajasthan cadre. He has a doctorate in finance and a master's degree in political science. He became the economic affairs secretary in August 2012 and is due to retire in October 2015.

The finance ministry has five secretaries and the senior most is named the finance secretary. The other four are Rajiv Takru, revenue; R P Watal, expenditure; Ravi Mathur, divestment; and G S Sandhu, financial services.

16
Apr **61st National Film Awards announced**

Awards > National Film Awards

Directorate of Film Festivals announced the 61st National Film Awards. Best feature film was Ship of Theseus directed by Anand Gandhi. Bhaag Milkha Bhaag won the Best Popular Film providing wholesome entertainment award. Raj Kumar was adjudged as the Best Actor for his performance in Shahid and Suraj Venjaramoodu for Perariyathavar. Best Actress Award was won by Geetanjali Thapa for Liar's Dance.

17
Apr **Admiral R.K. Dhowan appointed new Navy chief**

India > Indian Navy

The Union Government has appointed Admiral RK Dhowan as India's new navy chief. The navy has been without a chief since the resignation of Admiral Devendra Joshi, owning moral responsibility for a series of lethal accidents on board. Joshi, who had 15 months left in service, resigned on 26 February following the mishap involving submarine INS Sindhuratna in which two Navy officers were killed and several others were injured.

21
Apr **First timers Bengaluru FC win I-League**

Sports > Football

Bengaluru FC, which had been playing for the first time, has created history by winning the coveted I-league in their debut season. Bengaluru won the title with a 4-2 win over Dempo Sports Club. Bengaluru seemed to be in

control right from the beginning of the match with Sean Rooney scoring the first goal. The other three goals came from Robin Singh, John Menyongar and India and Bengaluru captain Sunil Chhetri. Roberto Silva and substitute Romeo Fernandes scored the two goals for Dempo Sports Club. East Bengal and Salgaocar Football Club will play for the second and third spot.

24 India names Suresh Reddy as ambassador to Asean

Apr **Politics and Government > ASEAN**

India has appointed former ambassador to Iraq, Suresh Reddy as its first dedicated ambassador to the ASEAN. The appointment of a dedicated ambassador signals India's increased interest in the ASEAN. The primary focus of the India-ASEAN initiative is connectivity, technology and trade. Asean and India have also recently entered into a regional economic comprehensive partnership resulting in trade worth \$80 billion. The north-eastern states of India have been billed as the first point of connectivity with the ASEAN countries and India has invited Japanese investment to develop the infrastructure in these areas.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a political and economic organisation of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. It was formed on 8 August 1967.

26 Padma Awards conferred to 56 personalities by President

Apr **Awards > Padma**

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Padma awards to 56 Indians including actor Paresh Rawal, author Ruskin Bond and tennis player Leander Paes. In all, 1 Padma Vibhushan, 11 Padma Bhushan and 44 Padma Shri awards were given in the ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Yoga guru BKS Iyenger was conferred the Padma Vibhushan - the highest honour in the awards. Tennis player Paes, IISc director P. Balram, author Bond were among the recipients of the Padma Bhushan.

29 Rajeev Suri appointed as new CEO of Nokia

Apr **Business > Nokia**

India-born Rajeev Suri has been named as the Chief Executive Officer of Nokia. 46-year old Suri was earlier serving as the CEO of Nokia Solutions & Networks (NSN), Nokia's network division. He had turned the network division profitable by reducing costs and shedding unprofitable business. Along with the declaration of his appointment, Nokia also announced a dividend of \$ 0.36 per share in addition to the annual dividend. The additional dividend is for the 5.4 billion euro (\$7.5 billion) sale of Nokia's phone business to Microsoft.

Awards

09 Jhumpa Lahiri's 'Lowland' shortlisted for top UK prize

Apr **Jhumpa Lahiri**

Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian American novelist Jhumpa Lahiri's novel "Lowland" has been shortlisted for this year's Baileys Prize, the UK's only annual book award for fiction written by a woman. Set up in 1996 to celebrate and promote international fiction by women throughout the world to the widest range of readers possible, the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction 2014 is awarded for the best novel of the year written by a woman. Any woman writing in English - whatever her nationality, country of residence, age or subject matter - is eligible. "The Lowland", set in Kolkata and Rhode Island in the US, was also in the Man Booker Prize shortlist.

It is about the lives of brothers Subhash and Udayan, their choices and their fate and how political passion can destroy lives.

09 Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) wins most efficient Navaratna award

Apr *Navaratna*

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received the honour of the most efficient Navaratna and also has notched-up the highest ever turnover of Rs 15,180 crores for the FY 2013-14. The figure surpasses the previous year's figure of Rs 14,324 crores. HAL received the "Most Efficient Navratna 2013" award at the fifth Dalal Street Investment Journal Awards night held in New Delhi on 2nd March.

10 UK queen confers Knight Commander rank on Ratan Tata

Apr *Ratan Tata*

The Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday conferred the rank of Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) on former chairman of the Tata group Ratan Tata. The KBE is one of the highest honours given by the queen to civilians. Ratan Tata was given the honour for his "services to UK/India relations, inward investment to the UK and philanthropy".

Under the leadership of Ratan Tata, the group's revenues grew to around Rs 475,721 crore in 2011-12 from Rs 10,000 crore in 1991. He retired on December 2012, after being the chairman for fifty years. Cyrus Mistry took over as the new chairman. The Tata group is highly popular in the UK and employs over 16,000 people at its manufacturing facilities in the UK. Iconic British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover were part of the Tata group in 2008.

27 IIFA 2014 award ceremony held at Tampa Bay, US

Apr *IIFA*

The 2014 edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) award ceremony was held at Tampa Bay, Florida, US. Hollywood stars John Travolta and Kevin Spacey also attended the function. Shatrughan Sinha received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Rakeysh Mehra's movie Bhaag Milkha Bhaag received nine technical awards including Best Picture, Best Performance in a Lead Role - Male (Farhan Akhtar), Best Story (Prasoon Joshi), Best Direction (Rakeysh Mehra).

Bank Specific

09 SBI raises \$1.25 billion overseas in the largest ever offering from a domestic issuer

Apr *SBI*

Nation's largest lender State Bank of India has raised USD 1.25 billion in overseas debt sale through a dual tranche bond programme, making it the largest ever offering from a domestic issuer. SBI has broken the record set by Oil India earlier this week by raising 25 percent more than the oil explorer. On Tuesday, 7th March, Oil India had raised USD 1 billion from a dual tranche issue.

The profitable bond sales show that overseas fund raising by Indian companies is reviving. International investors are buying bonds with the belief that the outlook for the economy is set to improve amid expectations that the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi with a

'decisive administrator' tag could win the elections. About \$12.2 billion in international debt has been raised by Indian firms in the past year, up from \$11.8 billion in the previous 12 months.

10 Ratnakar Bank gets Rs 328 crore capital infusion from global investors

Apr *Ratnakar Bank*

Ratnakar Bank said it has received Rs 328 crore in capital infusion from leading global investors like CDC Group and Asia Capital & Advisors. Existing investors, including International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Gaja Capital, also participated in this round of capital infusion. The exercise was part of the bank's third round of financing which started three years ago. The bank said in a statement that the new funds will assist the bank in expanding its branch network in semi-urban and rural areas as well as providing a suite of financial products and services to the unbanked sections of society. Founded in 1943, the bank has its main markets in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. Ratnakar's current business size stood at over Rs 21,000 crore and it offers services to more than 5, 00,000 customers.

11 RBI proposes measures to make bank loans hassle-free

Apr *RBI*

A Reserve Bank panel has made a set of recommendations for making the loan-process hassle free for customers. Some of the prominent ones are penalty for banks that harass customers by delaying transfer of loans from one to the other, doing away with processing fee for shifting within the same bank from one type to another and an industry benchmark base rate for borrowers. Banks will also have to give their customers the choice of prepaying and exiting a loan. In case of prepayment, customers should be given the benefit of interest reduction on the principal. To ensure convenience of customers, the committee has also recommended that banks reset the interest rate charged on floating rate loan on dates that are fixed in the covenant, irrespective of changes made to the base rate within the reset period.

16 SBI launches scheme for women boutique owners

Apr *SBI*

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a financing scheme for women fashion boutique owners. Labelled 'boutique financing', the scheme is designed to offer working capital expenses as well as term loan to boutique owners. Sunil Srivastava, the chief General Manager of SBI, Bengal Circle, has said that the bank has identified the growth potential of the fashion boutique market and, therefore, has launched the scheme. SBI would give a maximum loan of 50 lakh rupees for a period of 7 years and would give concessions on the interest rates for such loans. The owners would also get overdraft facilities.

17 RBI suggests setting up independent body for recommending benchmark foreign exchange rate

Apr *Foreign Exchange Rate*

The RBI has suggested setting up of an independent body for recommending benchmark foreign exchange rate to avoid any possibility of manipulation by bankers. The RBI had already advised the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA) and Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) to act as administrator of the Indian rupee interest rate and foreign exchange rate benchmarks respectively and to take necessary steps. The RBI has proposed setting up the independent body to recommend India rupee interest rate and foreign exchange benchmark rates, either separately or jointly by the FIMMDA and the FEDAI, in order to avoid any possible conflict of interest arising between the two

organizations because of their separate governance structure. The FIMMDA and the FEDAI may select the benchmark submitters on the basis of their standing, market-share in the benchmark/instrument linked to the benchmark. The benchmark submitters will have to necessarily participate in a polling process to submit benchmark rates.

19 Doha Bank to purchase HSBC Bank Oman's banking business in India

Apr *HSBC*

Qatar-based Doha Bank has entered into an agreement with HSBC Bank Oman to purchase the latter's banking business in India. HSBC Bank Oman is an indirect 51 per cent owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc. The business being acquired consists of HSBC Bank Oman's two branches and gross assets of Rs 3.5 billion (about \$58 million) as on 31st December, 2013. Chairman of Board of Directors of Doha Bank, Sheikh Fahad Bin Mohamed Bin Jabor Al Thani, said that the deal would require the approvals of Regulatory Authorities in Qatar, India, Oman and Jersey. All staff of operation at HSBC Bank Oman will be transferred to Doha bank as a part of the purchase.

Doha Bank was incorporated in 1978 and commenced its banking business (including its International Banking services) in Doha, Qatar on March 15, 1979.

23 RBI proposes 2-stage verification for online transactions

Apr *RBI*

In a report titled 'Enabling PKI in payment system applications', the Reserve Bank of India has called on banks to use password based two-stage authentication for online transactions. The banks should also provide options of PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) enabled electronic payment systems such as RTGS, NEFT, Cheque Truncation System, etc. to customers who perform online banking transactions.

Corporate

10 Ratan Tata appointed board member of China-backed Boao Forum

Apr *Ratan Tata*

Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Sons and one of India's most respected industrialists, has been inducted as a member of the Board of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), a rare distinction for an Indian in the Chinese government-backed influential body. It is also a recognition for Tatas as a global conglomerate. BFA was formed in 2001 on the lines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Every year top world's political and business leaders gather at Boao to brain storm on global political and economic issues. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, inaugurated the meeting attended by heads of governments of several countries including, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Australian Premier Tony Abbott.

21 Tata Consultancy Services, Mitsubishi to form services company

Apr *TCS*

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's top IT services, consulting and business solutions firm, announced today that it signed an agreement with Mitsubishi Corporation (MC), one of Japan's largest integrated business enterprises, to create a Japanese software services provider. Tata Consultancy Services Japan Ltd, Nippon TCS Solution Center Ltd and IT Frontier Corporation, a wholly owned unit of Mitsubishi will be merged together to form a single company. TCS will hold 51 per cent in the new company while Mitsubishi will hold 49 per cent.

The merged company will start operation from July 2014. N Chandrasekaran, the CEO and Managing Director of TCS said that the agreement signifies TCS's strong commitment to the Japanese market. He said that the new company will allow TCS to serve the Japanese corporations effectively and increase growth in the Japanese market.

India

15 Justice G Rohini to be Delhi HC's first woman chief justice

Apr *Woman Chief Justice*

Justice G Rohini, the senior most judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, has been appointed as the first Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. The court as of now has nine women judges out of a strength of 40. Aged 58, Justice Rohini is expected to stay for a period of four years. Born on 14th April 1955 at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Justice Rohini is a science graduate from Osmania University. Later, she obtained her law degree with first class from College of Law, Andhra University. During her more than a two-decade long career as a lawyer that began in 1980, she was associated with several public issues as also labour and service matters.

15 Supreme Court creates 'third gender' status for transgenders

Apr *Transgenders*

In a landmark judgment on 15th April, the Supreme Court (SC) of India created the "third gender" status for hijras or transgenders. The SC bench declared that henceforth the 'third gender' people will be considered as OBCs (Other Backward Classes) and given educational and employment reservation. Giving the 'third gender' a formal recognition for the first time, the SC said that the absence of a law for them cannot be a ground to discriminate them in availing equal opportunities in jobs and education. The apex court also said states and the Centre will devise social welfare schemes for third gender community and run a public awareness campaign to erase social stigma. The SC also added that if a person surgically changes his/her sex, then he or she is entitled to her changed sex and cannot be discriminated. The SC, however, clarified that its verdict pertains only to eunuchs and not other sections of society like gay, lesbian and bisexuals who are also considered under the umbrella term 'transgender'. The apex court passed the order on a PIL filed by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). Transgender rights activists all over the country cheered the SC's decision.

19 RBL Bank becomes principal sponsors for Delhi Daredevils

Apr *IPL 2014*

RBL Bank has announced its association as a Banking Partner and Principal Sponsor for Delhi Daredevils. As part of this association, the RBL Bank brand will be seen on the Delhi Daredevils jersey. In this partnership both RBL Bank and Delhi Daredevils will leverage the cricketing platform to provide new and innovative ways to engage consumers.

25 Rajiv Gandhi assassins to stay in jail as case referred to a larger constitutional bench

Apr *Rajiv Gandhi Death*

The Supreme Court on Friday referred the case related to release of those convicted of killing former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to a larger constitutional bench. The convicts will not be released from prison till further

orders, the court said. The apex court wanted the five-judge constitution bench to decide that after commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment whether the government can further grant them remission by releasing them. The constitution bench will also address which government has the power to exercise remission for condemned prisoners under the code of criminal procedure; whether it is the state government or the central government, or both.

Background:

On February 18th this year, the Supreme Court commuted the death sentence of three convicted persons into life imprisonment citing inordinate and unexplained delay indisposing off their mercy pleas by the President. On February 19, Tamil Nadu chief minister, J Jayalithaa, announced their immediate release from prison prematurely by invoking provisions of the code of criminal procedure. Attacking the decision, the Centre rushed to the Supreme Court, which stayed their release on February 20.

27
Apr **India successfully test-fires new interceptor missile**

Defence

India has successfully test-fired a new interceptor missile capable of neutralizing any incoming long-range missile at higher altitude. The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) spokesman said that the trial was successful and all mission objectives were met. Earlier the DRDO had successfully tested six interceptor missiles developed by it, both in endo-atmosphere (within 30 km altitude above sea level) and exo-atmosphere stage (above 30 km altitude). Now the target is to achieve the interception at an altitude of above 100 km of a long range missile.

Sports

09
Apr **Shikhar Dhawan named one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year**

Shikhar Dhawan

India's talented opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan has been named as one of the Five Cricketers of the Year, by Wisden for his performance in 2013. Dhawan was the highest run-scorer during India's triumph in the ICC Champions Trophy, amassing 363 runs in five ODIs at an average of 90.75. He was awarded Man of the Series for his performance. Australian duo Chris Rogers and Ryan Harris, England batsman Joe Root and England women's captain Charlotte Edwards were also named in the list.

12
Apr **Indian shooter Manavjit Singh Sandhu wins gold at ISSF Shotgun World Cup**

Shooting

Indian sharp shooter Manavjit Singh Sandhu has won the men's trap gold medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup held in Tucson, USA. Manavjit, who is a Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee, shot scores of 121 and 13 in the qualifications and finals respectively, ahead of Australia's Diamond, who is a two-time Olympic champion and gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games. Manavjit had last won at the World Cup stage four years ago and had won the Patiala cup last month. In the 2012 London Olympics, Manavjit finished 16th in the qualification round. Manavjit said that the match against Diamond had been challenging and he had been preparing for this world cup throughout the winter season. This win will give him confidence ahead of the Commonwealth Games, World Championships and Asian Games all lined up from July to September.

16 India wins 12 medals at South Asia Judo Championship

Apr *South Asia Judo Championship*

Indian judokas won 12 medals at the seventh South Asia Judo Championships held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 10 April 2014 to 13 April 2014. The 12 medal haul included 10 Gold, one Silver and one Bronze medal. South Asian Countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the seventh South Asia Judo Championship. Sixth South Asia Judo Championships was held in Pakistan in 2013 and India won 10 Gold and silver.

20 Stanislas Wawrinka beats Roger Federer in Monte Carlo final

Apr *Tennis*

Stanislas Wawrinka won his first Masters 1000 title and denied Roger Federer a maiden Monte Carlo victory with a three-set final win. This win ensured that he will stay at number three in the world rankings and ahead of Federer as the Swiss number one.

21 Harendra Singh appointed as coach of men's team ahead of 2016 Junior Hockey World Cup in India

Apr *Hockey*

Hockey India has appointed former senior coach Harendra Singh as the coach of the junior men's team to groom it for the 2016 World Cup to be held in India. Hockey India secretary Narinder Batra has said that Singh's experience as a coach and player will add value and ensure a strong team for the World Cup. Starting his coaching career in 1998, Harendra has an experience of 379 matches approximately which includes Sydney Olympic (2000), World Cup (2005-Jr, 2006 and 2010), Asian Games (2006 and 2010), Asia Cup (2004-Jr and 2009), Champion's Challenge (2009) and various other tournaments. His achievements as a coach already includes 8 gold, 5 silver and 9 bronze medals with senior and junior teams in various international tournaments.

21 Joshna Chinappa stuns top seed to win Richmond Open

Apr *Squash*

Joshna Chinappa won inaugural Richmond Open of squash. She defeated Australian champion Rachael Grinham. Chinappa, ranked 21 scored 11-9, 11-5, 11-8 in the finals. This was her first win in six meetings over 16th ranked Rachael Grinham. This was Chinappa's ninth Women Squash Association (WSA) tour title in Country Club of Virginia.

21 Meb Keflezighi wins Boston Marathon 2014

Apr *Boston Marathon*

American Meb Keflezighi won the men's title in the Boston Marathon 2014 with a timing of 2:08:37. He became the first American man to win the marathon since 1983. About 36,000 runners took part in the marathon in which bomb blasts in 2013 had killed 3 and injured 260 people.

24 Asian Squash Federation declares award for Sourav Ghosal, Indian team

Apr *Squash*

Squash player Sourav Ghosal has been named for the Dato Alex Lee award for being the Outstanding Asian Men's Player of the Year 2013. The Asian Squash Federation also declared an award for the Indian team for being the Outstanding Men's Team of the Year 2013. The team consists of Sourav Ghosal, Harinderpal Sandhu, Ramit Tandon, Mahesh Manguonkar and coaches Cyrus Poncha & Gautam Das. Both awards will be presented on June 15, 2014 in Hong Kong.

27 Jockey Sandesh creates Indian racing history for record wins

Apr *Horse Racing*

Ace jockey Akhade Sandesh created history in Indian racing by notching up 151 wins within a year (May 2013 to April 2014) when he rode two winners on Sunday, the concluding day of the Mumbai Racing Season 2013-14. Sandesh also emerged as the champion jockey of the season with 64 triumphs. The 22-year-old lad is the only son of a small-time joyride provider in Matheran. Sandesh trained under Rehanullah Khan, and now rides for the respected veteran trainer MK Jadhav.

World

09 World's largest single crystal of gold identified

Apr *Gold*

The world's largest single crystal of gold, weighing 217.78-grammes, has been verified by US experts. The crystal is worth an estimated USD 1.5 million, and was found in Venezuela. Researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory, United States, used a neutron scanner to effectively look inside the 217.78-grammes piece of gold, roughly the size of a golf ball. Neutrons scanners, unlike other scanners, are able to penetrate many centimetres deep into most materials. The owner has given four such samples for examination. Three of the four samples turned out to be single-crystal pieces of gold, rather than the commonplace multiple-crystal type.

19 China issues banking rules to strengthen online payment security

Apr *Online Banking Rules - China*

Aiming to protect banks and consumers from fraud of online and mobile payment transactions, China will limit the amount of money consumers can transfer to third-party online payment platforms. The changes come at a time when there has been no obvious increase in online fraud, and the rules do not contain more measures that were under consideration, such as limiting individual transfers to 5,000 yuan or a monthly total of 10,000 yuan.

20 China to host Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) for the first time

Apr *China*

China will host for the first time, the 21-member Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), which focusses on global warming and marine pollution among other environment-related issues. WPNS member countries include Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Cambodia, Tonga, Malaysia, New Zealand, Brunei, Papua New Guinea, China, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Russia, Vietnam, Thailand and the US. India, along with Bangladesh and Mexico are the observers in the event. On the sidelines of the symposium,

there will be joint naval exercises being organized by the PLA Navy in which ships from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and few other countries will take part. The naval exercises involve search and rescue besides joint communication and coordination. The US has not sent any of its ships to take part in the event, while China has not invited Japan over their long-standing dispute involving islands in the East-China Sea.

22 22nd April celebrated as Earth Day

Apr *Earth Day*

People all over the world celebrated Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, today, 22nd April, which is the 44th anniversary of the annual day of action. On this day in 1970, 20 million people across the United States rallied for increased protection of the environment against human abuse. As the world population grows and more people move to cities, the effects of climate change have worsened and it has become increasingly crucial to make the urban population aware of the importance of protecting the environment. International Mother Earth Day focusses on green cities, mobilizing millions of people to create a sustainable, healthy environment by greening communities worldwide.

Background:

US Senator Gaylord Nelson founded the earth Day on 22nd April 1970, when he launched environmental protest rallies calling the US government to take action to protect the environment. Although this 22nd April Earth Day was only focussed on the United States, an organization launched by Denis Hayes, who was the original national coordinator in 1970, extended the celebration to the rest of the world in 1990 and organized events in 141 nations.

25 World Malaria Day celebrated on April 25

Apr *World Malaria Day*

World malaria Day was celebrated on April 25, by the World Health Organization (WHO) and countries throughout the world. In 2007, the WHO had designated April 25 as World Malaria Day to raise awareness about the disease and to promote investment in funding prevention and control initiatives. A central message for the 2014 campaign is, "The greatest threat to continued success against malaria is financial," which is meant to imply the huge financial aid needed to continue the progress to effectively stop Malaria.