

★★★★ Starred Articles ★★★★★

03 Dec Hero MotoCorp signs ace golfer Tiger Woods for record Rs. 250 crore

Corporate > *Hero MotoCorp*

Hero MotoCorp, the country's biggest two-wheeler company, announced that it had inked a four-year endorsement deal with ace golfer Tiger Woods for a huge sum of Rs 250 crore. This is probably the biggest sports endorsement deal by any Indian company till date. Till now Indian cricketers, who earn Rs. 4 – 10 crore per brand endorsement in a year, had been involved in the biggest sports endorsement deals. With Wood's global appeal, Hero plans to have a worldwide presence and cement its position in overseas markets.

03 Dec Anil Kumar Sinha named new CBI chief

India > *CBI*

Anil Sinha, who was serving as second-in-command in the CBI, will take over from Ranjit Sinha, the outgoing CBI director. Sinha is a 1979 batch IPS officer and was appointed after a meeting between the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition.

04 Dec 43rd Navy day observed on the 4th of December

India > *Navy*

Navy day was celebrated all over the country on the 4th of December. The day is celebrated every year to celebrate the success of Operation Trident, which the Indian Navy undertook at Karachi harbour during the India-Pakistan war of 1971. Chiefs of all the armed forces, i.e. army, navy and the air force paid tributes to martyrs of INS Sindhurakshak at the Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi. The president and the prime minister also took time to praise the navy's dedication towards securing the maritime interests of the nation.

06 Dec 2015 declared as International Year of Soils by the UN

Environment > *United Nations*

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 5th December as the 'International Soil Day' and 2015 as International Year of the Soils. The day was celebrated for the first time this year on December 5th. The IYS has been implemented by the UN and other member nations in order to combat desertification and promote awareness and education regarding the importance of soil.

Others

03 Dec International Day for the Abolition of Slavery observed on 2nd December

World > *International Day for the Abolition of Slavery*

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was observed by the United Nations on 2 December 2014. On 2nd December, 1949, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The day focuses on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, and the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. According to data, 21 million women, men and children are still trapped in slavery all over the world.

03
Dec 30 years after Bhopal gas tragedy, victims yet to receive compensation

India > Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Even after 30 years of the Bhopal gas Tragedy, considered the worst industrial disaster in the world – many of the victims of the catastrophe are yet to receive compensation from the government. The irregularity has resulted due to the ambiguity over the death toll. Unofficial figures estimate the death of over 25,000 people whereas the official government figure stands at 5,295. There is also concern over the non-disposal of toxic waste, which resulted from the tragedy. 350 MT of toxic waste still lies at the now defunct chemical plant that is a cause of air and water pollution. A PIL filed by an NGO in the Madhya Pradesh high court regarding the issue is yet to yield results.

Background:

On the 2nd of December, 1984, a pesticide plant in Bhopal, Union Carbide India Limited, accidentally leaked Methyl Isocyanate (MIC). More than 500,000 people were exposed to the gas which caused many casualties and is regarded as the worst industrial disaster in the world.

03
Dec 25th December to be celebrated as good-governance day by the BJP

India > Politics

25th of December which happens to be former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday is set to be celebrated as 'good-governance day' by the BJP. The veteran politician will turn 90 this year, and the good governance day will be celebrated every year on the 25th of December henceforth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the BJP parliamentary committee, urged all members of parliament to dedicate the day towards cleanliness as part of the 'Swachh Bharat' programme.

05
Dec ICICI Bank to sell its Russian subsidiary IBEL

Finance > Banks

The largest private sector bank of the country ICICI bank has decided to sell its Russian subsidiary ICICI Bank Eurasia Limited (IBEL) to Sovcombank. The reason for this move of the bank, according to officials, is the tough nature of the Russian markets. ICICI bank entered the Russian market in 2005 by acquiring Investitsionno-Kreditny Bank or IKB, which it later renamed ICICI Bank Eurasia Limited.

06
Dec PSU bank ATMs will be able to print transaction receipts in Hindi

Bank specific > PSU Bank ATM

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha, has said that ATMs operated by state-owned banks, will soon have the facility for issuing transaction receipts in Hindi. However, no time frame has been mandated for the installation of such ATM machines. Most ATMs already have a bi-lingual option on their home screens for transaction.

06
Dec Mahaparinirwan Diwas, death anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar, observed on 6th December

India > Mahaparinirwan Diwas

Mahaparinirwan Diwas was observed across India on 6th December, 2014, to mark the death anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar. He was the principal architect of the Indian constitution and is often referred to as the father of the Indian constitution. Being born in a low caste poor family, Ambedkar was aware of the social discrimination faced by the lower castes and campaigned widely to end social discrimination of Dalits, women

and the labour class. In 1956 he converted to Buddhism, initiating mass conversions of Dalits, thus inspiring the modern Buddhist movement.

08 Aadhaar card not mandatory for provident fund transactions

Dec **India > Aadhaar**

The government has said that Aadhaar card details are not mandatory for any provident fund transaction. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has adopted multi-registrar model for Aadhaar enrolments. Various non-governmental agencies such as banks are appointed as registrars to enroll residents in course of their interactions for their own operational purposes. Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recently decided to become a registrar of the UIDAI to enroll its subscribers for Aadhaar. EPFO wants to link over 4.2 crore portable Universal PF Account Numbers issued by it, with the Aadhaar number of subscribers. Such accounts will avail of certain facilities like online settlement of PF withdrawal claims as biometric details in Aadhaar card would help to facilitate the big financial transactions.

08 Residential permits for Japanese nationals working in India

Dec **India > Foreign Affairs**

The Home Ministry has decided to grant residential permits to Japanese nationals and their dependants for their employment duration in India. The people concerned need not be present at the Foreign Registration Officer (FRO) for initial registration or for subsequent extension of visa or residential permit and this may be done through an authorised representative.

09 CCI allows Ranbaxy-Sun Pharmaceuticals deal

Dec **Business > Pharmaceuticals**

Sun Pharmaceuticals acquisition of its rival drug firm Ranbaxy has been approved by the Competition Commission of India. The acquisition would make Sun Pharmaceuticals India's largest and the world's fifth largest pharmaceutical company. However, the merger was given a go ahead after asking Sun Pharmaceuticals to sell seven brands of the newly merged company as it would have led to a monopoly.

09 PM Narendra Modi wins TIME readers' poll for 'Person of the Year' title

Dec **Awards > TIME "Person of the Year"**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been named winner of this year's readers' poll for TIME 'Person of the Year', securing more than 16 percent of the almost five million votes cast. Protesters in Ferguson ranked second with 9 percent of the votes. Hong Kong protest leader Joshua Wong, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai and the doctors and nurses treating Ebola completed the top five. Readers from more than 225 countries participated in the online poll, with the highest number of votes from the US at 37 percent, followed by India at 17 per cent, and Russia at 12 percent. Modi has however has not made it to the list of eight finalists shortlisted by TIME editors for the 2014 "Person of the Year" title. Making it to the final eight are founder and CEO of the Alibaba Group Jack Ma, Apple CEO Tim Cook, pop star Taylor Swift, Ferguson protestors, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ebola caregivers, National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell and President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Masoud Barzani. The TIME 'Person of the Year' honour that has been conferred by TIME magazine since 1927 goes to the person who has most influenced the news during the year.