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NEW PM APPOINTED

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National News

'Super city'

- In line with the principles of sustainable development advocated in the Medellin Declaration, Gravity 2.0 Research Foundation recommended that a capital city region be considered rather than a single urban agglomeration for the location of a new capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh post bifurcation.
- In a representation submitted to the Expert Committee on identification of location of new capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Gravity 2.0 Research Foundation, suggested that the new capital be located in the Visakhapatnam-Rajahmundry-Vijayawada 'Super City' ensuring inclusive growth.
- They also suggested that coastal shipping be promoted and the National Waterway 4 be extended to Visakhapatnam.

INS Vikrant's another lifeline

- Through the 'Save Vikrant Committee', Mr. Paigankar and other activists last month moved the apex court in a bid to save the vessel which saw action in the 1971 India-Pakistan war.
- The imposing vessel, commissioned in the Indian Navy in 1961, was decommissioned in 1997 and has been kept anchored at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- During the hearing of Mr. Paigankar's public interest litigation in January, the Central government informed the Bombay High Court that the 15,000-tonne ship had completed its operational life.
- The 70-year-old vessel, purchased as HMS Hercules from Britain in 1957 and rechristened as 'INS Vikrant', helped enforce a naval blockade of East Pakistan — now Bangladesh — during the 1971 war.

Saradha chit fund scam

- In a setback for the West Bengal government, the Supreme court has handed over investigation into Saradha chit fund scam to the CBI.
- The SC also asked the Enforcement Directorate to join CBI in finding the money trail. The ED is already conducting a probe into the scam.
- The apex court said it wanted the chit fund scam in these states to be probed by an independent agency like CBI because of involvement of politicians and influential persons in the cases.
- Saradha Group chairman Sudipta Sen was arrested from Sonmarg in Kashmir on April 23, 2013 along with two close associates.

Landslide win for BJP

- Although final results are not expected until later, the scale of the predicted victory is such that the ruling Congress party has admitted defeat.
- BJP leader Narendra Modi tweeted: "India has won. Good times ahead."
- This is the most resounding victory for a political party in India for 30 years.

- But many Indians still have profound concerns over MrModi because of claims he did little to stop the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, in which at least 1,000 people died, most of them Muslims - allegations he has always denied and over which he was never charged.
- The election result will be a crushing blow to the Congress party, which is led by the Nehru-Gandhi family and has dominated Indian politics since independence.
- It reflects voter anger with Congress, which has been mired in serious corruption scandals and whose leadership has been considered ineffective in recent years, according to analysts.

60 lakh NOTA votes

- Over 60 lakh None Of The Above (NOTA) votes were cast in the 16th Lok Sabha elections, the first time that this option was given, according to the Election Commission data. This accounts for 1.1 per cent of all the votes cast. The disproportionately high use of NOTA in reserved constituencies continues, a trend first identified by The Hindu after the 2013 Assembly elections.

15th Lok Sabha dissolved

- The formal process for constitution of the new Lok Sabha commenced with the full Election Commission handing over the list of members of the 16th Lok Sabha to President Pranab Mukherjee. The President also dissolved the 15th Lok Sabha.
- The full Commission comprising Chief Election Commissioner V.S. Sampath and Election Commissioners H.S. Brahma and Nasim Zaidi approved the Section 73 notification under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, notifying the names of the members elected.

New PM appointed

- Narendra Modi who steered the BJP-led NDA to a stunning victory will be sworn in as Prime Minister on May 26 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Mr. Modi was appointed as the Prime Minister by the President and was asked to advise the names of others to be appointed Members of the Council of Ministers.
- Later, a Rashtrapati Bhawan communique said as Mr Modi has been elected leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party and BJP has majority support in the House of the People, the President appointed him the Prime Minister of India and requested him to advise the names of members of the council of ministers.

Gujarat's First Woman Chief Minister

- Anandiben Patel will be sworn in as Gujarat's first woman chief minister in a ceremony attended by her predecessor Narendra Modi who will be the country's next prime minister.
- After Mr Modi resigned as chief minister, a position he had held for 13 years, his party's legislators elected Ms Patel to be their leader. Mr Modi's close aide Amit Shah, who does not share the warmest vibes with Ms Patel, was among those who endorsed her name for the chief minister's post.

P-8I maritime patrol aircraft

- Boeing has delivered the fourth P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to India, which the aviation company described as a milestone.
- In all India has placed orders for eight P-8I maritime aircraft.
- The latest state-of-the-art maritime patrol aircraft departed from Boeing Field in Seattle and arrived May 21 at Naval Air Station Rajali.
- Based on the company's Next-Generation 737 commercial airplane, the P-8I is the Indian Navy variant of the P-8A Poseidon that Boeing has developed for the US Navy.

International News

First 'Born Free' election

- South Africans voted in the first “Born Free” election , although polls suggest the allure of the ruling African National Congress as the conqueror of apartheid will prevail even among those with no memory of white-minority rule.
- Opinion polls suggest there is no doubt about the overall result, with ANC support estimated at around 65 percent, only a shade lower than the 65.9 percent it won in the 2009 election that brought President Jacob Zuma to power.
- The resilience of ANC support has surprised analysts who a year ago were saying it could struggle at the polls as its glorious past recedes into history and voters focus instead on the sluggish economic growth and slew of scandals that have typified Zuma’s first term.

Self-Rule in Ukraine

- Separatists in Sloviansk targeted soldiers and the television tower with grenades,.
- Recent vote in the self—proclaimed “people’s republics” of Donetsk and Lugansk was organised by the separatists despite international condemnation and a call from Russian President Vladimir Putin for a postponement.
- The separatists said voter turnout exceeded 80 per cent, with a “yes” vote of nearly 96 per cent in Lugansk and 90 per cent in Donetsk.

First electric aircraft

- The world’s first airplane completely powered by electricity has successfully taken to the skies for its maiden flight, and could bring down air travel cost by more than a third, its developer Airbus said.
- The small experimental aircraft called ‘E-Fan’ took off from an airport near Bordeaux in southwestern France. E-Fan measures little more than 19 feet from nose to tail and slightly more noise than a hairdryer.
- Powered by 120 lithium-ion polymer batteries, the plane’s first official flight last month lasted less than 10 minutes, though the plane has the capability to fly for around an hour before recharging.

Strike of US drone

- A US drone killed three suspected militants in north-western Pakistan recently, the first such airstrike in nearly five months.
- The last drone attack in the country was on December 26. Strikes were halted since then apparently to facilitate the government’s peace talks with Islamist militants.
- Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last year announced negotiations with Taliban insurgents to end a decade of fighting but the talks appear to be heading nowhere.

Aircraft crash in Laos

- A Lao military aircraft carrying top officials including its defence minister crashed in the north of the Communist country Laos.

- The aircraft was carrying about 20 people including Defence Minister Douangchay Phichit, the Vientiane governor and other prominent figures, foreign ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee told AFP quoting information from the Thai embassy in Vientiane.
- There was no immediate confirmation from Laos's secretive communist government.
- In October last year a civilian airplane operated by Lao Airlines plunged into the Mekong River in bad weather killing all 49 people on board.

War on Boko Haram

- African leaders at a summit in Paris have agreed on a regional plan of action to combat Boko Haram, the Islamist group that has abducted more than 200 girls and threatened to sell them into slavery.
- In a rare show of unity, the leaders of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad and Benin pledged cooperation including joint border patrols and sharing intelligence to find the girls, snatched from Nigeria more than a month ago.

Spouses of H-1B visa-holders to work

- A U.S government website that is currently inviting public comments on whether to allow the spouses of H-1B visa-holders to work has provided a glimpse at the trials and tribulations of Indians who go abroad to work 'onsite' at various IT firms.
- The Department of Homeland Security, a U.S government body, had, a few months ago, decided to allow spouses of H-1B visa-holders, who are seeking green cards, to get work authorisation.
- The U.S government is, therefore, interested in collecting comments through its 'Regulations.gov' comment board, which allows feedback to rise and fall on its own merit.

Tax hike in Japan

- Japan's consumer prices rose 3.2 percent from a year earlier in April to the highest level since 1991, largely due to a sales tax increase that is expected to dent growth this quarter.
- Other April data for the world's third-largest economy were largely in line with forecasts. Industrial production fell 2.5 per cent from a year earlier and household spending sank 4.6 per cent. Unemployment was 3.6 percent, the same as in March.

U.S troops in Afghanistan

- President Barack Obama said the U.S. will keep 9,800 of its troops in Afghanistan this year and will withdraw them completely by 2016 as he admitted it was "time to turn the page" on more than a decade of military intervention in the war-torn country.
- He said the current 32,000-strong U.S. deployment in Afghanistan will be reduced to around 9,800 by the start of 2015. The number would be further halved by the end of 2015 before eventually being scaled back to a normal embassy presence with a security assistance component by the end of 2016.
- However, any U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan after 2014 is subject to signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) by the new Afghan president.

- Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refused to authorise the BSA that should be signed by Karzai's successor to become effective.

New Libyan PM

- Libya's new Prime Minister Ahmed Maitiq and his cabinet swore-in amid objections raised to his election process.
- Mr. Maitiq took his oath before President of the Parliament Nuri Abu Sahmain. He will wait for acting Prime Minister Abdullah Thinni to hand over his power.

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Business and Economy

E-auction of iron ore

- The Goa Mines and Geology Department will hold its third e-auction of iron ore on May 12, wherein six lakh tonnes of ore, lying at jetties and the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) would be e-auctioned.
- The State, through MSTC Ltd., has auctioned 1.62 million tonnes of iron ore through two e-auctions in February and March, realising around Rs.260 crore, which would go to the State treasury.
- These e-auctions are held under the supervision of a Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee, headed by U. V. Singh.
- The Supreme Court, partially relaxing its October 5 ban on iron ore activities in the State, in December last had permitted the Goa Mines Department to auction about 15 million tonnes of iron ore lying at jetties, mining leases, plots, beneficiary plants and port, all under the supervision of its committee.
- However, on April 21, the apex court lifted its ban on mining activities, but putting a cap of 20 million tonnes for annual production and ruling that since the renewal of all the deemed mining leases in the State had expired on November, 2007, and the operations carried out, thereafter, have been termed illegal, the mining lessees will not be entitled to the sale value of the ore sold in e-auction but to the approximate cost (not actual cost) of the extraction of the ore.
- Making government the custodian of the money collected through e-auction, the court directed the State to pay 50 per cent of wages of all the workers who were laid off or were not paid salaries since the time the mining operations were suspended.

'Global 2000'

- MukeshAmbani-led Reliance Industries leads the pack of 54 Indian companies in Forbes' annual list of the world's 2000 largest and most powerful public companies, with Chinese companies occupying the top three slots on the list.
- The Forbes 'Global 2000' is a comprehensive list of the world's largest, most powerful public companies, as measured by revenues, profits, assets and market value.
- China is home to the world's top three biggest public companies and five of the top 10.
- The US retains its dominance as the country with the most Global 2000 companies at 564.
- Japan trails the US with 225 companies in aggregate.
- India is home to 54 of the world's biggest companies.
- Reliance Industries is ranked 135 on the list with a market value of 50.9 billion dollars and 72.8 billion dollars in sales as on May 2014.
- Reliance is followed by State Bank of India which is ranked 155 and has a 23.6 billion dollars market value.
- The other Indian companies on the list are Oil and Natural Gas ranked 176, ICICI Bank (304), Tata Motors (332), Indian Oil (416), HDFC Bank (422), Coal India (428),

Larsen & Toubro (500), Tata Consultancy Services (543), BhartiAirtel (625), Axis Bank (630), Infosys (727), Bank of Baroda (801), Mahindra & Mahindra (803), ITC (830), Wipro (849), Bharat Heavy Electricals (873), GAIL India (955), Tata Steel (983) and Power Grid of India (1011).

- Also making the list are Bharat Petroleum (1045), HCL Technologies (1153), Hindustan Petroleum (1211), Adani Enterprises (1233), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1255), Sun Pharma Industries (1294), Steel Authority of India (1329), Bajaj Auto (1499), Hero Motocorp (1912), Jindal Steel & Power (1955), Grasim Industries (1981) and JSW Steel (1990).

Issue of natural gas export

- A bi-partisan group of 22 American senators have expressed reservation on the export of natural gas to Asian countries such as India and China, arguing that such a move by Obama Administration would result in an increase in cost for consumers and businesses at home.
- They said the “large-scale exports of natural gas to Asia could also jeopardize America’s goal of achieving energy independence, a goal made more achievable by the recent increase in domestic gas production”.

U.K. rich list

- India-born Hinduja brothers have emerged as Britain’s richest, valued at £11.9 billion, in the Sunday Times’ annual list of the super rich.
- Gopichand and SrichandHinduja run the multinational Hinduja Group with interests across automotive, real estate and oil.
- Arsenal shareholder and Russian tycoon AlisherUsmanov fell to second place after his estimated fortune dropped to £10.65 billion. He is followed by Laskshmi Mittal with £10.25 billion, registering a growth of £250 million.
- London now has the most billionaires for any city with 72. The total number for U.K. has crossed 100 for the first time to reach 104 billionaires with a combined wealth of over £301 billion. The next most prosperous city in the world is Moscow with 48 billionaires, just ahead of New York and San Francisco.
- The Duke of Westminster is the richest Briton with around £8.5 billion and is ranked 10th.

Introduction of minimum wage in Switzerland

- Swiss voters have rejected a proposal to introduce a minimum wage of 3,000 Swiss francs per month (4,500 dollars).
- 77 per cent of voters cast ballots against the measure.
- At 25 dollars an hour, it would be the highest minimum wage in the world.
- The referendum was launched by left-wing parties and trade unions, which argued that such a salary was necessary for making a decent living in Switzerland, where the cost of living is among the highest in Europe.
- The government and employers associations had campaigned against the plan, warning that companies would shift operations to neighbouring countries and Switzerland’s important tourism sector would suffer..

Most Expensive Billionaire Home

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani's skyscraper residence in Mumbai is the most expensive billionaire home in the world, according to a Forbes list, which also includes Indian-origin steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's houses in London.
- Ambani's 27-storey, 400,000-square-foot skyscraper home 'Antilia', named after a mythical island in the Atlantic, tops the Forbes list of the most expensive homes in the world.
- The house has six storeys of parking, three helicopter pads, and reportedly requires a staff of 600 to keep it running.

US-China trade

- United States Secretary of State John Kerry has described China's moves to deploy an oil rig in waters disputed by Vietnam as "provocative," prompting an angry rebuttal from Beijing.
- The Chinese government accused the U.S. of making "erroneous" remarks that had "emboldened some countries' provocations."
- In recent days, Chinese and Vietnamese vessels have been in a tense stand-off, sparked by China's deployment of an oil rig in the waters of the South China Sea off the Paracel Islands, which are claimed by Beijing.
- Vietnam dispatched ships in response, arguing that the waters were within its exclusive economic zone, located around 200 nautical miles from its coastline.
- China has maintained that it was well within its rights to deploy the \$ 1 billion rig in the waters off the Paracel Islands, which it claims. Beijing would, however, have been aware of the possibility of a backlash from Vietnam, which disputes China's claims.

Myntra acquired by Flipkart

- Flipkart India Pvt Ltd, the country's largest e-commerce firm, has acquired rival Myntra.com in the largest-ever deal in the country's e-commerce market.
- The current policy does not allow FDI in business-to-consumer e-commerce even as 100 per cent FDI is allowed in business-to-business e-commerce.
- Myntra co-founder and chief executive Mukesh Bansal will head the fashion business of both Myntra and Flipkart, and Myntra will operate as an independent entity and retain its website, while Flipkart will continue selling apparel on its site.
- The Flipkart-Myntra deal comes amid a strong revival of interest in the Indian e-commerce market, but the trigger clearly is the need for consolidation to fight global majors Amazon and eBay Inc.

NaMo factor and digital economy

- Most recently, Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi made a bold pitch for IT becoming the face of India, and, in the process, coined the Twitter-friendly phrase 'India Talent (IT)' + 'Information Technology (IT)' is equal to 'India Tomorrow (IT)'.
- The Indian political class, after the fall of the Rajiv Gandhi administration, has certainly enjoyed talking about using technology and IT to boost economic growth and bring about development.
- The greatest failures of the outgoing dispensation, with regard to IT and the digital economy, were most certainly its inability to bring broadband penetration to a

respectable level, and its borderline negligent behaviour towards the start-up ecosystem..

Import curbs on Gold

- The high import duty and supply curbs on gold had a telling effect on demand for the yellow metal gold in the first quarter of calendar 2014 when demand slid 26 per cent to 190.3 tonnes. Figures released by World Gold Council's (WGC) India demand statistics showed that in value terms, it slid 33 per cent to Rs. 48,853 crore and 41 per cent in dollar terms to \$7.9 billion.
- Of this, jewellery demand declined 9 per cent to 159.5 tonnes and 18 per cent in value terms to Rs. 37,377.8 crore while investment demand declined 54 per cent in volume terms to 44.7 tonnes and 59 per cent in value terms to Rs. 11,475.2 crore.
- With the election of the BJP and its declared pro-business approach, there is an expectation that the short-term curbs on gold will be removed. Another factor is the hope that there will be relaxation of the curbs which will lead to a reduction in the prevailing premium.

FDI from India in Ireland

- Plagued by rising unemployment, Ireland has stepped up efforts to attract investment from emerging countries, including India, by projecting itself as the gateway for the European Union (EU) market.
- The Investment and Development Agency (IDA), Ireland, responsible for inward investments, is targeting a five-fold jump in foreign direct investment (FDI) from India by 2020. IDA Ireland officials are reaching out to Indian companies and leading business groups to promote Ireland as a preferred investment destination to do business with Europe.
- About 30 Indian companies, including 19 through IDA's initiatives, have already set up base in Ireland.
- Ireland is targeting companies in the area of life sciences, medical technologies, electronics, software, financial services, digital media and high-end manufacturing.
- In 2013, Indian companies accounted for 2.4 per cent of all FDI projects into Ireland and IDA Ireland plans to double FDI from India by 2016 and five-fold by 2020.

Balancing act of RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India's credit policy review, will be the first after the new government has taken charge. It is also the second bi-monthly policy for the current year (2014-15). The RBI has switched to the system of reviewing credit policy once in two months from the earlier once in 45 days or so following the recommendation of the Urjit Patel committee.
- Fortunately, very few expect the government to interfere, certainly not so soon after taking office. Moreover, there has been a positive message from the meeting RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan had with new Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on May 26. In this very first meeting with a senior government official, Mr. Jaitley has listed out his priorities — price stability, stimulate growth and fiscal consolidation — and said he is keenly aware of the need to do a tough balancing act in reconciling the several policy objectives.

- India's inflation problems are structural in nature. The RBI cannot influence supply-side factors, which are responsible for food inflation. Supply side pressures on prices will be felt when investment picks up consequent on the new government's initiatives.
- Balance sheet problems of public sector banks are another reason standing in the way of lower interest rates. The combination of bad and restructured loans means little room for banks to lower interest rates.
- The policy document will stress the obvious point that inflation is a problem for the government and the RBI.

NBFCs work

- Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) are working as per the rules and regulations of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and their dealings are transparent, according to Thomas George Muthoot, chairman, Association of Kerala Non-Banking Finance Companies.
- This was in the wake of the ongoing 'Operation Kuberan.
- NBFCs played a very important role in the financial inclusion programme of the Government of India. Customers could make use of the services of the grievance redress forum set up by the NBFCs. A fair practices code, prescribed by the RBI, was being followed. The code may be viewed on the websites of the companies.
- RBI had given the freedom to the boards of NBFCs to fix the rates, considering the cost of funds and margin and risk premium. The business being market driven, there was no scope for charging high rates, especially as the NBFCs were functioning in a very competitive space.
- NBFCs had certificates of registration obtained from the RBI and registered NBFCs do not accept blank cheques, stamp papers, signed white papers, and title deeds. RBI norms on Know Your Customer and corporate governance were being strictly adhered to. The apex bank's guidelines on transferring 20 per cent of the net profit to the reserve fund were being complied with.

Foreign currency accounts and RBI directive

- The Reserve Bank of India has directed banks to convert credit balances in any inoperative foreign currency (FC) denominated deposit into Indian rupee if the former remains not in use for three years from the date of maturity of deposit.
- Thereafter, the depositor shall be entitled to claim either the said Indian rupee proceeds and interest or the foreign currency equivalent of the Indian rupee proceeds of the original deposit.
- The RBI further said in case of inoperative foreign currency denominated deposit not in use for three years and having no fixed maturity period, the bank should give three month notice to the depositor and convert the deposit from the foreign currency to Indian rupee.



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Science and Technology

KLOTHO

- People who have a variant of a longevity gene have improved brain skills such as thinking, learning and memory. Researchers found that increasing levels of the gene, called KLOTHO, in mice made them smarter, possibly by increasing the strength of connections between nerve cells in the brain.
- The study was published in Cell Reports. Those who have one copy of a variant of the KLOTHO gene, called KL-VS, tend to live longer and have lower chances of suffering a stroke whereas those who have two copies may live shorter lives and have a higher risk of stroke.
- The study also found that those with one copy performed better on cognitive tests regardless of age, sex or the presence of the apolipoprotein 4 gene, the main genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease.

India's first cyber lab

- The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) on May 6 will launch what is touted to be the country's first cyber lab in a legal academic institution.
- The lab, co-funded by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, will be inaugurated by Shyamal Ghosh, the former Telecom Secretary, Government of India; Gulshan Rai, Director-General, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and R. Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLSIU.
- A release from NLSIU's Advanced Centre for Cyber Law and Cyber Forensics, said the centre also offers training programmes for bank officials and other professionals who want to gain knowledge of cyber technology and forensics crucial for detection and investigation of cyber crimes.
- The centre launched its Postgraduate Diploma in Cyber Law and Cyber Forensics in June 2013, which senior police officers, IT security officers and lawyers have enrolled for.

MERS virus

- Despite a recent surge of 'Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus' (MERS-CoV) cases, a meeting of an expert committee called by the World Health Organisation has concluded that conditions for declaring a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' had not been met.
- The fifth meeting of WHO's Emergency Committee for MERS-CoV, which was first convened last year took into account the fact that there had been sharp increase in cases since this March, particularly in Saudi Arabia but also in the United Arab Emirates.
- Since the virus was first detected in humans two years back, a total of 152 people have now died and 495 have been confirmed to have contracted the virus in Saudi Arabia, according to an Associated Press report. Most cases of the disease have been in the desert kingdom.

Oldest sperm in the World

- Scientists have discovered the world's oldest and best-preserved sperm from tiny shrimps, measuring a massive 1.3 millimetres and dating back to 17 million years in Australia.
- Preserved giant sperm from shrimps were found at the Riversleigh World Heritage Fossil Site in Queensland and are the oldest fossilised sperm ever found in the geological record, researchers said.

World's biggest dinosaur

- Scientists have recently discovered in Argentina the bones of the world's biggest dinosaur, as heavy as 14 African elephants and as tall as a seven-storey building.
- The 65-foot-tall new species of titanosaur, 130 feet in length and weighing 77 tonnes, is much heavier than the previous record holder Argentinosaurus.
- The remains of the enormous herbivore dating from the Late Cretaceous period were first discovered by a local farm worker in the desert near La Flecha, about 250km west of Patagonia.
- The giant herbivore lived in the forests of Patagonia between 95 and 100 million years ago, based on the age of the rocks in which its bones were found.
- However it does not yet have a name.

Suspension of radioactive water treatment system in Japan

- Tokyo Electric Power Co. said it had suspended a radioactive water treatment system at its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant recently.
- The operator halted the Advanced Liquid Processing System after it found higher calcium levels than normal in water in one of the system's three lines.
- The system is a key component in the effort to deal with the massive amounts of toxic water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, as the operator keep injecting water into three of its six reactors to keep them cool.
- The plant suffered meltdowns at the three units after it was hit by an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

World's smallest, fastest nanomotor

- Researchers have built the smallest, fastest and longest-running tiny synthetic motor to date.
- The team's nanomotor is an important step toward developing miniature machines that could one day move through the body to administer insulin for diabetics when needed, or target and treat cancer cells without harming good cells.

Three Akash missiles test fired

- The Indian Air Force has test-fired three surface-to-air Akash missiles — two of them in ripple mode — from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Balasore district, Odisha.
- All the three missiles tore apart their targets — a contraption called tow-body flown

by the pilotless target aircraft (PTA) Lakshya. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed both Akash and Lakshya.

- The IAF launched the next two missiles in ripple mode, that is, the second missile lifted off from its launcher five seconds after the first one did so.
- The missile can engage targets such as fighter aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters and cruise missiles, flying 25 km away

Sports

Rome Masters

- Serena Williams won her third title of the season as she delivered a crushing 6-3, 6-0 defeat to Sara Errani to win a third trophy at the Rome Masters .
- The world number one now heads to the French Open on solid form after winning the week in Rome after withdrawing from a Madrid semi-final last weekend with a thigh injury.
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Violence in World cup venues

- Protesters and police clashed in Sao Paulo , as demonstrations against the World Cup and rallies calling for improved public services erupted in several Brazilian cities.
- Officers in Brazil's largest city fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters who set piles of rubbish alight to barricade a central avenue.
- Demonstrators blasted the billions spent to host next month's football tournament and said they wanted to draw attention to what they called a lack of investment to improve poor public services.
- Protesters staged a soccer game with dirty tactics, and one man put on a costume of a giant skeleton dressed as a Brazil player.

Validity of sports code

- The Delhi high court has directed all National Sports Federations (NSF) to follow the national sports code. This simply means that the Union sports ministry's guidelines on age and tenure restriction have attained legal sanctity.
- This is a shot in the arm for the ministry which suspended the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) and Archery Association of India (AAI) for not implementing age and tenure directives. The court's directive will certainly make all NSFs accountable and their functioning transparent.

- The sports ministry has repeatedly outlined that recognition to any NSF would rely on the current legal status of the organisation, recognition by the respective international federation, the Asian federation and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The IOA had also challenged the government's authority, but the latest directive from the court has come as a jolt.

Most searched IPL player

- Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper Virat Kohli takes the top spot as the most searched IPL player this season, closely followed by Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
- Yuvraj Singh from Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captured the third position.
- With one of the most stunning catches taken in cricket history against Royal Challengers Bangalore to his credit, IPL debutant Chris Lynn (KKR) takes the fourth spot as the most searched player.
- Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) lead batsman Virendra Sehwag may not have scored big runs on the ground yet, but continues to attract a lot of queries from his fans on Google Search, thus putting him up at the fifth spot.
- Royal Challengers big man Chris Gayle, Chennai Superkings Suresh Raina, and Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Shikhar Dhawan are also among the top 10 trending IPL players on Google Search.

2 medals for Indian archers

- Indian men's recurve archers went down fighting against Korea in the final of the World Cup Stage II at Medellin, Columbia recently.
- The Indian team of Atanu Das, Thupuvoyi Swuro and Sanjay Boro fought gallantly to go down in the tiebreak and claim the silver medal.
- The Indian mixed team of Das and Laishram Bombayla Devi won the bronze medal by beating their Mexican rivals. The Korean side began strongly winning the first two sets to go 4-0 up.

India's oldest Test cricketer

- India's oldest Test cricketer Madhav Mantri, the maternal uncle of the legendary Sunil Gavaskar, due to old age complications. He was 92 and died a bachelor.
- Mantri was a wicket-keeper-batsman who played only four Test matches, one in India (1951), two in England (1952) and his last in Dhaka (1954-55 in the then East Pakistan), compiling 63 runs and accounting for 8 catches and a stumping.
- His most impressive performance with the bat in Tests was a 75-run partnership. He made 39 and also put on as opener with Pankaj Roy in the first Test in England on the disastrous 1952 tour in which India lost all four games.
- Mantri was incidentally one of four batsmen dismissed for 0 by fiery Fred Trueman against India on the same tour in the second innings of the Leeds Test, when the visitors were tottering at 0 for 4 before captain Vijay Hazare and all rounder Dattu Phadkar scored half centuries and took the score to 165 and forced England to bat again. But he was a consistent performer in Ranji Trophy and a mentor for the likes of Polly Umrigar and Bapu Nadkarni.

Monaco GP

- Nico Rosberg led from pole position to win the Monaco Grand Prix ahead of teammate Lewis Hamilton.
- It was Rosberg's second win of the season to put him back on top of the Formula One standings by four points, ending a run of four straight wins by Hamilton and giving Mercedes a fifth straight one-two.
- The Monaco Grand Prix had been won from pole in nine of the last 10 years. The exception was when Hamilton claimed his first and only victory in Monaco in 2008.

'Kerala Blasters'

- The Kochi team for the Indian Super League (ISL) football tournament, co-owned by cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, has been named 'Kerala Blasters'.
- The name was announced by state chief minister Oommen Chandy after his brief meeting with Tendulkar.
- Tendulkar also accepted Chandy's request to be Goodwill Ambassador of the National Games, to be held in Kerala in January-February 2015.
- Tendulkar, who was given a rousing reception at the airport and government secretariat, also called on Opposition Leader V S Achuthanandan, seeking support in his efforts to promote football.

Goodwill ambassador for national games

- The 35 National Games to be held in seven cities in the State early next year will have cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as its goodwill ambassador.
- The idea was mooted by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy during his meeting with Mr. Tendulkar and responding to it, the cricketer was quick to nod his approval.
- Making a mention of this, Mr. Tendulkar said, "as a Member of Parliament, I have already given my vision on how to improve Indian sport to the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. And now, I plan to do a follow up on that. We need to work collectively to help our country emerge as a sporting power."

Big bets on FIFA

- Sony SIX, official broadcaster for the FIFA, believes nearly 65 million viewers are expected to watch the tournament from the Indian sub-continent.
- The broadcaster said that it will tap into the prime time slot featuring live games from FIFA. It said that about 24 matches out of the total 64 matches will be telecast in the prime time slot of 9:30 pm across the Indian subcontinent.
- Last time around, out of the total viewer demography in India, the tournament had attracted 38% viewership from the 15-34 year audience category presenting a unique opportunity for advertisers and marketers to invest in, the broadcaster said in a statement.
- Besides India, the channel will also broadcast the tournament exclusively to audiences across Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives.

Durand Cup, 2014

- The 127th edition of Asia's oldest cup competition, the Durand Cup, might take place in Goa this year.
- Durand Cup was first held in 1888 in Shimla but since 1940 Delhi has been the venue of this prestigious tournament. However the interest in the competition has declined over the years with top clubs rarely taking part and as a result the organisers are considering Goa to be this year's host.

In The News(Person)

Juan Carlos Varela:

- Vice-President Juan Carlos Varela was declared the victor of Panama's presidential election, thwarting an attempt by former ally President Ricardo Martinelli to extend his grip on power by electing a handpicked successor.

Amit Shah:

- The CBI has sought dismissal of the plea by Gopinath Pillai, father of Javed Sheikh alias Pranesh Pillai, who was among those killed with Ishrat Jahan, to arraign Narendra Modi aide Amit Shah and the then Ahmedabad police commissioner K.R. Kaushik in the case. Mr Pillai had cited the resignation letter of suspended IPS officer and an accused in the Ishrat Jahan case D.G. Vanzara in support of his petition.

Lalit Modi:

- Following the election of Lalit Modi as president of Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA), the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) hits back by 'indefinitely' suspending the association. The cricket board also appointed an ad-hoc body to run RCA's cricket affairs.
- Modi was elected President of RCA,

Nita M. Ambani

- The board of directors of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has recommended the appointment of Chairman Mukesh Ambani's wife and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation Nita M. Ambani, as a director on the board of RIL.

Adarsh Goel

- The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha has recently recommended the appointment of Adarsh Goel, Arun Mishra, Gopal Subramaniam and Rohinton Nariman as apex court judges.

Naveen Patnaik

- Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Odisha for the fourth consecutive term in Bhubaneswar recently.
- As many as 21 other Members of the new Council of Ministers headed by Mr. Patnaik were also sworn-in at a well-attended ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan premises.
- Mr. Patnaik had become the Chief Minister for the first time on March 5, 2000 when the BJD-BJP alliance came to power when the people ousted the Congress.

Anandiben Patel

- Anandiben Patel will be sworn in as Gujarat's first woman chief minister in a ceremony attended by her predecessor Narendra Modi who will be the country's next prime minister.
- After Mr Modi resigned as chief minister, a position he had held for 13 years, his

party's legislators elected Ms Patel to be their leader. MrModi's close aide Amit Shah, who does not share the warmest vibes with Ms Patel, was among those who endorsed her name for the chief minister's post.

Sachin Tendulkar

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CCI billiards title

- Eight-time world champion PankajAdvani (ONGC) stamped his authority yet again by pocketing the billiards crown in the Cricket Club of India (CCI) Classic Billiards and Snooker tournament in Mumbai .
- The Bangalore-based cueist defeated DhruvSitwala in the final. Advani, 27, also won the Highest Break award for the 530, which he scored against Devendra Joshi in the quarter-finals.

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