

Weekly GK Tonic (17th to 23rd April 2017)

BANKING

- On the occasion of its Foundation Day, PNB has launched three new products for its customers. The three new products were automated electronic toll collection to facilitate hassle-free toll payment/collection, a credit card mobile App and a scheme for financing a grid connected Roof Solar Power Project.
- The ICICI Bank Data Centre in Hyderabad has achieved the distinction of becoming the country's first Platinum rated project under IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Green Data Centre Rating System.
- The Reserve Bank of India has set up two new Offices of the Banking Ombudsman for the State of Jammu and Kashmir (in Jammu) and Chhattisgarh (in Raipur).
- The RBI permitted banks to invest up to 10% of the unit capital of a Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) or Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).
- AU Financiers India, a non-banking finance company (NBFC), has converted itself into a small finance bank by the name AU Small Finance Bank.

NATIONAL

- Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari is arriving in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India. This will be Bhandari's first foreign trip after assuming the office in October 2015, following the promulgation of the new Constitution in Nepal.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched India's First Train with Glass Ceiling, LED Lights And Rotable Seats in 'Vistadome' Coaches. He has flagged off the train with Vistadome coaches between Visakhapatnam and Arakuthrough video conferencing from Rail Sadan in Bhubaneswar.
- BHEL has successfully commissioned two units of 270 MW at RattanIndia Nasik Power Ltd's, Maharashtra.
- The 3rd edition of International Conference and Exhibition on Steel Industry 'India Steel 2017' was held at Mumbai Exhibition center in Mumbai from 19th-21st April 2017.

ECONOMY

- India's gross domestic product is expected to spike to 7.2% in the 2017-18 financial year from 6.8% the

previous fiscal, according to a new World Bank report titled "Globalization Backlash".

- The Finance Ministry have permitted the Labour Ministry to go ahead with 8.65% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17, which will benefit over four crore EPFO members.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected a marginally higher than expected growth for the world economy at 3.5 per cent in 2017. IMF projected the world economy to grow at a pace of 3.5 percent in 2017, up from 3.1 percent in 2016, and 3.6 per cent in 2018.

BUSINESS

- State Bank of India (SBI) surpassed oil exploration major Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to become most valued public sector undertaking (PSU) stock in terms of market capitalization (m-cap) in intra-day trade.
- The MukeshAmbani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) regained its status as India's most valued firm by market capitalization. RIL overtook Tata Group's crown jewel TCS.
- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) has become the first re-insurer to open an office at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

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AWARDS

- An Indian environmental engineer Trupti Jain has won 2017 prestigious 'Cartier Women's Initiative Award' for

providing women working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash floods.

- The 6th prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award for contribution in the field of agriculture given to R.R. Hanchinal, Chairperson of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, the government of India.
- The English translation of writer PerumalMurugan's novel Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman) has won the SahityaAkademi's award for translation in English 2016.
- The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) has awarded its Peace Prize to GiuseppinaNicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees.
- The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model.

APPOINTMENTS

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed Vinay Shah as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Director of its mortgage loan arm and listed entity LIC Housing Finance.



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AGREEMENTS

- ISRO has signed anMoU with BHEL to help develop low-cost lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles, also envisages a buyback commitment for such batteries.

- In Rajasthan, the state government and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) signed an agreement for the Rs 43,129 croreBarmerrefinery in the presence of Union Minister of state for petroleum and natural gas DharmendraPradhan and Chief Minister VasundharaRaje in a ceremony held in Jaipur.
- The Reserve Bank of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information" with the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.
- Madhya Pradesh government has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to supply 24 per cent of electricity generated from the Rewa ultra mega solar project to be set up in the state.
- Tata Power has signed an agreement with Ajmer VidyutVitran Nigam Ltd (AVVNL) for electricity distribution in Ajmer for 20 years.
- India and South Korea have signed an Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for DefenceIndustry cooperation between their shipbuilding yards.
- The Reserve Bank of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information" with Bank of Guyana.

SCHEMES

- Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated three welfare initiatives of the Department of Justice. The services launched are Pro-bono legal services, Tele-law service, and NyayaMitra Project.

STATES IN NEWS

- For the first time in Indian Railway history Habibganj station in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh has been handed over to the private firm to be operated by it.
- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched two web applications to check corruption and keep track of government activities. The two web applications were Anti-Corruption Cell and Digital Application for Review by Public and Nation (DARPAN).
- PM Modi has inaugurated the Kiran Multi-Speciality Hospital and Diamond Manufacturing Unit in Surat he also inaugurated Cattle Feed Plant and launch of irrigation and water supply schemes at Bajipura, Gujarat.

- Maharashtra has become the first state to launch a special awareness drive to ensure that transgenders in the state register as voters in greater numbers.
- PM Modi inaugurated phase-I of the Link-II pipeline canal of the ambitious Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana in Botad district of Gujarat.
- In the third meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, the UP government changed the name of Gorakhpur and Agra Airports as well as the name of the department of welfare of the differently abled. The Gorakhpur Airforce Station has been renamed as Mahayogi Goraknath Airport after the founder of the Nath monastic movement.
- Likewise, the Agra Airport will be renamed after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport. The Department of Disabled Welfare will now be known as 'Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment'.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted its first-ever mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand to help improve the preparedness and response mechanism in the event of a forest fire.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

- Every year on 18 April, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) celebrates the International Day for Monuments and Sites (also called as World Heritage day), whose establishment was approved by the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day 11th Civil Services Day program (20-21 April) in New Delhi. Civil Services Day is celebrated in India every year on 21st April.
- The 14th Edition of United Nations International Day of Vesak 2017 will be hosted by Sri Lanka from 12-14 May

2017. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest for UN Vesak Day.

- The World Earth Day is being observed all over the world on 22 April with the message to protect the environment. The campaign theme for 2017 is 'Environmental and Climate Literacy'.
- World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) has been observed on 23rd April 2017. It is a yearly event organized by the UNESCO. Conakry, the capital of Guinea has been designated World Book Capital 2017.

SCIENCE AND TECH

- TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors has launched India's first industrial-articulated robot and it goes by the name "BRABO".
- China successfully launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft named Tianzhou 1. It is programmed to conduct scientific experiments after reaching the now-crewless Tiangong 2, China's second space station.

DEFENCE

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami dedicated the Indian Navy's indigenously designed 'P15A Guided Missile Destroyer', INS Chennai to the city Chennai.

SPORTS

- Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) won the Bahrain Grand Prix 2017 by defeating Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes). The event was held at Bahrain International circuit Bahrain.
- National Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri Pullela has bagged both the singles and doubles crown at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix in Jakarta. Gayatri eked out a hard-fought win over her doubles partner Samiya Farooqui to win the girls U-15 singles title. She later teamed up with Samiya to clinch the U-15 doubles title with a straight-game win over Indonesian pair of Kelly Larissa and Shelandry Vyola.
- Bangalore-based Sagar Baheti has become the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete the historic Boston Marathon, the world's oldest and the hardest marathon to qualify for.

- Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has announced Video gaming as full sports at the 2022 Asian Games which is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from 10-25 September 2022.

OBITUARIES

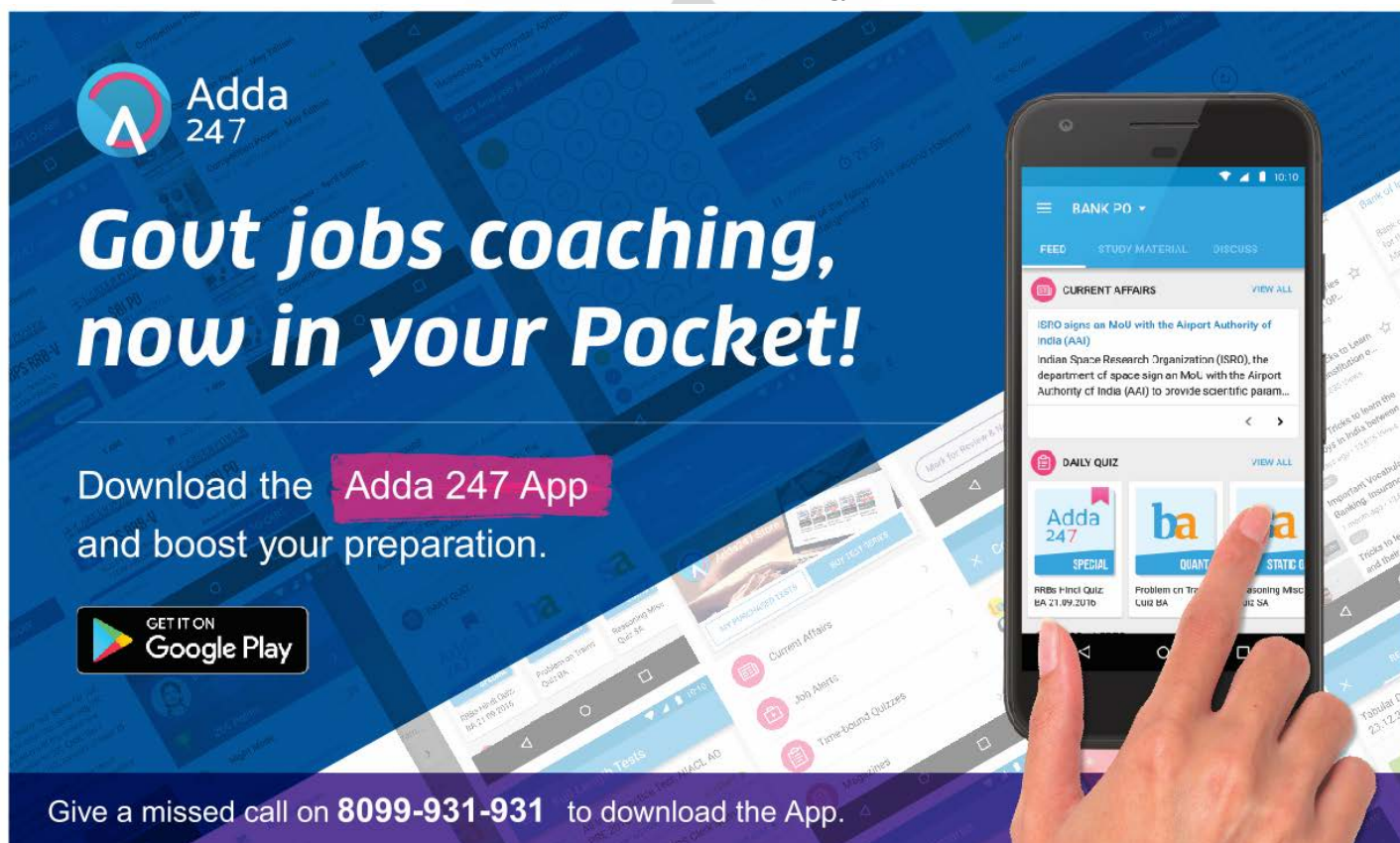
- Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Devineni Rajashekhar had died due to cardiac arrest in Hyderabad.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Human Resource and Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) portal and mobile app in New Delhi.
- Over 50 Indians, including gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik and actress Alia Bhatt, are among Forbes' list of super achievers from Asia under the age of 30 who are "pushing boundaries of innovation". India has 53 achievers on the list, second only to China which has 76 honorees.
- Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world. Rodrigo also known as Digong, is a

Filipino politician and jurist who is the 16th and current President of the Philippines.


- Expanding its digital presence, markets regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) launched its revamped website having several user-friendly features and compatible with all desktop and mobile devices.
- India has jumped one spot to 8th rank in the 2017 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index. USA has topped A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index for the fifth year in a row.
- The 2017 BRICS Film Festival will be held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province from June 23 to 27, 2017. There will be 30 films from BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) screened during the festival, including an anthology by five directors from the aforementioned countries.
- PM Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' 2017, released by the Time magazine.
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal and Indonesia's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Ignasius Jonan met for the 1st 'India Indonesia Energy Forum', held in Jakarta, Indonesia.



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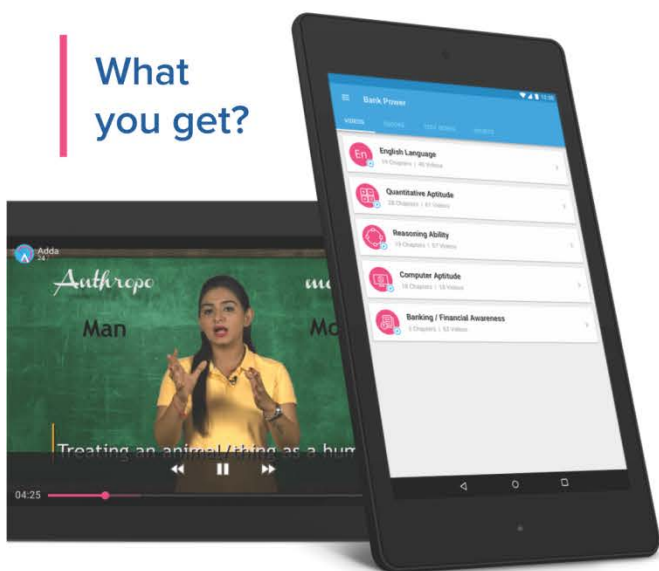
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