

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (May 16 – May 31)

- **Re-sounding victory for BJP**, Congress faces historic drubbing.
 - World's biggest democratic exercise – India's 16th Lok Sabha (Lower House) elections which ran from April 7 to May 12, 2014 were over and its verdict was declared on May 16 2014.
 - Of the total 543 seats for which elections were contested, **BJP led NDA achieved a thumping victory on 336 seats.**
 - It is the *worst ever performance by Congress* compared to its show in other previous General Elections.
 - Congress led UPA has faced thorough defeat in 6 key states winning just 59 seats, and the *Congress, 44 seats.*
 - **62 women members elected, highest ever** (approx. **11%** of total) as against 61 in last Lok Sabha.
 - *Highest number from BJP* followed by *Trinamool Congress.*
 - Out of total candidates contesting elections (8163) 7.8% were women (2009 – 6.9 % were women contestants).
 - **Muslim representation** in the 16th Lok Sabha has **hit an all-time low** at 22. The highest representation was in 1980 when 49 Muslims were elected to Parliament.
 - While *Muslims constitute 10.5 per cent of the total population*, its percentage representation in the new Lok Sabha will be 4.2 per cent.
 - It was the *first General Election of the Lok Sabha* after the **NOTA option** (none of the above) was introduced in the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).
 - **1.1% of total polled votes were cast as NOTA** – *nearly 60 Lakh votes.*
 - *Highest in Chhattisgarh* (1.9%) followed by Gujarat (1.8%) and Jharkhand (1.5%).
 - Highest proportion was recorded in two ST reserved constituencies of Meghalaya while highest number was recorded in SC reserved constituency of Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu).
 - **Turnout in 2014 Lok Sabha elections was highest of all times.**
 - **305 seats** were won with a margin exceeding 1 Lakh while 222 were with a margin between 5000 – 1 Lakh.

- **Only 16 seats** were decided with a margin of less than 5000 votes.
 - **Winner by highest margin:** *Narendra Modi* from *Vadodara*, Gujarat with 5.7 Lakh votes (2nd highest ever after 5.92 Lakh votes of Anil Basu of CPM in 2004).
 - **Winner by lowest margin** – *Thupstan Chhewang* of BJP won with a margin of just 36 votes from Ladakh (J&K).
- BJP's *Narendra Modi* won the *Vadodara Lok Sabha* seat by a record margin of 5,70,128 votes.
 - **Ladakh also is the biggest constituency** in the country in terms of area. However, *in terms of electors, it has the third lowest count after Lakshadweep and Daman & Diu*. This makes *Ladakh one of the least densely populated Lok Sabha constituencies* in the country.
- On 17th May Prime Minister Manmohan Singh submitted his resignation to the President.
 - It is part of the procedures involved in the change of government.
- On 17th May **Nitish Kumar quits as Bihar Chief Minister**.
- **Mother's name on Permanent account number (PAN) card**
 - Those applying for New PAN card or for revised PAN card have the *option* to get printed on their PAN card printed the name of his/her mother.
 - But *applicant can select only one option*, he /she cannot have the name of both mother and father printed on PAN card. In case Applicant does not exercise his/her option than *by default Father's name will get printed on PAN card*.
 - PAN is the *identifier of Indian income tax payers*.
- On 18th May 2014 the **Indian archery team won Silver and Bronze medal**, at the *Archery World Cup Stage 2* which is held at Medellin, USA.
 - The Indian recurve team won silver medal by their effort and it consists of Sanjay Boro, Thupuvoyi Swuro and Atanu Das.
 - The **gold medal was won by Korean team** who consists of Kim Woojin, Ku Bonchan and Oh Jin Hyek.

- **Competition Appellate Tribunal (Compat) upheld a penalty of 630 crore rupees on DLF real estate firm**
 - On 19th May 2014 the Compat imposed a penalty of 630 crore rupees on DLF real estate firm by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). And now DLF have to pay the penalty of 630 crore rupees with 9% interest
 - This is the **first biggest step by CCI** in terms of Penalty and they have given *60 day of time* to the company to do needful. The penalty was upheld because a flat buyers association filed a complaint that DLF is delaying to hand over the possession of flat in the particular property *i.e.* DLF Park Palace and the Belaire.
 - Earlier in 2011 DLF already faced a penalty by CCI for a problem which occurred in residential society of Gurgaon.
- On 20th May *Shri Narendra Modi* was officially **elected leader of the BJP Parliamentary party and also the NDA.**
 - Before entering the Central Hall, Modi *touched his forehead to the ground at the entrance to Parliament.*
 - Subsequently, he met the President and *formally staked the claim to form the next government.*
- On 20th May **Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi** was sworn in as **Chief Minister of Bihar.**
 - He was administered oath of office and secrecy by Governor D.Y. Patil at a ceremony in the Raj Bhavan, Patna.
 - The *15 members of the previous Nitish Kumar government* were retained in the new Ministry, while two independent MLA have also been added.
 - Manjhi is from Mahkar village in Gaya district. He is a legislator from the *Makhdoompur assembly constituency in Jehanabad district.* He is the *third Dalit CM of Bihar* after Bhola Paswan Shastri and Ram Sundar Das.
 - Prior to his appointment as CM, Manjhi was SC/ST Welfare Minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet.
- **Shri Narendra Modi appointed Prime Minister**
 - Modi, who steered BJP and the NDA to a *landslide victory* in the *Lok Sabha* election, was appointed Prime Minister on 21st May, ushering

in a new era of a non-Congress government with an **absolute majority on its own in 30 years.**

- The President gave a *formal letter* (of appointment as the PM) and has invited Modi for *oath-taking ceremony on 26th May* at 6:00 p.m.

- **Narendra Modi resigns as Gujarat Chief Minister.**
 - Prime Minister-designate Modi *stepped down* as the Gujarat Chief Minister on 21st May.
 - Modi was Chief Minister for *four terms spanning 12 years.*
 - Revenue Minister, *Anandiben Patel* (72) was elected leader of the BJP Legislature Party and will succeed as Chief Minister of the State.

- **Naveen Patnaik sworn in as Chief Minister for fourth consecutive term in Odisha**
 - Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) had *won 117 seats in the 147 member State Assembly.*
 - The BJD had won 103 seats in 2009.
 - Governor SC Jamir administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 67 year old Patnaik besides 21 member council of ministers.
 - He became the Chief Minister for the first time on March 5, 2000 when the BJD-BJP alliance came to power.

- **Pawan Chamling sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister for the record fifth consecutive time.**
 - The Chamling-led Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) had secured a *two-thirds majority* in the assembly elections winning 22 seats out of 32.
 - Governor Shrinivas Patil administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chamling and 11 ministers.
 - In power since December 12, 1994, the 63 year old Chamling has already *completed two uninterrupted decades as the CM* of the erstwhile Himalayan kingdom which had *merged with India in 1975.*
 - He is on his way to break the late Communist patriarch Jyoti Basu's record of being India's longest serving chief minister.
 - Basu had ruled West Bengal for *23 years from 1977 till 2000.*

- On 21st May 2014 the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **permitted local banks to provide loan to exporters** with tenures upto 10 years.
 - Only those exporters will get a loan that has atleast have 3 years clear record.
- On 21st May 2014 **Russia and China signed a deal on natural gas worth of 400 billion dollars for 30 years.**
 - The deal was signed when President of Russia *Mr. Vladimir Putin* visited China. The deal has been signed between the *two giants company of Russia and China (Gaspot firm of Russia and China National Petroleum Corp).*
 - As per the deal, *Russia will supply the 38 billion cubic meters of gas annually to China National Petroleum Corporation.*
 - It is considered as a win-win situation deal for both China and Russia because *Russia will supply natural gas to China* and *China will get it quite cheap as compared to other countries* and on the other hand **Russia got the China support over the Ukraine Crisis.**
 - It is to be noted that USA and other European countries had put a ban on Russia; as they removed Russia from G8 group and imposed an economical ban.
- **Project Mobile Seva won United Nations Public Service Award 2014**
 - The Project Mobile Seva comes under *the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)* which is also under the control of *Ministry of Information and Technology.*
 - It got the **second rank in the Asia category.**
 - The category is known as '*Promoting Whole of Government Approaches in the Information Age*'.
- On 22 May Prime Minister-elect **Narendra Modi has invited the heads of the governments of all South Asian states** to attend his swearing-in as a gesture, **without precedent.**
 - Though foreign envoys stationed in New Delhi have attended ceremonies in the past.
 - The move startled regional diplomats as traditionally swearing-in was seen as a domestic event.

- **Rajiv Mathur appointed as new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)**
 - On 22nd May the former Intelligence Bureau Chief, Mathur (64) was appointed as new CIC. He belongs to Uttar Pradesh cadre.

- **Anandiben Patel took oath as 15th Chief Minister of Gujarat**
 - Governor Dr Kamla Beniwal administered the oath of office & secrecy to the **first woman Chief Minister of Gujarat**.
 - She was the *Cabinet Minister since 1998* and has handled a string of important portfolios such as Road & Building, Revenue, Urban development & Urban Housing, Disaster Management & Capital Projects in the Government of Gujarat till 2014.
 - At present, **she is one of the longest serving women MLA in Gujarat**. She started her political journey as a Member of Rajya Sabha in 1994 and moved to Gujarat during the state elections in 1998.
 - She is currently the *only woman MLA of Gujarat to be elected for four consecutive times*.

- **Indian Rupees (INR) became best performing currency in Asia**
 - On 23rd May 2014 the data has been revealed that *INR became best performing currency in Asia pacific region and closed at 11 month high rate of 58.52 against the USD*.
 - At the starting time of 2014, the Indian rupees stood at 61.80 against the USD.

- On 24th May 2014 the **China again won Uber Cup 2014 of Badminton Championship** after defeating Japan by 3-1 which was held at Siri Fort Complex in New Delhi.
 - After this historical won **China won Uber Cup 13th time total** and it is *China's 8th title from the last nine editions of Uber Cup*.
 - The *Uber Cup is especially for women's* and it is *held one time in every three year*.
 - *Japan won it five times and USA & Indonesia has won one time*.

- On 24th May 2014 the **Boeing has delivered the fourth P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to India**.
 - It has been dispatched from Seattle and arrived at Naval Air Station Rajali on 21st May 2014.

- It was *actually developed by Boeing for US navy department* in the name of *P-8A Poseidon*.
- On 25th May 2014 the **Japan badminton team won Thomas Cup 2014** of Badminton Championship after defeating the Malaysian team by 3-2 score at the Siri Fort Complex in New Delhi.
 - After this interesting win *Japan made a maiden win* on this Thomas Cup.
 - Indonesia, China and Malaysia were the previous champions but now Japan becomes the 4th Champion after 2014.
 - *Thomas Cup was started from 1948-49* and it is **the first major event of Badminton World Federation's (BWF)**.
 - *Uber Cup also comes under this championship and it was first initiated 1956-57.*
 - *Thomas Cup is played every year now* and it becomes one the prestigious championship for the badminton players to earn.
- **Petro Poroshenko won the Ukrainian Presidential Elections 2014.**
- **Swearing in of India's new Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**
 - Modi took the oath of office and secrecy in Hindi – marking the beginning of a new era in Indian politics, on 26th May 2014.
 - Modi was sworn in Prime Minister *at the head of a 45 member coalition government* after the elections that saw the BJP gain absolute majority in 30 years. 63 year old Modi, the first leader to get a landslide victory for the BJP, became the **15th Prime Minister** in a virtual 'coronation' ceremony in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhawan before a 3000 strong gathering, *the largest audience at the swearing in of a new government.*
 - BJP President, Shri Rajnath Singh became number two in the Union Cabinet.
 - Modi's cabinet, happened to be *smaller and leaner* than the previous one formed by the Congress-led government.
 - **Seven women Ministers were sworn-in.** Both the **youngest and the oldest members of the Union Cabinet happened to be women**, *Smriti Irani* (38) and *Najma Heptullah* (74). Incidentally, both of them are from the *Rajya Sabha* representing Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

- *Heptullah is the lone Muslim face* in the Modi Cabinet.
 - Dignitaries from *politics, industry, cinema and religion*, capped by *leaders of SAARC nations* including Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, outgoing Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury attended the ceremony.
- On 26th May 2014 **Ahmed Maitiq was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Libya.**
 - He took the oath in front of the Nuri Abu Sahmain who belongs to Libya's transitional Parliament and the President of the General National Congress of Libya.
 - There are 200 members but at voting time only 93 were present and he received 83 votes in his favor.
 - In 2011 there was *long and popular civil war* which took place in the Libya. And the protester toppled and killed the President Muammar Gaddafi.
- **India's oldest car factory suspends production of Ambassador sedan**
 - Ambassador had a nearly *seven-decade history* as the car of the Indian elite.
 - *Hindustan Motors* began making the Ambassador in 1948, modeling it after the *British Morris Oxford III*.
- On 27 May 2014, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office at South Block, New Delhi.**
 - The Rashtrapati Bhavan has come out with a communique announcing the portfolios of the newly-sworn-in ministers in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's council of ministers.
 - The **Raisina Hill Ministries** in the Modi Government are lead by *Shri Rajnath Singh as the Minister of Home Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj as the Minister of External Affairs and Shri Arun Jaitley as the Minister of Finance and Defence (besides Corporate Affairs)*.
 - Nripendra Mishra was appointed as PM's Principal Secretary.
 - PM raised issues of terror and the trial in Mumbai attack case in his *first bilateral meeting* with Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif.

- **Mukul Rohatgi new Attorney General of India**

- Senior Supreme Court Advocate Mr. Rohatgi was appointed as the new Attorney General of India, the top law officer of the country.
- He had earlier served as Additional Solicitor General.
 - His appointment comes a day after the country's two top law officers Attorney General Goolam Essaji Vahanvati and Solicitor General Mohan Parasaran resigned.
- *The law officers (the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and Additional Solicitors Generals) **represent the government** in various courts and **tender legal advice** on complex issues.*

- **Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to unearth black money**

- Respecting the apex court order, the SIT was formed in the first meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi.
 - It will be headed by the retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice M.B. Shah. Secretary Revenue, Deputy Governor of the RBI, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Director of the Enforcement Directorate, Director of the CBI, Chairman of the CBDT and Director of the RAW will be among the members.
- The US-based think-tank Global Financial Integrity has pegged the illicit money outflow from India to the tune of \$462 billion. In a report in 2011, BJP had estimated India's black economy to be between \$500 billion to \$1.4 trillion.

- **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship created**

- This is the *first time in India* that such ministry has been created to **improve skills of Indians** in such a wide way.
 - Member of Parliament from the Lakhimpur constituency of Assam **Sarbananda Sonowal** has become the Minister for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (with independent charge).
- Government has targeted to produce *500 million new skills* people in India so that *entrepreneurship and skill development can be taken away to next level*.

- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to acquire control of Network 18**

- It is the biggest ever deal in the Indian media sector.

- RIL will acquire control in Network 18 Media & Investments Ltd, including its subsidiary TV18 Broadcast Ltd, for Rs 4,000 crore.
- **Ajit Doval appointed as the National Security Advisor**
 - A 1968-batch IPS officer, he is former *Intelligence Bureau Chief*.
 - 69 year old Doval was the *India's main negotiator with the hijackers of Indian Airlines plane IC-814*, taken to Kandahar in 1999.
- On 30th May the *Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation*, has released the *provisional estimates of National Income for the financial year 2013-14* and the *quarterly estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the fourth quarter* (January-March) of 2013-14, *both at constant (2004-05) and current prices*.
 - The CSO has also released the corresponding annual and quarterly estimates of Expenditure components of the GDP in current and constant (2004-05) prices.
 - **GDP of India is estimated to grow at 4.7% for 2013-14** against *4.5% in 2012-13*.
 - The **Per Capita Net National Income in real terms during 2013-14 is estimated at 39904 Rupees** as compared to the *38856 rupees in 2012-13*.
 - The *growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 2.7 percent during 2013-14* as against 2.1 percent during 2012-13.
- **Ministerial Groups scraped**
 - On May 31, the PM struck down 30 existing Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoMs) / Group of Ministers (GoMs),
 - The concept of EGoMs/ GoMs route was adopted by the previous coalition regimes to iron out differences between various ministries.
 - Currently, *nine EGoMs and twenty-one GoMs* were in operation.
 - The move is aimed at making swifter decisions and bringing in greater accountability.

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