

## **April 16<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **Russia's move at UNSC fails**

Hours after striking Syria, the United States, France and Britain launched a new bid at the United Nations to investigate chemical weapons attacks in Syria.

The three allies circulated a joint draft resolution at the Security Council that also calls for unimpeded deliveries of humanitarian aid, enforcing a ceasefire and demands that Syria engage in UN-led peace talks.

The move signaled the West's resolve to return to diplomacy after military operation that hit sites Western officials said were linked to Syria's chemical weapons program. Among the contentious proposals, the draft resolution would establish an independent investigation of allegations of toxic gas attacks in Syria with the aim of identifying the perpetrators.

Earlier, a Russian bid for the United Nations Security Council to condemn U.S., British and French air strikes on Syria over a suspected chemical weapons attack, failed after only China and Bolivia joined Russia to vote in favor of a draft resolution.

The United States, France and Britain defended their military action as legal during the Security Council meeting.

### **Bilateral:**

#### **2018: Joint Operations Battalion Level Airborne Assault**

As part of the ongoing IAF exercise '**Gaganshakti-2018**', in a joint operation, the IAF and Indian Army Parachute Brigade undertook a Battalion level airborne assault 14<sup>th</sup> April, in the desert sector.

This assault included paradrop of 560 paratroopers, combat vehicles and GPS guided cargo platforms. The landing force was dropped behind the simulated enemy lines to soften up the likely resistance to our own armoured offensive.

The airborne force comprised six C-130J and seven An-32 aircraft launched from multiple IAF bases. The force was provided aerial surveillance by AWACS and protected by a Flight of SU-30 Air Superiority Fighters.

Airborne operations are a means of aerial insertion of troops, equipment or supplies directly into the battle zone. Airborne operations are high-risk operations which are based on accurate intelligence, dynamic air dominance by own forces and criticality of the requirement by ground forces. Airborne assault is a subset of Airborne Operations wherein combat troops and equipment are para-dropped into the tactical battle area. These troops have specific tasks like disrupting enemy lines of communication, capture/ destruction of critical enemy infrastructure.

The accuracy and outcome of the mission highlight IAF's multispectral capabilities and its efficiency in providing timely support to ground forces.

## **Economy:**

### **Intra-state e-way bill rolled out in five states from 15<sup>th</sup> April**

E-way bill requirement for intra-state movement of goods has been rolled out in five states from on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The bill for inter-state movement of goods valued over Rs 50,000 was rolled out on April 1. The Goods and Services Council had decided on a staggered roll out of [intra-state](#) e-way bill starting with five states — Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala.

Since the roll out of e-way bill for inter-state movement of goods from April 1, more than 9.1 million bills have been generated till 14<sup>th</sup> April. Karnataka is the only state which had rolled out e-way bill system for intra-state movement of goods from April 1.

Touted as an anti-evasion measure and would help boost tax collections by clamping down on trade that currently happens on cash basis, the e-way bill provision of the goods and services tax (GST) was first introduced on February 1.

However, its implementation was put on hold after the system developed glitches in generating permits. With several states also starting to generate intra-state e-way bills on the portal, the system developed a snag.

Since then, the platform has been made more robust so that it can handle load of as many as 75 lakh inter-state e-way bills daily without any glitch.

## **Environment**

### **E Godavari, first district with complete LED street lighting**

East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh is all set to become the country's first 'LED street light district'. The rural LED street lighting programme in the district entailing the installation of around 3.1 lakh LED street lights has been completed. The exercise is expected to save around 34 Million Units (MU) annually.

The State Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will declare the district as the first to be equipped with 100 per cent LED street lighting on April 24 and dedicate the credit to all the rural people on the occasion of Panchayat Raj Divas, says the Energy Efficiency Department.

AP is already ranked the best State in implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programmes by the World Bank.

## **Sports:**

### **India retains its third position with 25 gold medals**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Games, India ended its Journey, remaining in the third position in the medals tally. Legendary Boxer MC Mery Kom led Indian delegation carrying tri colour. Indian competitors ended their campaign in the eleven day event on the third place, with 66 medals including 26 Gold, 20 Silver and 20 Bronze medals.

Australia stood first in the medal tally with 198 medals including 80 Gold, 59 Silver and 59 Bronze followed by England 136 medals.

On the final day i.e. on April 15<sup>th</sup>, India won seven medals which include one Gold, Four Silver and two Bronze. The lone Gold came in women's singles Badminton, in which star shuttlers P V Sindhu and Saina Nehal were pitted against each other in the final.

However, in men's singles final, recently crowned world No.1 Kidambi Srikanth let slip a strong start to lose in three games to Malaysian icon Lee Chong Wei, who claimed his third individual gold in Commonwealth Games. Srikanth settled for the Silver.

In Men's doubles also, Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty claimed a Silver losing to English pair of Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge.

Another Silver came in squash, when the duo of Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Joshna Chinappa lost to Joelle King and Landers-Murphy of New Zealand in women's doubles final.

The two Bronze medals were won in Table Tennis. In an all-India affair, Manika Batra and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran beat Achanta Sharath Kamal and Mouma Das in three games in the mixed doubles match. In Men's singles, Achanta Sharat Kamal defeated Samuel Walker of England for the second Bronze.

### **Anish Bhanwala wins gold and creates history**

Indian shooter Anish Bhanwala, aged 15, created history by becoming the country's youngest ever gold medal winner in the Commonwealth Games. Anish achieved the feat when he stormed his way into the gold medal with a Games record in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the Belmont Shooting Centre. The Haryana boy shot down the CWG record in the final with a score of 30 including four series of 5 each. The youngest in the field, he showed nerves of steel and led the more experienced shooters through the event to emerge deserving champion.

By winning the gold, Anish bettered team-mate Manu Bhaker, who had become the youngest Indian Commonwealth Games gold medallist earlier this week when she emerged champion in the 10m air rifle finals. In the Qualifications, Anish scored 580 to finish top of the tally while Neeraj was second best with 579. Anish scored 286 in stage 1 and 294 in stage 2 qualifying, while Neeraj had 291 in stage 1 and 288 in stage 2.

### **Persons in news:**

**Brahmananda Sharma:** Brahmananda Sharma, hails from Bhilwara district from Rajasthan, has become Judge of Rajasthan High court. He lost his eyesight due to glaucoma at the age of 22. Sharma uses an e-

speaking device connected to a computer, which converts and records the notes made by the reader into speech. He is the first visually impaired judge of Rajasthan