

April 1st and 2nd news:

International:

US blocks UN Security Council statement on Gaza violence

The United States on 1st April blocked a draft UN Security Council statement urging restraint and calling for an investigation of clashes on the Gaza-Israel border that left 16 dead

Clashes erupted as tens of thousands of Gazans protested near the border on 30th March, with Israeli forces using tear gas and live fire to force back smaller numbers of demonstrators who approached within a few hundred yards of the heavily fortified border fence.

In addition to the 16 Palestinians killed, more than 1,400 were wounded, 758 of them by live fire, with the remainder hurt by rubber bullets and tear gas inhalation, according to the Gazan Health Ministry.

Kuwait, which represents Arab countries on the council, presented the proposed statement, which called for an “independent and transparent investigation” of the violence.

The draft council statement also expressed “grave concern at the situation at the border.” And it reaffirmed “the right to peaceful protest” and expressed the council’s “sorrow at the loss of innocent Palestinian lives”.

OBOR important initiative, but entails risks as well: IMF

China’s ambitious ‘One Belt One Road initiative’ is an important project that can foster regional cooperation, but entails risks like debt sustainability, the International Monetary Fund said

Chinese President Xi Jinping’s multi-billion project, the initiative focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe.

IMF said it depends on how the project would be implemented to ensure debt sustainability and participation of the private sector.

Bilateral:

India, Pakistan agree to resolve issues

India and Pakistan have mutually agreed to resolve matters related to the treatment of diplomats and diplomatic premises.

According to the foreign ministries, of both countries, India and Pakistan have mutually agreed to resolve matters related to the treatment of diplomats and diplomatic premises, in line with the 1992 ‘Code of Conduct’ for treatment of Diplomatic or Consular personnel in India and Pakistan.

The Code provides for "smooth and unhindered functioning" of the diplomatic and consular officials of the two countries in conformity with the international laws without violating their privileges and immunities.

The Code also says that the two countries should not resort to intrusive and aggressive surveillance and actions such as verbal and physical harassment, disconnection of phone lines and et cetera.

Earlier this month, India had asked Pakistan to ensure safety and security of its officials working at the Indian mission in Islamabad, saying they continue to face harassment and intimidation.

Economy:

India is now world's second largest mobile phone producer: ICA

India has become the second largest producer of mobile phones in the world after China, as per data shared by Indian Cellular Association with Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. India accounted for 11% of the global production in 2017 compared to 3% in 2014

E-Way Bill for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force

With the beginning of the financial year 2018-19, the e-way Bill System for Inter-State movement of goods comes into force; An E-way Bill will be required for moving goods worth over 50,000 rupees from one state to another.

The electronic way Bill system has come into effect across the country. Under this system businesses and transporters have to produce before a GST inspector e-way bill for moving goods worth over Rs 50,000 from one state to another.

The Bill is touted as an anti-evasion measure that would help boost tax collections by clamping down on trade that currently happens on cash basis. The e-way Bill will apply to inter-state transportation of goods worth over Rs. 50,000.

Sports:

John Isner wins Miami Open

In Tennis, John Isner has lifted the Men's Singles trophy of the Miami Open. In the title clash, the 14th seeded American defeated fourth-placed German Alexander Zverev, to win his first ever Masters 1,000 title.

Kerala lifts Santosh Trophy

Kerala have lifted their sixth Santosh Trophy Football title. In a thrilling final at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on 1st April, they held their nerves to beat defending champions and 32-time winners Bengal via penalty shootout.

Awards:

Mithali Raj: Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj was adjudged 'Sportsperson of the Year' while ace shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and P V Sindhu bagged the best senior male and female athletes at the Telangana Sports Journalists Association annual awards for 2017 in Hyderabad on 31st March

Former BCCI president N Shivalal Yadav gave away the 'best senior male athlete' award to Srikanth while tennis star Sania Mirza presented the 'best senior female athlete' award to Sindhu.

Former Indian cricketer V V S Laxman presented 'best coach of the year' award to Gopichand, who received this award for the second time in a row.

Triple Olympian and former national Hockey player N Mukesh Kumar was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the event.