

– Current Affairs –

October 2016

Western Zonal Council Meeting held in Mumbai

The 22nd meeting of the Western Zonal Council consisting of the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli was held at Mumbai under the chairmanship of Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers and Ministers of these States and Administrators of Union Territories as well as senior officers of Central and State Governments. The Council reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations made in the last meeting. Thereafter, the Council took up issues which relate to coastal security, internal security, issuance of bio-metric identity cards to fishermen & issue of card readers, formulation of plans for countering terrorism, modernization of police force etc. It also reviewed other important issues such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban) Mission, providing shelters to the urban homeless, and surplus lands of Union Government for 'Housing for All: 2022'. Issues related to checking pollution in Daman Ganga River and Kolak River due to discharge of untreated effluents from Vapi industrial area was also discussed.

Civil Aviation Ministry's Regional Connectivity Scheme "UDAN" Launched

- i. The Ministry of Civil Aviation took a major step today towards making flying a reality for the small town common man. The Civil Aviation Minister Shri P Ashok Gajapathi Raju launched the Ministry's much awaited Regional Connectivity Scheme "UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)" in New Delhi.
- ii. This first-of-its-kind scheme globally will create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- iii. The first flight under the scheme would be able to take off by January next year and the scheme had been prepared after a lot of stakeholder consultation and called for support from all players to make it a success.
- iv. The scheme UDAN envisages providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme would be in operation for a period of 10 years.

Global Conference to strengthen Arbitration & Enforcement held in New Delhi

The first ever global conference to strengthen Arbitration and Enforcement in India was held in New Delhi. The 3-day Conference was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee on 21 October 2016. The conference aims to provide impetus to commercial arbitration in country or faster and efficient dispute resolution outside the court room. It was started with title 'National Initiative On Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement'. It was held to change the face of dispute resolution in India. For the first time six leading international arbitral institutions and all major industry associations had participated in it. Discussions on Indian Arbitration Act, Case Management of Arbitration, Setting up an world class autonomous arbitration institution and court support for arbitration were held.

Mahesh Varma chaired the first meeting of reconstituted CABC

i. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Culture and Tourism chaired the "First Meeting of the Re-constituted Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC).

ii. When addressing on the occasion, he stressed on the need to evolve a participative process of decision making in the field of Culture, and invited suggestions from the eminent members on the way forward.

iii. The members of the CABC were requested to highlight priority areas in the fields of art, music, dance and literature.

iv. The Minister assured the members of all possible help from the Ministry of Culture in this brainstorming session. The next CABC meeting has been scheduled for 21st November, 2016 at Varanasi wherein these priority areas highlighted by the artists would be taken forward.

India's first startup magazine launched

The Cofounder launches itself as India's first startup magazine that will help boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country through its stories. The Cofounder, founded by Adhish Verma and Arunraj Rajendran, is the first startup magazine that will talk about real stories behind the early stage startups and entrepreneurs.

Tawang festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh.

i. Arunachal Pradesh is one of the land of tribes. The festivals here are abound with zest and life – based on aspects related to nature and agriculture. Dance is the soul of all the festivals here; performed with pride and belief.

ii. Losar" or The New Year festivalis the most important festival of Tawang District in Arunachal Pradesh. The MonpaTribe celebrated this as the coming of a new year. The Monpas are the major portion of the population in the Tawang region of Arunachal Pradesh.

iii. The initial celebrations start with people cleaning their homes and discarding all the old items to welcome the festival. This festival mostly falls in the last part of February or early part of March.

iv. The festival generally lasts for eight to fifteen days and is celebrated with loads of fun and festivity. During the festival days, festivities prayers are offered for prosperity and good health.

CO2 level reaches record high in 2016: WMO

According to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin level of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in the atmosphere has reached a record high. The globally averaged concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere reached to 400 parts per million (ppm) for the first time in 2015. It is expected to surge again to new records in 2016 on the back of the very powerful El Niño event. This is for the first time CO2 levels have reached the 400 ppm barrier on a global average basis for the entire year.

Government to fast-track Indus basin irrigation projects

i. Central government is planning to fast-track four projects in Indus river basin to increase irrigation area in Jammu and Kashmir by nearly 2.05 lakh acres.

ii. PM Modi had chaired a meeting to review the 56-year-old Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) last month.

iii. Out of four three projects are -Tral Irrigation Project in Pulwama, Prakachik Khows Canal in Kargil and restoration and modernisation of main Ravi Canal in Jammu's Sambha and Kathua- are expected to be completed by this fiscal.

iv. The fourth project of Rajpora Lift Irrigation is planned to be completed by December 2019.

India ranks 130th in 2017 Ease of Doing Business index

India has been placed at 130th position among the 190 countries in the recently released World Bank's ease of doing business index for the year 2017. The index was released as part of the World Bank's annual report Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All. This report had revised India's rank to 131 from earlier 130th for the year 2016. Thus, India has improved its place by one spot in the 2017 index and its place remained unchanged from the previous original ranking of 130 in the year 2016. The ease of doing business index is annually released by World Bank in its Ease of Doing Business Report. It was introduced in 2004. In this index, ranking of country is based on index averages the country's percentile rankings on 10 indicators each having equal weightage. A higher ranking of country in this list means that its regulatory environment is more conducive and favourable for the starting and operation of firms.

Top 10 Countries: New Zealand (1st), Singapore (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Hong Kong (4th), South Korea (5th), Norway (6th), UK (7th), US (8th), Sweden (9th) and Macedonia (10th).

BIRCS Nations: India ranks lowest in Doing Business among the BRICS nations. Russia (40), South Africa (74), China (78), Brazil (123) and India (130).

India's Neighbours: Bhutan (73), China (78), Nepal (107), Sri Lanka (110), Pakistan (144) and Bangladesh (176).

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Centre amended election rules, armed forces to now get e- Postal ballots

i. The armed forces service voters would receive their ballots through the internet from the Election Commission (EC) in the upcoming assembly elections.

ii. The Centre has changed the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 enabling service voters, including armed forces personnel, to cast their vote in elections through e-postal ballot.

iii. This would cut short the delay experienced in the present system of two-way transmission of ballot paper by the postal services, and adding that two-way electronic transmission has not been recommended by the Election Commission for security and secrecy reasons.

iv. The government had approached the Election Commission to make less severe the difficulties faced by service voters while exercising their vote.

v. The technical team of the Election Commission has developed a system whereby a blank postal ballot could be electronically transmitted to the voter.

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India slams hold on declaring Masood Azhar global terrorist

India has reacted sharply to the extension of the "technical hold" on banning Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar by the United Nations 1267 Sanctions Committee. It clearly mentioned that being a global body, UN will be sending a "dangerous message" if it fails to act upon India's demand for his designation as a global terrorist. India also criticised the complete non-transparent and anonymous manner of designating individuals by the UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee. It also mentioned that, UN Sanctions Committee has already proscribed Pakistan-based JeM a terrorist organisation. However committee ignored the need to take action against the organisation's main leader, motivator and financier who continues his terrorist actions unhindered.

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Heritage Infrastructure projects worth Rs. 350 cr approved

i. Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development inaugurated a two day conference on Heritage Cities.

ii. The conference is being jointly organised by Ministry of Urban Development and Indian Heritage Cities Network (IHCN).

iii. According to Mr. Naidu, Heritage Infrastructure projects worth Rs. 350 cr approved.

- iv. Now India has 35 World Heritage Sites, both cultural and natural, recognized by UNESCO.
- v. India ranks 5th in the world and 2nd in Asia, in terms of number of World Heritage Sites.
- vi. In 2013, India received 69 lakh foreign tourists and 114 crore domestic tourist visits, generating revenue of Rs. 2 lakh crore. i.e. 6.6 % of GDP.

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SC stays commercial release of GM mustard

The Supreme Court has stayed the commercial release of Genetically Modified (GM) mustard crop till October 17, 2016. It has asked the Central Government to seek public opinion before releasing the variety for cultivation purpose. Order in this regard was issued by SC Bench of Chief Justice T.S. Thakur and Justice A.M. Khanwilkar on petition filed by Aruna Rodrigues. The petition had alleged that sowing of the GM Mustard seeds will be undertaken without relevant tests and without entire bio-safety dossier for commercial launch GM mustard. It also had urged the SC to prohibit open field trials and the commercial release of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) crops, including HT Mustard DMH 11 and its parent lines/variants.

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2016 World Economic Forum (WEF) India Economic Summit held in New Delhi

- i. The India Economic Summit of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was held in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi, will provide a strategic platform for the WEF's global multi-stakeholder community to discuss and debate the theme Fostering an Inclusive India through Digital
- ii. The summit will address key issues of national and regional importance under three thematic pillars: Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Driving Sustainable and Equitable Growth and, Improving the Ease of Doing Business.
- iii. More than 600 participants from business, public sector, science, arts, civil society, media and international organizations spanning 30 countries are participating.
- iv. India will be represented by key public figures including Union ministers Jayant Sinha, Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani and Suresh Prabhu.

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Women can also be prosecuted under domestic violence law: SC

Not only men but women can also be prosecuted under the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence (DV) Act. The Supreme Court has struck down the words "adult male" from the pertinent provision in the DV Act to lay down that a woman can also file a complaint against another woman, accusing her of domestic violence.

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Maharashtra Government allocates land to LIGO India Project

i. Maharashtra government has allocated 40.68 hectare land in Hingloi to Department of Atomic Energy(DAE) for LIGO India Project.

ii. The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) project that was given the in-principle approval by the Cabinet planned to construct in Hingoli district, Maharashtra

iii. It is third LIGO laboratory in the world and first laboratory outside the United States. The existing laboratories are located in Hanford, Washington, and in Livingston, Louisiana.

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Union Government to invite bids soon for 36 inland waterways

The Union Government is going to soon float tenders to invite bids for the development for 36 inland waterways projects in the first phase. This move will help to tap the huge potential in the so-far-untapped inland waterways transport segment despite India being endowed with natural rivers suitable for it. Inland water transportation is environment-friendly and cost-effective mode of transportation. It will reduce the logistics costs significantly which are currently as high as 18% in India. India has huge natural geographical potential for inland waterways as 14,500 km of river channels are navigable. Development inland waterways can spur industrial growth and tourism potential along the waterway especially in plain areas of North India.

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Five-day long Durga Puja festival began in Nagaland

i. The five-day long Durga Puja was celebrated by the Hindu community throughout the state of Nagaland

ii. The Puja celebration began with Sasthi Puja, followed by Mahasaptami, Mahaashtami, Mahanavami, and the Bijaya Dashami, when the celebration would culminate.

iii. It was followed by some rituals including unveiling the face of the deity. Durga Puja – the ceremonial worship of the mother goddess, is one of the most important festivals of India.

iv. There were over 14 Durga Puja pandals in and around Kohima, where Puja would be performed. The President of the Durgabari of Kohima, Subhash Bhattacharjee and General Secretary, N.C. Tiwari, in a release, had invited all well-wishers to come to visit the Durgabari and informed that there would be cultural programme for all communities in the Puja pandals.

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Russia & Turkey agree to intensify military, intelligence contacts

The Russia and Turkey have agreed to intensify military and intelligence contacts. They also have agreed on the need for aid to get to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. Decision in this regard was taken after meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin on sidelines of World Energy Congress in Istanbul. The two countries also have signed a deal to construct two TurkStream gas pipeline pipelines to send Russian gas under the Black Sea to Turkey.

Turkey will use one pipeline for its domestic consumption and the other will supply southeastern Europe, bypassing Ukraine.

India to light up IEA's global LED programme

- i. India, through its company Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), has performed exceedingly well in terms of vastly improving access to LED lighting while reducing their cost drastically.
 - ii. The LED programme by EESL has been so successful that IEA is partnering with it to take the programme global was reported by Paul Simons, Deputy Executive Director at the IEA.
 - iii. The price at which EESL has been purchasing LED lights to distribute under the government's Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (Ujala) scheme has been consistently falling over the last couple of years. The company purchased LEDs at Rs.310 per piece in 2014, and the price fell to Rs.55 as of March 2016.
 - iv. The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
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India becomes first team to play 900 ODIs

India's ODI against New Zealand at Dharamshala on 16th oct 2016 is the team's 900th making it the world first side to achieve a milestone. 900th One Day International (ODI) match between India and New Zealand was held at the HPCA stadium in Dharamshala. Out of the 899 ODI's, India has won 454, lost 399 tied seven, while 39 have abandoned.

Odisha celebrated Kumar Purnima festival

- i. Celebrated on the last day of the Ashwin month, the Kumar Purnima festival is the occasion to observe the birthday of Lord Kartikeswara, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
 - ii. It is a festival of rejoicing for the girls. All of them sing and dance. The songs are of special nature. They also play a kind of game known as Puchi. They also indulge in other varieties of country-games.
 - iii. Odisha spirit shows its best in its delicacies prepared during their festival. Highly spritual and pious towards local traditions, every festival is an occasion to celebrate and rejoice with friends, relatives and different social groups. This cultural bond is also extended to the relationship with God. No food is considered eaten unless offered to God.
 - iv. Young girls of Odisha are gearing up to look their best and seek blessings of the Moon God on Kumar Purnima festival that is on 18th October 2016.It is believed that unmarried girls get a good life partner if they perform these rituals.
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India bagged silver and bronze medal in the 56kg weight category in the IWF Youth (Boys & Girls) World Weightlifting Championships was held at which place?

- A.Chittagong, Bangladesh
- B.Jurong, Singapore
- C.Penang, Malaysia
- D.Jakarta, Indonesia

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Penang, Malaysia

Explanation:

India created history at the IWF Youth (Boys & Girls) World Weightlifting Championships at Penang, Malaysia, bagging a silver and a bronze medal in the 56kg weight category. Jeremy Lalrinnunga finished second with a lift of 108kg in snatch and 127kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 235kgs. Muthupandi Raja clinched the bronze with an overall lift of 233kgs (100+133), according to the Indian Weightlifting Federation release.

What is the position of Mumbai among 15 global cities in terms of total wealth which was released by the New World Wealth?

- A.7th
- B.14th
- C.8th
- D.15th

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.14th

Explanation:

According to New World Wealth, India's financial hub Mumbai has been named among top 15 cities globally in terms of total wealth held, while London topped the list. Total wealth held worldwide amounts to \$185 trillion (as of June 2016). Globally, there are 13,300,000 millionaires and 1,940 billionaires in total.

Which wildlife sanctuary has seen with Smooth coated otter for the first time in the mangrove forest?

A.Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh

B.Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka

C.Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala

D.Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

Smooth-coated otter was sighted for the first time in the mangrove forest near the Krishna wildlife sanctuary (KWS) in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. In all, seven otters including a family of four, were found in a playful mood and the rest were photographed while preying on the fish in the brackish waters.

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Which company has set up a cyber security engagement centre (CSEC) in New Delhi to work with partners in identifying and responding to cyber threats in India?

A.Lenovo

B.Dell

C.Apple

D.Microsoft

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Microsoft

Explanation:

US based Microsoft has set up a cybersecurity engagement centre (CSEC) in New Delhi to work with partners in identifying and responding to cyber threats in India. To help build a trusted and secure computing environment, a critical enabler for India's digital transformation.

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Which state to launch country's first indigenous olive oil brand after by eight years of harnessing olive saplings brought from Israel?

A.Gujarat

B.Madhya Pradesh

C.Uttarakhand

D.Rajasthan

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Rajasthan

Explanation:

After eight years of harnessing olive saplings brought from Israel, Rajasthan is all set to launch next month its own brand olive oil, which it claims, will be the country's first indigenously-produced brand. The state would be launching its olive oil under the brand 'Raj Olive Oil' at the Global Rajasthan Agri-tech Meet (GRAM) was announced by state Agriculture Minister Prabhu Lal Saini.

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What is the name of oldest aircraft carrier was accorded a grand send-off from the port city in Kochi, after over five decades of its service to the Navy?

A.INS Vikrant

B.INS Chakra

C.INS Arihant

D.INS Viraat

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.INS Viraat

Explanation:

INS Viraat, the world's oldest aircraft carrier, was accorded a grand send-off from the port city in Kochi, after over five decades of its service to the Navy. The ship, which underwent a withdrawing refit, is being towed back by three tugs to Mumbai for the decommissioning ceremony, was reported by a Navy official. Viraat is expected to be decommissioned by end of this year, after 55 years of service, including 27 years with the Royal Navy (British Navy).

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Which junction is called as Happiness junction in Bihar's railway station of the East Central Railway which is inaugurated by the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Manoj Kumar Aggarwal?

A.Patna

B.Gaya

C.Muzaffarpur

D.Sonpur

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Sonpur

Explanation:

First 'Happiness Junction' of India was inaugurated in Bihar's Sonapur railway station of the East Central Railway (ECR) by Sonapur Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Manoj Kumar Aggarwal. Sonapur junction will have the several books and several entertainment tools for waiting passengers. Besides with TV, journals and a kids zone are also will available. This facility would be extended in other stations of the division soon.

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Central government is planning to fast-track four projects in Indus river basin to increase irrigation area in which state by nearly 2.05 lakh acres?

A.Madhya Pradesh

B.Gujarat

C.Jammu and Kashmir

D.Rajasthan

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Jammu and Kashmir

Explanation:

Central government is planning to fast-track four projects in Indus river basin to increase irrigation area in Jammu and Kashmir by nearly 2.05 lakh acres. PM Modi had chaired a meeting to review the 56-year-old Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) last month. Out of four three projects are -Tral Irrigation Project in Pulwama, Prakachik Khows Canal in Kargil and restoration and modernisation of main Ravi Canal in Jammu's Sambha and Kathua– are expected to be completed by this fiscal.

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ISRO started a series of ground and aerial tests linked to the critical Moon landing of which space probe at Challakere in Chitradurga district?

A.Jugnu – 3

B.Bhaskara – 3

C.Chandrayaan – 2

D.Aryabhata – 2

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Chandrayaan – 2

Explanation:

The Indian Space Research Organization started a series of ground and aerial tests linked to the critical Moon landing of Chandrayaan-2 at Challakere in Chitradurga district. This Place is 400 km far away from Bengaluru. ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) is the lead centre for the second Moon mission. It has artificially created close to ten craters to simulate the lunar terrain and test the Lander's sensors. Former Reserve Bank of India chief general manager Salim Gangadharan is appointed as the next non-executive chairman of South Indian Bank. It is effective from November first week.

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Which statement is true related to Re-examine of 1995 verdict on Hindutva by Supreme Court?

Statement 1. The issue has been referred by a six – judge bench

Statement 2. The 1995 judgment defined Hindutva 'as a way of life and not a religion'

A.Both 1 and 2

B.Only 2

C.Only 1

D.Neither 1 or 2

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Only 2

Explanation:

The Supreme Court gave the final decision that it wouldnot re-examine its1995 verdict on Hindutva at this stage as it is not the reference for hearing electoral malpractice issues. The 1995 judgment defined Hindutva 'as a way of life and not a religion'. SC mentioned it that it wasn't keen to revisit the debate about philosophy of Hinduism but made it clear religion shouldn't be used in elections.

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What is the name of India's latest communication satellite was successfully launched from Kourou, Guiana?

A.GSAT-7

B.GSAT-18

C.GSAT-17

D.GSAT-8

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.GSAT-18

Explanation:

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 was successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Ariane space from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana. Weighing 3404 kg at lift-off, GSAT-18 carries 48 communication transponders to provide Services in Normal C-band, Upper Extended C-band and Ku bands of the frequency spectrum.

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Which state signed a MoU with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology for skill development of local people?

- A.Himachal Pradesh
- B.Arunachal Pradesh
- C.Tiripura
- D.Goa

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation:

Arunachal Pradesh government signed a MoU with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology for skill development of local people in presence of Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu in New Delhi. It will facilitate development of skill to 1,600 people of Arunachal Pradesh in the first of a four year project under a scheme for 'Skill Development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector'.

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Ashok Leyland launches first India-made electric bus

Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland today launched – Circuit – the first "Made in India" electric bus. The bus with a minimum seating capacity of 35 to a maximum of 65 can run up to 120 kilometres on a single recharge under standard test conditions.

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Number Of Deaths Due To Encephalitis Rises To 54 In Odisha

- i. The Japanese Encephalitis has killed over 150 children and taken epidemic proportions in Malkangiri district due to negligence.
- ii. A two-year-old girl from Padia block died while undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the district headquarters hospital in Odisha , taking the toll to 54.
- iii. At present, 29 children, afflicted with the disease are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital and four of them are in the ICU in a serious condition.105 out of the 184 children admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Odisha with JE have been discharged after being cured.

iv. The deadly disease, which originates from pigs and spreads to humans, mostly children, through mosquitoes, had surfaced in the district around 38 days ago.

v. Japanese encephalitis virus JEV is the most important cause of viral encephalitis in Asia. It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus, and belongs to the same genus as dengue. The disease is predominantly found in rural and periurban settings, where humans live in closer proximity to these vertebrate hosts.

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Auto manufacturers to provide emission and noise pollution details for every vehicle

The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has made it mandatory for all automobile manufacturers to provide emission and noise pollution details for every vehicle they produce by April 2017. In this regard, the ministry has amended Form 22 under the Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1989 through which manufactures provide the initial certification of compliance of vehicles. Basically, it will include pollution standards, safety standards of component quality and road-worthiness certificate for all vehicles. With this mandatory measure, the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in future intends to award five star ratings to vehicles based on their emission and noise pollution standards.

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Modi inaugurates three hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh

i. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated three state-run mega hydro power of 1,752 MW capacity in Himachal Pradesh during his day-long maiden visit to the state

ii. After visiting Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana and he launched two schemes-National SC/ST Huband Zero Defect Zero Effect scheme with an initial outlay of Rs 490 crore

iii. He distributed 500 traditional wooden chark has to women spinners belonging to the five local Khadi institutions.

iv. Himachal Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh submitted a 13-point memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 18, 2016 at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

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Two ships commissioned for Navy and Coast Guard

Two ships were commissioned on 19th October 2016, one for the Eastern Naval Command of the Navy and the other for the Indian Coast Guard in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Fast patrol vessel ICGS Gaidinliu, named after Naga freedom fighter and leader Rani Gaidinliu, was commissioned by Director-General Rajendra Singh of the Coast Guard.

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Nirmala unveils logo for IPR cell in patent push

- i. Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a logo of a Cell for the IPR Promotion and Management(CIPAM).
- ii. She termed this as “an ambitious task” as India’s intellectual property related activities need great traction
- iii. The logo has been designed by the National Institute of Design, while keeping in mind the country’s slogan for its national IPR policy focsuing on innovation and creativity.

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Protein-enriched rice variety developed by IGKV Chattisgarh

Researchers from Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV),Chattisgarh have developed a protein-enriched rice variety. The new developed rice variety has over 10% protein content, which is 3% more than what is found in any popular variety and has 30 PPM (parts per million) zinc content. The protein-enriched rice variety was developed by researchers from IGKV’s Department of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. They had worked for seven years to develop the variety of rice that is rich in protein along with high zinc content. This protein rice variety will play a crucial role in addressing issues of protein deficiencies and it will serve as a boon for malnourished population, especially children, in tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh.

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Maharashtra government launches ‘Kaushalya Setu’ skill-development programme

- i. Maharashtra government launched ‘Kaushalya Setu’, its skill development programme for students.
- ii. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Minister of State Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Rajiv Pratap Rudy and state Education Minister Vinod Tawde were present on the occasion.
- iii. Under the Kaushalya Setu initiative, students of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, who fail to clear Class X or SSC exam, would be accommodated in the skill development courses.
- iv. The state will play a leading role in fulfilling PM Narendra Modi’s Skill India Mission-2020.

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Gangtok conferred Cleanest Tourist Destination honour

At a time when the Swachh Bharat Mission is in full swing, the Union Ministry of Tourism has conferred the Cleanest Tourist Destination on the Sikkim capital. The award was received by the Commissioner, GMC, from the Prime Minister. Chandigarh and Mysore were felicitated for ‘Clean Cities in million plus population category’ and Gangtok for ‘Cleanest Tourism Destination’.

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Abhaneri’ Festival Began In Dausa

i. Abhaneri' festival would be held at the Abhaneri village in Dausa district, Rajasthan to promote rural tourism in the area for two days.

ii. The festival would witness artistes performing Shehnai Vaadan, puppet show, Behrupia, Raavanhatha, among others at Chand Baori and Harshat Mata temple.

iii. The Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with the Dausa District Administration organized the annual event.

iv. On the first day there was various cultural performances like Mayur Dance, Langa singing, Kacchi Ghodi, Behrupia, Bhawai Dance while on 2nd day evening there would be a Kavi Sammelan performance by Abdul Ayub Gauri at Chand Baori (step well).

v. Chand Baori is one of the largest step wells built over a thousand years ago in the Abhaneri village of Dausa. The beautiful structure was built during the 8th and 9th centuries and has 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect symmetry, which descend 20m to the bottom of the well.

India ratifies Paris Climate Agreement

India has ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change on the 147th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. India's Permanent Representative to UN, Syed Akbaruddin handed over the Instrument of Ratification signed by President Pranab Mukherjee to the United Nations in New York. With this, India became 62nd country to ratify the agreement. These 62 countries including India are responsible for almost 52% of Green House Gases (GHG) emissions. The Paris Agreement on climate change will enter into force one month after 55 countries that account for 55% of global GHG emissions ratify the agreement. The Paris Agreement was adopted by more than 190 nations at the 21st Conference of Parties of UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) held in Paris in December 2015.

Arunachal CM flagged off all-women Mt Gorichen expedition

i. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off an all-women Mt Gorichen expedition. This would be the first all women team attempting to summit the second highest peak of the state, which is considered as a technical peak and only seasoned climbers can make it to the top (6,488 m).

ii. Anshu Jansempa, who climbed Mt Everest twice, would lead the team of 10 members from states like Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh), Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh with four support staff.

iii. Department of Sports and Youth Affairs and Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) jointly took the step about the expedition. The main objective of the all-women expedition is to promote women empowerment besides, promoting adventure tourism in the state.

iv. In 1939, an Englishman Bill Tilman was the first man to attempt climbing in the remote and unexplored Southern approaches of Gorichen, before his team succumbed to malaria. In 1993, the mountain received its first ascent by a team led by Dutchman Ronald Naar.

=====

SBI becomes first domestic bank to open branch in Yangon

India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the opening up its foreign branch in Yangon, the capital city of Myanmar. With this, SBI became the first domestic bank of India to open a branch in Myanmar. The Yangon branch is the 54th foreign branch of the SBI. This branch further extends the global presence of India's largest lender in 37 countries through 198 offices. The Yangon branch was started after the Myanmar central bank allowed SBI to open a branch with the primary objective of extending wholesale banking services to foreign corporates.

=====

Supreme Court imposed Rs 25,000 cost on Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain

i. The Supreme Court charged a cost of Rs.25,000 on Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain for failing to file an affidavit naming the officials allegedly not cooperating in checking the menace of dengue and chikungunya in the national capital.

ii. Apparently unhappy over the plea by the Delhi government's lawyer seeking time to file the affidavit, a bench of Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice DY Chandrachud observed that People were dying you didn't need 24 hours to file an affidavit.

iii. Jain, in the affidavit, told that officials were not taking responsibility and all files pertaining to diseases like dengue and chikungunya were being sent to LG for clearance.

iv. The Centre had told the apex court that it was the duty of Delhi government to ensure that the national capital remained clean and free from diseases like chikungunya and dengue.

v. The court imposed the cost in the course of the hearing of suomotu matter it had taken up in 2015 when the parents of a child committed suicide after he died as he was not treated at a hospital.

=====

Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17

The Reserve bank of India has reduced the key policy rate or the repo rate by 25 bps to 6.25 per cent in the fourth bimonthly policy review announced on 04 October. New Governor Urjit Patel, who took over a month ago from Dr Raghuram Rajan, announced his first monetary policy. There was no change in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) or the amount of money parked with the central bank as a percentage of bank deposits at 4 per cent. The decision to cut was taken after a two-day deliberation by the newly formed Monetary Policy Committee. The committee has three external members and three internal members from the RBI including the Governor. All 6 members voted in favour of a cut. The committee was headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel and comprises six members.

=====

6 Centre accepted pay panel recommendation on promotion

i. The Union government has accepted the recommendation of the 7th Pay Commission on Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) for Central employees which would ensure one minimum promotion for every 10 years till 30 years of service.

ii. An office memorandum by the Department of Personnel said here that there should be three financial upgradations under the assured promotion scheme counted from the direct entry grade on completion of 10, 20 and 30 years services respectively or 10 years of continuous service in the same level in Pay Matrix, whichever is earlier.

iii. The Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme was originally introduced in 2008 following the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission

iv. Government has accepted the memorandum On the recommendation of the Commission on enhancement of benchmark for performance appraisal for promotion and financial upgradation from 'Good' to 'Very Good', the memorandum.

=====

Sushil Chandra appointed CBDT Chairman

The Government has appointed Indian Revenue Service officer Sushil Chandra as the next chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. He will take over from the current CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair, who will retire on October 31. Sushil Chandra is IRS officer of 1980 batch. Prior to this appointment he was serving as member of CBDT.

=====

Velrampet lake of Puducherry declared Open Defecation Free

i. Puducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi in the presence of Chief Minister V Narayansamy declared Velrampet lake and surrounding area as open defecation free.

ii. According to an official statement, the lake was, tar roads laid in the area and fenced by the PWD(irrigation wing) earlier and was declared open defecation free under the Swatch Bharath programme

iii. It is the initiative of Puducherry government to ensure that the whole Union Territory becomes open defecation free by October 2, 2017.

iv. The Union Territory government has spent Rs. 75 lakh to spruce up the vast stretch of the lake.

=====

Government launches Biotech-KISAN scheme to empower farmers.

i. The Ministry of Science and Technology has started two new initiatives namely Biotech-KISAN and Cattle Genomics.

ii. Biotech- KISAN (Krishi Innovation Science Application Network) Empowering Small- and Women-Farmers with Science Implementation.

iii. Under the scheme, fellowship will be given to women farmers for training and education in the farm practice.

iv. Biotech-KISAN will connect farmers to best global practices, training workshop in India and other countries.

=====

Sunil Mittal elected chairman of GSMA

Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal has been elected as chairman of GSM Association, or GSMA, that represents interests of mobile operators worldwide. GSMA named a 26-member board to serve for two years beginning January 2017 and elected Mittal, founder and chairman, Bharti Enterprises, as chairman and re-elected Mari-Noelle Jego-Laveissiere, executive vice president, Innovation, Orange Group as deputy chairperson. As GSMA chairman, Mittal will oversee the strategic direction of the organisation, which represents nearly 800 of the world's mobile operators as well as more than 300 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem.

=====

Haryana to observe 2017 as 'GaribKalyanVarsh'

i. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that the state government has decided to observe 2017 as the "GaribKalyanVarsh", with schemes to be spread next year for the poor.

ii. During the era of GaribKalyanVarsh, the government would lay confirm on welfare of poor people and generating employment opportunities for the youth

iii. Khattar, who completed two years in office the outgoing year was dedicated to Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya and accrued with the Golden Jubilee formation year of the state, established at Punjab in 1966.

iv. He claimed that he has provided good governance while making efforts to ensure transparency. Also, efforts have been made to streamline the systems which were creating problems for the people.

=====

Union Cabinet gives approval to IISER, Berhampur in Odisha

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to formation of the Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) at Berhampur in Odisha. IISER, Berhampur will be established under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and it will start of its 2016-17 academic session from 1 August 2016. It will being its operations from a transit or temporary campus from the Academic Year 2016-17 for the initial three years i.e. till 2016-19. Union Cabinet also gave approval for introduction of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

This bill will pave way for inclusion of IISER, Tirupati and IISER, Berhampur in Second Schedule of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) Act, 2007.

Union Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval to IISER in Odisha

i. Union Cabinet given its ex-post facto approval on October 27, 2016 to formation of the Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) at Berhampur in Odisha under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

ii. The cabinet approved setting up and operationalisation of the institute in a transit/temporary campus from academic year 2016-17 for initial three years (2016-19), involving a cost of Rs 152.79 crore.

iii. The cabinet also approved accepting land from the Odisha government for the institute and cleared creation of post of director of the institute in the pay scale of Rs.80,000 .

iv. The introduction of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016 approved to introduce in the parliament for inclusion of the IISER at Tirupati and Berhampur in the second schedule of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) Act, 2007.

Union Govt recognizes Boxing Federation of India as National Sports Federation for Boxing

The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has recognized Boxing Federation of India (BFI) as the National Sports Federation (NSF) for Boxing. This decision will give massive fillip to the recently-formed BFI and also give a boost to the sport of boxing which had suffered due to absence of an NSF in the discipline since 2012. The BFI was formed recently and had conducted its elections of its office bearers in September, 2016. AIBA, the International Body for boxing had recognized these newly elected office bearers of BFI. Considering the election report and other documents submitted by BFI, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports granted of recognition as NSF for Boxing.

The 20th ASEAN Regional Forum– Heads of Defence Universities / Colleges / Institutions Meet was held at which place?

- A.Imphal
- B.Udaipur
- C.Mumbai
- D.New Delhi

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.New Delhi

Explanation:

The 20th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) – Heads of Defence Universities / Colleges / Institutions Meet (HDUCIM) held in New Delhi. The meeting was hosted by the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Defence. The next ARF meet to be held in Manila in 2017. It will host by National Defence College of Philippines.

=====

Indian pharmaceuticals sector seeked major support from which country market, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the share of India in that drug market?

- A.China
- B.Afghanistan
- C.Japan
- D.Germany

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Japan

Explanation:

Indian pharmaceuticals sector seeked major support from the Japanese market, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the share of India in the Japanese drug market. The demand for generic medicines in Japan and India's capability to meet this demand can prove a win-win for both countries

=====

Who has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Vizag Steel by R Ramakrishnan, Director and Co-Founder Baseline Ventures?

- A.Sachin Tendulkar
- B.Deepa Karmakar
- C.PV Sindhu
- D.Shashi Malik

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.PV Sindhu

Explanation:

Indian professional badminton player P V Sindhu was roped as brand ambassador of Vizag Steel. It was announced by R Ramakrishnan, Director and Co-founder Baseline Ventures.

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[Police/Defence Jobs](#), [Engineering Jobs](#) Etc.

=====

Which of the following country to host the Asian ministerial conference for disaster risk reduction on November 3-5 , 2016 ?

- A.India
- B.Pakistan
- C.USA
- D.China

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.India

Explanation :

India will host the Asian ministerial conference for disaster risk reduction next month which will focus on partnership with governments and stakeholders to imbibe the practices in the region's development narrative.

=====

Which Prime Minister would arrive in New Delhi by three-day visit to India for discussing issues of mutual interest?

- A.Ranil Wickremesinghe
- B.Pushpa Kamal Dahal
- C.Sheikh Hasina
- D.Ashraf Ghani

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Ranil Wickremesinghe

Explanation:

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe would arrive in New Delhi for a three-day visit to India. During his stay, he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discuss issues of mutual interest. They had decided to conclude an enhanced bilateral economic partnership by the end of this year to allow the free flow of services between the two nations.

=====

Which sportsperson won the Japan Grandprix at Suzaka Circuit in Suzaka?

- A.Nico Roseberg

B.Max verstappen

C.Lewis Hamilton

D.Sebastian Vettel

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Nico Roseberg

Explanation:

Nico Roseberg of Germany and Mercedes GP won the Japan Grandprix at Suzaka Circuit in Suzaka. Red Bull's Max Verstappen Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton finished the GP with second and third respectively. While the Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen finished fourth and fifth.

=====

Which lab has been inaugurated by M. Rajeevan, Secretary to the Ministry of Earth Sciences at Himansh in the Spiti Valley on October 10, 2016?

A.Astronomical Research Lab

B.Meteorological Research Lab

C.Glaciological Research Lab

D.Geological Research Lab

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Glaciological Research Lab

Explanation:

The glaciological research lab inaugurated by M. Rajeevan, Secretary to the Ministry of Earth Sciences at Himansh in the Spiti Valley on October 10, 2016. It was located at an altitude of nearly 13,500 feet. It was established by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), has automatic weather stations, ground penetrating radars, geodetic GPS systems and other sophisticated facilities to study glaciers and their discharge.

=====

India's Energy Efficiency Services Limited has partnered with which agency to take the LED programme to reduce the cost drastically?

A.International Energy Agency

B.International Atomic Power Agency

C.International Power Agency

D.International Light Agency

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.International Energy Agency

Explanation:

The LED programme by EESL has been so successful that IEA is partnering with it to take the programme global was reported by Paul Simons, Deputy Executive Director at the IEA.

=====

Which renowned writer has been selected for the 'Mathrubhumi Literary Award' in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature?

A.C Raguveer Raj

B.C Raghavendiran

C.C Radhakrishnan

D.C Ramakrishnan

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.C Radhakrishnan

Explanation:

Renowned writer C Radhakrishnan has been selected for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature. A sum of Rs.2 lakh, a plaque and citation constitute the award. Radhakrishnan is a writer and film director in Malayalam language from Kerala state, South India. He was born in Chamravattom in Ponnani taluk in Malappuram district on February 15, 1939.

=====

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to organise the first ever ICC Women's World T20 event in which year?

A.2020

B.2018

C.2019

D.2021

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.2020

Explanation:

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to organise the first ever ICC Women's World T20 event in 2020. A decision to this effect was taken at the ICC Board meetings which concluded in Cape. Cricket Australia, hosts for the men's and women's ICC World Twenty20 in 2020, proposed holding the women's tournament as a stand-alone event six months ahead of the men's edition.

The City Corporation has launched the Swacch Bharat Swacch Vidyalaya campaign in how many elementary and middle schools in Coimbatore district?

A.55

B.40

C.50

D.60

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.60

Explanation:

The City Corporation has launched the Swacch Bharat Swacch Vidyalaya campaign in 60 elementary and middle schools. The initiative Swacch Bharat Swacch Vidyalaya-Smart School-Healthy Child was the continuation of world hand washing day event being held every year and will focus on personal hygiene among children, segregation of waste maintenance of toilets and also awareness on sanitation.

Who took charge as the member of the ICC's powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs committee after completion of the global cricket body's board meeting in Cape Town?

A.J Balakrishnan

B.N Srinivasan

C.Anurag Thakur

D.Shashank Manohar

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Anurag Thakur

Explanation:

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Anurag Thakur taken charge as the member of the ICC's powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs committee after completion of the global cricket

body's board meeting in Cape Town. He was elected as the 34th president of the Board of Control for Cricket on May 2016.

Which octogenarian freedom fighter died at an age of 88 due to age-related illness at Bikaner in Rajasthan?

A.Gursewak Singh

B.Niranjan

C.Jhanwar Lal Harsh

D.Nalinidhar Bhattacharyya

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Jhanwar Lal Harsh

Explanation:

An octogenarian freedom fighter Jhanwar Lal Harsh died due to age-related illness at Bikaner in Rajasthan. He was 88. Octogenarian – a person who is between 80 and 89 years old.

Which organization has launched the survey to seek quantitative information on order books, inventories and capacity utilization of companies in the manufacturing sector, a key input for monetary policy formulation?

A.IMF

B.NABARD

C.SEBI

D.RBI

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.RBI

Explanation:

RBI has launched the survey to seek quantitative information on order books, inventories and capacity utilisation of companies in the manufacturing sector, a key input for monetary policy formulation. The survey seeks quantitative information on order books, inventories and capacity utilization, such as, pending order books, backlog order books, total inventories, finished goods inventories, work in progress inventories and installed capacity from companies in the manufacturing activities.

Which company recently announced the world's first 5G Modem, called the Snapdragon X50 by the year of 2018?

- A.Motorola
- B.Dreamchip Electronics
- C.Qualcomm
- D.ARM Holdings

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Qualcomm

Explanation:

Qualcomm announces the world's first 5G Modem, called the Snapdragon X50. The chip could theoretically support download speeds on your smartphone of up to 5 gigabits per second. The average 4G download speed in the United States is 9.9 megabits per second. Phones with the 5G Modem will begin shipping in early 2018.

=====

Which bank has been conferred with "Special Award for Excellence in MSME lending" for its performance in lending to the MSME sector during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15?

- A.State Bank of Patiala
- B.State Bank of Travancore
- C.State Bank of Mysore
- D.State Bank of Kochi

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.State Bank of Patiala

Explanation:

State Bank of Patiala has been conferred "Special Award for Excellence in MSME lending" for its performance in lending to the MSME sector during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 at the National Award Function held at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.

=====

Which company became the first Indian solar company to be listed on NYSE after it announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 3,409,091 equity shares at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)?

- A.Boston Solar

B.Azure Power Global Limited

C.SunPower by Alternative Energy Systems

D.NRG Clean Power

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Azure Power Global Limited

Explanation:

Azure Power Global Limited become the first Indian solar company to be listed on NYSE after it announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 3,409,091 equity shares at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The IPO offering includes 2,242,424 equity shares to be sold by Azure Power and 1,166,667 shares to be sold by certain selling shareholders

=====

Centre sanctioned Rs.100 Cr fund for road development works in Vijayapura District

i. The Union Government has ratified a fund of Rs.100crore for various road development works in Vijayapura District under Central Road Fund was announced by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramesh Jigajng.

ii. Mr.Jigajngi stated that the amount would be utilised for developing roads including long pending Sindagi-Almol-Karadi 32 km MDR road at a cost of Rs 35 crore,

iii. Kaulo Goud NH at Rs.2 crore, Ring Road at Rs Five crore and other roads. UNI MSP CS 1512

iv. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah showed Karnataka Budget 2016-17 in which major focus have been laid on water resources and agriculture sectors.

About Central Road Fund :

◆ The Central Road Fund was established by the Parliament by Central Road Fund Act 2000.

◆ The fund is utilised for the development and maintenance of National highways, State roads, Rural roads and for provision of road over bridges/under bridges and other safety features at unmanned Railway Crossings.

=====

Benami Transactions Act to curb black money comes into effect

The new law to prohibit benami transactions will come into effect from 1st of next month (01st November 2016). Parliament had passed the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 to curb black money. After coming into effect, the existing Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 will be renamed as the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions, PBPT, Act, 1988. The new legislation provides for seven years imprisonment and fine for those indulging in illegal transactions.

=====

Cabinet approves New Productivity Linked Reward Scheme for port and dock workers

- i. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has given its approval to New Productivity Linked Reward(PLR) Scheme for all Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Board employees/workers for the years 2015-16 to 2017-18.
- ii. The new PLR scheme will benefit about 37870 Port and Dock workers/employees in all the Major Port Trusts and the yearly outgo will be Rs. 49.58 crore.
- iii. It will be calculated on the enhanced wage ceiling for calculation of Bonus at Rs. 7000/- per month.
- iv. It shall be paid annually on the basis of 50% weightage given to all India Performance and 50% weightage given to the individual Port Performance.
- v. It will foster better industrial relationship and congenial work atmosphere in the Port Sector, apart from stimulating better productivity.

For the year 2014-15, an amount of Rs 25.93 crore has already been paid to about 41,492 Major Ports & Dock workers/employees as per wage ceiling of Rs.3500/.

=====

Sania Mirza retains World Number One ranking in Women's Doubles for 2nd consecutive year

Ace Indian tennis star Sania Mirza will end the season as world's top doubles Tennis player for the second straight year. Sania finished this season with seven Women's Tennis Association, WTA titles, a Grand Slam and a semi-final finish in the year ending WTA Finals in Singapore. The ace Indian tennis star was close to being uprooted by Bethanie Mattek-Sands from the top spot, had the American won the WTA Finals Doubles title. However, Bethanie lost in the final and ensured that Sania will end the year at the top once again.

=====

Arun Jaitley releases Rs 1,093 cr for restoration of infra in J&K

- i. Finance minister Arun Jaitley released first instalment of special assistance of Rs 1,093.34 crore out of Rs.2000 crore to Jammu & Kashmir for repair and permanent restoration of damaged public buildings such as schools, colleges, hospitals, bus stations under Prime Minister Reconstruction Plan which was announced on November 7, 2015
 - ii. On October 27, 2016, union government approved one-time relaxation of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) cost norms for restoration of damaged horticulture areas and development of horticulture in J & K.
- =====

Ease of Doing Business: A.P., Telangana top in 2016 all-India ranking

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has released the report on State-wise Ease of Doing Business rankings on 31st October 2016. The rankings are on the basis of 340-point business reform action plan and their implementation by the States. This covers the period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Andhra Pradesh and Telengana topped the all-India ranking with 98.78 per cent each, followed by Gujarat with 98.21 per cent; Chhattisgarh with 97.32 per cent and Madhya Pradesh with 97.01 per cent. Haryana ranked sixth with 96.95 per cent followed by Jharkhand with 96.57 per cent; Rajasthan with 96.43 per cent; Uttarakhand with 96.13 per cent and Maharashtra completed the top 10 with 92.86 per cent.

Janani Suraksha Yojana paid dividends: Study

- i. A new study brought in first conclusive evidence of the role played by Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) in reducing 'socioeconomic disparities' existing in maternal care.
 - ii. The JSY was launched in 2005 as part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve maternal and neonatal health by promotion of institutional deliveries (childbirth in hospitals).
 - iii. As per the latest Lancet report on maternal health, India accounted for 15 % of the total maternal deaths in the world in 2015 i.e., 45,000 women dying during pregnancy or childbirth. It is second only to Nigeria.
 - iv. This study was aimed to cover this subject. It was conducted using data from two rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) — conducted in 2004-05 (before the introduction of JSY) and 2011-12 (after JSY).
-

Global hunger index: 2016

India ranked 97th out of 118 countries on the International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index (GHI) in 2016, behind Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, among others, but ahead of Pakistan and three other Asian countries. It was positioned at 80 out of 104 countries the previous year. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a multidimensional statistical tool used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation. It describes India's hunger situation as "serious." On a 0-100 point scale with 100 being the absolute worst in hunger levels, India scored 28.5 – a marginal improvement of a quarter point since the turn of the century. But with the country all set to be the most populous in the world in the next 10-odd years, the improvement may well reverse.

CERC panel suggests overhaul in transmission planning

Mata Prasad committee appointed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has suggested an overhaul in transmission planning to facilitate transfer of power on economic principles.

Committee Suggestions:

- i. The transmission planning be aligned to meet customer aspirations as opposed to the existing system where transmission is associated with long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs).
- ii. Transmission planning can be done on the basis of projected load of the states and anticipated generation scenario based on economic principles of merit order operation.
- iii. In case of renewable energy sources, the transmission system may be planned by the central transmission utility (CTU) based on estimated capacity additions in perspective plan and renewable purchase obligations of each state.
- iv. This is crucial as the Centre has already launched renewable energy capacity addition of 175 Gw by 2032.

=====

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank awarded by Ugandan govt for his literary work

Former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with a prestigious award by the Ugandan government for promoting human values through his literature. Nishank, who is currently a BJP MP from Haridwar, has authored a number of books and anthologies.

=====

Maharashtra govt extends fee waiver to students with Rs 6L family

- i. Devendra Fadnavis lead Maharashtra government decided to extend fee waiver to students for professional and higher education courses, including medical and engineering.
- ii. Before SC/ST students had 100 per cent fee waiver while OBC students had 50 per cent concession. Now it is extended to all students with income limit of Rs 6 lakhs and who have secured more than 60 per cent marks at the time of admission.
- iii. Those with income limit upto Rs 2.5 lakhs will have no condition

Other schemes in the line :

- ◆ Punjabrao Deshmukh scheme – to provide hostel fees to children of marginal farmers and registered labourers.
- ◆ Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swayam Yojana – for providing hostel and food facilities to tribal students.

=====

British Olympics icon Jessica Ennis-Hill announces retirement from athletics

Jessica Ennis-Hill has announced her retirement from athletics. Ennis-Hill, 30, who won a gold medal for heptathlon at London 2012, hinted after winning silver at Rio 2016 that she could leave the sport, and confirmed her decision on 13 October. Ennis-Hill became the poster girl for London 2012 after her gold medal success in the heptathlon event on “Super Saturday”. She returned to defend her title in Rio this summer but fell just short, finishing in second place behind Nafissatou Thiam of

Belgium. The Sheffield-born heptathlete leaves her sport having also won gold medals in two world championships, one world indoor championship and a European championship.

Andhra Pradesh govt released Rs. 99.62 crore under AMRUT scheme

i. Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme, Andhra Pradesh has released Rs.99.62 crore to AP-Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (AP-UFIDC) for the year 2016-17.

ii. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015 with the focus of the urban renewal projects is to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewerage networks and water supply for urban transformation

iii. The scheme is being implemented in 33 cities and towns in the State, including Amaravati. Vijayawada, Guntur, and Visakhapatnam find a place in the list of cities set for a major upgrade of infrastructure in the coming years.

iv. Rajasthan was the first state in the country to submit State Annual Action Plan under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

Union Govt to use post offices to distribute pulses

The Union Government has decided to utilise the vast network of post offices across the country to sell subsidised pulses. The decision was taken during the meeting of the inter-ministerial committee on prices of essential commodities headed by Consumer Affairs Secretary. The committee has reviewed the availability and prices of essential commodities, especially pulses. The prices of pulses, sugar and other essential commodities. The committee decided to release more gram (chana) from buffer stock to ensure its availability through retail distribution at reasonable prices during the festive season.

Union Govt launches satellite-based illegal Mining Detection System

Union Government has launched Mining Surveillance System (MSS), a pan-India surveillance network to check illegal mining using latest satellite technology. MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to check illegal mining activity through automatic remote-sensing detection technology in order to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration. Mining Surveillance System (MSS) is developed by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) in coordination with Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar.

Haryana starts 'farm tourism' scheme

i. The 'Farm Tourism' scheme launched by Haryana Tourism Minister Rambilas Sharma to attract people to villages

ii.Under this scheme, farm owners can host tourists under holiday packages.

iii. Aim :To aware people about the history and culture of Haryana, the state government has been focusing on developing ancient cultural heritage, historical and famous pilgrimage sites as tourism spots.

=====

Who has arrived in India on October 16 on a four-day trip during which she attended BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra on key bilateral and regional issues?

- A.Aung San SuuKyι
- B.Hillary Clinton
- C.Christiane Amanpour
- D.JK Rowling

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Aung San SuuKyι

Explanation:

In her first visit after becoming State Counsellor, Myanmarēse leader DawAung San SuuKyι arrived in India on October 16 on a four-day trip during which she attended BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra on key bilateral and regional issues.

=====

Who is the country’s most successful para climber won the Gold medal in IFSC Para Climbing Cup in the United Kingdom?

- A.Manikandan Kumar
- B.Manikavel
- C.Madan Kumar
- D.Mahesh Kumar

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Manikandan Kumar

Explanation :

Kumar became the first and the only Indian climber to have won three Gold medals, seven Silver medals and a Bronze medal.

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Which award has bagged by the Gujarat's 900-year-old World Heritage Site Rani ki Vav at the Indian Sanitation Conference (INDOSAN) 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi?

- A.Wonderful Iconic Place
- B.Cleanest Iconic Place
- C.Beautiful Iconic Place
- D.Significant Iconic Place

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Cleanest Iconic Place

Explanation :

Two of the five major Swachh Bharat awards to be presented by the Centre are likely to go to Gujarat.UNESCO-approved Rani Ki Vav at Patan in Gujarat was set to get the "cleanest monument award" while textile city Surat was likely to get the tag of the city with cleanest railway station.

Who has been concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, with residence in Kingston (Jamaica)?

- A.M.Neethimani
- B.S.Marimuthu
- C.M.SelvaKanth
- D.M.Sevala Naik

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.M.Sevala Naik

Explanation :

M.Sevala Naik was concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, with residence in Kingston (Jamaica). He is currently working as the High Commissioner of India to Jamaica.

How much amount has been charged by the Supreme Court on Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain for the medical related issues?

- A.Rs.25,000
- B.Rs.15,000

C.Rs.35,000

D.Rs.55,000

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Rs.25,000

Explanation :

The Supreme Court charged a cost of Rs.25,000 on Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain for failing to file an affidavit naming the officials allegedly not cooperating in checking the menace of dengue and chikungunya in the national capital.

Who is the author of the book titled “Modi’s Midas Touch in Foreign Policy” ?

A.Smriti Irani

B.Ravi Shankar Prasad

C.Surendra Kumar

D.Venkaiah Naidu

Answer & Explanation

Answer- C.Surendra Kumar

Explanation:

Minister for Information and Broadcasting M. Venkaiah Naidu along with Minister for Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu and Shri Tarun Vijay, Former Member of Parliament released the book titled “Modi’s Midas Touch in Foreign Policy” in New Delhi on October 4, 2016.

How many scientists awarded with The 2016 Nobel Prize for their work on exotic states of matter?

A.5

B.2

C.4

D.3

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.3

Explanation:

David James Thouless is a British condensed-matter physicist, Wolf Prize winner and laureate of the 2016 Nobel Prize for physics along with Duncan M. Haldane and J. Michael Kosterlitz for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter.

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In which state, Election Commission has launched a mobile application for more transparency and effective monitoring of the ongoing revision of voter's list before the 2017 Assembly polls?

- A.Himachal Pradesh
- B.Andhra Pradesh
- C.Madhya Pradesh
- D.Uttar Pradesh

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

Election Commission has launched a mobile application for more transparency and effective monitoring of the ongoing revision of voters' list before the 2017 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. This app will provide details regarding addition and deletion of names from the electoral roll.

=====

The fourth meeting of Indo-Czech joint working group led by the Secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry, Mr Girish Shankar held at which place?

- A.Ostrava
- B.Petrin
- C.Prague Castle
- D.Brno

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Brno

Explanation:

A high level delegation of Indian officials and industry leaders led by Secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry, Mr Girish Shankar with Czech Republic officials attended the 4th meeting of Indo-Czech joint working group at Brno, Czech Republic.

=====

Which state government has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh-based Ruchi Soya Industries for development of Oil Palm in the state?

- A.Himachal Pradesh
- B.Uttar Pradesh
- C.Arunachal Pradesh
- D.Maharashtra

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation :

The MoU signed to cover an area of 5,000 hectare initially in the foothill areas of West Siang, Lower Subansiri, Papumpare and East Kameng districts. This is an initiative step towards gainful utilization of the vast land resource of the state for economic development through farming operation.

=====

Which country lifted the 4th men's Under-18 Asia Cup hockey trophy by defeating Bangladesh 5-4 in the Under-18 Asia Cup hockey trophy in Dhaka?

- A.Japan
- B.Bangladesh
- C.Australia
- D.India

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.India

Explanation :

India lifted the 4th men's Under-18 Asia Cup hockey trophy by defeating Bangladesh 5-4 in the Under-18 Asia Cup hockey trophy in Dhaka. Earlier, India had stormed into the final by defeating arch rivals Pakistan 3-1 in the semi-final match.

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