

– Current Affairs –

July 2017

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Govt launches GST Training Programme

The government has launched a GST training programme to skill around two lakh youths in six months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making. The people would be trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The new training course would cater to the need of GST trained professionals to help businesses in areas such as registration and calculation of tax liability under the new tax regime. It will be implemented in 14 states.

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Matunga becomes India's first railway station run by women

In a bid to empower women, Central Railway has appointed all women staff at suburban Matunga railway station, thereby making it India's first railway station run by women. A formal event to mark all women railway station will be held soon.

i. A total of 30 women staffers, including 11 booking clerks, five Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, seven ticket checkers are working under the supervision of station manager Mamta Kulkarni since last two weeks.

ii. Matunga railway station, which is located in central Mumbai, gets a huge number of student population as a lot of colleges are located in the area.

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India's Harinder Pal Sandhu wins Victorian Open squash title

India's Harinder Pal Sandhu has won the second title in two weeks, beating top-seed Rex Hedrick of Australia in a 77-minute final of Victorian Open squash, a PSA Tour event, in Melbourne, Australia. Third-seeded Sandhu, who had won the South Australian Open last week, stepped up to win the second game 11-3 using an attacking game to keep his rival at bay. The third game also followed a similar pattern as Sandhu romped home 11-4. The 28-year-old Indian carried the momentum into the fourth game and stayed ahead to win it 11-7. It was his fourth title of the year.

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Minister of Railways inaugurates Sindhudurg leg of the Science Express

The IX Phase of the prestigious Science Express exhibition train which is on a nationwide tour since February 17, 2017 reached Sindhudurg in Maharashtra on July 17, 2017.

- i. This phase of train is being referred as 'Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) – II' as it conveys message about global challenge related to climate change.
- ii. The current ninth phase of the Science Express as SECAS II was flagged off on Feb 17, 2017 from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, Dr. Harsh Vardhan – Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences; and Late Anil Madhav Dave – Minister of State (I/C) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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SBI launches realty website to facilitate home buyers

State Bank of India, the country's largest commercial bank, has launched 'SBI Realty' – a one-stop integrated website www.sbirealty.in for home buyers. SBI Realty will help customers to choose their dream home from 3,000 SBI approved projects across the country. These projects are spread across 13 states and Union Territories covering 30 cities, including metros, semi metro and towns. Currently, there are 9.5 lakhs home units available on the website. Customers can compare the current and past trends of prices for the properties in various localities. It will assist customers in calculating the appropriate loan amount a customer should borrow based on his income and credit profile.

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Kolkata to host global business meet in November 2017

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in association with the West Bengal Government, will host Horasis Asia Meeting, a Global Business meeting, in November 2017 announced on 18th of July 2017.

Key Points:

- i. The two-day business meet will start from 26th November, 2017
- ii. It will focus on sustainable business practices in various areas, including power and energy.
- iii. The event will be attended by over 500 delegates from over 65 countries.

West Bangal GK

◆ Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi

◆ National Park: Sunderbans NP, Gorumara National NP and Jaldapara NP

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Venkaiah Naidu is BJP's Vice Presidential Candidate

M Venkaiah Naidu, the vice presidential candidate of the BJP-led ruling coalition, quit the government and BJP, calling it a "painful" task. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top ministers, and

allies were by Mr. Naidu as he completed the formalities for joining the vice presidential contest. In preparation for his new role, 68-year-old Mr. Naidu quit his ministries. Smriti Irani will take additional charge of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Narendra Tomar will take charge of Urban Development.

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Shala Siddhi Prohatsan Yojana started in 25,000 MP schools

Madhya Pradesh's school education department is going to start programmes such as 'Hamari Shala Kaisi Ho' and 'Shala Siddhi Karyakram' in all government schools of the state.

Key Points:

- i. It aims to provide qualitative education to the government school students.
- ii. The State Education Centre has also started Shala Siddhi Prohatsan Yojana under the programme in 25 thousand schools of the state to encourage best works.
- iii. A time table has also been fixed for the award process going by the time table, the district core committees would be required to form block-level selection committees by 22nd July.
- iv. The selected schools will be required to forward their applications for Shala Siddhi Karyakram to Sankul Principals by 28 July.
- v. The selection committee will then forward applications of 3 primary and 3 middle schools for awards to the District Institute for Education and Training (DIET).
- vi. On the occasion of Independence Day Celebration programme the selected schools at block level will be awarded at District Head Quarters.
- vii. The District Core Committees will be required to select 3 primary and middle schools.
- viii. The chosen schools will be awarded on Teachers' Day, on 5th of September.

About Madhya Pradesh

- ◆ CM: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- ◆ Governor: Om Prakash Kohli
- ◆ Capital: Bhopal

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Australia joins International Solar Alliance led by India & France

Australia became the 35th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2015 in Paris. It is co-led by India and France. The aim of ISA is to support developing countries to boost their solar production capacity. India on its part through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is contributing \$1 million to the ISA fund. The larger aim of ISA is

to mobilize over \$ 1000 billion by 2030 towards promoting solar power on all fronts generation and storage. The solar alliance, whose head office is in India, has grown stronger in the past two years with more countries joining the group and signing the agreement.

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Telangana reduces 'education burden', caps school bag weight

According to the Government Order, the maximum weight of a school bag with textbooks and notebooks should not exceed 1.5 kg for Class I and II and 2 to 3 kg for Classes III to V.

Key Points:

- i. The Telangana government has capped the weight of their school bags between 1.5 kg and 5 kg.
- ii. According to some estimates, schoolchildren currently carry bags weighing anywhere between 6 kg and 12 kg at primary level and up to 17 kg at high school level.
- iii. Government has also barred schools from assigning homework to students of primary grades—I to V.
- iv. The government is protecting against “adverse physical effects and anxiety disorders” caused by hefty schoolbags.
- v. For Classes VI and VII, the weight should not exceed 4 kg and for Classes VIII and IX, it should not be more than 4.50 kg. In the case of Class X, it should not be more than 5 kg.
- vi. According to the general guidelines schools should focus on making them understand concepts rather than make them learn by rote.
- vii. Games and sports in the evenings must be encouraged rather than engaging the children just in tuition and homework.
- viii. The government said there should be one notebook of 100 pages for each subject for undertaking formative assessment items such as textbook exercises and projects.
- ix. Schools should provide safe drinking water to avoid children getting water bottles from their houses.

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Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill 2017 passed in Rajya Sabha

On July 26, 2017, Rajya Sabha passed Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017, which seeks to amend the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008. The amendment bill was introduced by the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr. D.V.Sadananda Gowda in Lok Sabha in March 2017 and was passed in April 2017.

- i. The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, was enacted to facilitate the collection of statistics on economics, demographics, social, scientific and environmental aspects.
- ii. The Act extended to the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir.

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StanChart unveils forex card

Standard Chartered Bank has launched a Multi-currency Forex Card for overseas travelers. The card will allow customers the convenience of loading up to 20 widely used currencies on one card with an online reload facility during overseas travel. The card will offer travelers protection against the frequent currency fluctuations by locking in the currency exchange rate they availed during the time of loading the card, and not pay different rates every time they use the card.

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Recent Approvals by Central government – July 27 2017

On July 26, 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved following bilateral agreements and initiatives:

- i. Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval for amendment of the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 1954
 - ii. Cabinet apprised of the MoU signed between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports
 - iii. Cabinet apprised of the Joint Declaration of Intent between India and Germany on Indo German-Centre for Sustainability
 - iv. Cabinet approves revision of cost of Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011
 - v. On July 26, 2017, Union Cabinet cleared a new Minimum Wage Code Bill that will integrate four different wage legislations.
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Delhi Govt constitutes State Names Authority

The Delhi government constituted the state Names Authority, a separate body mandated to name government roads and institutions under the state purview. The State Names Authority (SNA) will be headed by deputy CM Manish Sisodia. While, Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain will be the Vice-Chairman of the Authority. Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal has gave his approval for the formation of the authority. The authority will have a total of 34 members including the Union home secretary, the Union HRD secretary, the DDA vice-chairman, the Delhi PWD secretary and the Delhi Principal secretary (Home). Aam Aadmi Party lawmakers Rajesh Gupta, Nitin Tyagi, Vishesh Ravi, Sanjeev Jha, Rakhi Birla, Bhavna Gaur and Adarsh Shastri will also be the members of the Authority.

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On July 15, 2017, government launched a Goods and Services Tax (GST) training programme to skill around how many youths in six months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making?

1.2 lakh youths

2.4 lakh youths

3.6 lakh youths

4.8 lakh youths

5.10 lakh youths

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 1.2 lakh youths

Explanation :

Youth would be trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The new training course would cater to the need of GST trained professionals to help businesses in areas such as registration and calculation of tax liability under the new tax regime.

This becomes India's first railway station run by women.

- A. Char Bagh, Lucknow
- B. Matunga, Mumbai
- C. Cuttack, Odisha
- D. Howrah Station, West Bengal

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Matunga station has now become the first such ladies special station. According to the official, women have been manning this station, which falls on the Central Railway, since the past two weeks. A total of 30 women staffers, including 11 booking clerks, five RPF personnel, seven ticket checkers are working under the supervision of station manager Mamta Kulkarni since last two weeks.

Which country recently renamed a part of South China Sea?

- A. Japan
- B. Indonesia
- C. India
- D. Myanmar

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Indonesia has renamed northern parts of its exclusive economic zone of South China Sea as 'North Natuna Sea'.

Who among the following has been sworn in as new chief justice of Nepal?

1. Jivan Lal Bhandari
2. Gopal Prasad Parajuli
3. Mandar Koirala
4. Raj Nath Deuba
5. Birendra Gharti

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 2. Gopal Prasad Parajuli

Explanation :

Gopal Prasad Parajuli who has been recently sworn in as Nepal's new chief justice has pledged to make justice delivery fast and less expensive in the country. Parajuli, 61, was administered the oath of office by President Bidya Devi Bhandari at Nepal's Rastrapati Bhawan in Sheetal Niwas.

Which e-wallet service joined with the Samsung Pay to enable one-tap payment solution for e-wallet users?

- A. Free Charge
- B. Paytm
- C. MobiKwik
- D. Oxygen

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

MobiKwik and Samsung Pay enable one-tap payment solution for e-wallet users. According to the digital payments firm MobiKwik wallet is now integrated with Samsung Pay Mini to enable one-tap payments at more than 1.4 million MobiKwik-powered merchants across the country.

Which presidential candidate has support of almost 70% of electoral college?

- A. Meira Kumar
- B. Ram Nath Kovind
- C. Hamid Ansari
- D. Pranab Mukherjee

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Presidential Candidate Ram Nath Kovind has support from 70% of Electoral College.

Scientists from which country have developed a 3D-printed soft silicone heart that closely resembles and functions like the human heart?

- 1. Japan
- 2. France
- 3. UK
- 4. Switzerland
- 5. Germany

Answer & Explanation

Answer –4. Switzerland

Explanation :

Scientists from Switzerland have developed a 3D-printed soft silicone heart that closely resembles and functions like the human heart, and could help save lives of people who suffer from cardiac failure.

Who won the 2017 women's singles Wimbledon tennis tournament?

- A. Svetlana Kuznetsova
- B. Johanna Konta
- C. Garbine Muguruza
- D. Venus Williams

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

Garbine Muguruza Blanco, a Spanish-Venezuelan professional tennis player, has won the 2017 women's singles Wimbledon Tennis tournament by defeating Venus Williams in the final by 7-5, 6-0 at All England Club in London, United Kingdom (UK). Muguruza also became the first player to defeat both Williams sisters in Grand Slams singles finals.

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Which state was detached from the rest of India with the fall of a bridge?

- A. Kerala
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Manipur
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

Manipur was detached from the rest of India with the fall of Barak Bridge.

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Who among the following has been appointed bowling coach by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)?

- 1.Venkatesh Prasad
- 2.Javagal Srinath
- 3.Bharat Arun
- 4.Kapil Dev
- 5.Venkatapathy Raju

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 3.Bharat Arun

Explanation :

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Bharat Arun as the Indian Cricket team's bowling coach until 2019 World Cup. Sanjay Bangar will be an assistant coach and R Sridhar will be fielding coach till the 2019 ODI World Cup.

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This UK's bank introduced the £10 note by featuring 19th century novelist Jane Austen.

- A. Bank of Baroda

- B. Bank of China
- C. Bank of Ireland
- D. Bank of England

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

The Bank of England today unveiled a new polymer £10 note featuring 19th century novelist Jane Austen, in a move to replace paper £5, £10 and £20 with secure plastic notes. This note's introduction marks the 200th anniversary of Austen's death. This makes Austen the only woman other than Queen Elizabeth to be featured on a polymer British banknote.

Which state has mandated use of drip irrigation for sugarcane crop cultivation after 2019?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

The Maharashtra government has mandated drip irrigation for Sugarcane crop cultivation after 2019.

Rajya Sabha passes the Indian Institute of Information Technology (Public Private Partnership) Bill 2017

On July 28, 2017, Rajya Sabha passed Indian Institute of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2017, a bill to declare 15 Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) set up through public-private partnership mode as "institutions of national importance" as well as to set up such institutes through collaboration.

Key Provisions of Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership (IIIT-PPP) Bill 2017:

- i. The IIIT (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2017 seeks to grant statutory status to 15 IIITs and declare them as 'Institutions of National Importance' (INI).
- ii. Premier public higher education institutions in India which play a pivotal role in developing highly skilled personnel are conferred INI status through an act of Parliament.

iii. The Bill also seeks to enable these institutions to grant degrees to their students in the academic courses conducted by them.

Shikha Sharma re-appointed MD & CEO of Axis Bank

Shikha Sharma has been re-appointed as MD&CEO of Axis Bank for three-year term from June 2018. Her current term was to end in June 2018. Axis Bank informed Bombay Stock Exchange that board of directors has approved the re-appointment. Sharma began her career with the erstwhile infra lender ICICI Ltd in 1980 and played a key role in setting up the group's investment banking business. She joined Axis from ICICI Prudential Life where she was the managing director and chief executive and replaced the first chairman and chief executive of the bank P J Nayak.

Maharashtra's women commission to ink pact with UNDP

Maharashtra's women commission will sign an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Key Points:

- i. It has been signed for rescue and rehabilitation of women who are victims of sex trafficking, acid attack and domestic violence.
- ii. The MoU has been signed with the UNDP in the next 15 days.

◆ Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (MSCW) is VijayaRahatkar

About UNDP

◆ Formation:1965

◆ Headquarters:New York City

◆ Head: Achim Steiner

NPCI gets RBI nod to operate Bharat Bill Payment System

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems has received a final nod from the Reserve Bank of India to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). The final clearance from RBI comes almost a year after NPCI launched the BBPS pilot project to make payment of utility bills easier. The pilot started on 31 August 2016 with eight BBPS operating units that had received in-principle approval from RBI.

Health Ministry releases Operational Guidelines for Family Participatory Care

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care (FPC). These guidelines are aimed at improving newborn health.

- i. The guidelines will serve as a guiding document for those intending to introduce FPC in their facility as an integral part of facility based newborn care.
- ii. It also provides details of infrastructure, training, role of health care providers and steps in the operationalization of FPC in the newborn care unit.

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UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2017 observed

The United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2017 was observed across the world on 30 July 2017. This year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selected 'Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons' as the focus of the Day. The theme emphasizes one of the most pressing issues of the large mixed migration movements of refugees and migrants. The theme puts focus on the significant impact of conflict and natural disasters, as well as the resultant, multiple risks of human trafficking that many people face. In addition, it addresses the key issue concerning trafficking responses: that most people are never identified as trafficking victims and therefore cannot access most of the assistance or protection provided.

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'Rajaswa Gyansangam' scheduled to be held in New Delhi

'Rajaswa Gyansangam' is going to be held on 1st and 2nd September, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

- i. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate this two day Conclave on the 1st day of September, 2017.
- ii. The main reason of this inauguration will be on GST as well as on unearthing black money.
- iii. The Tax Officers of the State Governments will also be invited for discussion for the first time on the GST related issues during the 1st day of the two day Conclave.

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India, Pakistan to hold talks on hydropower projects under Indus Waters Treaty

India and Pakistan will hold talks on two hydropower projects, namely Kishenganga and Ratle, under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) at the World Bank headquarters in Washington. Union Water Resources Secretary Amarjit Singh is leading the Indian delegation during the talks. The delegation will include officials from ministries of external affairs and water resources. World Bank Vice President for South Asia region Annette Dixon – in a letter to the Indian Ambassador to the US, Navtej Sarna – has welcomed the participation of both the countries in the dialogue. The meet at Washington is being held as part of efforts by the World Bank to resolve the issues raised by Pakistan over India's hydroelectricity projects.

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Railways, NBCC to redevelop 10 railway stations

Rail Land Development Authority has joined hands with National Building Construction Corporation(NBCC) for redevelopment of 10 railway stations across the country on global standards.

Key Notes:

- i. An MoU was signed between RLDA, an arm of the Railways for commercial exploitation of rail land, and NBCC, a PSU of urban development ministry for implementation of station redevelopment projects for the 10 identified stations.
- ii. NBCC has now been given 10 stations in first phase for redevelopment and more stations would be given to them in subsequent phases.
- iii. RLDA and NBCC shall form a Special Purpose Vehicle in the form of a joint venture company to execute the station redevelopment project.
- iv. The Railways has embarked on an ambitious project to redevelop 403 stations with the participation of private players, public sector and foreign agencies.
- v. The identified stations to be taken up initially by NBCC for redevelopment are Tirupati, Sarai Rohilla (Delhi), Nellore, Puducherry, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gombinagar, Kota, Thane (New), and Ernakulam.
- vi. Urban development ministry had launched a mega project of developing 100 cities as smart cities, joined the Railways in redeveloping stations as smart stations.
- vii. The Railways has taken up this programme of station redevelopment and adopting a multi-pronged strategy to accomplish the huge task.

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Trump appoints Indian-American as US Ambassador to Peru

US President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Krishna R. Urs as the new US Ambassador to Peru. The appointment of Urs, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, would have to be approved by the Senate. He is currently Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Madrid. Urs took over after James Costos, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, resigned. Urs, a 30-year veteran of the foreign service was earlier the Deputy Chief of Mission in Spain. During his three decades of State Department service, Mr. Urs has specialised in economic issues and developed extensive policy experience in the Andean region of South America.

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Telangana to have separate Agriculture Budget from next year

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, has decided to present a separate agriculture budget for the state from next year.

- i. Chief Minister Rao has also decided to substantially enhance funds for the agriculture sector.
- ii. He has asked the officials to form farmers' associations at various levels — from villages to the state — to organise the cultivators.
- iii. Farmers in Telangana would be provided training of modern and scientific methods of farming so as to increase the farm output.

Quick Facts about Telangana:

- ◆ Capital: Hyderabad
- ◆ Current Chief Minister: K Chandrasekhar Rao
- ◆ Current Governor: E S L Narasimhan

India's economic growth rate at 7.3% in 2017-18 – RBI report

The Reserve Bank of India stated the ongoing accelerated reform initiatives like Goods and Service Tax and continuing political stability will push the economic growth scale to 7.3 per cent in terms of Gross Value Added – GVA in the current fiscal year (2017-18). The Financial Stability Report 2017 released, going forward, reforms in FDI and real estate sector, implementation of GST, and revival in external demand are likely to contribute to a better growth outlook. According to the RBI report, GVA growth is expected to be higher at 7.3 per cent in 2017-18. On inflation, it paints a rosy picture and projects CPI inflation to be in the range of 2-3.5% in the first half of the year and 3.5-4.5% in the second half.

Supreme Court allows woman to abort 26-week foetus due to abnormalities

The Supreme Court has permitted a woman, who is in her 26th week of pregnancy, to abort her foetus that is suffering from severe cardiac ailments. It has been announced by Supreme Court on 3rd of July 2017.

Key Points:

- i. A bench of Justice Dipak Misra and M Khanwilkar said the procedure of termination of pregnancy should be carried out "forthwith" at the SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.
- ii. The direction came after the bench perused the report of the medical board.
- iii. It has been advised by the SSKM hospital the termination of pregnancy on the grounds that the mother would suffer "severe mental injury" if the pregnancy is continued and the child, if born alive, has to undergo multiple surgeries for severe cardiac ailments.
- iv. The woman and her husband had approached the apex court seeking permission to abort her foetus on grounds of abnormalities which could be even fatal to her.
- v. Supreme Court allows woman to abort 26-week foetus due to abnormalities.

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According to the second edition of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) State Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI 2017) report, which state has retained the top position of having highest investment potential?

- 1.Gujarat
- 2.Karnataka
- 3.Maharashtra
- 4.Tamil Nadu
- 5.Punjab

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 1.Gujarat

Explanation :

Gujarat is followed by Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Haryana and Telangana have moved rapidly up the ranks to finish among the top five.

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This state CM dedicated to the nation the state's longest bridge and named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

- A. Odisha
- B. Bihar
- C. Assam
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated to the nation the state's longest bridge and named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The 2.88 km bridge over the river Kathajodi will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance between the two cities by 12 km.

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Which ride hailing service has been sued in New York?

- A. Ola

B. Uber

C. Meru

D. Taxi Taxi

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Uber has been sued in New York because the cars are not usable by persons using wheelchairs.

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On July 26, 2017, Rajya Sabha passed Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017, which seeks to amend:

1.Collection of Statistics Act, 2002

2.Collection of Statistics Act, 2004

3.Collection of Statistics Act, 2006

4.Collection of Statistics Act, 2008

5.Collection of Statistics Act, 2010

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 4.Collection of Statistics Act, 2008

Explanation :

On July 26, 2017, Rajya Sabha passed Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017, which seeks to amend the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008. The amendment bill was introduced by the Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr. D.V.Sadananda Gowda in Lok Sabha in March 2017 and was passed in April 2017.

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Name the Indian Weightlifter who bagged gold medal at Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship held in Kathmandu.

A. Kongsam Ormila Devi

B. Mirabai Devi

C. Yumnam Chanu

D. Pratima Kumari

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Indian weightlifter Kongsam Ormila Devi has bagged a gold medal at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal. The weightlifter from Manipur lifted 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 126kg in the 44kg weight category to finish on the top of the podium, according to a release from the Indian Weightlifting Federation.

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Kargil vijay Divas is celebrated on which day?

- A. 9 August
- B. 7 September
- C. 26 July
- D. 27 August

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

Nation is celebrates Kargil Vijay Divas on 26th July to remind India's military prowess and the great sacrifice of our soldiers.

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Global food standard-setting body Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted Codex standard for which spice at its recent meeting in Geneva, Switzerland?

- 1. Black Pepper
- 2. Green Pepper
- 3. Thyme
- 4. Cumin
- 5. All of the above

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 5. All of the above

Explanation :

Global food standard-setting body Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme paving the way for a universal agreement on identifying quality spices in various countries. These three Codex standards were adopted at CAC's recent meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Who adopts Codex standards for three spices?

- A. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
- B. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- C. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- D. Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme. The adoption of Codex standards paves the way for universal agreement on identifying quality spices in various countries. It also set reference points and benchmarks for member-nations to align their national standards for spices with Codex.

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Which country sent its first Uranium shipment to India recently?

- A. Australia
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Australia sent its first Uranium shipment to India after an agreement signed in 2014.

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Germany Defeats Chile to Win Maiden Confederations Cup Title

Germany were crowned 2017 Fifa Confederations Cup champions after a hard-fought 1-0 final victory over Chile in Saint Petersburg. In the final played, the four-time World Cup winners defeated Chile by a solitary goal. Lars Stindl put Germany ahead in the first half against the run of play, and Germany then held on to the lead. Earlier, in the third-place play-off match in Moscow, Portugal defeated Mexico 2-1. The match was held at the Krestovsky Stadium in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

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President clears bill banning hookah bars in Gujarat

President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to a bill banning hookah in Gujarat on 3rd of July 2017.

Key Points:

- i. Those who will run hookah bars in Gujarat will now draw a maximum jail term of three years.
- ii. The main aim of the government is to protect the youth from this dangerous addiction, which causes various kinds of cancer.
- iii. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 2017 had been passed by the Gujarat Assembly in February and sent to Governor O P Kohli.
- iv. After giving his approval, the governor had sent the Bill to the president, who gave his assent recently.
- v. The state government will take strict action as per the new Act against those, who found to be running such hookah joints in the state.
- vi. It is necessary to put a total ban on hookah bars in the state to save the young generation from falling prey to this new addiction, which is "more dangerous" than cigarettes.
- vii. As per the new Act, running a hookah bar in Gujarat will charge a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 and a jail term up to three years.

National Park in Gujarat :

- ◆ Gir National Park , Blackbuck National Park, Marine National Park and Vansda National Park

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Kambala' Buffalo Race Gets President's Assent

The President gave his assent to the bill passed by Karnataka Assembly to legalise traditional buffalo race 'Kambala'. In pursuance of the proviso to clause (1) of article 213 of the Constitution of India, the President of India hereby approves the promulgation of 'The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017' by the Governor of Karnataka. Bowing to public pressure, a bill to legalise traditional buffalo race 'Kambala' and bullock cart races in Karnataka was passed by the state Assembly in February with all parties backing the move. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, was amended in its application to Karnataka by the bill which was tabled after the clamour for Kambala grew, spurred by the success of pro-jallikattu (taming of bull) stir in Tamil Nadu. Kambala, held from November to March, involves a pair of buffaloes tied to the plough and anchored by one person.

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10th Session of the India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) held in New Delhi

The 10th India-Jordan Morocco Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) Meeting was held in New Delhi on 4th and 5th July, 2017.

Key Notes:

- i. On this occasion, the two countries emphasized the need for diversification of bilateral trade and widening their engagements for greater cooperation in investment sector.

ii. During the TEJC meeting, the two sides discussed the roadmap for cooperation in various fields such as Fertilizer Sector, Customs, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, Visa and Consular issues, Health and Pharmaceuticals and many more.

iii. The main aim is to promote economic, trade and investment cooperation based on the principle of equity and non-discrimination.

iv. Both the sides also discussed the roadmap for promotion of trade and investment through B2B mechanism.

v. The meeting is held under the co-chairs of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and H.E Eng. Mr. Yarub Qudah, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

India's TERI ranked second among world's climate Think Tanks

New Delhi-based The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) was ranked second among world's best climate think tank by the International Centre for Climate Governance (ICCG). TERI was ranked number two under the category '2016 Top Climate Think Tanks in the Rest of the World-Absolute Global Rankings' during ICCG's 23rd annual conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in Athens, Greece. ICCG is an internationally-renowned body whose activities focus on the design of climate policy and related governance issues. Its rankings help to highlight the scale and magnitude of work done by the think tanks working in the field of climate change.

Chester Bennington, lead singer of Linkin Park dies

Chester Bennington, the lead singer of Linkin Park, passed away in California, U.S. He was 41. Bennington apparently hanged himself, which led to his death. Chester Bennington was an American singer and songwriter. He was best known as the frontman for the rock band Linkin Park. He was also the lead singer for Dead by Sunrise and fronted Stone Temple Pilots from 2013 to 2015.

UP Assembly passes resolutions on renaming two airports

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has adopted two resolutions on re-naming the Kanpur and Bareilly airports after freedom fighter Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi and as Nath Nagri respectively.

Key Points:

i. The resolutions, moved by Minister for Civil Aviation Nand Gopal Gupta were passed by a voice vote in the absence of the opposition members.

ii. According to the minister the contributions of social worker and freedom fighter Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi who stayed in Kanpur and fought with the British through his writings Chakeri airport be named after him.

iii. He also said the civil terminal at the Bareilly airport should be re-named as Nath Nagri after the cultural name of the city.

UP GK facts :

◆ Dudhwa NP, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

Literary Festival themed 'Tolerance' to be held in Kerala

At a time when the country witnesses raging debate over intolerance, Kerala is getting ready to host a literary festival with tolerance as the core theme. Creative writers, journalists, theatre and film personalities will deliberate on tolerance at the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE), to be held at Chengannur, a sleepy town in coastal Alappuza district, from July 24. Organised by People for Performing Arts and More, an art-cum-cultural outfit, the three-day annual literary gathering is aimed at bringing about an enriching interaction between writers from different languages and regions.

Centre accepts proposal to set up Aerospace University

The Centre has accepted a proposal to set up an Aerospace University in India. It has been announced on 22nd July 2017.

Key Points:

- i. The detailed project report on setting up the Aerospace University has been approved.
- ii. A high-powered Expert Group headed by former Cabinet Secretary B.K. Chaturvedi has made the recommendation.

◆ Minister of state for Defence: Subhash Bhamra

NFS Act not implemented as it should be: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court ruled that the National Food Security (NFS) Act, 2013 has not been implemented properly and has been postponed by various states. Taking this into account, the court passed a slew of directions for effective implementation of provisions of the NFS Act, 2013. The ruling was made by a bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and N V Ramana who directed that the secretary of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs should organize one or more meetings on or before 31 August 2017 to take stock of the implementation of the Act. It also mentioned that a law enacted by Parliament must be given its due respect and must be implemented faithfully.

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International meet on social justice held in Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced a hosting of three-day International Conference on 'Reclaiming Social Justice, Revisiting Ambedkar' from 21st July to 23rd July to mark 126th birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar.

Key Points:

- i. A three-day international conference 'Quest for equity – reclaiming social justice, revisiting Ambedkar' will be held at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru.
- ii. Over 2000 delegates will participate in the Conference in which 83 International, 149 National and 80 state-level speakers will take part.
- iii. Human Rights advocate and activist Martin Luther King III and AICC Vice President Rahul Gandhi will be the Chief Guests for the Conference.
- iv. A well-known social and political thinkers, philosophers, academicians, and activists will participate in the conference.
- v. The event will focus on universal principles of democracy and importance of social justice in the current global environment.
- vi. The conference will come out with a 'Bengaluru declaration outlining a new deal for India – who are & who we can be.
- vii. The Conference will encourage a wide inter-disciplinary engagement among academics, scholars, activists and policy-makers on the sub-themes.

Temples in Bengaluru :

◆ Chokkanathaswamy Temple, DoddaGanesha Temple at Basavanagudi, Gavi Gangadareshwara Temple, The ISKON Temple, Banashankari Temple, The Kanyakaparameshwari Temple.

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Former ISRO Chief U R Rao passes away at 85

Eminent space scientist and former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Udupi Ramachandra Rao passed away due to age related ailments. He was 85. He was currently serving as the chairman of the governing council of the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad and the chancellor of the Indian institute of science and technology in Thiruvananthapuram. Professor Rao, who served as ISRO Chairman for 10 years during 1984-1994, was inducted into International Aeronautical Federation (IAF) Hall of Fame last year during the closing ceremony of IAF Congress 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Under the 2017 Padma Vibhushan award winning scientist, India carried out at least 20 satellites project including the country's first, Aryabhata.

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FM Arun Jaitley introduces bill to amend Banking Regulation Act

On July 24, 2017, The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, was introduced in Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The bill seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, which was promulgated in May 2017.

- i. Jaitley introduced the Bill amid protests in the House by opposition members over the alleged incidents of lynching by cow vigilantes in different parts of the country.
- ii. The bill also has a provision, which empowers RBI to issue other directions for resolution, appoint or approve for appointment, authorities or committees to advise the banking companies for stressed asset resolution.

=====

Member countries of which multilateral association have signed a landmark document to establish a mechanism for taxation cooperation?

- 1.SAARC
- 2.ASEAN
- 3.G7
- 4.BRICS
- 5.G20

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 4.BRICS

Explanation :

The BRICS Taxation Cooperation Memorandum, signed at the fifth meeting of BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities, is the bloc's first document that elevates taxation cooperation to the institutional level. The authorities also agreed to cooperate on taxation information exchange, improve consultation procedures efficiency, boost taxation capacities and plan paths for coordination of taxation policies and tax collection.

=====

This company's CEO overtook Microsoft Bill Gates and become world's richest recently.

- A. Walmart
- B. Google
- C. Amazon
- D. Bloomberg

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

Jeff Bezos was the richest man in the world for a time as a jump in the share price of the US tech giant enabled him to overtake Microsoft founder Bill Gates. He is chairman and chief executive of the Seattle-based company, was worth almost \$91billions after Amazon's share price rose more than 1 per cent in morning trading in New York.

=====

Which player was appointed as Deputy Collector by AP government?

- A. PV Sindhu
- B. Rajyawardhan Singh Rathor
- C. Saina Nehwal
- D. Sania Mirza

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

The Andhra Pradesh Government issued orders appointing 2016 Rio Olympics silver medalist badminton star PV Sindhu as Deputy Collector.

=====

Which Indian woman cricketer was felicitated by Mohun Bagan at their annual awards ceremony?

- 1.Mithali Raj
- 2.Jhulan Goswami
- 3.Harmanpreet Kaur
- 4.Sheekha Pandey
- 5.Veda Krishnamurthy

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 2.Jhulan Goswami

Explanation :

Kolkata-based football club Mohun Bagan conferred prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna award on former club captain and coach Subrata Bhattacharya, while Indian Women's cricket team veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami was given a special award at the club's annual day programme in Kolkata on July 29, 2017.

=====

NPCI has received the final nod from the_____ to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

- A. GOI
- B. SEBI
- C. IRDAI
- D. RBI

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in the country, has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). The certified units include three public sector banks - Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank - 10 private lenders, five cooperative banks and 6 non-bank biller aggregators.

=====

Which state tops the list on human rights violation ?

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Jammu & Kashmir tops the list with 92 complaints against Indian Army and paramilitary forces in 2016.

=====

Who among the following American Swimmer has become the first swimmer to win three gold medals on a single night at either the FINA World Swimming Championship or the Olympics?

- 1. Adam Wolowitz
- 2. Allan Schmidt
- 3. Caeleb Dressel

4.Nigel Stubbs

5.Victor Cooper

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 3.Caeleb Dressel

Explanation :

The 20-year-old American Swimmer Caeleb Dressel has become the first swimmer to win three gold medals on a single night at either the FINA World Swimming Championship or the Olympics. Caeleb Dressel accomplished this feat on July 29, 2017 at 2017 FINA World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

India finished _____ overall in the girl's team event of the 2017 WSF-World junior squash championship in Tauranga, New Zealand.

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Sixth

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

India finished sixth overall in the girls' team event of the 2017 WSF-World junior squash championship in Tauranga, New Zealand.

Which is the only 100% green metro in world?

- A. Delhi
- B. Kolkata
- C. Tokyo
- D. Paris

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Delhi Metro is the only 100% green metro system in world.

On July 31, 2017, which bank slashed interest on savings account deposits by 50 basis points to 3.5 per cent on balance up to Rs 1 crore?

- 1.State Bank of India
- 2.ICICI Bank
- 3.Punjab National Bank
- 4.HDFC Bank
- 5.Indian Overseas Bank

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 1.State Bank of India

Explanation :

State Bank of India has introduced two-tier saving bank interest rate with effect from July 31. While balance above Rs 1 crore will continue to earn interest at 4 per cent per annum, interest at 3.5 per cent will be offered on balance of Rs 1 crore and below.

India bags _____ medals in Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament.

- A. 25
- B. 28
- C. 24
- D. 27

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

India has bagged a rich haul of 24 medals at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament. The tally includes seven Gold, seven Silver and 10 Bronze medals. In the event held at Amman, India ended as the second best finishers.

Recently SBI cut interest rate on saving accounts by what percentage points?

- A. 0.5%
- B. 0.8%
- C. 1.1%
- D. 0.3%

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

SBI has decided to reduce interest on saving bank account for amount up to Rs.1 crore by 0.5%

Mithali Raj named Captain of ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team

India Skipper Mithali Raj was named as the Captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team by the International cricket Council (ICC). Besides Mithali, Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma were the other two Indians included in the ICC's team. This is the second time that Mithali has been named in the team of the tournament at a World Cup. She was first included in the team in 2009.

Rajya Sabha passes FDDI Bill and Admiralty Bill 2017

On July 24, 2017, Rajya Sabha passed Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) Bill, 2017 and The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims), 2017. Both the bills were passed by voice vote.

- i. The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017 provides for establishing and declaring the Footwear Design and Development Institute as an institute of national importance for promotion and development of quality and excellence in education in this area. The bill had been passed by the Lok Sabha in April 2017.
 - ii. The Admiralty bill seeks to upgrade the law related to maritime claims, arrest and detention of ships and extends jurisdiction of trial to various courts across the country. It had been passed by the Lok Sabha in March 2017.
-

India declares itself free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H5N8)

According to the Ministry of Agriculture India has declared itself free from highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1 and H5N8) and notified the same to World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Key Points:

- i. The country had reported outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza at various epicenters in Delhi, Gwalior (MP), Rajpura (Punjab), Hissar (Haryana), and many other states during October, 2016 to February, 2017.
- ii. All the outbreaks of Avian Influenza (HPAI) mentioned above were notified to OIE.
- iii. The control and containment operations were carried out as per the Action Plan on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza.
- iv. Since the completion of the operation (including culling, disinfection and clean-up) Surveillance was carried out throughout the country.

v. According to the ministry surveillance in the states showed no evidence of presence of Avian Influenza Virus.

Pradeep Kumar Rawat appointed as the next Ambassador to Indonesia

Pradeep Kumar Rawat presently a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia. Rawat, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, is expected to take up his assignment shortly. Indonesia officially the Republic of Indonesia is a unitary sovereign state and transcontinental country located mainly in Southeast Asia with some territories in Oceania. Situated between the Indian and Pacific oceans, it is the world's largest island country, with more than seventeen thousand islands.

Punjab unveils new transport policy to 'overhaul system'

Private bus operators in Punjab, including the Badals, may run into financial troubles with the Congress Government's "new" transport policy which was approved on 5th July, 2017. It also abolished the system of district transport officers (DTO) and restructuring the transport department.

i. A special task force of the vigilance department has been set up and the state police to crack down on all illegal buses. It will complete its function in two phases.

ii. Permits issued under this scheme will be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue and shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of renewal

Manpreet, Laxmanan win gold at Asian athletics meet

Manpreet Kaur and Govindan Laxmanan won gold in their respective events as India registered an impressive start to their campaign at the Asian Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium. Manpreet won gold in the women's shotput while Laxmanan emerged triumphant in the men's 5,000 metres. Manpreet dominated her event with a best throw of 18.28 metres to register the first gold for India in the event. Guan Quayin China took silver with 17.91. Laxmanan on the other hand, had to struggle hard for his gold medal. He was trailing the leading four runners towards the end of the second last lap but he produced a stunning sprint finish over the final 300 metres to win by a handsome margin.

India's first university only for Dalit students to come up in Hyderabad by 2018

Telangana is the first state to build India's first university for Dalit students by 2018. It has been announced on 7th of July 2017.

Key Points:

- i. The university will be a part of the government's policy of providing education free of cost to students from weaker sections from kindergarten to post-graduation (KG to PG) level.
- ii. The objective of establishing an university for Dalit students is to provide them a comprehensive education, so that they would come out as complete and knowledgeable citizens.
- iii. The proposal was bring up by a government arm – Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS).
- iv. It runs nearly 268 residential institutions for Dalit students from Class V to under-graduate level and has recently sanctioned 39 non-residential play schools with pre-primary education.
- v. At present, there are universities exclusively for women and religious minorities but not for weaker sections.

About Telangana

- ◆ Capital: Hyderabad
- ◆ CM: K. Chandrashekhara Rao
- ◆ Governor: E.S.L. Narasimhan

Centre launches student-scientist connect programme Jigyasa

To develop interest among students to pursue science, Centre launched student-scientist connect programme, named Jigyasa, whereby nearly 1200 Kendriya Vidyalaya will be connected to 38 CSIR Research Laboratories across the country. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this program. MoU signing ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology and Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of HRD. The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning. "JIGYASA" is one of the major initiative taken up by CSIR at the national level, during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year.

Delhi govt launches Free Surgery Scheme

Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 8th July, 2017 announced a new health scheme to enable capital's residents avail free surgery in private hospitals at government's cost. This would be applicable in case government hospitals were unable to operate within one month.

- i. According to the scheme, if the waiting period for 52 surgeries — heart bypass, cataract and kidney stones removal, etc—listed by the government is more than one month, patients would be eligible to get it done at 48 empanelled hospitals.

ii. The new scheme is open for all residents of Delhi, irrespective of their income slab. The patient can get the authorization letter from Delhi Arogya Kosh (Health Fund) after submitting residence proof along with OPD slip.

iii. The government has tied up with 21 private laboratories to provide 13 expensive medical tests including CT scan and MRI to anyone coming to Delhi government hospitals.

Britain's first pregnant man gives birth to girl

Britain's first pregnant man has given birth to a girl. Hyden Cross, 21, made headlines around the world earlier in 2017 when he announced that he was pregnant by a sperm donor. Three years ago, Cross had legally become male through gender assignment. Reports suggest that his daughter, Trinity-Leigh, was born on 16 June 2017 by caesarian at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. With her birth, Cross became the first transgender man to give birth in the United Kingdom.

Ministry of Health signs MoU with Government of West Bengal to set up Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of West Bengal to set up a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine on 10th of July 2017.

Key Points:

- i. The Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine will be set up in Kolkata.
- ii. The initiative helps in strengthening the blood transfusion services in the State and the surrounding region.
- iii. Government of India has approved an outlay of approximately Rs.200 Crores towards equipment, manpower and running costs.
- iv. The land for this initiative will be provided free of cost by the State government.
- v. A Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to set up state-of-the-art Centres of Excellence in transfusion medicine in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
- vi. Facilities for screening of collected blood by NAT would be made available at these centres and also extended to the other blood banks of the State.
- vii. The MoU for setting up the Metro Blood Bank in Chennai has already been signed on 14th June 2016.
- viii. A recently concluded assessment of licensed Blood Banks of India revealed that the average blood donation rate in India is 0.8, which is lower than many high income countries.

ix. According to Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare data the first phase, wherein these facilities are to come up in Chennai and Kolkata.

First Edition of WINGS 2017 “Sab Uden, Sab Juden” was held in New Delhi

The First edition of WINGS 2017 – “Sab Uden, Sab Juden”- Expanding Regional Connectivity was hosted in New Delhi by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Plenary session was chaired by the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju. Around 338 delegates from Government and Civil Aviation sector participated in the first edition of WINGS-2017. This event brought together the key stakeholders of the Aviation Sector such as States, Tourism Departments and Tour Operators as a Group representing airline consumers to facilitate interaction with various airlines, airport operators, cargo operators and other ecosystem players at a common forum. The event saw participation from 28 States and Union Territories and out of this 19 states and Union Territory made presentation emphasizing the incentives or special packages to the airlines other than the support offered by Government of India under RCS- UDAN.

Khaltmaa Battulga wins Mongolian Presidency

Populist former martial arts star and businessman Khaltmaa Battulga was sworn in as president, vowing to revive the flagging economy and pursue relations with countries outside its giant neighbors Russia and China. Battulga replaces Tsakhia Elbegdorj after the outgoing president served the maximum four-year terms for two times. Battulga inherits a \$5.5 billion International Monetary Fund-led bailout intended to stabilize the economy of the debt-laden country and lessen its dependence on China, which purchases 80 percent of Mongolia’s exports. The poll was seen as a referendum on the government’s economic recovery plans and the role of southern neighbor China in the landlocked but resource-rich country known as the birthplace of Mongol emperor Genghis Khan.

Odisha to set up international standard sports city

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced to set up an international standard sports city announced on 11th of July 2017.

Key Notes:

- i. Kalinga International Sport City will be set up in Bhubaneswar and will be eligible to bid for most international competitions including Commonwealth and Asian games.
- ii. The chief minister stated that the state will also have satellite stadia with world class infrastructure in Cuttack, Sambalpur, Berhampur and Rourkela.
- iii. The state government has also signed an expression of interest with the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) and the Athletics Federation of India for setting up of a high performance academy inside the Kalinga Stadium.

Odisha GK facts :

◆ Simlipal NP, Bhitarkanika NP, Airport, Biju Patnaik airport

Prez Pranab Mukherjee inaugurates 'Ashiana Annexe' in Dehradun

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'Ashiana Annexe' in Dehradun, Uttarakhand which comprises of twelve low cost dwelling units constructed to accommodate officers and staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan during Presidential visits to the Retreat at 'Ashiana'. These dwelling units have been constructed using the Habitech-Nivara Tantra – Onsite Sanitation Integrated Community Housing Technology Innovations developed at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The Technology innovations comprise unique blocks known as "compacted intermeshing" blocks which are made from local soil. The production of these blocks is on site and is an entirely green process. The Ashiana retreat was built originally as a bungalow of the commandant of the President's Bodyguard and was revived by Mukherjee after long years of disuse. K R Narayanan, in March 1998, was the last president to stay here.

Rajasthan become the first State to fix Minimum qualifications for coop. societies' polls

Rajasthan is the first state of our country has set minimum educational qualification to candidates for elections to village cooperative societies and various other cooperative bodies.

◆ The Rajasthan Government modified the State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003 and the new rules expected the benefit around 10,000 cooperative and agricultural credit societies. The notification was released on July 10, 2017

Qualification needed to become a member of contesting election

- i. The minimum educational qualification from class 5 to class 8 is must for members of dairy societies, farming societies, consumer societies, weavers' societies, urban banks, housing construction societies, primary land development banks, credit societies and cooperative unions.
 - ii. The minimum educational qualification of primary committee members is of class 8.
 - iii. The minimum qualification required is class 10 for district level members
 - iv. A member of State level committee must be a graduate.
-

Chinese troops depart for first overseas military base in Djibouti

Ships carrying personnel for China's first overseas military base, in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, have set sail to begin setting up the facility, as China's rapidly modernizing military extends its global reach. Djibouti's position on the northwestern edge of the Indian Ocean has fuelled worry in India that it would become another of China's "string of pearls" of military alliances and assets ringing India, including Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. China began construction of a logistics base in

Djibouti last year. It will be used to resupply navy ships taking part in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions off the coasts of Yemen and Somalia, in particular. It will be China's first overseas naval base, though Beijing officially describes it as a logistics facility.

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Arunachal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands get exemption from SC highway liquor ban

Supreme Court has allowed Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to get exemption from the court's ban on sale of liquor within 500 metres of National and State Highways.

Justification for Exemption:

- i. Arunachal argued that it had lost 50% of its revenue following the December 15, 2016 ban, earmarking 500 metres alongside highways as liquor-free zones. The State said 80% of its roads are national highways.
 - ii. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar took note of the geographical quirks of Arunachal Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and concluded that they deserved parity with Sikkim and Meghalaya.
 - iii. It is to be noted that On March 31, 2017, the north-eastern States of Sikkim and Meghalaya got a full exemption from the 500-m no-liquor zone ban after the court took into consideration their hilly terrain and also the fact that 82% of its area was forest land and over 90% of its liquor shops would be closed if the ban was imposed strictly in its original form.
 - iv. The ban was ordered to prevent drunk driving, one of the major killers plaguing Indian roads.
- =====

National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination 2017-22 launched by Nadda

J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has launched the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22). The Strategic Plan gives year wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria in the next 5 years. This plan focuses on the states such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The strategies involve strengthening malaria surveillance, establishing a mechanism for early detection and prevention of outbreaks of malaria, promoting the prevention of malaria by the use of Long Lasting Impregnated Nets (LLINs), effective indoor residual spray and augmenting the manpower and capacities for effective implementation for the next five years.

=====

Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inducts First DEMU Train with Solar powered Coaches into service of the Nation

On July 14, 2017, Indian Railways launched its first 1,600 HP solar powered Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train from Safdarjung station, New Delhi

- i. The first DEMU Train with prototype solar based hotel load system has been manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai & fitted with solar panels by Indian Railway Organisation for

Alternate Fuels (IROAF). Hotel Load refers to human occupancy aspects of a vehicle such as air conditioning and lighting, analogous to the features of a hotel.

ii. The train has a life span of 25 years and will have a capacity of 89 people per coach. The total cost of the train is Rs 13.54 crore

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Mukesh Kumar Jain appointed MD & CEO of Oriental Bank

The Centre has appointed Mukesh Kumar Jain as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce, a public sector bank. His appointment is for a period of three years. Prior to this appointment, Jain was an Executive Director at Punjab & Sind Bank. At OBC, Jain comes in the place of Animesh Chauhan, who has superannuated.

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Raipur Swami Vivekananda Airport ranked first in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey

Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, has ranked first in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey among 49 airports in India. Raipur Airport has scored highest, 4.84 on a five point scale index in the latest Customer Satisfaction Index Survey conducted by an independent agency for the period of January-June 2017.

i. It has topped this survey for the third consecutive time in the past two years.

ii. Raipur Airport is followed by Udaipur, Amritsar and Dehradun airports which have scored 4.75, 4.74 and 4.73 respectively.

=====

Subrata Bhattacharya was associated with which sport?

1. Tennis
2. Shooting
3. Hockey
4. Football
5. Archery

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 4. Football

Explanation :

Mohun Bagan has decided to honour its legendary former Indian defender Subrata Bhattacharya with its highest decoration — the Mohun Bagan Ratna. Bhattacharya is going to be the 17th recipient of the award.

=====

This country planned to land an astronaut on the moon by 2030.

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

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) planned to land an astronaut on the moon by 2030, joining China in a new manned race to space.

=====

Who has recently been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Larsen & Toubro?

- A. SN Subrahmanyam
- B. A.M Naik
- C. R. Shankar Raman
- D. Shailendra Roy

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

SN Subrahmanyam will take charge as the chief executive officer and managing director of Larsen & Toubro. The appointment marks a major change in leadership positions at L&T where Naik has served for over 52 years. Subrahmanyam is currently the deputy managing director and president of L&T.

=====

On June 30, 2017, who has honoured with Indian of the Year Award by Brands Academy in New Delhi?

1. Jhumpa Lahiri
2. Shobha De
3. Preeti Shenoy
4. Arundhati Roy

5.Kiran Desai

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 3.Preeti Shenoy

Explanation :

Preeti Shenoy is one of India’s top five highest selling women authors. Shenoy’s books include “It’s All In The Planets”, “Why We Love The Way We Do”, “It Happens For A Reason”, “The One You Cannot Have” and “34 Bubblegums And Candies” among others.

Who among the following writers has been conferred with the Indian of the Year award by Brands Academy?

- A. Kiran Desai
- B. Preeti Shenoy
- C. Mridula Koshy
- D. Nayantara Sahgal

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Writer Preeti Shenoy was honoured with the Indian of the Year award. She is one of the most reputed branding companies in India to recognise the achievements of personalities who have contributed towards building up the reputation of the country.

What us the name of the Chinese heavy-lift carrier rocket, whose launch failed on Sunday?

- A. Long March 2F
- B. Long March-6 CZ-500
- C. Long March 7- V4
- D. Long March-5 Y2

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D China’s launch of a new heavy-lift rocket, the Long March-5 Y2, carrying what the government said was its heaviest ever satellite, failed on Sunday, official news agency Xinhua said. An anomaly occurred during the flight of the rocket,” Xinhua said after the rocket blasted off early evening from the southern island province of Hainan.

Who among the following has resigned from his role as President of Cisco India and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?

1. Jagrut Thapar
2. Anirudh Gupta
3. Dinesh Malkani
4. Jayant Goswami
5. Shantanu Das

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 3. Dinesh Malkani

Explanation :

Cisco India and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) President Dinesh Malkani has resigned at the networking solutions giant to take on a leadership role at a start-up. Malkani will continue in his role until 31 July, 2017.

=====

GST has been primarily categorised into how many tax slab rates?

- A. Six
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Two

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

GST has been primarily categorised into four tax slab rates- 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. GST is part of a One Nation, One Tax vision of the Modi-led government.

=====

which country recently announced to create 'Special Corps' branch for its Armed forces?

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. Israel
- D. UAE

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

US house Armed Service Committee has voted to create a 'Space Corps', a sixth branch of the country's Armed Forces to incorporate current space mission of the US Air Force. It would be the first new military service in the country since 1947.

=====

Who has been appointed as the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on July 3, 2017?

1. Rajat Mishra
2. Divyesh Bhatnagar
3. Sanjay Kumar
4. Narayan Das
5. Mukul Katiyar

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 3. Sanjay Kumar

Explanation :

Himachal Pradesh director general of police (DGP) Sanjay Kumar has been appointed as the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The Union home ministry on July 3, 2017 issued an order appointing Kumar, a 1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, to the top NDRF post.

=====

Melwyn Rego was appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of this bank.

- A. Syndicate Bank
- B. Punjab National Bank
- C. Corporation Bank
- D. UCO Bank

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Syndicate Bank appoints Melwyn Rego as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He was a rank holder at a programme on International Capital Markets at Oxford University, UK. He has also

participated in several seminars including those organised by Entrepreneurship Development Institute / World Bank at Washington.

=====

Which company is going to begin the sales of Galaxy Note FE?

- A. Apple
- B. Motorola
- C. Samsung
- D. Lenovo

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

Samsung is expected to begin the sale of Galaxy Note FE from Friday in South Korea at \$611.

=====

Which country has started rolling out its Global Entry programme for Indian citizens which allows for expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travellers?

- 1. France
- 2. Germany
- 3. Australia
- 4. US
- 5. UK

Answer & Explanation

Answer – 4. US

Explanation :

Global Entry programme is an initiative of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). As per the initiative, once a traveller lands at one of the select airports, the programme members enter US through automatic kiosks, rather than queuing up to clear the immigration check by meeting an immigration officer.

=====

Which country conducted a successful Intercontinental Ballistic Missile test?

- A. South Africa
- B. North America

- C. Canada
- D. North Korea

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

North Korea has successfully tested an Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). United States Pacific Command tracked "the single launch of a land-based, intermediate range ballistic missile" lifted off from an airfield north-west of Pyongyang. The missile could reach a maximum range of roughly 6,700 km on a standard trajectory.

=====

Which country was recently hit by the worst-ever dengue outbreak?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Somalia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

Sri Lanka is suffering its worst-ever dengue outbreak. The mosquito borne virus has killed 225 people and infected more than 76,000 this year. Alarmingly this is 38% higher than last year.

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