

INTEGRATED AUTOMATIC AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL SYSTEMS(IAAMS) INAUGURATED AT INS RAJALI



The Chief of the Indian Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lamba inaugurated the first ever Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS). It was inaugurated on 28 March 2017 at INS Rajali, which is informally known as Arakconam Naval Air Station, in Tamil Nadu. The IAAMS is an ambitious project of the Indian Navy to modernise the meteorological infrastructure of the nine Naval Air Stations (NAS).

FACEBOOK ADDS NEW CAMERA AND SNAPCHAT-LIKE FEATURES



Social media giant Facebook on 28 March 2017 added Snapchat-like features and Facebook Camera on its app. It introduced filters, masks, frames, animation and other interactive elements to visually decorate images and video as that of Snapchat. Its new camera will give users more options to share and enhance photos and videos. It will also be rolling out the new feature on iOS and Android over the coming weeks.

US SENATE VOTES TO APPROVE MONTENEGRO AS NATO 29TH MEMBER



The US Senate on 28 March 2017 voted to approve Montenegro as the 29th member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The accession treaty for the small Balkan nation to join the transatlantic alliance was passed through a 97-2 vote. Republicans Rand Paul and Mike Lee voted against the measure. The move to add Montenegro as the 29th member was backed by President Donald Trump.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ROLL BACK OBAMA'S CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES



US President Donald Trump on 28 March 2017 signed an executive order to roll back his predecessor Barack Obama's climate change measures keeping up his campaign promise. The order seeks to suspend, withdraw or flag for review of more than a half-dozen measures in an effort to boost domestic energy production in the form of fossil fuels.

FDA APPROVES FIRST DRUG FOR MODERATE AND SEVERE ECZEMA CASES



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on 28 March 2017 approved Dupixent injection to treat adults with moderate-to-severe eczema (atopic dermatitis). Dupixent is intended for patients whose eczema is not controlled adequately by topical therapies, or those for whom topical therapies are not advisable.

FIFA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE SUSPENDED LIONEL MESSI FOR FOUR MATCHES



The FIFA Disciplinary Committee on 28 March 2017 suspended Argentina football player Lionel Messi for four matches. The committee reached the decision in application of articles 77 (a) and 108 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC). Further, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee took this decision as Messi was found at fault in relation to an incident during the match between Argentina and Chile on 23 March 2017. In the qualifying competition for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia, Lionel Messi directed insulting words at an assistant referee.

ARGENTINE SENATE APPROVES MEDICINAL USE OF MARIJUANA



The Argentine Senate on 29 March 2017 gave final legislative approval to a bill that permits the medicinal use of marijuana. The measure was accepted unanimously by the senators with 58 votes in favour. The legislation had already obtained the green light from the Chamber of Deputies in November 2016.

BRITISH PM THERESA MAY SIGNS LETTER TO TRIGGER BREXIT FROM EU



British Prime Minister Theresa May on 28 March 2017 signed the letter that will trigger Brexit from the European Union (EU). The formal notification that seeks to leave EU was signed by May at 10 Downing Street office. The letter is an official notification to other 27 European Union members that Britain has invoked Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. This letter was delivered to European Council President Donald Tusk by British ambassador to the EU Sir Tim Barrow on 29 March 2017.

LOK SABHA PASSES FOUR GOODS AND SERVICES TAX(GST) BILLS



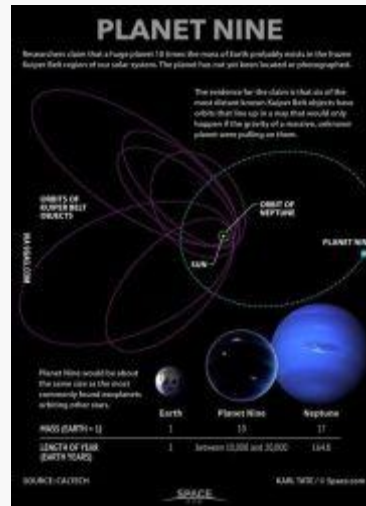
The Lok Sabha on 29 March 2017 passed four Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bills: i. The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 (The CGST Bill). ii. The Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 (The IGST Bill). iii. The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 (The UTGST Bill). iv. The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to the States) Bill, 2017 (The Compensation Bill).

3RD G20 FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP MEET CONCLUDED IN VARANASI



The third meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group concluded on 29 March 2017 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The meet witnessed discussions on the current global economic conjecture as well as deliberations on the policy options that countries can pursue to counter the challenges.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY INVITES STARGAZERS TO JOIN THEIR SEARCH FOR PLANET 9



The Australian National University (ANU) has invited everyday Australian stargazers to join in their search for a new planet (Planet 9) in our Solar System. The project, headed by ANU astrophysicist Brad Tucker will be launched by Professor Brian Cox during a live broadcast from the ANU Siding Spring Observatory.

INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF INDIA (IRDAI) IMPOSED PENALTY ON ICICI PRU LIFE



The insurance regulator has imposed a penalty of ₹20 lakh on ICICI Pru Life Insurance Company on various charges, including free look cancellations not being in line with regulations; maturity claims not being settled within prescribed time period, resulting in huge number of claims outstanding; and delay in processing surrenders/partial withdrawals.

KARNATAKA BANK'S POS INSTALLATIONS REACH OVER 10,000-MARK



The total tally of PoS installations of Karnataka Bank Ltd has reached 10,000 with the handing over of the 10,000th PoS installation to Ravichandar, Chairman and Managing Director of Bengaluru-based Nandana group of hotels on Monday. The bank has been offering PoS services since 2011. A press release said here on Monday that this service enabled the merchant establishments to accept card payments and boost their business.

PAYTM, THE FIRST E-COMMERCE COMPANY TO BECOME ASCI MEMBER



The country's fast-growing e-commerce industry will finally establish its presence at the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). Paytm set to become a member of the self-regulatory voluntary organisation next month. The move is significant because advertising violations by e-commerce companies, which are big spenders on television, print and digital media, have been on the rise in recent years.

FIRST TIME INDIA BECOMES NET EXPORTER OF ELECTRICITY



India has turned from a net importer of electricity to a net exporter for the first time, according to the Central Electricity Authority. According to an official statement, “During the current year 2016-17 (April to February 2017), India has exported around 5,798 million units to Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, which is 213 million units more than the import of around 5,585 million units from Bhutan. Export to Nepal and Bangladesh increased 2.5 and 2.8 times respectively in last three years.”

STATE BANK OF INDIA LAUNCHES A UNIQUE CREDIT CARD UNNATI



SBI Card on Tuesday launched a unique credit card SBI Card Unnati targeted at all SBI customers, including Jan Dhan account-holders across the country. Tailored for new users of credit cards — those who do not have a credit history — ‘Unnati’ would have no annual fees for the initial four years and will be offered through the 20,000-plus SBI branches. The card was launched by Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines.

SIMA KAMIL BECOMES FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD A MAJOR PAKISTANI BANK



The first woman, Sima Kamil to head a major commercial bank in Pakistan was named Monday, a landmark move in a country where the economy is growing but the glass ceiling holds firm. Sima Kamil, currently a deputy CEO at the country's third-largest lender United Bank Limited (UBL), will take charge on June 1, its directors said in a statement.

AAI, DRDO AND GOVT. OF JHARKHAND SIGNED A TRIPARTITE MOU



Airports Authority of India, Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Govt. of Jharkhand signed a tripartite MoU for development of Deoghar Airport in Deoghar district of Jharkhand. The existing Deoghar Airport will be developed for operations of A-320 and C-130 Aircraft. Signing of MoU took place in a ceremony held at the CM Residence.

ALTBALAJI, THE DIGITAL PLATFORM OF BALAJI TELEFILMS LTD TIES UP WITH MOBIKWIK



ALTBalaji, the digital platform of Balaji Telefilms Ltd, has announced a partnership with mobile wallet major MobiKwik. The OTT entertainment platform will offer 250 hours of original content and subscribers can now avail themselves of 25 per cent cashback while paying for the service using MobiKwik wallet.

KERALA, TRIPURA AND ARUNACHAL JOINED UDAY SCHEME



Kerala, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh have joined the Centre's power distribution company debt relief scheme, Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojna. With this, 26 states have joined the scheme. The government estimates that Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura will gain net benefits of approximately ₹4,178 crore, ₹309 crore and ₹810 crore respectively. Since the state discoms have relatively lower losses, these benefits will accrue from reducing transmission losses and demand side management by the discoms.