

## SPACEX SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES FIRST RECYCLED ROCKET



SpaceX successfully launched and then retrieved its first recycled rocket Thursday, a historic feat and the biggest leap yet in its bid to drive down costs and speed up flights. It was the first time SpaceX founder Elon Musk tried to fly a booster that soared before on an orbital mission. He was at a loss for words after the Falcon 9 core landed on the bull's-eye of the ocean platform following liftoff with a broadcasting satellite, achieving what some had once told him was impossible.

## MIAMI OPEN: JOHANNA KONTA DEFEATS CAROLINE WOZNIACKI



Johanna Konta defeated Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-3 to win the Miami Open on Saturday — the biggest title won by a British woman in 40 years. Konta, who had never won an elite WTA premier mandatory event, will move to number seven in the world rankings with the victory. No British woman had ever won a premier mandatory event since the elite tier was introduced in 2009 and this was only the second time that Konta had even qualified for the Miami tournament.

## VISA WOES: SINGAPORE BLOCKS VISAS FOR INDIAN IT PROFESSIONALS



While the focus has been on the US, visas for IT professionals to work in Singapore have dropped “to a trickle”, prompting the government to put on hold the review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) citing violation of the trade pact. With Indian companies being advised to hire local talent, they are looking at relocating some of their operations to other countries in the region. From HCL and TCS, which were the early movers to Singapore, the list has expanded to include Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant and L&T Infotech.

## RASHTRIYA VAYOSHRI YOJANA LAUNCHED IN NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH



Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, a ‘Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category’ is launched in District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens will be distributed in Camp mode and the Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency, ‘Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)’ which will undertake one year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices.

## 81ST FOUNDATION DAY OF ODISHA UTKAL DIVAS CELEBRATED



On April 1, 1936, Odisha was formed and since then the day is celebrated to mark the contributions and sacrifices made by the people of the state in the formation days or Utkal Divas. Constant efforts of activists – Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, Maharaja Shri Ramachandra Bhanjadeo, Raja Baikunthanath Dey, Maharaja Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapati, Gourishankar Ray, Gangadhar Meher, Utkala Gaurav Madhusudan Das and Fakir Mohan Senapati – helped Odisha to get status of separate linguistic state, which carved out Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.

## HARMANPREET KAUR NAMED AUS T20 TEAM'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR



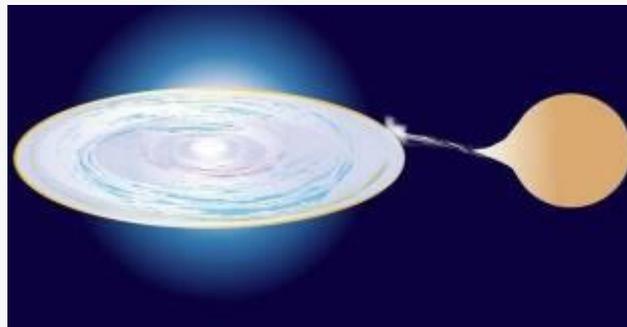
India's women's T20I team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been named Player of the Year by Australia's Women's Big Bash League team Sydney Thunder. Harmanpreet earlier had become the first Indian cricketer to play in Australia's Big Bash League, when she was picked by the team last year. She played 13 matches for the team, scoring 296 runs. Pat Cummins, who was brought in a replacement for Mitchell Starc during Australia's tour of India, after the Ranchi Test, won the Michael Hussey Medal for the Best Men's Player of the Year award for the Men's Sydney Thunder franchise.

## AP CHIEF MINISTER BAGS US INDIA BIZ COUNCIL (USIBC) AWARD



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been selected for another prestigious award. The US India Business Council (USIBC) has selected the CM for award of 'Transformative Chief Minister' and Naidu would be receiving coveted award at second annual West Coast summit which to be held in California on May 8. The CM has been requested to deliver his message on the occasion and CM's office received the message towards award function. Several prominent personalities and industrialists would attend the meeting. However, the CM would also take part in the interactions after the award function.

## SCIENTISTS FOR FIRST TIME SAW ECLIPSES OF BINARY STAR SHED LIGHT ON ORBITING EXOPLANET



A team of scientists from Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru and University of Delhi for the first time have seen indications of a massive planet orbiting a low mass X-ray binary star system. The system MXB 1658-298 is an X-ray binary and a part of the constellation Ophiuchus (serpent bearer). It is nearly 30,000 light years away and the planet is expected to be nearly 8,000 times as massive as the earth.

## **MYANMAR BECOMES 7TH MEMBER OF SOUTH ASIA SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (SASEC)**



Myanmar became the 7th member of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program of Asian Development Bank (ADB). It was officially made member at the SASEC Finance Ministers' meeting held in New Delhi and chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Myanmar's membership in SASEC will offer host of opportunities for realizing synergies from economic cooperation in the subregion. Road corridors in Myanmar can provide key gateway between South Asia and Southeast Asia, while its ports can provide alternate routes and gateways to the landlocked northeastern region of India.

## **JUSTICE INDIRA BANERJEE APPOINTED AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF MADRAS HIGH COURT**



Justice Indira Banerjee was on 31 March 2017 appointed as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court. Presently, she is serving as the judge of the Delhi High Court. She succeeds Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who was transferred to the Supreme Court in February 2017. With this, Justice Banerjee became the second woman to head the Madras High Court. Justice Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar was the first lady to head the chartered court in 1992. Born in September 1957, Justice Banerjee enrolled as an advocate in 1985.

## **CABINET APPROVED SIGNING OF AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT CIRDAP CENTRE**



The Union Cabinet on 31 March 2017 gave its approval for signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Rural Development and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) for the establishment of a CIRDAP Centre at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in Hyderabad, Telangana.

## **TAX EVASION OVER RS 5 CRORE WILL BE NON-BAILABLE OFFENCE UNDER NEW GST REGIME**



Tax evasion of over Rs 5 crore under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime would be a non-bailable offence. The new regime also empowers police to make an arrest without warrant. The Central GST (CGST) Act has defined offences related to taxable good or services. The act provides that if the offences will be cognizable and non-bailable when the taxable goods and/or services where the amount of Tax evasion or the amount of input tax credit wrongly availed or the amount of refund wrongly taken exceeds Rs 5 crore.

## LEANDER PAES AND ADIL SHAMASDIN WIN MEN'S DOUBLES TITLE AT TORNEO INTERNACIONAL CHALLENGER LEON



Leander Paes on 2 April 2017, combining with Canadian Adil Shamasdin, lifted the Leon Challenger Tour tennis tournament's Men's Doubles trophy at Leon, Mexico. Leander Paes and Adil Shamasdin defeated Switzerland's Luca Margaroli and Caro Zampieri of Brazil 6-1 6-4 in the title clash at the USD 75000 hard court event. With this win, Paes grabbed his 20th ATP Challenger title. The Indian player has now won at least one title every year for the past 26 years.

## TEXTILES MINISTER LAUNCHES POWERTEX INDIA SCHEME FOR POWERLOOM SECTOR



The Union government on 1 April 2017 launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive scheme for the development of the powerloom sector. The scheme was launched by Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani through a video conference at Bhiwandi in Thane district, Maharashtra with a simultaneous launch in 45 other locations across the country including Surat, Erode, Malegaon, Bengaluru, Varanasi and Bhagalpur.

## PM NARENDRA MODI OPENS ASIA'S LONGEST TUNNEL ON JAMMU-SRINAGAR NATIONAL HIGHWAY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 10.89 km long Chenani-Nashri all-weather road tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway today. The road tunnel will reduce the travel time between the two state capitals of Jammu and Srinagar by approximately two hours. The two-lane Chenani-Nashri tunnel is Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel, which will cut the distance between Jammu and Srinagar to around 250 km from the current 350 km. Built at an altitude of 1,200 meters, the 10.89-km tunnel has absorbed a sum of Rs 2,519 crore in its construction.

## SINDHU LIFTS INDIA OPEN BADMINTON TITLE 2017 DEFEATING CAROLINA MARIN



PV Sindhu completed a comprehensive win over her Spanish rival Carolina Marin, to clinch the final of the India Open in straight games, in New Delhi, on Sunday. Sindhu completed her fourth career victory over Marin, as she notched-up a 21-19, 21-16 win, in front of a home crowd. The duo came out battling hard, as both the players went neck-and-neck in the first game.

## VIPUL TAKES CHARGE AS NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF DUBAI



An Indian Foreign Service officer, Vipul, is expected to become the new Indian consul-general in Dubai, Gulf News has learnt. Vipul, who uses his first name only, will succeed the current consul-general Anurag Bhushan, whose official tenure is ending soon. Currently a joint secretary at the office of Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Vipul is expected to take charge in early 2017, an Indian government official said on condition of anonymity.

## 19TH COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE TO BEGIN IN UTTARAKHAND TODAY



The 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, slated to be held from April 3 to 7 at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, will help in developing effective strategies to counter climate change and other challenges in forests. Over 700 academicians, forest practitioners, scientists, experts and representatives of international conservation agencies across the globe will take part in it.

## **ROGER FEDERER WINS MIAMI OPEN 2017 DEFEATING RAFAEL NADAL**



Roger Federer picked up his third title of 2017 on Sunday, beating Rafael Nadal in straight sets to claim the Miami Open and continue his sensational resurgence. The Swiss great beat his Spanish rival for a third time this season and fourth in succession, needing just two breaks of serve and 94 minutes to claim his 91st career title and with it, a 26th Masters crown thanks to a 6-3 6-4 victory in Florida.

## **INDIA-MALAYSIA SIGNS SEVEN AGREEMENTS INCLUDING AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT**



India and Malaysia on Saturday signed seven agreements, including in the areas of civil aviation and human resources development, following delegation-level bilateral talks headed by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Najib Razak here. Among seven agreements, an agreement was signed by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Malaysian Minister of Transport Sri Liow Tiong Lai to boost air services between the two countries.