

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA CLEARS PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE RS 200 NOTES



The board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared a proposal to introduce banknotes of Rs 200 denomination, two people aware of the development said. The decision was taken at the RBI board meeting in March, these people said. They didn't want to be identified as they aren't authorised to speak to the media. The process of printing the new Rs 200 notes is likely to begin after June, once the government officially approves this new denomination, said one of the two people cited earlier.

AMAZON INDIA LAUNCHES AMAZON CLASSROOM FOR NEW SELLERS



Amazon.in today announced the launch of Amazon Classroom, an interactive online training programme with courses to impart online selling skills to new sellers on the marketplace, the company said in a statement. Open to all sellers who are less than a month old on Amazon.in, the programme creates a virtual classroom for sellers and focuses on areas such as order processing, adding products and managing returns that are required to operate a successful online business.

MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI OFFICIALLY TURNS GULF OIL INDIA CEO



Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has worn many hats over the years, worn another feather in his cap today. The 'Captain Cool' has been appointed as the CEO of Gulf Oil India for a day. The charismatic cricketer will soon be seen in action as a part of the Rising Pune Supergiants team in the IPL. In February he was replaced with Steve Smith as captain.

NO OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER UJJWALA YOJANA CROSSES 2 CRORE MARK: GOVERNMENT



The number of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana for providing free of cost LPG (cooking gas) connections to BPL households has crossed 2 crore mark since its launch in May 2016. The success of the scheme shows that how it is serving as a novel means of women empowerment and achieving the goals of providing clean fuel and a better life to the people.

UNION HRD MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR RELEASES INDIA RANKINGS 2017



Prakash Javadekar, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development, on 3 April 2017 released the India Rankings 2017 for the educational institutions. The rankings were charted out by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), working under the Union HRD Ministry. The India Rankings 2017 announced by Prakash Javadekar is the second edition of India Rankings. A total of 2995 institutions have participated in the rankings. This includes 232 Universities, 1024 Engineering Institutions, 546 Management Institutions, 318 Pharmacy Institutions and 637 General Degree Colleges, and others.

EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND PILGRIMAGES TO STAY OUT OF GST AMBIT



With an aim to not provide any shock to its citizens, the Union Government has decided to keep education, healthcare and pilgrimages out of service tax under the GST ambit. At present, the government has set a target to roll out the GST regime across the country from 1 July 2017. With its rolling out the GST ambit will subsume central excise, service tax, VAT and other local levies and come up with something known as a national sales tax that will be levied at the time of consumption of a product or service.

PUNE DIRECTOR'S FILM AVYAKTA (UNEXPRESSED) MAKES IT TO CANNES



26-year-old Omkar Modgi's maiden short film Avyakta (Unexpressed) has been shortlisted for the 2017 Cannes Film Festival. The film underlines the journey of Modgi's own relationship with his father, how it went from being an unexpressed obligation to a love-filled one without the need of speaking regularly. It is an 11 minute 42 second short film. It was made on a budget of little more than ₹1 lakh and was shot in Rajgurunagar, on the outskirts of Pune.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MINE AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE IN MINE ACTION 2017 OBSERVED



International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was observed on 4 April 2017 across the world. The theme of the year 2017 is Needs driven. People Centred. Mine action ensures that landmines and explosive hazards in war-torn areas are found and destroyed, making possible the delivery of humanitarian assistance so that people and supplies reach those most in need. The United Nations Mine Action Strategy (UNMAS) coordinates teams to clear roads and runways of explosives, to block off weapons contaminated areas, and to train local people to demine and dispose of explosives.

US POLICY MEMO: COMPUTER PROGRAMMER NOT TO QUALIFY FOR H-1B VISA



The US government has ruled that being a simple computer programmer would no longer qualify as a specialist profession, which is a must for the issue of H-1B work visa. The country through its new policy memorandum titled Rescission of the December 22, 2000 Guidance memo on H-1B computer-related positions ruled that an entry level computer programmer position would not generally qualify as a position in a specialty occupation. It positions supersedes and rescinds its previous guidelines of December, 2000.

ANTI-ROMEO SQUADS IN UTTAR PRADESH: LAWFUL POLICING OR MORAL POLICING?



The Allahabad High Court on 30 March 2017 declared that Anti-Romeo Squads are legal and they are here to stay. The verdict was given by the Court while quashing a Public Interest Litigation that challenged the legality of Anti-Romeo Squads of the Uttar Pradesh Police Department. By delivering on its poll promise, the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP Government issued an order on 23 March 2017 regarding the formation of Anti-Romeo Squads. Anti-Romeo Squads are special teams to make public places safe and secure for girls and women.

MALALA TO BECOME THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO ADDRESS CANADIAN PARLIAMENT



The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau announced on 3 April 2017 that the youngest Nobel laureate, Malala Yousafzai, will be addressing the country's parliament on 12 April 2017. The young Pakistani activist will also be receiving her honorary Canadian citizenship, which was bestowed upon her in 2014. Canadian Prime Minister announced that 19-year-old Yousafzai will become the youngest person to address the country's Parliament. Trudeau also added that he would be discussing empowerment of girls through education with Yousafzai on the occasion.

ALIZA KNOX, TWITTER'S HEAD OF ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS, QUITS



Aliza Knox, Twitter's head of Asia-Pacific business, in the first week of April 2017 announced her retirement from the company. Knox's exit from the micro-blogging site comes on the back of the loss of a number of high-profile Asia-based executives in 2016, including Managing Director for Southeast Asia, India, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region Parminder Singh, India head Rishi Jaitly, China head Kathy Chen and Australia country boss Karen Stocks.

FIRST BIO-GAS FUELLED BUS IN KOLKATA WITH FLAT RS 1 FARE



A city based company has claimed to have launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in Kolkata keeping a flat fare of just Re 1. "We are the first one to launch bio-gas bus in the entire south east Asia. Now old buses which have run for 15 or 20 years, can also be given a fresh lease of life with this clean and cheap fuel, and we are in the process of seeking government approval for the same," Phoenix India Research chairman and managing director, Jyoti Prakash Das said.

TAXI AGGREGATOR OLA INTEGRATES WITH UPI TO SIMPLIFY PAYMENT OPTIONS



Taxi aggregator Ola on Monday announced its effort to promote digital economy across the country as it integrated with Unified Payment Interface (UPI); to further simplify digital payment options for millions of customers. The integration will allow Ola customers to use their unique UPI IDs to pay for all their rides on the Ola platform. UPI integration will lead to one of the fastest mode of payment for millions of Ola users.

INDIA RANKS 3RD FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW IN WADA DOPING CHARTS



India has been ranked third for the third year in a row in a doping violation report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for 2015, with 117 athletes from the country being punished after testing positive for banned substances. India followed the Russian Federation (176) and Italy (129) in the chart, the same position as in the reports of 2013 and 2014. All the violations by the Indians came from urine samples.

MALAYSIA AGREES TO SET UP TECHNOLOGY PARK IN ANDHRA PRADESH



A Malaysian company has agreed to help set up a technology park in Andhra Pradesh that's expected to attract private sector investment of \$100 million in the first phase. The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board and MIGHT Technology Nurturing Sdn. Bhd (MTN) have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on building the park, which will cover 250 acres and focus on new technologies. The MoU was exchanged in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak.

GOVERNMENT SETS UP NATIONAL BOARD FOR ELECTRIC MOBILITY



The Centre on Monday notified the constitution of the National Board of Electric Mobility (NBEM). It also nominated six members of eminence and expertise from the automobile industry into it, including Vikram Kirloskar (Toyota Kirloskar Motors), Vinod Dasari (Ashok Leyland), Pawan Goenka (Mahindra & Mahindra and Sudarshan Venu (TVS Motors). The nominated members will have a tenure of two years or until further government order, whichever is earlier. The members can be re-nominated for additional terms, if needed, said an official release.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATING INDIA TO BE ORGANIZED



A day-long national conference on Communicating India will be organized in New Delhi today which will be inaugurated by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore while his senior cabinet colleague Venkaiah Naidu will deliver the valedictory address. The National Conference on Communications (NCC) is a flagship conference of India in the broad areas of communications, organized every year by the Joint Telematics Group (JTG) of the IITs and the IISc.

GEETHA JOHRI APPOINTED AS GUJARAT'S FIRST WOMAN DGP



Geetha Johri, Gujarat's first IPS officer, was on Tuesday given additional charge as Director General of Police. Johri, a 1982 batch IPS officer, is also Gujarat's first woman DGP rank officer and is currently managing director of State Police Housing Corp. Her appointment as in-charge DGP was made during a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, junior home minister Pradipsinh Jadeja announced.

RS 40,000 CRORE EXPRESSWAY PROJECT IN NORTHEAST ANNOUNCED



The first expressway project in the northeast region will be developed along the Brahmaputra river in Assam at an estimated investment of Rs 40,000 crore, Union Road Minister Nitin Gadkari said today. "Northeast is our priority. We are going to develop the first express highway of North East in Assam along the banks of Brahmaputra. This 1,300 km-long express highway is likely to incur an investment of Rs 40,000 crore," Gadakari said.