

AUSTRALIA UNVEILS MAJOR CHANGES TO CITIZENSHIP PROCESS



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on 20 April 2017 announced that migrants seeking Australian citizenship will have to undergo tougher tests on their English language skills and ability to demonstrate Australian values. The move is being considered as a major overhaul of its migration process. The move will make it difficult to gain citizenship. However, the opposition Labor Party accused Turnbull of making announcements for political gain. Under the new regime, the applicants seeking citizenship should have completed four years as a permanent resident – three years longer than at present.

FORMER IRANIAN PRESIDENT AHMADINEJAD DISQUALIFIED FROM RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT



Former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been disqualified from running in next month's presidential elections. His name was left out of the final list of approved candidates that was announced on 20 April 2017. The decision was taken by the Guardian Council, a group of influential jurists and clerics that was charged with the responsibility of screening the candidates for the upcoming elections, which are scheduled to be held on 19 May 2017.

INDIA DEVELOPS NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, on 19 April 2017 announced the finalization of India's comprehensive and multi-sectoral National Action Plan. The announcement was made at the Inter-Ministerial Consultation on AMR containment held in New Delhi. The National Action Plan aims to enhance awareness, strengthen surveillance, improve rational use of antibiotics, reduce infections and promote research. The plan highlights the need for tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across multiple sectors such as human health, animal husbandry, agriculture and environment in consideration of the "One-Health Approach".

FIRST FEMALE MBBS DOCTOR DR. BHAKTI YADAV FROM INDORE PRESENTED WITH PADMA SHRI



The 91-year-old gynaecologist, Dr. Bhakti Yadav was presented with the Padma Shri award at her residence on 20 April 2017. The award was presented to her by district collector P Narahari in the presence of the state's Finance Minister Jayant Malaiya and Mayor Malini Gaud, as she was unable to attend the function organised in New Delhi on 13 April where the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee had given away the prestigious civilian awards to the recipients.

UNION GOVERNMENT AND NAGA REBEL GROUPS AGREE TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE TILL APRIL 2018



The Union Government and two Naga armed factions, namely National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Neakpao-Kithovi (GPRN/NSCN), have agreed to extend the ceasefire till 27 April 2018. The decision over extension of ceasefire was taken at a meeting held between the officials of the Union Home Ministry and the Ceasefire Supervisory Board of Naga armed factions on 17 April 2017 in New Delhi.

INS DARSHAK CONDUCTING JOINT HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF SRI LANKAN BAY



The Indian Navy's hydrographic survey ship, INS Darshak, jointly with Sri Lankan Navy, is undertaking a hydrographic survey of Weligama Bay. The announcement was made by the Indian Navy on 20 April 2017 on a social media platform. INS Darshak, which is on a two-month deployment in the Sri Lankan waters, jointly with the Sri Lankan Navy is surveying the bay, which was last studied in the year 1901.

SC SETS 25% OF NET SALARY OF HUSBAND FOR MAINTENANCE TO AN ESTRANGED WIFE



The Supreme Court (SC) of India in April 2017 set a benchmark for maintenance to be paid by a husband to his estranged wife. The Court said that twenty-five percent of his net salary should be paid for maintenance by a husband to his estranged wife. It said that this twenty-five percent of his net salary might constitute a just and proper amount as alimony.

NO RED BEACON ON DELHI HIGH COURT JUDGES VEHICLES



Following Union government's decision of barring the use of red beacon atop VVIP cars including the ones belonging to the President of India, the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers from 1 May 2017, the Delhi High Court judges decided to give it up from the afternoon of 20 April itself. The decision was taken during a pre-lunch meeting where all the judges of the high court were present. In fact, the judge's vehicles parked at the high court were seen without the red beacon.

MYNTRA ACQUI-HIRED LOGISTICS START-UP FOR AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT



Flipkart-owned online fashion retailer Myntra has acquired Bengaluru-based logistics start-up InLogg for an undisclosed amount. The move has been made by the e-commerce company to strengthen and expand its supply chain capabilities. With this, Myntra would also be acquiring InLogg's technology platform that will provide end to end logistics solutions for the e-commerce sector.

AURANGABAD-HYDERABAD PASSENGER TRAIN DERAILS NEAR BIDAR, KARNATAKA



Four coaches and the engine of Aurangabad-Hyderabad passenger train derailed near Kagalpura in Aurad Taluk of Bidar, Karnataka on 21 April 2017. However, there were no injuries or casualties. The derailment happened between Khalgapur and Bhalki stations. After detaching the derailed coaches, the remaining portion of the train consisting of eight coaches, moved to the Kalagapur railway station.

GOLFERS ADITI ASHOK, SSP CHAWRASIA AND ALI SHER WIN GOLF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2017



Golfers Aditi Ashok, S.S.P Chawrasia and Ali Sher on 20 April 2017 won the second edition of the Golf Industry Association (GIA) Awards 2017. Aditi Ashok bagged the award for Outstanding Achievement. Aditi finished second in the Ladies European Tour (LET) order of merit in 2016. SSP Chawrasia bagged the award for the Men's Player of the Year (2016). He successfully defended his Indian Open title and had two victories on Golf Tour when he also won his first overseas title at the Resorts World Manila Masters.

INDIA, SOUTH KOREA SIGN PACT FOR DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING



The governments of India and South Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 April 2017 to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in defence shipbuilding. The agreement was signed between Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary (Defence Production) and Chang Myong Jin, Korea's Minister of Defence Acquisition and Programme Administration in New Delhi.

TRIPADVISOR PRESENTS BALI WITH 2017 TRAVELERS' CHOICE AWARDS



US-based travel reviewer website TripAdvisor on 20 April 2017 presented its 2017 World's Best Destination Award to Indonesia's resort island of Bali. TripAdvisor's 2017 World's Best Destination Award for Bali was announced in March 2017, resulting from its traveller choice programme conducted in a 12-month period. With this, Bali became the first Asian destination to earn the title.

CUBBON PARK, LALBAGH TO TAKE UP LEAF COMPOSTING TO CLEAR DRY LEAVES



To solve the problem of getting rid off fallen leaves, the Horticulture Department in Bengaluru has set up eight leaf composting machines in Cubbon Park. Another park, Lalbagh is also planning to compost leaf waste, as it is almost impossible to clear dry leaves spread across over 200-300 acres of area.

NARENDRA MODI, PAYTM'S VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA IN TIME'S 'MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE' LIST



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' this year released by the Time magazine today. The list features pioneers, artists, titans, leaders and icons from around the world honoured for "the power of their inventions, the scale of their ambitions, the genius of their solutions to problems that no one before them could solve."

MONGOLIA LAUNCHED ITS FIRST SATELLITE NAMED MONGOL SAT-I



Mongolia launched its first satellite on Wednesday, part of its efforts to make use of new technology to diversify its resource-dependent economy. The 1,227-megahertz satellite, called Mongol Sat-1, will help landlocked Mongolia expand its television, telecoms and broadband services, according to a video posted on the official website of Mongolia's parliament. The satellite was launched in partnership with Asia Broadcast Satellite (ABS), a telecoms and broadcast provider for the region.

VIDEO GAMING TO BE FEATURED AT 2022 ASIAN GAMES



Video gaming will be featured as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games, with competitors in electronic sports set to receive medals for their digital prowess. The Olympic Council of Asia says it will introduce esports to the official program of the Asian Games at Hangzhou, China. It will also be a demonstration sport at the 2018 Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia. The OCA said the decision reflects “the rapid development and popularity of this new form of sports participation among the youth.”

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD. BECOME MOST-VALUED INDIAN COMPANY



Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries on Friday regained its status as India's most valued firm by market capitalisation, overtaking Tata Group's crown jewel TCS. Shares of RIL were trading 3.43% higher at Rs 1,416.40 on BSE at 12.36pm, giving the company a market capitalisation of Rs 4,60,291.20 crore—the highest for any listed firm in the country.

STEEL MINISTER CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH INAUGURATED 'INDIA STEEL 2017' IN MUMBAI



Union Minister of Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh inaugurated a three-day 'India Steel 2017', the International Exhibition and Conference at Mumbai Exhibition Centre, Mumbai on Wednesday. RINL has put up an exhibition stall highlighting various products and technology along with the steel majors in the country. The Minister visited RINL pavilion and appreciated its participation in the exhibition. P Madhusudan, CMD, RINL, welcomed the Minister who evinced a keen interest in knowing the finished products rolled out by RINL and the technology incorporated in the plant.

TATA POWER INKS PACT FOR ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION IN AJMER



Tata Power on Friday said it has signed an agreement with Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (AVVNL) for electricity distribution in Ajmer for 20 years. Tata Power signed the Distribution Franchise Agreement (DFA) with AVVNL to cater to power requirements of customers in Ajmer for a period of 20 years, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing. Subsequent to winning the bid for distribution franchise of Ajmer circle, Tata Power has formed a special purpose company (SPC), TP Ajmer Distribution Ltd.