

PAKISTAN LEASES GWADAR PORT TO A STATE-RUN CHINESE FIRM FOR 40 YEARS



Pakistan has leased the operations of its strategic Gwadar port to a State-run Chinese firm, the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) for a period of 40 years. COPHC is slated to carry out all the developmental work on the port situated in the Balochistan province of Pakistan. Chinese firm COPHC took over the operations of the port in 2013. Previously, the control of the Gwadar port was with Singapore's PSA (Port of Singapore Authority) International.

CHINA ANNOUNCES NAMES FOR SIX PLACES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH



China has unilaterally announced 'standardised' names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh. It is felt that Chinese move comes as a retaliation against Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Experts feel that China's announcement is aimed at reaffirming its territorial sovereignty over the region. According to the Chinese foreign ministry, change of names was a legitimate action carried out in line with Chinese law.

UTTAR PRADESH TO ESTABLISH 40 YOGA WELLNESS CENTRES



Uttar Pradesh has decided to establish 40 Yoga wellness centres in 40 districts across the state in the present financial year. Out of 40 centres, 23 will be set up at Ayurvedic hospitals, 12 at homeopathic and 7 at Unani hospitals and colleges. For setting up of wellness centres in the remaining 35 districts, the state government plans to get assistance from union government.

ONE CRORE ASSETS GEOTAGGED UNDER GEOMGNREGA INITIATIVE



GeoMGNREGA has reached a major milestone by geotagging one crore assets created under it. The geotagged assets have been put in public domain. The scale of assets created under MGNREGA is massive and is estimated to be about 2.82 crore assets since the financial year 2006-07. On an average, it works out to a creation of 30 lakh assets annually. The type of assets created under MGNREGA includes water harvesting structures, plantations, rural infrastructure, flood control measures, individual assets for sustainable livelihood, community infrastructure etc.

CUBA AND MOROCCO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES AFTER 37 YEARS



Guided by the mutual will to develop friendly relations, Cuba and Morocco has signed an agreement to re-establish diplomatic ties after a time period of 37 years. The two governments have also agreed to forge political, economic and cultural cooperation. The agreement to this effect was signed at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES GUIDELINES ON SERVICE CHARGE



Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs has approved the 'Guidelines on Fair Trade Practices Related to Charging of Service Charge from Consumers by Hotels and Restaurants'. As a part of the guidelines which has been issued in public interest to protect the rights of consumers, the government has said that Service charge on hotel and restaurant bills is "totally voluntary", adding that mandatory levy of service charge amounts to unfair trade practice.

WORLD EARTH DAY BEING OBSERVED ON 22ND APRIL ACROSS THE GLOBE



World Earth Day being observed on 22nd April across the globe. The Sun with its family of eight planets – now that the distant ice-covered Pluto is no more a 'planet'—make our galaxy, the Milky Way; but of all the planets the Earth turned out to be the luckiest. This is because it is the only planet where life became possible, at least far as our knowledge goes. Life in its most beautiful forms developed here, be it humans, animals, plants or marine life.

GIC RE- FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY TO SETS UP BASE IN GIFT CITY, GUJARAT



General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) has become the first re-insurer to open an office at India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) here. Wholly-owned by the government, GIC Re, which supported the growth of general insurance business in the country through its four wholly-owned subsidiaries for about 30 years, was designated as the national reinsurer in 2001. It provides reinsurance support to life and non-life insurers in India and abroad.

LAW MINISTER RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD LAUNCHES PROBONO SERVICES, LEGAL AID SCHEMES, NYAYA MITRA



Aiming at extension of legal aid to marginalised, poor and vulnerable communities, the law ministry on Thursday launched three initiatives—pro bono legal services, a tele law service and 'Nyaya Mitra' scheme. Law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said using technology for providing access to justice is in tandem with the Digital India initiative, the primary focus being transparency, good governance and digital delivery of services. "These initiatives will serve as a tool to give the poor, rural, marginalised communities a voice and ensure that everybody has equal access to justice." Prasad said.

NDMA CONDUCTED FIRST MOCK EXERCISE ON FOREST FIRE IN UTTARAKHAND



The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted a first-of-its-kind State-level mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand today. The mock exercise, aimed at assessing the efficacy of integrating the preparedness and response mechanisms of the forest department with those of the district administration, has been conducted in collaboration with the State Government. The exercise is significant as almost 70 per cent of the State's geographical area is under forests and incidents of forest fires are commonplace.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH THE BANK OF GUYANA



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday announced signing of an MoU with the Bank of Guyana on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information?. The apex bank signed the MoU, Letter for Supervisory Cooperation and Statement of Co-operation with supervisors of a few countries to promote greater co-operation and share supervisory information.

AU FINANCIERS INDIA CONVERTS TO SMALL FINANCE BANK



Au Financiers has converted itself to Small Finance Bank from a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) changing its name to AU Small Finance Bank. AU started as a NBFC and was engaged in business of commercial and personal vehicle loans, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) loans and SME loans serving primarily low and middle income, under-served and unreached customer segment.

GUJARAT NARMADA VALLEY FERTILIZERS & CHEMICALS LTD, GNFC WINS GOLDEN PEACOCK AWARD



The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model. The innovation was conceived and implemented following the call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transition to a cashless society. The cashless township innovation enables corporations with integrated townships to succeed by adapting swiftly to the digital era.

FIRST INDIA INDONESIA ENERGY FORUM HELD IN JAKARTA



First India Indonesia Energy Forum held in Jakarta in which both the countries have agreed to explore cooperation in areas like oil, coal, electricity and energy efficiency, Power Minister Piyush Goyal said. "Two sides have agreed to explore cooperation in number of areas such as upgrading of refineries in Indonesia, relocation of gas-based plants from India to Indonesia, sharing of experience in use of LEDs and renewable energy in India, sharing the expertise of Indonesia in gasification of fuel oil, exploration of oil, gas and coal fields," Goyal said.

CHINA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED FIRST CARGO SPACECRAFT TIANZHOU-1



China on Thursday successfully launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1, taking another crucial step towards realising the Communist giant's ambition to have a permanently manned space station in the next few years. Powered by a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket, Tianzhou-1 roared into the air from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in the southern Hainan Province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.