

AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN WON DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARDS 2017



Chitra Productions in association with Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2017 celebrated the 148th birth anniversary of the father of Indian Cinema, the respected Dadasaheb Phalke. This year, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won the award for the best actress female for her stellar performance in the film “Sarbjit”. Hema Malini won the Award in the category of Kala Shree. Veteran Zeenat Aman walked the stage to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

ANDHRA PRADESH SET UP WELFARE BOARD FOR TRANSGENDERS



Andhra Pradesh has now followed in Tamil Nadu and Kerala’s footsteps to establish a welfare board for transgender persons in the state. They launched the ‘Andhra Pradesh Hijra Transgender Welfare Board’ on Thursday at the Sri Venkateshwara University in Tirupati, and the move was welcomed by the trans community in Andhra. Rachana Mudraboyini, a transgender rights activists who was part of the inauguration ceremony, said she hopes that the board would help the community fight for their rights. The welfare board will be run by direct democracy by the community, with special voting rights for the minorities.

INDIA ENTERS SELECT CLUB AS NAVY SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRES LAND-ATTACK BRAHMOS MISSILE



India Enters Select Club As Navy Successfully Test-Fires Land-Attack Brahmos Missile. The Indian Navy successfully test-fired the land-attack version of Brahmos supersonic cruise missile on Friday. A top navy official said the test-firing yielded desired results. The test-firing of the missile took place in the Bay of Bengal and it was very successful, he said. "Land attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was fired for the first time from an Indian Navy's stealth frigate, off the eastern coast, at a land target," said a source in the defence ministry. "So, far only anti-ship version of BrahMos had been fired by Indian Navy," the source added. This puts India in a select club of nations with such capability.

17-YR-OLD WASHINGTON SUNDAR BECOMES 3RD YOUNGEST TO PLAY IPL



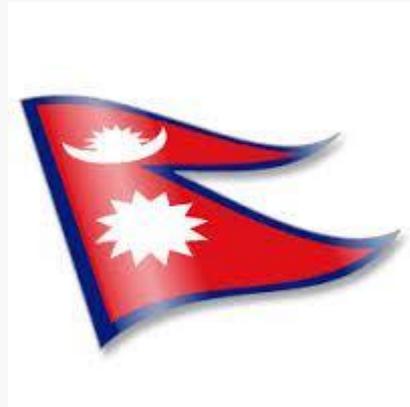
When Rising Pune Supergiant (RPS) replaced injured R Ashwin with another Tamil Nadu all-rounder in the name of Washington Sundar for their 2017 Indian Premier League campaign, there were a lot of eyebrows raised as to who this new and unknown prospect was. Washington Sundar is an exciting young prospect, rated highly by India's U-19 coach Rahul Dravid, who bowls right-arm off-spin and can also bat in the middle order. He was recently in the Tamil Nadu squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy and on Saturday became the third youngest debutant in IPL when he took the field against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

CRICKET REMOVED FROM 2018 ASIAN GAMES PROGRAMME



One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang is cricket. Apart from cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing are among the other sports which have been removed from the programme in order to reduce the burden on Indonesian organisers. This measure was taken as a part of the series of changes aimed at reducing the total number of events from 493 to 431. Also omitted from the list are kurash and belt wrestling events. This news was confirmed by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to inside the games.

MADHESI PARTIES IN NEPAL UNITE TO FORM A NEW UNITED POLITICAL PARTY



Five prominent Madhesi parties in Nepal have united to form a new united party named the Rastriya Janata Party, which will be the fifth largest party in Nepal's Parliament. Interestingly the word "Madhes" has not been included in the new party's name. This announcement of unification has come ahead of elections to local government bodies scheduled on May 14. The five parties that have united are Mahantha Thakur's Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party, Rajendra Mahato's Sadbhawana Party, Sharat Singh Bhandari's Rastriya Madhes Samajbadi Party, Mahendra Yadav's Tarai Madhes Sadbhawana Party and Rajkishor Yadav's Madhesi Janadhikar Forum- Ganatantrik.

RIO OLYMPICS SILVER MEDALLIST P.V.SINDHU MOVES TO NO. 3 IN WORLD RANKING



Ace shuttler PV Sindhu has been ranked No. 3 in the latest BWF ranking. Sindhu who was at No.5 climbed up two places on the basis of making the quarter-finals of the recently-concluded Singapore Open Super Series. Sindhu's career best is when she reached World No. 2 two weeks ago. As per the latest BWF ranking, London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal has been ranked eighth. Kidambi Srikanth and B Sai Praneeth have been placed at 21st and 22nd positions respectively.

NALCO DISINVESTMENT: GOVERNMENT RAISES RS 1200 CRORE



The Central Government has raised Rs. 1,200 crore by divesting 9.2% of paid-up capital in National Aluminum Company Ltd. (NALCO). With this disinvestment, Government's shareholding in NALCO has become 65.37%. Disinvestment involves the sale of Government's share in the Public Sector Undertakings. In disinvestment, the government sells only a part of the equity which is essentially less than 51% so that ownership and management rights can be possessed by the Government itself.

LAWYERS' PLAN NATIONWIDE AGITATIONS AGAINST ADVOCATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017



Bar Council of India (BCI) has called for a nationwide stir against what they allege as the undemocratic provisions of the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2017. BCI has planned to submit a memorandum to the Union Law Minister to reject the Law Commissions suggestions to amend the Act. The Law Commission of India has proposed various amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961 so as to usher in forward-looking reforms in the legal profession. It has placed before the government, the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL'S NSCI SAFETY AWARDS 2016 PRESENTED TO 70 ORGANISATIONS



Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Bandaru Dattatreya awarded NSCI Safety Awards 2016 to 70 Organisations at a function held in New Delhi. In addition, 12 client organizations from Construction Sector were also awarded. The Award was granted to the organisations under four categories: SarvaShreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar PrashansaPatra.

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST LPG IMPORTER



India has become world's second largest LPG importer, a position that was previously occupied by Japan. China remains as the world's top importer. According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, LPG imports in the country has increased 23% during the financial year 2016-2017 to about 11 million tonnes. The main reason behind the increase in the consumption of LPG in India is due to the two government schemes coupled with free gas connections.

A NEW FREIGHT TRAIN CONNECTS RUSSIA WITH CHINA ARRIVED IN GANZHOU



A freight train connecting Russia with China arrived in Ganzhou an inland city in Jiangxi province, carrying goods from Moscow. The freight train travelled more than 7,000 km, before reaching Ganzhou in eastern China. Significance for China Jiangxi province is the former revolutionary heartland of the Communist Party. This freight train connecting Russia and China is expected to bring resources from Europe and boost local development.

MONTE CARLO MASTERS: NADAL WINS MEN'S SINGLES; BOPANNA AND CUEVAS LIFT MEN'S DOUBLES



India's Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas lifted the men's doubles crown at the Monte Carlo Masters after registering a hard-fought three-set win over Spain's Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez in Monaco on Sunday. The unseeded pair played out of its skin to get the better of its opponents 6-3, 3-6, 10-4 in the summit-clash of the clay court tournament. The match, played at the Monte Carlo Country Club, lasted an hour and 14 minutes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY OBSERVED ON 23 APRIL 2017 ACROSS THE WORLD



The United Nations English Language Day 2017 was observed globally on 23 April 2017. The Day is observed every year on the date that is traditionally observed as both, the birthday and the date of death of William Shakespeare, the greatest writer ever-known in English language. The day was established in 2010 by the Department of Public Information, as a result of its efforts to establish language days for each of United Nation's six official languages. The other five official languages of the international body include Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

KAILASH SATYARTHI HONOURED WITH P C CHANDRA PURASKAAR 2017



Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 23 April 2017 was presented the P C Chandra Puraskaar. Satyarthi was honoured with the award for his global crusade against child slavery and exploitative child labour. The 63-year-old Satyarthi was handed over a citation, a trophy and a cheque of Rs 10 lakh at an awards ceremony in Kolkata. Born on 11 January 1954, Kailash Satyarthi is an Indian children's rights and education advocate. In 1980, he gave up his career as an engineer and founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

INDIA POST RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP ON COFFEE AS FRAGRANCE STAMP



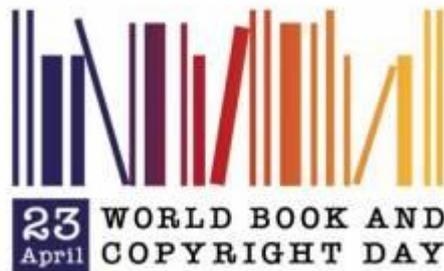
The India Post on 23 April 2017 released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Coffee as a Fragrance Stamp in Bengaluru. The stamp was jointly released by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha. After releasing the postage stamp, Nirmala Sitharaman thanked the department of Posts for releasing the stamp and printing one lakh stamps in the denomination of Rs 100. These fragrance stamps will be available for sale at Bengaluru GPO, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Belgaum Philately Bureaus and other head post offices in the state from the date of its release.

GOOGLE ON 23 APRIL 2017 TO INTRODUCE 'COPYLESS PASTE' FEATURE



Google on 23 April 2017 introduced the first code for its new feature Copyless Paste in its Chrome app running on Android OS. The Copyless Paste feature will take data from Chrome usage and use that to improve the experience in other apps. Copyless Paste feature will automatically copy the useful information and will suggest it for pasting in apps where it might be relevant.

WORLD BOOK & COPYRIGHT DAY BEING OBSERVED ON 23RD APRIL 2017



The World Book and Copyright Day was celebrated on 23 April 2017 across the globe. To mark the occasion, special events were organised to promote reading, publishing and copyright across the world including India. The World Book and Copyright Day is an opportunity to highlight the power of books to promote UNESCO's vision of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens.

NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DIWAS BEING OBSERVED TODAY



National Panchayati Raj Day (National Local Self-Government day) is the national day of India celebrated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 24 April annually. Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh inaugurated the first National Panchayati Raj Day in 2010. He mentioned that if Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) functioned properly and locals participated in the development process, the Maoist threat could be countered.

NEWTON WINS BEST FILM HONOUR AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Actor Rajkummar Rao-starrer "Newton" has won the best film honour at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. Rajkummar took to Twitter to announce the news. "After #Berlinale win, another feather in #Newton's cap. Won the Jury prize for best film at the Hong Kong intern'l film festival. @ManMundra (sic)," he posted. Amit Masurkar-directed "Newton", which also stars Anjali Patil, is a political satire.