

NATIONAL YOUTH ATHLETICS MEET: HARYANA IS CHAMPION



Haryana emerged champion beating Kerala at the National Youth Athletics Meet. Kerala was at the top place for the last five years. Haryana emerged champions with 166.5 points. Kerala has finished as the runners-up. However, Kerala managed to retain the team crown for girls while Haryana boys topped and won the boys' title. At the meet, Rohit Yadav improved his personal best in javelin throw and has set a new meet record. Pole vaulter Nivya Antony of Kerala equaled her national youth record set at Coimbatore during the junior nationals.

GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE FOR PRAFULLA SAMANTRA



Social activist Prafulla Samantra was announced one among six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize for his "historic 12-year legal battle that affirmed the indigenous Dongria Kondh's land rights and protected the Niyamgiri Hills from a massive, open-pit aluminum ore mine." The other five winners for this year are: Mark Lopez (United States); Uroš Macerl (Slovenia); Rodrigo Tot (Guatemala); Rodrigue Katembo (Democratic Republic of Congo); and Wendy Bowman (Australia).

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST MILITARY SPENDER



According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), India has become world's fifth-largest military spender spending at \$55.9 billion in 2016. The US remains the world's largest military followed by China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. The other prominent spenders in the top 15 include Japan, South Korea, and Australia. Global trends Global military spending amounted to 2.2% of the worldwide GDP.

IN A FIRST, UTTARAKHAND DEPLOYS DRONES TO MONITOR FOREST FIRES



In a first, the Uttarakhand Forest Department has deployed three drones for real-time monitoring of the forest fires. This is the first time that drones are used to monitor forest fires in India. Besides monitoring of forest fire, drones are already in use for wildlife conservation for nest status, aviation ethology, crocodile and water birds counting and monitoring. Need In India, Uttarakhand faces maximum incidents of forest fires.

K VISWANATH WINS DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD FOR 2016



Veteran filmmaker and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath has been conferred Dadasaheb Phalke award for 2016 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The award consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs and a shawl. K Viswanath Viswanath was born in February 1930 in Andhra Pradesh. As a director he has made fifty films on varied themes of art, music and dance. In 1992, he received Padmashri Award for his contribution to film making.

GOOGLE DOODLE COMMEMORATED KANNADA ACTOR RAJKUMAR'S 88TH BIRTHDAY



Search giant Google paid tribute to noted Kannada actor Rajkumar with a special doodle on 24 April 2017, on the occasion of the actor's 88th birthday. The doodle represented a larger-than-life image of Rajkumar, radiant and shining brightly from the big screen while the audience looks on. Born on 24 April 1929 in Gajanur, a hamlet in the present-day Erode district, Tamil Nadu, Rajkumar's real name was Singanalluru Puttaswamayya Muthuraju.

SAUDI ARABIA KING'S SON PRINCE KHALED APPOINTED AS US ENVOY



Saudi Arabia's King Salman on 22 April 2017 issued a royal decree stating the appointment of one of his sons Prince Khaled bin Salman bin Abdulaziz as the Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States (US). Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki was removed as Ambassador to the US. The appointment of Prince Khaled to Washington signals the Saudi kingdom's eagerness to strengthen bilateral ties with US under President Donald Trump.

DOUBLE-DECKER AC TRAIN TO BE LAUNCHED ON HIGH-DENSITY ROUTES



The Indian Railways will be launching a special rail service, Utkrisht Double-Decker AC Yatri (Uday) Express in July 2017. The over-night train would ply only on high-demand routes like Delhi- Lucknow and its fare would be lower than that of the 3AC class in regular express trains. The aim of the double-decker service is to provide better amenities to passengers in a lesser fare.

SULKHAN SINGH APPOINTED AS DGP OF UTTAR PRADESH



IPS officer Sulkhan Singh was on 21 April 2017 appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh as part of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's reshuffle in the top ranks of the force. Singh's tenure as the Uttar Pradesh DGP is expected to be short as his superannuation is due in September 2017. Sulkhan Singh is a 1980 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. He was currently posted in the Training Department of UP police. Sulkhan Singh succeeds Javeed Ahmed, who was transferred to a lower rank.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH: STUDENTS UNION PROTEST AGAINST CHINA'S CLAIM OVER RENAMING PLACES IN STATE



All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) on 24 April 2017 took out a protest rally against China's claim over the renaming 6 places in the state. During the protest rally held in Itanagar, the Students' organisation also burnt the effigy of the Chinese President Xi Jinping. The student union, AAPSU, said that Arunachal Pradesh was a part of India and will remain a part of India. Hundreds of students and general public participated in the protest rally.

101-YEAR-OLD KAUR BAGS GOLD IN 100M EVENT AT WORLD MASTERS GAMES



Indian sprinter Kaur on 24 April 2017 clinched the 100 metres sprint at the World Masters Games held in Auckland, New Zealand. Kaur was the lone contender in the 100-years-and-over event, which she completed in a minute and 14 seconds. The 101-year old contestant was almost 1min 4sec short of the women's world record for the distance. The Chandigarh-based sprinter will also compete in the 200m race on 26 April 2017. She has also registered to take part in the shot put and javelin throw events.

WORLD MALARIA DAY 2017 OBSERVED GLOBALLY ON 25 APRIL 2017



World Malaria Day (WMD) 2017 was observed globally on 25 April 2017 with the theme Malaria prevention: let's close the gap. With this theme, WHO is calling the countries together for closing the gap in malaria prevention. As per the World Malaria Report 2016, the rate of new malaria cases fell by 21 per cent globally between 2010 and 2015. Malaria death rates fell by 29 per cent in the same 5-year period. In sub-Saharan Africa, case incidence and death rates fell by 21 per cent and 31 per cent respectively.

MRIDUL GEHLOT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF KABADDI FEDERATION



Mridul Gehlot and Dinesh Patel were on Sunday elected unanimously president and general secretary of Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI). The elections were held here under the the supervision of justice I S Israni. Observers from the Sports Ministry, Indian Olympic Association, International Kabaddi Federation and Asian Kabaddi Federation were also present for the elections.

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA BECOMES INTERIM BAI PRESIDENT



BJP leader and Assam Badminton Association President Himanta Biswa Sarma was on Sunday appointed Badminton Association of India's interim head during its executive council meeting. "We are very happy to announce that Himanta Biswa Sarma has been unanimously given the charge to become the acting president till the next elections in 2018. It was a consensual decision. Everyone realises that badminton has to move forward and it will be best served by him," Anup Narang, BAI General Secretary and official spokesperson told.

INDIA POST PAYMENT BANK TO OPEN 650 BRANCHES THIS YEAR



India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) is planning mega expansion to open 650 branches this year. The first two branches of India Post Payment Bank have been opened in January 2017 in Ranchi and Raipur. We intend to open at least one branch per district across the country. Each branch will be networked with about 1200 to 1500 post offices in a district," B V Sudhakar, Secretary, Department of Posts, Government of India told newsmen at a press conference here on Monday. When asked whether such a ramp was possible in a short span of time, the official said: Technology will allow us to do so."

INDIA TO EXPORT MANGOES TO AUSTRALIA FOR THE FIRST TIME



India may export mangoes that meet biosecurity standards to Australia for the first time following revision of protocols to allow them in the Australian economy. Robert Gray from Australian Mango Industry Association, said the Indian mangoes would be for sale outside of the Australian mango season. However, the fruit has to meet biosecurity standards including irradiation before they are exported, he said.

HARYANA LAUNCHES MOBILE APP KILKARI TO CREATE AWARENESS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN



The National Health Mission (NHM) in Haryana on Friday launched a mobile-based application Kilkari to create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers on the importance of ante and post natal care, institutional delivery and immunisation. The application, Kilkari, was launched during the concluding day of the 'State-level Orientation Workshop' that began at the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare here on Wednesday.

MOUSHUMI CHATTERJEE GETS BFJA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Veteran actress Moushumi Chatterjee has received the lifetime achievement award, while actor Ashish Vidyarthi was honoured for his contribution to Indian Cinema at the 80th Bengal Film Journalists' Association (BFJA) awards. A galaxy of seasoned directors – Kaushik Ganguly ("Cinemawala" – 2016), Shiboprasad Mukherjee-Nandita Roy ("Belaseshe" – 2015), Aniruddha Roychowdhury ("Buno Haans" 2014), Srijit Mukherjee ("Rajkahini" – 2015) and Goutam Ghosh ("Sankhachil" – 2015) – were honoured with best direction trophies for their works at a function here last night.

CHINA, IRAN SIGN FIRST AGREEMENT ON RECONFIGURATION OF ARAK REACTOR



China, Iran sign first agreement on reconfiguration of Arak reactor. The deal was concluded between the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and a Chinese company at the official ceremony in the Austrian capital, the Mehr News Agency reported. In 2016, the AEOI deputy atomic chief Ali Asghar Zarean said China would help to modify the design of Iran's IR-40 heavy-water reactor, which is under construction at the Arak nuclear facility.

MAHARASHTRA GOVT SIGNS MOU WITH RAILWAYS TO EXPAND GREEN COVER



Government of
Maharashtra

In a bid to expand the green cover, the Maharashtra government yesterday signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Railways, under which trees will be planted on the land adjacent to the railway tracks in the state. "In order to increase the state's forest cover from 20 per cent to 33 per cent, largescale forest and non-forest plantation is necessary. Considering this, we had sought Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu's consent for planting trees on the land beside the railway lines and converting that area into a green zone," state Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, who also holds charge of Forest department, said today.