

## GERMAN LAWMAKERS APPROVE PACKAGE OF SECURITY MEASURES, PARTIALLY BAN BURQA



The lawmakers of Germany on 27 April 2017 approved a package of security measures that aims at preventing extremist attacks. In this regard the lawmakers also partially banned the full-face burqa, the Islamic veil. The new law on facial coverings falls short of a total ban in public places demanded by right-wing parties, like that in effect in neighbouring France since 2011. The prohibition will apply to public servants — including election officials, military and judicial staff — performing their duties.

## HARYANA GOVERNMENT APPOINTS BS SANDHU AS STATE'S DGP



The Haryana government on 27 April 2017 appointed senior IPS officer Baljit Singh Sandhu as the new Director General of Haryana Police. The 1984 batch IPS officer would be replacing K P Singh, who has been appointed as the Director General of Prisons. This major reshuffle is being seen as an effort by the Manohar Lal Khattar-led BJP government to pacify a section of their party's dissident MLAs and to put a fresh face in front of the public.

## WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK OBSERVED GLOBALLY



The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2017 was observed across the world on 28 April 2017 with the theme 'Optimize the collection and use of OSH data'. This year, ILO's campaign focuses on the critical need for countries to improve their capacity to collect and utilize reliable occupational safety and health (OSH) data. Every day, 6300 people die as a result of occupational accidents or work-related diseases which means that there are more than 2.3 million deaths per year.

## EL SALVADOR BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO BAN METAL MINING



El Salvador in April 2017 became the first country in the world to ban metal mining. The El Salvador unicameral legislature passed the ban with support from a sweeping coalition. The law was favoured by nearly 80 percent of the El Salvadorian population. The law bans "prospection, exploration, exploitation, extraction or processing of metallic minerals in El Salvador." The law entered into force after being signed by President Salvador Sanchez Ceren. After the Salvadoran Civil War (15 October 1979 to 16 January 1992), the government began trying to rebuild the large-scale mining industry.

## **PAYTM LAUNCHES DIGITAL GOLD; CONSUMERS NOW BUY GOLD ON PAYTM**



Payments app Paytm on 27 April 2017 launched Digital Gold on its platform to allow customers to buy and sell gold through electronic platform. This first wealth management product was launched in partnership with gold refiner MMTC-PAMP. It offers a real-time international pricing mechanism for the customers.

## **PRESIDENT CONFERRED JNANPITH AWARD TO POET SANKHA GHOSH**



Sankha Ghosh, eminent Bengali poet and literary critic was honoured with the 52nd Jnanpith Award on 27 April 2017 by President Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, the President stated that the professor, who is a recipient of Sahitya Akademi award and the Padma Bhushan, is the most deserving recipient of this award.

## UMA BHARTI HAS LAUNCHED WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME FOR BUNDELKHAND



Uma Bharti, the Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation launched 'Jal Sanrakshan Karyakram- Bundelkhand', an extensive water conservation programme on 28 April 2017 at Bandri, Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. The program aims to focus on the drought-prone areas of Bundelkhand, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Marathwada and Koraput in Odisha. The minister had revealed earlier while making the announcement in New Delhi that her Ministry has prepared a master plan for the artificial discharge of ground water in the Bundelkhand region.

## WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK 2017 OBSERVED WITH THEME #VACCINESWORK



World Immunization Week 2017 is being observed across the globe between 24 April and 30 April 2017. The theme for the 2017 World Immunization Week is 'VaccinesWork.' The theme aims to raise awareness about the critical importance of full immunization throughout life, and its role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Highlight the importance of immunization as a top global health investment priority.

## TAMIL ACTOR VINU CHAKRAVARTHY PASSES AWAY ON 28 APRIL 2017



Veteran Tamil actor and scriptwriter Vinu Chakravarthy passed away on 28 April 2017 following a prolonged illness in Chennai. He was 71. He is survived by his wife, son and a daughter. He was well known for his unique villainous roles and trade mark pauses in dialogue delivery. Chakravarthy has acted in over 1000 Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Badaga and Malayalam languages films.

## SHAH RUKH KHAN BECOMES FIRST INDIAN ACTOR TO DELIVER TED TALK



Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan on 27 April 2017 became the first Indian actor to deliver TED speech in Vancouver, Canada. He spoke out on various issues beginning from his stardom to the changes world has experienced with the introduction of the internet. He left the audience in splits with his witty one-liners. Moreover, Shah Rukh Khan also partnered with the company to host the Hindi version of the famous talk show.

## **UNESCO TO SCREEN INDIAN SHORT FILM AS PART OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATIONS**



UNESCO to screen Rahul V. Chittella's short film "Azaad" as a part of World Press Freedom Day event that is scheduled to be held from May 1-4 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The movie is about the dysfunctional relationship between a father and his son. World Press Freedom Day is celebrated by UNESCO to celebrate the principle of freedom of the press.

## **ALL-WOMAN INDIA RESERVE BATTALION (IRB) TO BE RAISED IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR**



The Home Ministry has planned to raise an all-woman India Reserve Battalion (IRB) in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision has been taken in the wake of girl students throwing stones at security forces in Srinagar a few days ago. The all-woman battalion will be one among the five IRBs that has been sanctioned by the Central government for the State last year. The decision was taken after the Home Minister reviewed various developmental and infrastructure projects in the State.

## AIIMS BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST PUBLIC HOSPITAL FOR EYE TUMORS



The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is India's first public hospital to start plaque brachytherapy facility for the treatment of eye tumors, a statement said on Sunday. The facility is a form of local radiation delivered to the eye through a radioactive device which is attached to the eye for a temporary period of time. The facility at the Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences will treat children suffering from a type of cancer called Retinoblastoma and adults who suffer from melanoma.

## ISRO DEVELOPS SOLAR CALCULATOR ANDROID APP FOR THE COMPUTATION OF SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL



Indian Space Research Organisation's Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC) has developed an Android app, named Solar Calculator, for computing the solar energy potential of any location. Developed at the behest of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the ISRO Solar Calculator app is considered to be a "very useful" tool for installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels that is used for tapping solar energy, it said.

## T KRISHNAKUMAR BECOMES COCA-COLA INDIA'S NEW CHIEF



Come May, Venkatesh Kini, President – India and South-West Asia, Coca-Cola, will step aside and give charge to T Krishnakumar. This is in keeping with the change which the global beverages major is seeing at its Atlanta headquarters, with new CEO James Quincey taking charge soon. Coca-Cola will also see another company veteran, Vamsi Mohan, taking over as South-West Asia Regional Director for Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) and Christina Ruggiero as CEO of HCCB.

## INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER IN EGYPT HOLDS SEMINAR TO DEEPEN TIES



Indian cultural center in Egypt, serving as Indias window to reach out to Egyptians, has organised a seminar aimed at maintaining and strengthening bilateral relations. Organised by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) on Wednesday, the seminar Cultural Festivals ? Bridge between India and Egypt" was part MACICs monthly seminar series involving youth, academicians, culture lovers, civil society to discuss issue of bilateral interest.

## **BHUBANESWAR BECOMES 1ST INDIAN CITY TO WIN PIERRE L'ENFANT AWARDS-2017**



Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha, on 27 April 2017 was selected for the Pierre L'Enfant Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards-2017. The city was selected for the award for good and advanced town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process. With this, Bhubaneswar became India's first city to be awarded the prestigious award instituted by the American Planning Association (APA).

## **INDIA AND CYPRUS SIGN 4 AGREEMENTS AFTER DELEGATION-LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN BOTH THE COUNTRIES**



India and Cyprus on Friday signed four agreements, including on air services and merchant shipping and expressed their willingness to cooperate in areas like climate change, tackling international terrorism and seeking reform of the United Nations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India "deeply" appreciates the Mediterranean island country's support for its permanent membership in the UN Security Council."India and Cyprus share the common objective of bringing about an early reform of the United Nations Security Council.

## INDIA WINS 6 MEDALS IN 2ND LEG OF ASIAN GRAND PRIX ATHLETICS MEET



India won six medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jiaying, China, on Thursday. This included the gold medal bagged by Neena Varakil in women's long jump. Neena produced the best jump of 6.37 metres in the sixth and final round. World junior record holder javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra took the silver. Throwing the spear to a distance of 83.32 metres, Neeraj also qualified for the IAAF World Championships to be held in London in August this year.

## OSCAR-WINNING DIRECTOR JONATHAN DEMME PASSES AWAY



Jonathan Demme, the Oscar-winning filmmaker who observed emphatically American characters with a discerning eye, a social conscience and a rock 'n' roll heart, achieving especially wide acclaim with "The Silence of the Lambs" and "Philadelphia," died on Wednesday at his home in Manhattan. He was 73. His publicist, Leslee Dart, confirmed the death. Mr. Demme disclosed that he had cancer in 2015.