

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER 4000-YEAR-OLD MODEL GARDEN OUTSIDE EGYPT TOMB



A group of archaeologists discovered the remains of a nearly 4000 year old model garden outside a tomb in the ancient Egyptian capital of Thebes, today known as Luxor. The discovery was announced by Egypt's Antiquities Ministry said on 3 May 2017. The discovery was made by a Spanish team in the Draa Abul Nagaa necropolis across the Nile from the modern-day city of Luxor. The Draa Abul Naga necropolis lies near the Valley of the Kings, where many of the pharaohs, including Tutankhamun, were buried.

HUMANS MUST COLONISE ANOTHER PLANET IN 100 YEARS TO SURVIVE: STEPHEN HAWKING



Renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking has warned that Humans will need to leave Earth and colonise another planet within the next 100 years to escape from asteroid strikes, overpopulation and drastic effects of climate change. Hawking along with his former student Christophe Galfard will be travelling the world to find out how humans could survive in outer space in a documentary called 'Expedition New Earth', a part of BBC's new science season Tomorrow's World.

UNION CABINET APPROVES MODIFICATIONS IN 7TH CPC RECOMMENDATIONS



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 May 2017 approved modifications in the recommendations of 7th CPC (Central Pay Commission) on pay and pensionary benefits in the course of their implementation. Earlier, in June 2016, the Union Cabinet had approved implementation of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission with an additional financial expenditure of Rs 84933 crore for 2016-17 including the arrears for 2 months of 2015-16. The benefit of the proposed modifications will be calculated with effect from 1 January 2016, the date of implementation of 7th CPC recommendations.

ODISHA'S SUALGIRI, SWALGIRI COMMUNITIES NOTIFIED AS SCHEDULED CASTES



Odisha's Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities in the first week of May 2017 were notified as Scheduled Castes following President Pranab Mukherjee's assent to a new law. The Rajya Sabha in April 2017 had passed the bill on it after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha in March 2017. President Mukherjee gave the nod to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2017, on 28 April 2017. The Scheduled Castes category status will entitle these communities to reservation in government jobs and admission in educational institutions, along with other financial benefits.

UNION SPORTS MINISTRY ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS



Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Vijay Goel on 3 May 2017 revamped the National Youth Awards (NYA) to promote transparency in the selection process. The National Youth Awards are conferred by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports every year to young people to give recognition to their outstanding work and to motivate them to achieve excellence in the field on National Development and Social Service.

UNION CABINET APPROVES COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN ON RAILWAY SAFETY



The Union Cabinet, presided by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 3 May 2017 gave its ex-post facto approval to the signing the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan on Railway Safety. The MoC was signed in February 2017. The MoC also provide a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest development and knowledge in the railway sector.

CCEA APPROVES CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME SAMPADA



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 3 May 2017 approval the re-structuring the schemes of Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under Central Sector Scheme SAMPADA. SAMPADA stands for 'Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters'. The objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste. The scheme was approved for the period 2016- 2020.

NASA'S FIRST INFLATABLE GREENHOUSE COULD ENABLE WATER RECYCLING ON MARS



NASA Scientists have designed an inflatable greenhouse that could be used one day by astronauts to grow fresh food and produce oxygen on Mars or Moon. The first-of-its-kind sample involves an inflatable, deployable greenhouse that can support plant and crop production for nutrition, air revitalisation, water recycling and waste recycling. The new approach uses plants to scrub carbon dioxide while providing food and oxygen for those working in deep space.

UNION CABINET APPROVES NATIONAL STEEL POLICY (NSP) 2017



The Union Cabinet, presided by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 3 May 2017 gave its approval for National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017. The Policy embodies the long term vision of the Government to give impetus to the steel sector. It seeks to enhance domestic steel consumption and ensure high quality steel production and create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry. Create self-sufficiency in steel production by providing policy support & guidance to private manufacturers, MSME steel producers, CPSEs. Encourage adequate capacity additions.

AIZAWL FC THREATEN 'FAST UNTO DEATH' IF DENIED ENTRY IN TOP TIER



Aizawl Football club (FC), the Newly-crowned I-League football champions, on 3 May 2017 threatened to go on a “fast unto death” if they are not allowed to play in the top-tier of domestic club structure next season. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is mulling restructuring of domestic football into three tiers from next season. Fearing that they will be consigned to the second tier for many years even after winning the I-League, Aizwal FC has written to the AIFF to allow them to remain in the top league in any scenario.

THIS NEW TEST KIT CAN DETECT CANCER WITH JUST ONE DROP OF BLOOD!



Chinese scientists have invented a new test, which could help diagnose multiple kinds of cancer by examining just one drop of human blood. The test kit of Hsp90a protein has been developed by the researchers at Tsinghua University's School of Life Sciences for clinical use. The scientists had previously identified a kind of heat shock proteins (HSP) called Hsp90a that exist within the human body and can be used as a cancer biomarker. Leading on from there, lead researcher Luo Yongzhang along with his team produced an artificial Hsp90a protein that gains structural stability by regrouping proteins.

IBBI CONSTITUTES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO LAY DOWN TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE OF CORE SERVICES



The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on 4 May 2017 constituted a Technical Committee to lay down technical standards for performance of core services in accordance with Regulation 14 of the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. The committee will be headed by RB Barman, Chairman of National Statistical Commission. The Committee will give its recommendation for laying down Technical Standards for the performance of core services and other services under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017.

INDIA RANKED 100TH IN FIFA WORLD FOOTBALL RANKINGS



As per the updated FIFA world football rankings, the Indian national football has managed to secure a 100th spot and entered into the top 100 of FIFA rankings. This is the first time in 21 years that India has been ranked into top 100. India has been placed 100th alongside Nicaragua, Lithuania and Estonia with a total of 331 points. India had ranked 101st in the FIFA rankings for April. The team climbed one spot up owing to the recent wins over Cambodia and Myanmar. The current ranking is a 72-place jump from being 173rd in March 2015.

NIFTY AT NEW PEAK, BSE SENSEX ENDS ABOVE 30,000



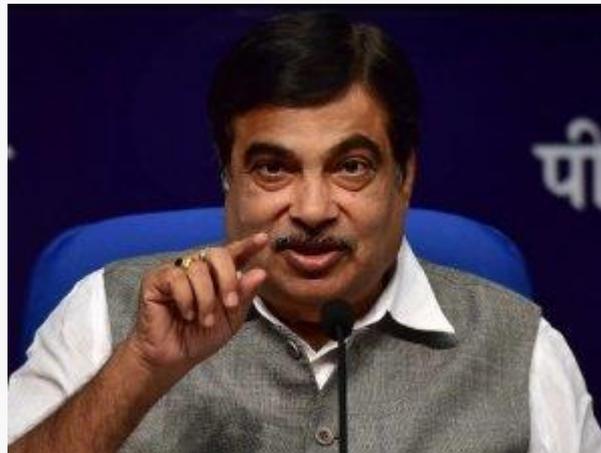
The 50-share NSE Nifty spurted 47.95 points to end at a lifetime high of 9,359.90. Its previous record closing was 9,351.85 achieved on April 26. Similarly, the BSE Sensex has ended above the 30,000-mark. The upbeat performance of market benchmark Nifty and BSE Sensex is to be seen at the backdrop of reform steps taken by the government in banking and infra space. With government's decision to bring an ordinance in the banking sector to empower RBI, banking stocks surged up to 9%.

INDIA EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE 7.1% GROWTH THIS YEAR: UN REPORT



India is expected to clock 7.1% growth this year before edging up to 7.5% in 2018, according to a UN report, which warned that the country faces heightened risks related to the concentration of bad loans in the public sector banks. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in its annual flagship report 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017' launched on Monday that the economic growth for India is projected to be stable at 7.1% in 2017 before edging up to 7.5% in 2018, underpinned by higher private and public consumption and increased infrastructure spending.

GADKARI INAUGURATES THE HIGHWAY SAGA, SRISHTI EXHIBITIONS



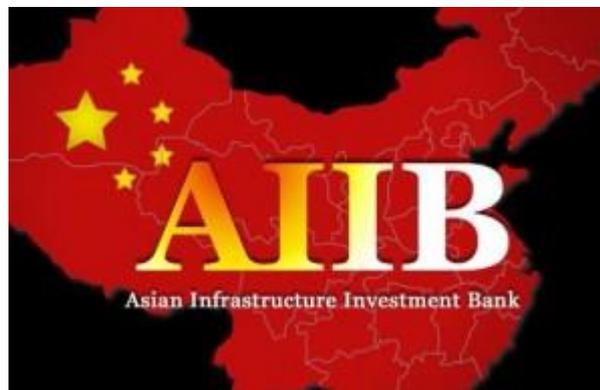
Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated two exhibitions, 'The Highway Saga: Past Present & Future' and 'Safe Road & Inter-State Highways Transforming India (SRISHTI)' on 3 May 2017 at the Vigyan Bhawan Lawns in New Delhi. The exhibitions are being conducted as a part of the three-day 'India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit 2017 (IITLS)', which is being organised by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) from 1 May to 5 May 2017. Speaking on the occasion, Gadkari stated that India has, for the first time, started planning for an integrated, multi-modal transport system and this is important in order to bring down the logistics cost in the country.

CHHATTISGARH AUCTIONS INDIA'S MOST EXPENSIVE LIMESTONE BLOCK



After nearly 24 hours of record bidding, with 600 bids coming in, the country's most expensive limestone block in Chhattisgarh finally went to Dalmia (Bharat) Cement. The Kesla-II limestone block in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh with an estimated reserve of 215 million tonnes was put for auction. The reserve price of the block, spread across 357 hectares of area, was fixed at 5 per cent of IBM prices while the floor price was 21 per cent of IBM prices. Four prominent cement makers, including Dalmia (Bharat) Cement, Adani, UltraTech and Mangalam Cement submitted the bids. Adani reportedly did not participate in the bidding that left three in the fray even as bidding started on Monday at 11 am.

AIIB GRANTS \$160 MN FOR ANDHRA PRADESH POWER PROJECT



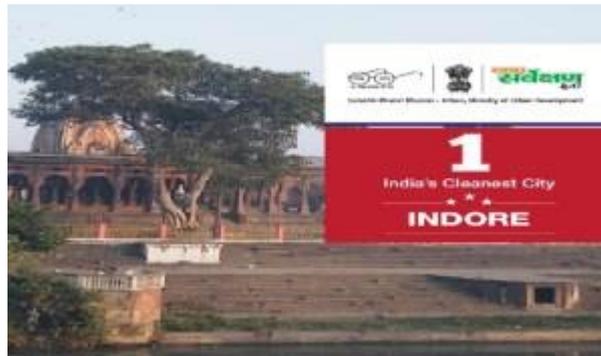
China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) today approved USD 160 million loan for a power project in Andhra Pradesh, the first credit from the bank for an Indian project. The AIIB, in which India is the second largest shareholder after China, has approved the project with the objective to strengthen the power transmission and distribution system in Andhra Pradesh, said a bank statement. The '24x7 Power for All' project is part of Government of India's 'Power for All programme' that was launched in 2014 to provide an efficient, reliable and affordable electricity to all consumers across selected states within five years from the start of implementation.

BRAJ BIHARI KUMAR APPOINTED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF ICSSR



The HRD Ministry on Tuesday appointed Braj Bihari Kumar, the 76-year-old editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chintan Srijan, as the new chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Kumar succeeds economist S K Thorat, who was heading the council since April 2011. He has been appointed for a term of three years. Dialogue and Chintan Srijan are run by a society called Astha Bharati, of which Kumar is a founding member.

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2017: INDORE IS CLEANEST CITY OF THE COUNTRY



None of the four biggest cities of India — New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai — but Indore has emerged as the cleanest city of the country in the Swachh Survekshan Rankings 2017, which was released today. In the Swachh Survekshan Survey 2016, Indore was ranked as the 25th cleanest cities of India. The journey from number 25 to the top of the list within a year is indeed incredible. But it didn't happen without much effort. Lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan, who has represented Indore in the Parliament since 1989, says the transformation of Indore was possible because of a mega public movement and “wholehearted participation” of the people.