

SEVEN ATHLETES SELECTED AT GAIL INDIAN SPEED STAR SEASON II



The Season II of GAIL Indian Speed Star culminated on 10 May 2017 in New Delhi with the selection of 7 athletes. The grand finale of this grass root athletics program was held at Thyagaraj Sports Complex. Now, these seven athletes will be trained to compete in international athletic events. The GAIL Indian Speed Star culminated after a series of trials across India. Starting with over 113000 aspirants initially, as many as 118 athletes had qualified trials at the zonal level from 107 districts of India before top 7 were selected from the national camp.

RAJASTHAN TO LAUNCH ACTION PLANS FOR REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY RATE



The Rajasthan government has decided to introduce action plans at the district level in order to utilise locally available resources to reduce infant mortality rate (IMR). The plans will be based on the socio-economic conditions of each district. Speaking on the development, State Principal Medical and Health Secretary Veenu Gupta said that an important aspect of the district-level action plans would be a better coordination among the doctors working in the primary health centres for optimum utilisation of resources.

ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP: INDIA'S HARPREET SINGH WINS BRONZE IN GRECO-ROMAN WEIGHT CATEGORY



Indian wrestler Harpreet Singh on 10 May 2017 won a bronze medal in the Greco-Roman weight divisions on the opening day of the Asian Wrestling Championship. In the opening match played in New Delhi, Harpreet defeated his rival Jun Ji Na of China 3-2 in 80kilogram category. In addition to this, another Indian wrestler Gurpreet Singh lost his bronze medal bout 0-8 in just 38 seconds to Bin Yang of China. He earlier entered the bronze medal play-off round of Greco-Roman weight divisions in the 75 kilogram category.

SHASHANK MANOHAR TO COMPLETE HIS FULL TERM AS ICC CHAIRMAN



The International Cricket Council (ICC) on 10 May 2017 confirmed that Shashank Manohar will continue to function as the Independent Chairman of ICC till June 2018. With this, the uncertainty looming large over Shashank Manohar's tenure as ICC chairman came to an end. In March 2017, Manohar resigned as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council stating personal reasons. However, he was persuaded by overwhelming support from ICC Directors.

ADITYANATH'S GOVERNMENT TO MERGE LOCAL BODIES OF MATHURA-VRINDAVAN & AYODHYA-FAIZABAD



With an aim to generate more revenue by providing better facilities to the tourists, the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government on 9 May 2017 decided to merge the local bodies of two temple towns of Ayodhya-Faizabad and Mathura-Vrindavan. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting of the state government which was chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The cabinet passed Lord Krishna's town Mathura-Vrindavan as a Nagar Nigam and Ayodhya- Faizabad as a municipal corporation-Nagar Nigam.

TRIPLE TALAQ CASE: FIVE SC JUDGES OF 5 DIFFERENT RELIGIONS BEGIN HEARING PLEAS CHALLENGING TRIPLE TALAQ



The five-member bench of the Supreme Court of India on 11 May 2017 began hearing the pleas and final arguments over the constitutionality of the Islamic practice of Triple Talaq. These five judges of five different religions are Chief Justice JS Khehar (Sikh), Justice Kurian Joseph (Christian), Justice Rohinton Nariman (Parsi), Justice Uday Lalit (Hindu) and Justice Abdul Nazeer (Muslim). On the first day of hearing, the court ruled that it will examine whether the practice of triple talaq among Muslims is fundamental to their religion or not.

CHINA TO INSTALL A SPACE CABIN YUEGONG-1 ON MOON



China initiated its second attempt to test its simulated space cabin- Yuegong-1- in Beijing on 10 May 2017 to strengthen its knowledge of what would be required for humans to remain on the moon for medium and long durations. The development indicates that the country is clearly planning to send its first lunar explorers for a longer stay on the space body.

KOCHI METRO RAIL LTD OFFERS JOBS TO MEMBERS FROM THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY



Kochi Metro Rail Ltd on 11 May 2017 announced to employ 23 members from the transgender community. This is the first time in the history of India that a government owned company has formally appointed members of the transgender community. These 23 transgender workers will be a part of the 530 Kudumbasree workers to be employed at 11 stations in Kochi Metro's Aluva-Palarivattom corridor. The better educated workers will be posted at ticket counters and the rest will be deputed for housekeeping works, customer relations, parking, gardening and to man the coach-depot canteen.

INDIA, US EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MARITIME DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC & IOR



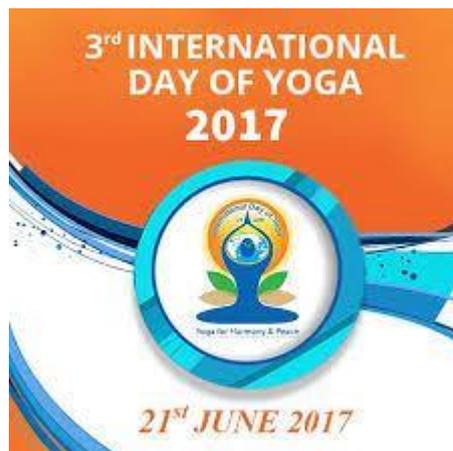
India and the US in May 2017 exchanged views on maritime developments in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region and considered steps to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation. The exchanges were made in the second round of the India-US Maritime Security Dialogue. The dialogue between the two nations was held on 9 and 10 May 2017 in Newport, Rhode Island in the USA. They also reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken at the first Maritime Security Dialogue held in May 2016.

ONLY 606 BRIDGES ARE SAFE IN KERALA : BRIDGES SURVEY



The first-ever Bridges Survey conducted by the PWD revealed that around 365 bridges in Kerala are in such a grave condition that they require emergency replacement. The PWD Minister G Sudhakaran, while replying to the debate on demand for grants for public works in the state assembly on 9 May 2017, expressed his deep concern on the matter and revealed that only 606 of the 2300 bridges in the state could be deemed safe.

AHMEDABAD TO HOST A MEGA-EVENT TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



The city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat would be hosting the biggest ever International Yoga Day event on 21 June 2017. The same was announced by Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev while addressing a press conference in the city on 10 May 2017. The Yogi announced that the event would witness participation from over 5 lakh people. The event would be inaugurated by the state's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and BJP president Amit Shah would be present at its concluding ceremony.

LARISSA WATERS BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN SENATOR TO BREASTFEED IN PARLIAMENT



Australian Senator Larissa Waters, the deputy co-leader of the Australian Greens party became the first woman in the history of Australian Politics to breastfeed her baby during a Parliamentary session on 9 May 2017. The senator, who returned to Parliament after 10 weeks of maternity leave, breastfed her 2-month-old daughter, Alia Joy, during a vote for a Greens policy motion on a federal budget.

IFSC AT GIFT INKS PACT WITH GNLU TO START COURSE ON IFSC REGULATIONS



India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT) on Wednesday entered into an agreement with Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) to collaborate on efforts for Skill Development in the field of International Financial Services & Regulations. Under the memorandum of understanding (MoU), GNLU will introduce a new course on International Financial Services Centre from its June 2017 Semester. It will also organise a program for Lawyers covering IFSC, International Arbitration and related fields.

DENA BANK CLASSIFIES VIDEOCON INDUSTRIES LOAN AS A BAD LOAN



Dena Bank has become the first lender to classify Videocon Industries as a bad loan, potentially opening a can of worms for the rest of the banking sector, which is already plagued by rising stressed assets. Videocon was always talked about as a potential non-performing asset (NPA) candidate privately by bankers. Now with Dena Bank biting the bullet, other public and private sector lenders may also have to follow suit creating a crater in some bank books that could wipe out profits, analysts said.

INDIA, RUSSIA AGREE TO WORK CLOSELY IN VARIOUS SECTORS



India and Russia today agreed to work closely in various sectors, including security, nuclear energy and disaster management. In a joint media statement after India Russia Inter Governmental Commission meeting in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said, the progress made in implementation of agreements signed between the two countries in Goa last year during the BRICS Summit was discussed.

SEBI ALLOWS INVESTORS TO BUY MUTUAL FUNDS VIA DIGITAL WALLET



Markets regulator Sebi on Monday allowed investors to buy mutual fund schemes for up to Rs 50,000 through digital wallets, making it easier for them — especially the young generation — to purchase these instruments. Besides, MF houses or asset management companies (AMCs) have been allowed to provide instant online access facility to resident individual investors in liquid schemes. The move is part of the efforts to promote digital payments in the MF industry and channelise household savings into the capital market.

INDIA CELEBRATES NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY: 11TH MAY



India is celebrating its National Technology day today to mark the historic feat of test-firing its very first nuclear-capable missile back in 1998. The nuclear tests that took place on May 11, 1998 saw late President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam leading the Indian team of scientists to successfully test-fire the Shakti-1 nuclear missile at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range. The Operation Shakti initiative in Pokhran then saw two more nuclear missiles being successfully tested within the next two days.

IRCTC LAUNCHES CASH-ON-DELIVERY OR HOME DELIVERY FOR TRAIN TICKETS



Now, you can boom your railway ticket online and get it delivered at your doorstep with the facility of cash on delivery! Yes, you read it right. IRCTC has launched its latest initiative 'Pay on Delivery', which allows people to book their train tickets online and get them delivered at home. "Pay on Delivery" payment option would allow the user to pay at the time of delivery through any payment mode including cash," says IRCTC in its release.

GOVERNMENT NAMED SANJAY MITRA APPOINTED AS DEFENCE SECRETARY



In a major, top-level bureaucratic reshuffle, the government appointed Sanjay Mitra as defence secretary and gave IT secretary Aruna Sundararajan additional charge of the telecom department. Mitra, currently secretary in the road transport and highways ministry, will get a fixed two-year term and will replace G Mohan Kumar who retires on May 24. The government is yet to find a permanent officer as telecom secretary after JS Deepak was moved out in March as India's representative to the World Trade Organization. Power secretary PK Pujari had been given additional charge of telecom after Deepak's exit.

RAILWAYS TO ACQUIRE EOTT SYSTEM TO RUN TRAINS WITHOUT GUARDS



The Indian Railways will float global tenders worth over Rs. 100 crore for acquiring sophisticated equipment to run 1000 trains without guards. The End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) equipment is used to establish communication between the locomotive driver and the last wagon of the train to ensure that the train is running with all coaches/wagons as a complete unit. The equipment is designed to do the guard's job by giving indication to the loco driver in case of parting of coaches or wagons from the rear side of the train. Each set of EoTT device is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 10 lakh.