

## PM MODI LAUNCHES NARMADA RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT IN MP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the river conservation project 'Narmada Seva Mission' on 15 May 2017 in Madhya Pradesh. The project is a road-map for steps to be taken for the conservation of the Narmada River in the state. Speaking on the same before the launch, Modi said that the mission will surely have a major impact on the state's ecology. The event was organised at Amarkantak, in Anoopur district, the place from where the river originates. The Prime Minister released a road map for the conservation of Narmada, to ensure it is pollution free.

## INDIA-CHILE EXPANDED PTA TO COME INTO EFFECT ON 16 MAY



The expanded Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Chile will come into effect on 16 May 2017. According to Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Chile was first signed on 8 March 2006, which came into force from August 2007. The notification also says that the original PTA had a limited number of tariff lines wherein the two nations extended Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) on 8 March 2006 which came into force with effect from August 2007. India's offer list to Chile consisted of only 178 tariff lines whereas Chile's offer list to India contained 296 tariff lines at the 8-digit level.

## UNION GOVERNMENT REVISES BASE YEAR OF WPI TO 2011-2012 FROM 2004-05



The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 12 May 2017 revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The base year of WPI was revised in order to align it with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

## MUMBAI AIRPORT BUSIEST WITH 1 FLIGHT EVERY 65 SECONDS



The Mumbai airport, Chhatrapati Shivaji International, has become the world's busiest single-runway airport with 837 flights a day or one flight in 65 seconds on an average in the 2016-17 fiscal year. The airport has even overtaken London's Gatwick airport that had 757 flights a day. The city also tops in terms of the number of passengers with almost 45.2 million people flying in and out in fiscal 2017 as against 44 million at Gatwick airport.

## INDIAN COIR SECTOR'S EXPORT REVENUE TOUCHED ALL TIME HIGH IN FISCAL 16-17



The Indian Coir sector's revenue from exports touched an all time high of Rs 2282 Cr by value and 9.57 Metric Tonnes in quantity in the 2016-17 financial year. These figures were revealed by Union Minister for Micro Small and Micro Medium Enterprises Giriraj Singh on 13 May 2017 during a press conference in Kochi. The minister stated in his speech that these figures represent a 27 per cent increase in value and 20 per cent increase in quantity during the 16-17 fiscal year. The Minister was joined by the Coir Board Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

## FORMER PUDUCHERRY CM SUBRAHMANYAN RAMASWAMY PASSES AWAY



Former Puducherry Chief Minister Subrahmanyam Ramaswamy passed away on 15 May 2017 in Puducherry following a brief illness. He was 80. He is survived by wife and three sons. Ramaswamy began his political career in Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) during student days. He was Home Minister in the DMK-CPI coalition ministry from 1969 to 1973.

## WORLD BANK'S POWER ACCESSIBILITY LIST: INDIA JUMPS 73 SPOTS TO BE RANKED 26TH



India has jumped 73 spots to be ranked 26th in World Bank's electricity accessibility list. The country was ranked 99th in 2014. Out of the 18,452 villages which lacked electricity, over 13,000 has been provided access to electricity. In addition, a person applying for new electricity connection would be able to get the connection within 24 hours in areas where power infrastructure is available and in areas where there is no power infrastructure, electricity connection would be given in a week.

## RAILWAYS TO INSTALL CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM UNDER NIRBHAYA FUND



Indian Railways will install 19,000 high definition CCTV cameras at over 983 stations across the country under the Nirbhaya Fund at an approved cost of Rs 500 crore in order to ensure round-the-clock security to passengers including women. The cameras will be installed at platforms and waiting areas. The CCTV footages would be monitored by trained RPF personnel and the concerned station master will also be given access to the CCTV camera footage.

## PALESTINE PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS ARRIVES ON 4-DAY VISIT TO INDIA



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas arrived here today on a four-day visit during which he will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on key bilateral, regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process. "Welcoming an important guest. Mr Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine arrives in Delhi," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay tweeted. Ahead of President Abbas' visit, India reiterated its "political support" to the Palestinian cause and had said it continued to assist developmental projects there.

## RAFAEL NADAL BEATS DOMINIC THIEM, WINS FIFTH MADRID OPEN TITLE



Rafael Nadal's flawless tennis record on clay this season continued as he outgunned the impressive Dominic Thiem to win the Madrid Masters for a fifth time 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 on Sunday. The Spaniard is now 15-0 on his favoured surface this year having also picked up his 10th titles in Monte Carlo and Barcelona in recent weeks. And the 14-time Grand Slam champion is now strong favourite to add a 10th French Open crown next month as he romped to victory on home soil for the loss of just one set all week.

## IIT KHARAGPUR COLLABORATES WITH BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO TURN VARANASI INTO SMART CITY



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has collaborated with the British Geological Survey to turn Varanasi into a smart city. Three dimensional geological modelling of the geology under Varanasi will be prepared to help improve the building of new transport and service infrastructure. Further, according to a release shared by the IIT, the preservation of archaeological sites and the management of flooding hazards and the sustainability of water supplies would also be undertaken.

## TELANGANA HOSTED FIRST VIDESH SAMPARK TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT VARIOUS PROGRAMMES



Telangana will host the first outreach programme of the Ministry of External Affairs Videsh Sampark, to engage the State governments to create awareness about various programmes of the Ministry. The conference will be held on May 13 in the city which will be inaugurated by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. V.K. Singh, said Regional Passport Officer E. Vishnuvardhan Reddy. IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao, Home Minister Nayani Narsimha Reddy along with senior officials from various departments will participate.

## ISKCON'S GOVARDHAN ECO VILLAGE WINS SMART VILLAGE AWARD



Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in adjoining Thane district, has won an award for being a sustainable project in rural Maharashtra. The village at Wada taluka is located 108km north of Mumbai at the foothills of the Sahyadri mountains. The award, "Smart Village," has been instituted by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which also gives awards in various other categories.

## HM RAJNATH SINGH INAUGURATES 2ND MEETING OF NPDRR IN NEW DELHI



Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the second meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) on 15 May 2017 in New Delhi. The meeting saw in attendance over 1000 eminent guests including Union Ministers, State Ministers, Heads of specialized disaster management agencies and representatives from private sector organizations. The second meeting of NPDRR will be held from 15 to 16 May 2017 with the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030".

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES OBSERVED ON 15 MAY WORLDWIDE



The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. This year's observance focuses on the role of families and family-oriented policies in promoting education and overall well-being of their members. In particular, the Day is to raise awareness of the role of families in promoting early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth.