

TRUMP TO ADDRESS MUSLIM LEADERS ON 'PEACEFUL VISION OF ISLAM'



Trump to address Muslim leaders on 'Peaceful Vision Of Islam'. The President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, will urge unity between the world's major faiths during his maiden foreign trip that will take him to Saudi Arabia, the Vatican and Jerusalem. The President's itinerary was laid out by US National Security Advisor HR McMaster who confirmed that he would be addressing a gathering of Muslim leaders on his hopes for a peaceful vision of Islam. Trump is due to depart for the same later this week.

VENKAIAH NAIDU ANNOUNCES SEPARATE 24x7 DD CHANNEL FOR JHARKHAND



Minister for Information & Broadcasting Venkaiah Naidu on 16 May 2017 announced a separate 24x7 DD channel for the state of Jharkhand. The plan was announced at the review meeting of the programmes and initiatives of Ministry of I&B held at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The announcement was a part of a three-year action plan of Doordarshan put forward by the state government. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Raghubar Das.

DINOSAUR MUMMY DISCOVERED IN CANADA WITH ALL SKIN INTACT



Palaeontologists in Canada have unveiled a dinosaur mummy that had been encased in stone for over 110 million years. The remains of the armour-plated nodosaur, which is a 3000-pound plant-eating horned creature, went on display at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Alberta on 12 May 2017. Speaking on the remarkable discovery, Caleb Brown, a postdoctoral researcher at the museum stated that they don't just have a skeleton, they have a dinosaur as it would have been.

UNION GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES EPFO'S CITIZENS CHARTER 2017



Union Minister of Labour & Employment Bandaru Dattatreya on 16 May 2017 launched EPFO's Citizens Charter 2017 and E-Court Management System along with it. Citizens Charter 2017 of EPFO is an attempt to bring transparency and accountability on the part of EPFO. It will also offer social security coverage to all employees as well as implementation of policies for benefit of all stakeholders with adequate support level of social security.

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2017 OBSERVED



The 2017 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) was observed on 17 May 2017. The theme for WTISD-17 is Big Data for Big Impact. The theme focuses on the power of Big Data for development and aims to explore how to turn imperfect, complex, often unstructured data into actionable information in a development context.

CAN WOMEN BE GIVEN OPTION OF SAYING NO TO TRIPLE TALAQ: SC TO AIMPLB



The Supreme Court (SC) on 17 May 2017 asked the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) that whether a woman can be given option to deny Triple Talaq at the time of execution of 'Nikahnama' – the Islamic marriage contract. Moreover, the Supreme Court also asked that if 'Qazis' can be asked to include this condition at the time of marriage. The questions were raised by a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar on the fifth day of the hearing on petitions challenging Triple Talaq, Polygamy and 'Nikah Halala'.

RENOWNED BIOLOGIST PURNIMA DEVI BARMAN NOMINATED FOR WHITLEY AWARDS



Renowned wildlife biologist, Dr Purnima Devi Barman, in May 2017 was nominated for the prestigious Whitley Awards. Barman has been nominated for her relentless efforts and campaigns for the conservation of the Greater Adjutant Stork locally known as Haargila in Assam. The wildlife biologist has been working with the Dadara, Pachariya and Hingimari villages of Kamrup district to save the Greater Adjutant Stork. She is associated with Aaranyak, a Guwahati based NGO, which works for wildlife conservation.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION LAUNCHES YEAR OF POLAR PREDICTION



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) ON 15 May 2017 officially announced the start of the Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP). The Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) is one of the key elements of the Polar Prediction Project. The YOPP's mission is to enable a significant improvement in environmental prediction capabilities for the polar regions and beyond. It will be done by coordinating a period of intensive observing, modelling, verification, user-engagement and education activities.

ELEPHANT CENSUS IN KARNATAKA BEGINS ON 17 MAY 2017



In Karnataka, a major exercise of elephant census began on 17 May 2017. The census exercise began simultaneously across all protected areas and forests of the state that were identified to harbour elephant population. The Mysore Elephant Reserve, spread across 11,000 sq km through Bhadra-Nagarahole-Bandipur-BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Reserve and Bannerghatta, harbours most of the elephants of Karnataka. The last elephant census of Karnataka was held in the year 2012, which pegged the State elephant population at 6072 with Bandipur and Nagarahole accounting for nearly 1500 elephants each.

SRI LANKA BACKS INDIA'S STAND ON CHINA-PAK ECONOMIC CORRIDOR



Sri Lanka, which was a participant of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) conference in Beijing, on 16 May 2017, backed India's concern about Kashmir. The two-day conference in Beijing brought together leaders from 29 countries. Speaking to PTI, Sarath Amanugama, Sri Lanka's Minister on Special Assignment said, it is difficult for New Delhi to accept the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as it goes through the heart of Indian interests.

NGT ORDERS RS 5000 FINE ON OVER-SPEEDING VEHICLES IN KAZIRANGA



The National Green Tribunal announced on 17 May 2017 that any vehicle found over-speeding inside the Kaziranga National Park would have to pay an environment compensation of Rs 5000 besides challan under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act. The order was passed by a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar. The decision was taken after the park's director informed the tribunal about four animal deaths since January 2017 despite the installation of sensor-operated automated traffic barriers to prevent such fatalities.

INDIAN MOUNTAINEER ANSHU JAMSENPA CREATES HISTORY BY SCALING MT EVEREST FOR THE FOURTH TIME



Indian mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa created history on 16 May 2017 by becoming the first Indian woman to scale the world's highest peak, Mount Everest for the fourth time. Jamsenpa, who is a native of Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh, scaled the peak successfully along with Furi Sherpa. The same was confirmed by Dawa S Lama, the Managing Director at Dream Himalaya Adventure. Lama further stated that Jamsenpa would be attempting a double ascent to make it a total of five successful climbs. Jamsenpa, the mother of two teenage children, started her climb at 1.45 am on 13 May and reached the top at 9 am on 16 May to unfurl the national flag.

DAVID LETTERMAN WINS MARK TWAIN PRIZE 2017 FOR AMERICAN HUMOUR



David Letterman, who was the longest-running host of late-night TV shows in the United States, was on 17 May 2017 awarded with the Mark Twain Prize 2017 for American humour. With this, Letterman became the 20th humorist to receive the prize. He is also a past recipient of Kennedy Centre Honours for his influence on American culture. Letterman hosted over 6000 late-night shows in 33 years on the air. He won 10 Emmy Awards while hosting NBC's "Late Night" and then "The Late Show" on CBS. His final show in May 2015 drew an audience of 13.8 million people.

ANDHRA PRADESH ROPES IN SINGAPORE FIRMS TO DEVELOP START-UP AREA IN AMARAVATI



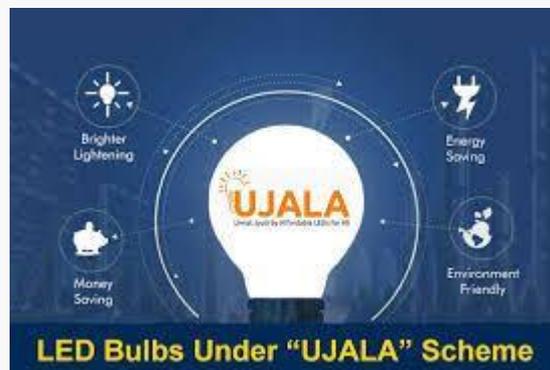
Singapore firms Ascendas-Singbridge Pvt Ltd and Sembcorp Development Ltd were awarded a contract by the Andhra Pradesh government on Monday to act as the master developer for a start-up area, spanning 1,691 acres, to be built in the upcoming capital city of Amaravati. The Rs528 crore project will be completed in three phases over a span of 15 years. Ascendas-Singbridge and Sembcorp will form the Amaravati Development Partner (ADP) along with the Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC), an Andhra government company.

ISRO, NASA TO JOINTLY INSPECT OLDEST CIVILISATION SITE IN HARYANA



US space agency NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will soon be coming together to inspect the oldest civilisation that is being carried out at an archaeological site in Haryana's Fatehabad district. The archaeologists have recovered artefacts from the site which is located in village Kunal and it is believed that these artefacts are from the date back to a period before the Harappan Civilisation. However, as per the reports by Zee News, if the information turns out to be true, then these artefacts could establish evidence of the existence of the oldest civilisation in the world.

INDIA'S UJALA LED BULBS TO LIGHT UP HOMES IN UNITED KINGDOM



Nearly a century after importing equipment from Britain for setting up its first thermal power station at Husain Sagar in Andhra Pradesh, India on Saturday launched the process to export Ujala LED bulbs — Hindi for light — to the United Kingdom with affordable 'Made in India' LED bulbs. "PM Narendra Modi's idea that India need not follow the world and must take the leadership in reducing global carbon intensity through efficient and sustainable energy use has brought us here," power, coal, renewable energy and mines minister Piyush Goyal told at the launch.

ADMIRAL SUNIL LANBA ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL MARITIME REVIEW IN SINGAPORE



Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba today attended Singapore's first International Maritime Review (IMR) held at the country's prime Changi Naval Base here. Lanba attended the review along with navy ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kamorta. A total of 46 warships and four aircraft from 28 countries, including Singapore, participated in an exercise that included a parade, a land review and a sea review, as part of the IMR.

INDIA RANKED SECOND IN RENEWABLE ENERGY ATTRACTIVENESS INDEX



India has overtaken the US to become the second-most attractive country after China for renewable energy investment, according to a report by UK accountancy firm EY. In an annual ranking of the top 40 renewable energy markets worldwide in terms of allure, China was ranked at the top, followed by India. The US slipped to the third spot from first in last year's ranking, EY said. "The fall, the first for the US since 2015, to third in the ranking of the top 40 countries follows a marked shift in US policy under the new administration," it said. India was ranked third on last year's EY renewable energy country attractiveness index (RECAI) behind the US and China.

IEST HAS SUCCESSFULLY CREATED INDIA'S FIRST SMART GRID PROJECT



The Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST) has successfully created the country's first smart grid project, which will generate power from renewable sources of energy. The project will soon be inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee, IEST Director Prof Ajoy Kumar Roy told. "The smart grid will be synchronised to generate power from solar, wind and vegetable waste resources, depending on the weather conditions and availability of waste products. It is the first of its kind in the country," Roy said.

SPACEX LAUNCHES INMARSAT COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE



SpaceX has launched a communications satellite for Inmarsat, marking its first launch for the London-based mobile broadband company. The Inmarsat-5 F4 satellite, built by Boeing, yesterday blasted off atop a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida at 7.21 PM (2321 GMT). "We've had confirmation of spacecraft separation," said a SpaceX commentator about 30 minutes after launch, signaling that the satellite was successfully deployed to a distant, geostationary orbit. "We've had good orbits, good separation, all you can ask for today."