

05 December 2017 Current Affairs

Veteran Actor Shashi Kapoor passes away

Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor died at the age of 79. Kapoor was unwell for quite some time. The actor was admitted to the Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai. The third and youngest son of Prithviraj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor made his Bollywood debut in 1961, as the lead actor, in the film Dharmputra. Kapoor acted in more than a hundred films, of which he played the solo lead in 61.

Prithvi Shaw named India's captain for U-19 World Cup

Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw saw his performance in domestic season bear fruit as the 18-year was named as the captain of India's squad for the upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup next year in New Zealand. Shubman Gill is named the vice-captain.

National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities presented

The Award was presented by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The National Awards were presented in 14 main categories to 52 individuals and institutions. Some important awards are:

- Award for Best State in Promoting Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities: Chhattisgarh
- Award for the Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service: Madurai
- The Best Braille Press Award: Mumbai-based National Association for the Blind.

Getachew Besha wins full Pune International Marathon

Despite being denied the permission by Athletics Federation of India, the Pune International Marathon was held on December 3, 2017. In men's category, the first position was grabbed by Ethiopia's Getachew Besha with a time of 2 hours 15.15 sec. The second and third position was grabbed by Zelalem Lema Dlema and Deveje Kasaw respectively. Among Indian runners, Karan Singh from Pune clocked 2:28.01s to win the category and was followed by another city runner

Kishor Gavane, who finished the race in 2 hours 29.26s. GD Khilare finished third with a timing of 2:20.27s.

India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant opens in Kerala

The largest-ever floating solar power plant in India inaugurated by state power minister MM Man at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad. The solar power plant that floats on the surface of water has a capacity of 500 kilowatts (KW). The solar plant consists of 1,938 solar panels with a capacity of 260 watts, a 500 kilo volt ampere (KVA) transformer and 17 inverters. The unique feature of this plant is the anchoring mechanism used by the overwhelming technology to maintain the plant with the alteration of the water level. Constructed by the Thiruvananthapuram-based Ad tech Systems, the plant will generate seven lakh units of power in a year. The total cost of the project is Rs. 9.25 crore.

5 December: World Soil Day

The World Soil Day was observed across the world on 5 December 2017 with the theme 'Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground'. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the soil holds three times as much carbon as the atmosphere and can help us meet the challenges of a changing climate.

First Meeting of the Fifteenth Finance Commission held

The Fifteenth Finance Commission held its first meeting at North Block in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh and was attended by all the other Members of the Commission. The main objective was to hold wide-ranging consultations with all stakeholders including various Ministries of the Union Government, all State Governments, Local Bodies, Panchayats and Political parties of each State Government needed to be expeditiously initiated. The Commission approved the setting-up of its office at Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan on Janpath in New Delhi.

India and Germany sign Govt to Govt Umbrella Agreement

India and Germany has signed the Government to Government Umbrella Agreement concerning the Financial Cooperation in 2016 (II) under the Indo-German Development Cooperation. the agreement was signed to formalize an amount upto 200 million Euros for the financial cooperation in form of loan for the project 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility III' and 11 million Euros in form if grant for four projects. The Agreement was signed by Martin Ney, Ambassador

on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany and S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs of Union Ministry of Finance.

Indian-American Senator Harris tops Global Thinkers List

Indian-American California senator Kamala Harris has topped the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' which also features US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley. Besides Harris and Haley, Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj has also made it to the list. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is ranked second in the list for trying to rebuild decent democratic leadership in South Korea. Popular comedian Minhaj is placed third in the ranking for defining the narrative of a "New Brown America".

Amitabh Bachchan launches Book on Indian Cinema

Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan launched a book based on Indian cinema in showbiz capital Mumbai. The book, titled 'Bollywood: The Films! The Songs! The Stars!', is a coffee table book, which provides historical insights, lesser-known facts and behind-the-scene exclusives of the most iconic movies made in the history of the Indian film industry. The book is co-authored by S.M.M. Ausaja, Karan Bali, Rajesh Devraj and Tanul Thakur, the book on India's tinsel town is published by British multinational publishing company Dorling Kindersley (DK).

US Supreme Court allows full enforcement of President Trump's travel ban

The United States Supreme Court ruled that the travel ban imposed on six Muslim countries by President Donald Trump can now go fully into effect. Out of the bench of nine justices, seven justices lifted the ban imposed by lower courts on the policy. Only justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor asserted that the President's order should remain blocked. However, the directive against travellers from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen still faces legal challenges. The new ban also bars travellers from North Korea and Venezuela, but they were not affected by the injunctions.

UAE, UK, US and French Armies hold Joint Exercises in Abu Dhabi

UAE Armed Forces along with the UK, US and French armies are participating in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi. The drill code is named as "Flag4". The two-

week long joint exercise aims to increase combat efficiency, gain more field expertise, and work to unify military concepts among participating parties.

ILO releases World Social Protection Report 2017-2019

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released the World Social Protection Report 2017-2019. The World Social Protection Report depicts that only 45 per cent of the global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit, while the remaining 55 per cent that is 4 billion people are left unprotected.

UPs Shamli District included in NCR

Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district was included in the National Capital Region (NCR), taking the total number of districts in the NCR to 23. Cities in the NCR get funds at "attractive" interest rates from the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for infrastructure development. The decision to include Shamli in the NCR was taken at the 37th meeting of the NCRPB.

The 6th International Tourism Mart 2017 inaugurated in Assam

The 6th 'International Tourism Mart' (ITM) was inaugurated by Assam's governor Jagdish Mukhi in Guwahati, Assam on 5 December 2017. The mart has been organised by the Ministry of Tourism in association with the North Eastern States. It will be held from 5 to 7 December 2017. Assam's Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal and Union Tourism Minister (I/C) K L Alphonso also attend the inaugural programme along with other dignitaries from the Central Ministries and North Eastern States.