

## SEPTEMBER- 09, 2017

-The traditional Bonderam festival has started in Divar Island of Goa on September 9, 2017 .

The word “Bonderam” originated from the involvement of flags. It is stated that during the Portuguese rule in Goa there were frequent disputes between two sections of the Divar village over property issues. These often led to violence and fights in the village. To find a solution to this problem, the Portuguese introduced a system of demarcation of boundaries with flags. The festival is a memoir to the protest by the local villagers against the Portuguese while trying to resolve the property ownership disputes. This festival starts with a flag which is accompanied by the brass band. Bonderam is a very popular monsoon festival in Goa and it draws huge crowds from all parts of Goa and world over.

-The Punjab National Bank (PNB) and BSNL has signed an agreement to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country.

Under the agreement, BSNL will expand Speedpay services in Punjab, Chandigarh(UT), Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. PNB’s Speedway wallet will operate like any other mobile wallet for paying bills, recharging phone besides its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorised retail outlets. Also, Speedway users will be able to operate Internet banking services from the application.

-Konjum Taba has clinched gold in the junior men’s 94 kg category by lifting 317 kg at the 2017 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Gold Coast, Australia. In the senior men’s 94 kg, Vikas Thakur won the bronze medal by lifting 340 kg, while Punam Yadav won silver in the 69 kilogram senior category by lifting 217 kg. In the youth girl 75 kg event, A Anju Devi won the silver medal by lifting 167 kg overall. On day 5 of the championship, India bagged six medals, including two Gold.

-Ajay Bhushan Pandey, the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India’s (UIDAI) has been appointed as interim chairman of the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN). He succeeded Navin Kumar, who completed his term on August 29. GSTN is a not-for-profit entity owned by the Centre, states and non-government financial institutions, and is responsible for building and running the Information Technology (IT) backbone for new GST tax regime. Pandey has been given additional charge of the post of Chairman of GSTN with immediate effect and until further orders.

-India will host the 2018 Junior Asian Wrestling Championship (JAWC), which is scheduled to be held from July 19 to 22 in New Delhi. Recently, the United World Wrestling (UWW) has announced the hosting rights to Indian city for the tournament. The UWW is the international governing body for the sport of amateur wrestling and is headquartered in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland.

-Rattihalli Nagendra Sudarshan (78), the veteran Kannada actor, producer and singer, has passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka on September 8, 2017. In his five decade film career, Sudarshan acted in Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam films. He was one of the villains in Nayagan directed by Manirathnam. His last film was Super (2010) by Upendra in Kannada. Music lovers still remember him for songs such as Hoovandu Balibandu and Irabeku, Irabeku, Ariyada, which he sung in Shubhamangala (1975) directed by Puttanna and songs from his own film Naguva Hoovu (1971).

-The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has inked Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru for Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka

-Scientists from Cardiff University, UK have discovered a new way to produce methanol from methane using oxygen from the air. Methanol is an important chemical often used as fuel in vehicles. The discovery has major implications for cleaner, greener industrial processes worldwide. The new technique uses freely available air, inexpensive chemicals and an energy efficient methanol production process.

-The Union Finance Ministry has imposed 18.95% countervailing duty (CVD) on certain Chinese flat steel products for a period of five years to protect domestic players from cheap subsidised imports. The decision to impose CVD was taken by the finance ministry based on the recommendation of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD). This is the first case of imposition of CVD on any steel product in India.

-State-run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is all set to become a Maharatna company. Presently it is having Navratna status. BPCL will be one of the eight Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) to get the coveted Maharatna status.

-Jordan, a water-poor country that is 90% desert, has launched the Sahara Forest Project near the southern port city of Aqaba to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water.

-The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully twice flight tested indigenously developed 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) Nag in Rajasthan.

-James Anderson (35-year-old) became the third pacer, sixth bowler overall and first Englishman to take 500 Test wickets when he clean bowled West Indies' Kraigg Brathwaite for four on Day 2 of the third Test at Lord's.

-Government will undertake a programme known as 'school chalo abhiyan' from 2018 to enrol "70-80 lakh" students in India who are out of schools.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced it at the celebration of 51st International Literacy Day-2017.

-Tottenham's new stadium will include the world's first retractable pitch, which is due to open in 2018, allowing the venue to hold both football and NFL matches.

Sheffield engineering company SCX have been recruited to build the retractable pitch.

-Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi inaugurated the country's fifth nuclear power plant (C-4 plant) located at Chashma in Mianwali district of the Punjab province.

-Magnitude 8 powerful earthquake hit offshore 120 kilometres southwest of the town of Tres Picos in the state of Chiapas, southern Mexico.

-Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Aung San Suu Kyi in 1991 cannot be revoked.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for "her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights" while standing up against military rulers. An online petition signed by more than 386,000 people on Change.org is calling for her prize's removal over the persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. The Norwegian Nobel Institute announced that the prize awarded to Myanmar's Aung Sang Suu Kyi cannot be revoked.

-A group of researchers discovered a new species of edible freshwater fish *Labeo Filiferus* while exploring the waters of the Pampa river in Pathanamthitta in Kerala. As per the researchers, the newly found fish could possibly be farmed on a commercial scale. The two researchers, Mathews Plamoottil, Assistant Professor, government college, Chavara, Kollam, and Primoz Zupancic from the Dinaric Research Institute, Solvenia, Europe, have reported the discovery in the latest issue of an open access research journal Bioscience Discovery.

-India's fiscal deficit at July- end touched 92.4 % of the budget mainly because of front loading of expenditure by various government departments. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit- difference between expenditure and revenue – was Rs 5.04 lakh crore during April- July 2017-18, according to the data of Controller General of Accounts (CGA). During the same period of last financial year, 2016-17, it was 73.7 % of the target. For 2017-18, the government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3.2 % of the GDP. Last fiscal, it had met the deficit target of 3.5 % of the GDP.

-The 21st meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, in Hyderabad. This is the first time the GST Council met after filing of GST returns. The meet was headed by Finance Minister Mr.Arun Jaitley. Finance Ministers of all states attended the meet. The issues discussed in the GST Council meet were – increasing tax for luxury products, lowering tax for commonly used products like idli& dosa batter, dried tamarind, custard powder and kitchen gas lighter, operation of GSTN (GST Network), tax on khadi and handicraft items etc.

-INS Satpura and INS Kadmatt departed from Visakhapatnam on 8th of Sept. 2017 to visit 12 ports. The deployment aims to strengthen existing bonds between India and the regional countries. The ships will visit Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia and Brunei to celebrate the 25th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue. The ships will be participated in the International Fleet Review hosted by the Association of South East Asian Countries (ASEAN) at Thailand. The ships will also participate in the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise at Malaysia. At Russia, the ships will participate in the annual India-Russia bilateral exercise INDRA.

-The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the new HQs building of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs on 8th of Sept. 2017 in New Delhi. The new headquarters building has been constructed at the cost of Rs. 100 crore approx. This building has modern facilities, such as, state of the art auditorium with seating capacity for 250, 9 big and small conference/syndicate halls, modern library to house 3.5 lakh books, hostel facilities equipped with industrial kitchen having, 52 twin seater rooms. BPR&D including the NCRB block has a total strength of more than 500 employees, for whom modular workstations have been provided

-The first National Canine Seminar organized by National Security Guard (NSG) in NSG Campus, Manesar (Gurugram), Haryana. The NSG, popularly known as "The Black Cats" of the country is organizing this two-day seminar. The theme of the two days National Canine Seminar is "Canine as Tactical Weapon in Fight against Terrorism". Its main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the techniques of dog training and strategies of deploying the dogs in Counter Terrorism and Counter Insurgency scenario.

-Tierra Agrotech Private Limited, a Hyderabad based company acquired Monsanto Holdings, a US based cotton seed company, in New Delhi. Monsanto Holdings is a US Biotechnology giant. It had been selling

the Bollgard technology in cotton, in India. Monsanto has sold its cotton business in India to Tierra Agrotech Private Limited after license issue and price control issues with the Indian Government.

-Force Motors Chairman Abhay Firodia has been elected as the new president of the automobile industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Mahindra & Mahindra's President-Automotive Sector Rajan Wadhera has been elected as the new vice-president of the organization

-United Bank of India announced that it has removed processing fee for retail home loans, car loans and two-wheeler loans, in Kolkata. The processing fee waiver will be available till December, 2017.

-The Airbus Perlan 2 aircraft has set a new altitude world record for a glider, climbing to 52,172 feet on 3rd Sept. in El Calafate, Argentina. The Perlan 2 is a composite-intensive, engineless glider designed to fly at the edge of space using stratospheric mountain waves. The aircraft soared to an incredible 52,000 feet over the Patagonia region of Argentina, without the support of an engine. The previous altitude record was 50,727 feet set by Perlan 1 in 2006. According to Airbus, Argentina is one of the few places on Earth where the rising air currents can reach the stratosphere at a few times of the year.

-The Government announced that it has approved cadre review policy for Junior Commissioned Officers & other rank-holders in the Army