

SEPTEMBER-11, 2017

-World number one Rafael Nadal (Spain) won the 2017 US Open title in men's single category. It was his overall 16th Grand Slam title and third US Open title (2010 and 2013). In the final match played at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, Nadal defeated world number 32, Kevin Anderson from South Africa's by 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 score

-The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named two mountain ranges on icy dwarf planet Pluto as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes after Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary. Indian/Nepali Sherpa Tenzing Norgay (1914-1986) and New Zealand Edmund Hillary (1919-2008) were the first mountaineer to reach the summit of Mount Everest and return safely in 1953

-The Union Finance Ministry is planning to launch 'Project Insight' from October 2017 to monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology with a view to curbing circulation of black money

-India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition named as Navika Sagar Parikrama was flagged off by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Goa. The crew belongs to Indian Navy and is sailing Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini). It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018

-Bugworks Research, a Bengaluru-based biotech startup, became India's and Asia's first to receive the international CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) grant for its antibiotic research and development

-The researchers at IIT-Roorkee have developed a low-cost method for treating Osteoarthritis (OA), a disease that causes pain and stiffness in the joints leading to degeneration of the bone cartilage. Under the new method, a nano-material and a polymer are injected around the knee joint followed by a regular heat therapy, which is believed to be far superior to the conventional treatment administered in the form of multiple injections and anti-inflammatory drugs like steroids, which have critical side effects.

-All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) will constitute a committee to advise the method and process for undertaking large scale community reform program within the Islamic Shariah. A resolution was passed in this connection in the one-day meeting of the Board's executive body held in Bhopal on September 11, 2017. The committee will also look into the Supreme Court's verdict on the triple Talaq. The Board reiterated that Talaq-e-biddat or triple Talaq in one-sitting, is sinful but valid. It claimed that it has taken steps to discourage this practice through community reform programmes for a long time. The AIMPLB is a non-government organisation that focuses primarily to defend the Sharia laws from any law or legislation that they consider infringes on it. Syed Mohammad Rabe Hasani is the president of the AIMPLB.

-Sushmita Dev has been appointed as the new President of All India Mahila Congress. She succeeded Shobha Oza. According to a release issued by All India Congress Committee (AICC), Congress President Sonia has approved the name of Sushmita Dev who is member of Lok Sabha from Silchar in Assam.

-External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani in New Delhi signed four agreements recently.

The four agreements were exchanged in areas like health and transport.

India's commitment to support Afghanistan as a secure, stable, united and prosperous nation.

Both the nations remain united in overcoming challenges posed by cross border terrorism and safe havens and sanctuaries of terrorism.

-Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced a Smart Cities Awards Contest with a total prize money of 50 lakhs to recognise and reward cities and innovative ideas that promote mission's goals. Under the Project Awards category, excellence will be awarded in various categories such as Improving Governance, Social Aspects, Culture and Economy, Environment impact, Transportation and Mobility and Water and Sanitation.

Best performers in each of the categories will be awarded Rs 5 lakh each.

All projects that will be completed by April 1, 2018, will be eligible for participating in the contest.

-An eight feet bronze statue of Indian freedom struggle leader Subhas Chandra Bose at the naval base INS Netaji Subhas named after the iconic leader.

Netaji's niece in law Krishna Bose cut the ribbon together with Eastern Naval Command chief, Vice Admiral H.C.S. Bisht to unveil the statue.

-Indian Ambassador in UAE Navdeep Singh Suri inaugurated the second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in UAE to provide support and counseling to Indians in distress.

It provides counseling and support to the overseas Indian Community on legal, personal and financial matters, free of cost.

The first IWRC opened in Dubai in 2010.

Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

-India finished fifth in the medals tally with one gold and two silver medals at the Moscow Shotgun World Championships.

Only 16 of the 76 participating nations got amongst the medals.

Olympic skeet champions Gabrielle Rossetti and Diana Bacosi crowned as world champions in the process.

Italy topped the tally with nine gold medals for a total of 17 medals in all.

USA topped second with five gold medals for a total of 12.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address Students' Convention in New Delhi on the theme of 'Young India, New India' to mark the 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address and BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya's centenary celebrations.

Swami Vivekananda strongly believed in the power of "Yuva Shakti" (youth power) and saw a vital place for youngsters in the realm of nation-building.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will lay the foundation stone for the India's first bullet train project connecting Ahmedabad to Mumbai. Around Rs 1.10 lakh crore will be spent on the project of which Rs 88,000 crore will be funded by a soft loan from Japan. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, running at an operating speed of 320 kmph and maximum speed of 350 kmph, will pass through 12 stations - Bandra Kurla Complex, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati.

-Germany's Bibiana Steinhaus made history by becoming the first female referee to officiate a match in a top European league. The 38-year-old police officer became the first woman to ref a top-tier match in the German, English, French, Italian or Spanish leagues when she took charge of Hertha Berlin's home Bundesliga match against Werder Bremen.

-Kishore Kharat, MD and CEO, Indian Bank and Kalavathi S M, CGM, Bharat Sanchar Nigam signed an MoU to Upgrade the bandwidth of Indian Bank's branches to 2mbps. The upgradation would be in line with the bank's policy of promoting digital channels.

-LIC has formally launched a new single premium plan, Jeevan Utkarsh, which offers a combination of protection and savings wherein the risk cover is ten times of tabular single premium from date of commencement of risk.

-Prince Charles has become the longest-serving Prince of Wales in history. The 68-year-old broke the record of Queen's Victoria's son Albert, who went on to become King Edward VII after holding the title of Prince of Wales for more than 59 years before becoming monarch. The milestone came a day after his wife, Camilla – Duchess of Cornwall, named a Royal Navy aircraft carrier after her husband.

-The Assam government would be providing skill development training to around 30,000 surrendered militants. The training will also be extended to jail inmates. Along with providing training to the surrendered militants, the Assam government would be training over 24000 Assamese youth under the Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojna. The Assam Skill Development Mission would be providing skill training in 40 sectors. The training sessions would be starting by the end of September 2017.

-The air forces of China and Pakistan began a joint training exercise named "Shaheen VI" and deployed their latest fighter jets and AWACS aircraft. China has dispatched J-11 fighters, JH-7 fighter-bombers, KJ-200 AWACS aircraft and ground forces including surface-to-air missile and radar troops. The exercise will run in China. AWACS is Airborne Warning And Control System, a mobile, long-range radar surveillance and control centre for air defence.

-Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for Ranchi Smart City coming up on the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land. According to the Urban Development Minister CP Singh, this would be the country's first 'green-field' smart city. The smart city is coming up on 656 acres of HEC land which would be fully wi-fi, carbon free, garbage free locality with modernized housing, traffic management system, education hub and equipped with facilities like round the clock power and water supplies.

-Defeating the Czech partnership of Lucie Hradecka and Katerina Siniakova, Martina Hingis of Switzerland and Taiwan's Chan Yung-Jan won the US Open Women's Doubles title. The win was Hingis 13th Grand Slam women's doubles title and overall 25th Grand Slam title. On the other hand, the win gave Chan her first Grand Slam.

-The West Bengal government cleared a proposal to rename the state as 'Bangla' and sent a proposal to the Centre for approval. The Mamata Banerjee government had earlier too sent a proposal for the change of name, but it was rejected by the central government. The earlier proposal had three different names for the state – Bangla in Bengali, Bangal in Hindi and Bengal in English. In order to avoid the confusion the government decided to send another proposal to change it to only 'Bangla' in all three languages including Hindi, English and Bengali.

-Kochi will host the 5th edition of the 'Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017' on 22nd of September at Hotel Crowne Plaza announced on 10th of Sept. 2017. Kerala Governor P Sathasivam will present the India Seatrade Award for Excellence in Coastal Shipping & Inland Water Transportation.

-Asian Development Bank announced that it would provide \$152 million loan to Nepal, to enhance power transmission, in Kathmandu. The loan agreement was signed between Nepal's Finance Secretary Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi and Officer-in-charge of the ADB's Nepal Resident Mission Mr. Sharad Bhandari, in Kathmandu. The loan amount would be utilized to implement the Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project (PTDEEP).

-Joycilline Jepkosgei is a 23 year old Kenyan runner. She has become the first woman to run 10 km distance under 30 minutes on road. She ran at the Birell Prague Grand Prix and broke her previous record of 30 minutes 4 seconds. Track and road racing records are maintained separately by the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations). Jepkosgei has broken a total of five records this year. She has set new marks for the 10km, 15km, 20km and half-marathon.

-Egypt announced the discovery of a tomb belonging to a royal goldsmith who lived more than 3,500 years ago, in Luxor, Egypt. The tomb was discovered by Egyptian archaeologists. The tomb is located on the west bank of the river Nile in Draa Abul-Naga, a cemetery where noblemen and top government officials were buried. The tomb belongs to a royal goldsmith named Amenemhat. He lived during the 18th dynasty (about 1567 B.C. to 1320 B.C.). He had dedicated his work to Amon-Re, an Egyptian God.

-Reliance Energy has launched a digital assistance robot named ELEKTRA. This system provides automated responses to customers for their queries and requests. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence. This robot comes into action whenever a customer logs in to Reliance Energy's Facebook page or website. This digital assistance robot takes help of SCADA and GIS systems to provide real-time responses to the customers. During peak hours, consumers will get an immediate response to their queries from ELEKTRA without any waiting time.

-During a ceremony at Germany's Lagau on the occasion of the One World Festival Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honoured for his pioneering work in the field of organic farming. Chamling was conferred the Grand Prix Award during the One World Award ceremony on 8th September. The award was given by Gerd Muller, the Federal Minister of Bavaria, and Joseph Wilhelm, German Organic Pioneer and Managing Director of Rupenzel.

-Mr. Pat Hickey has resigned from his member position in the International Olympic Committee Executive Board after he was accused in a ticket selling scandal in Rio Olympics 2016, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was arrested by Brazilian police during the Rio Olympics 2016 and was held in jail. He was later released on bail. He has claimed innocent of his charges till date. Mr. Hickey has stated in the letter that once he proves his innocence against all charges he wishes to rejoin the committee as a member.

-Hurricane Irma has become the first storm in the world to sustain winds of 185 miles per hour for more than 24 hours. It's the longest storm to sustain this speed since the 1970s. The hurricane, which has already devastated several islands in the Caribbean, is headed toward south Florida, where the National Hurricane Center has issued evacuation orders.

-The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given the message to the South East Asian countries to assimilate their national plans and mobilise and utilise resources efficiently to reach the Tuberculosis elimination target of 2030.