

## **Govt to set up Rail Development Authority to fix fares**



The Cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of a Rail Development Authority (RDA) meant primarily to determine rail tariffs — fares and freight charges.

- Besides, the independent regulatory body will also set efficiency and performance standards for the railways.

- It will also ensure fair play and

level playing field for stakeholders.

- According to the fine print, the board will consist of a chairman and three members, who will each have terms of five years.
- Besides, fixing the fare and freight and fare charges, the authority would also be responsible for ensuring quality of service, promoting competition, encouraging market development, efficient allocation of resources, protecting the interest of consumers, provide non-discriminatory open access specially on DFC and to benchmark service levels for ensuring quality, continuity and reliability of service.
- Commenting on the development, former Railway minister Dinesh Trivedi said that it is a camouflage for privatisation of railways.

## **President of India inaugurates first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017**



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 today (April 7, 2017) in New Delhi.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that he was happy that NIMCARE has taken the lead in organizing this Conference on World Health Day.

- The slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit is, 'Unite for a Healthy Mind'.
- He stated that lack of mental well-being contributes significantly to the total disability and morbidity burden across the world.
- Productivity of human beings, whether in workforce or in family situations, gets reduced significantly if one has any mental disorder.

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- Mental health disorders span a very wide range from simple disorders to very complex situations.
- It is often seen that simpler disorders, if not managed in time, tend to become more complex putting the patient at higher risk of morbidity. Such patients often become a bigger burden on the families.

### **Jio ordered by TRAI to withdraw 15 day Prime Plan extension**



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked Reliance to withdraw its 15-day extension on Jio Prime plan.

- It has also advised the telecom provider to reconsider its 3-month complimentary offer.
- Jio has welcomed regulator's direction and said will

comply with it.

- On 31st March, Mukesh Ambani-owned reliance extended its Jio Prime plan membership deadline for another 15 days and also announced a 3-month complimentary offer for those who paid Rs 303 before 15th April.
- Earlier in the day, TRAI said it will bring out in the next few weeks its order on the revised quality of service norms for mobile services, including benchmarks for newer technologies like VoLTE.

### **GST Bill passed by Rajya Sabha**



Rajya Sabha on 6 April 2017 passed all four supporting legislations of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill 2017.

- The four bills were passed by the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote as all parties were on board. The four legislations are

- The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 (The CGST Bill)
- The Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 (The IGST Bill)
- The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 (The UTGST Bill)

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- The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to the States) Bill, 2017 (The Compensation Bill)
- The passage in the upper house of the Parliament has cleared the decks for the rollout of the historic GST Bill from 1 July 2017 and usher the one-nation-one-tax regime.
- With this passage in Rajya Sabha, the Bill will be sent to President Pranab Mukherjee for the final nod.
- The bills will become the law after the President gives his assent to them.
- The Bill was earlier passed by the Lok Sabha on 29 March 2017.
- Now, the States can pass the State GST Bill in their assemblies.

### Uma Bharti Launches MIS for Monitoring PMKSY Projects



Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti launched MIS for monitoring PMKSY project in New Delhi today.

- Speaking on the occasion the Minister said the MIS will help in quick monitoring of PMKSY projects.

- Expressing satisfaction over the execution of various PMKSY projects the Minister said that 21 projects having irrigation potential of 5.22 Lakh hectare will be over by June this year.
- She said another 33 projects will be over by 2017-18 (Potential Utilization of 12.95 Lakh Hect.) and the balance 45 projects have been identified to be completed by March, 2019 (Potential Utilization of 48.54 Lakh Ha.).
- The Minister said issues in respect of many other projects which were at standstill such as Gosikhurd in Maharashtra have been streamlined and are getting back on track so as to meet the completion targets of March 2019.
- This project is likely to create an irrigation potential of 2.50 lakh ha. Similarly, Polavaram Project has been put on a fast track when completed this project is likely to irrigate 2.9 lakh ha.

Sushri Bharti said many States like Maharashtra have undertaken innovative means such as installation of underground pressure pipelines to get over the difficulties of land acquisition for timely completion of these projects.

## Rs 2 lakh withdrawal limit won't apply to banks, post offices



Ban on cash transaction in excess of Rs 2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts, the Income-Tax department said today.

- Through the Finance Act 2017, the government has banned cash transactions of over Rs 2 lakh and said a penalty of an equal amount would be levied on the receiver.

- In a clarification on the newly inserted Section -- 269ST -- in the I-T Act, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the restriction shall not apply to withdrawal from banks and post offices.
- It said necessary notification in this regard would be issued.
- In the 2017-18 Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had proposed to ban cash transaction of over Rs 3 lakh.
- This limit was lowered to Rs 2 lakh as an amendment to the Finance Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha last month.
- The said restriction is also not applicable to any receipt by government, banking company, post office savings bank or co-operative bank, the CBDT said.

## India jumps 31 places to attain best FIFA ranking in 20 years



The Indian football team achieved its best-ever Fifa ranking in over two decades as it jumped to 101 in the latest list released on Thursday.

- Following a couple of wins in recent times, the Indian football team is now ranked 11th in Asia.

- This is the team's best-ever ranking since May 1996 - it was ranked 101 then also.

- India have jumped 31 places from its last rank of 132nd in the previous month.
- Following a couple of wins in recent times, India are now ranked 11th in Asia.
- The highest Fifa ranking achieved by India ever is 94, which was attained in February 1996.
- India were ranked 99 in November 1993 and 100 in October 1993,

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December 1993 and April 1996.

- The last couple of years had been fruitful for India as they won 11 of their 13 matches, including an unofficial game against Bhutan, while scoring a total of 31 goals.
- India recently posted a 1-0 victory over Myanmar in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers - their first-ever in Myanmar in over 64 years.
- Before that India's first win in an away encounter in over a decade came when they beat Cambodia 3-2 in an international friendly.

### Misbah ul Haq retires from Test Cricket



The Pakistan Test captain, Misbah-ul-Haq, on 6 April 2017 announced that he would be retiring from international cricket after the end of the Test series in West Indies.

- However, the cricketer will continue to play cricket at the domestic level.

● Pakistan is scheduled to play three Test matches against West Indies, the first of which will start on 21 April 2017 in Jamaica.

- Misbah had taken over the captaincy of the Test team in the wake of the spot-fixing controversy in 2010 in which Salman Butt, the captain then, was banned for five years alongside Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir.
- Born 28 May 1974, Misbah-ul-Haq Khan Niazi leads the Test Pakistan national cricket team.
- He also served as the One Day International (ODI) captain until his retirement from ODI cricket after the 2015 Cricket World Cup.
- He is a middle-order batsman.
- He made his Test debut in March 2001, and has so far aggregated 4951 runs in 72 games at an average of 45.84.
- He holds the world record of scoring most runs without century in ODI career.