President of India awards standards to Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee awarded Standards to Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar today (April 15, 2017).

• Speaking on the occasion, the President said that any nation draws it strength from all elements of National Power, and the capabilities of its Armed Forces are a major source of National power.

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- Although we are a peace loving Nation, we will use all instruments of National power in order to protect our sovereignty.
- He was confident that our brave soldiers will rise to the occasion, as they
 have done so in the past, to meet the challenges and emerge victorious.
- The President complimented the brave men of the Armoured Corps Centre and School for their impeccable turnout and outstanding precision in the parade they displayed today.
- This distinguished Establishment has a glorious past and rich tradition of professionalism and excellence in imparting training to the men of the Armoured Corps, the Indian Army and Friendly Foreign Countries.
- Since its inception in 1948, the Armoured Corps Centre and School has distinguished itself in service of the nation.
- In recognition of its selfless devotion, professionalism and dedication to service the nation honours it today, with a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation.

Nation Pays Homage to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on his 127th Birth Anniversary



The President, Shri Pranab Mukherji led the nation in paying homage to Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 127th Birth anniversary here today.

 He paid floral tributes at the statue of Baba Saheb at Parliament House

Lawns in the Parliament House complex in the morning.

 The Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Ghelot, Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar and Shri Vijay

Sampla and leaders of various political parties paid tributes to Dr. Ambedkar at the statue of Baba Saheb at Parliament House Lawns.

Thousands of people visited the Parliament House Complex since morning

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- to pay tributes to the Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar amidst chanting of slogan "Baba Saheb Amar Rahe", "Jai Bheem" and "Jai Bharat".
- The function organized by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment began with a prayer by Buddhist monks.

PM Narendra Modi launches BHIM-Aadhaar Pay app



Prime Minister Modi on 14 August 2017, the 126th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, launched BHIM-Aadhaaar app for merchants in Nagpur.

• In addition to this, he also launched cash back and referral bonus schemes for BHIM and declared about 75 townships spread all over India as "less-cash townships".

The initiatives were launched with an aim to further the digital payments revolution in India. It also seeks to reinforce the vision of Baba

Saheb for social empowerment of all through financial inclusion.

- Tributes to venerable Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on Ambedkar Jayanti.
- BHIM-Aadhaar, the merchant interface of the BHIM App will pave the way for making digital payments by using the Aadhaar platform.
- This will enable every Indian citizen to pay digitally using their biometric data like their thumb imprint on a merchants" biometric-enabled device which could be smart phone having a biometric reader.
- Any citizen without access to smart phones, the internet, debit or credit cards will be able to transact digitally through the BHIM Aadhaar platform.

Govt forms panel to study virtual currencies framework



The government has formed a panel to study the existing framework for virtual currencies such as bitcoin.

• A finance ministry statement said Dinesh Sharma, special secretary in the economic affairs department will chair the nine-member interdisciplinary committee. The

committee has been tasked to submit its report within three months.

Circulation of virtual currencies which are also known as digital/crypto

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Currencies has been a cause of concern, the statement said.

- "This has been expressed in various fora from time to time. Reserve Bank of India had also cautioned the users, holders and traders of virtual currencies (VCs), including bitcoins, about the potential financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks that they are exposing themselves to vide its press releases dated 24 December, 2013 and February 1, 2017," it added.
- The panel will also have representatives from department of economic affairs, department of financial services, department of revenue, home ministry, IT ministry, Reserve Bank of India, NITI Aayog and State Bank of India.

Modi world's most followed leader on Instagram



With 6.8 million followers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the world"s most followed leader on Facebook"s photo-sharing app Instagram, a new study revealed on Wednesday.

Modi, who was at third spot on Instagram last year, is closely followed by the US President Donald Trump with 6.3 million followers, said the study

conducted by global public relations firm Burson-Marsteller.

- The study looked at the activity of the 325 Instagram accounts of heads of state and government, and foreign ministers over the past 12 months.
- Though Modi has only 53 photos posted on his account, he has been termed
 as the most effective world leader on the photo-sharing app, considering that
 each of his posts receives an average of 223,000 interactions.

Malala Yousafzai becomes sixth honorary Canadian citizen



Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai on Wednesday received honorary Canadian citizenship and praised Canada's open embrace of refugees under the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Canada last year accepted 25,000 refugees from Syria and in January, when US President Donald Trump issued an immigration ban on people from

seven Muslim-majority countries, Trudeau pointedly tweeted that refugees were welcome in Canada.

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ur motto and your stand - Welcome to Canada - is more than a headline or a hashtag," Yousafzai said in an address to legislators in the Canadian Parliament.

- "I pray that you continue to open your homes and your hearts to the world's most defenceless children and families," she said.
- Yousafzai, an Pakistani education activist who came to prominence when a Taliban gunman shot her in the head in 2012, is only the sixth person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship.
- Other recipients include Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama.