

## Agra, Gorakhpur Airports renamed



In the third meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, the state government renamed the Gorakhpur and Agra Airports as well as the name of the Department of Welfare of the Differently-abled.

- The Gorakhpur Air Force Station was renamed after the name of Mahayogi Gorakhnath, the founder of Nath monastic movement.
- Interestingly, the newly-appointed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is the Head Priest of the Gorakhnath Mutt, which is a leading centre of the Nath monastic order.
- Likewise, the Agra Airport was renamed after RSS ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport.
- On the other hand, the Department of Disabled Welfare will now be known as Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment.
- Divyang is a term used for the differently-abled.
- During the meeting, the cabinet also approved the decision to open 20 new agricultural centres.

## Cabinet clears EC's proposal to buy paper trail EVMs



In a bid to increase transparency in the electoral process, the Union cabinet on Wednesday cleared a proposal to procure 1,615,000 voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines by September 2018.

- Estimated to cost Rs 3,173 crore it will also ensure VVPAT units are used in all the polling booths in the next general elections in 2019.
- Immediately it nixes the growing controversy after allegations of tampering of electronic voting machines (EVMs) were levelled by several political parties, including the Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).
- "A voter has a right to know whether his vote has been correctly registered or not. VVPAT machines in many phases and in small numbers were ordered earlier in 2013, 2015 as well.
- The estimate of the Election Commission is that approximately 16 lakh machines are required.
- The entire procurement will be supplied by September 2018.
- If by September 2018 machines are procured then elections conducted after that time will have a paper trail," finance minister Arun Jaitley said while addressing a press conference after the cabinet meeting.

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## Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Presents NSCI Safety Awards – 2016 to 70 Organisations



The Union Government is committed to the safety, health and welfare of the working class, said the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya.

- He was speaking at a function after presenting National Safety Council's „NSCI Safety Awards“ for the year 2016 in New Delhi today.
- Altogether 70 organisations have been awarded in four categories – Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar and Prashansa Patra.
- Besides, 12 client organizations from Construction Sector have also been awarded.
- In Manufacturing Sector, IOCL- Digboi Refinery; National Fertilizers Ltd., Panipat and NPCIL, Kaiga Generating Station 3 & 4, Kaiga, Karnataka under Group A, Group B and Group C respectively; in Construction Sector, L&T Ltd., Rawatbhata, Chittorgarh for NPCIL Atomic Power Project, Rajasthan and Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. and in MSME Sector, Electricals & Electronics, Thane, Maharashtra have won Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar for the year 2016
- Shri Bandaru Dattatreya said that as a part of legislative reforms of labour laws, the Centre has started a process of codification and amalgamation of 44 Central Labour Laws into four Codes in order to simplify them.
- They are: Code on Wages, Code on Industrial Relations, Code on Social security & Welfare, and Code on Safety & working conditions. He said that as a founder member of the International Labour Organization India has contributed immensely in formulation and implementation of labour standards.
- So far India has ratified 45 Conventions and 1 protocol of ILO.

## Supreme Court approves e-auction of Taj Mansingh Hotel in Delhi



The Supreme Court (SC) on 20 April 2017 approved the e-auction of Taj Mansingh Hotel in Delhi.

- A bench of Justices P C Ghose and R F Nariman allowed New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) to e-auction the property.
- The bench rejected the claim of Tata group-owned Indian Hotels Co. Ltd (IHCL) over the property. The auctioning the Taj Mansingh Hotel property was stiffly opposed by Tata group-run Indian Hotels Company Ltd which manages the hotel.

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- In an earlier hearing, the Supreme Court asked NDMC to reconsider its decision for the e-auction as the IHCL had approached SC against a Delhi High Court's ruling that allowed for the auction of Taj Mansingh Hotel.
- However, on 27 October 2016 hearing, a division bench denied IHCL's claim to right of first refusal on the auction and called for the bidding. It allowed IHCL to participate in the bid and also match the highest offer.
- NDMC and IHCL had entered into an agreement in 1976 to construct and run a five-star hotel in one of the prime locations of Delhi that is Mansingh Road.
- This licence operated for a period of 33 years from late 1976 and concluded in 2011. However, NDMC declined to renew the IHCL licence for 30 years.

## Saira Banu, Jackie Shroff gets Raj Kapoor awards



Veteran actress Saira Banu and actor Jackie Shroff were named for the prestigious Raj Kapoor awards of the Maharashtra Government.

- The names of the duo were announced on 19 April 2017 by the State Cultural Affairs Minister Vinod Tawde in Mumbai.
- Saira Banu (72) will be awarded with the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime achievement award, while Jackie Shroff (60) was selected for the Raj Kapoor Special contribution award.
- They will be awarded for their cinematic journey and contributions to the Indian cinema respectively.
- Prominent films of Saira Banu includes "Junglee" (1961), "Purab aur Paschim" (1970), "Victoria No. 203" (1972), "Jwar Bhata", "Padosan" and "Bairag" (1976).
- Prominent films of Shroff include "Hero" (1983), "Teri Meherbaniyan" (1984), "Sazish". He had won the Filmfare best actor award for his role in the film "Parinda" (1990).

## Ronaldo first player to score 100 goals in Champions League



Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score 100 goals in the Champions League when he netted a hat trick against Bayern Munich on Tuesday then used the occasion to ask for more respect from fans.

- Ronaldo had cut an isolated figure up front for long periods, and was jeered by some home fans for not working hard enough off the ball.
- At one point he put his finger to his lips, appearing to attempt to shush the Bernabeu.
- But they were all cheering his name at the end after he had knocked home the

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goals that put Madrid through to the semifinals with a 4-2 win on the night, 6-3 on aggregate.

- "I don't tell them to be quiet, never, I only ask that they do not whistle," Ronaldo told Spanish TV station Antena 3.
- "Because I always give my best in every game, although sometimes I do not score goals I try and work hard to help Real Madrid.

## Malaysia Airlines world's first to satellite track its flights



Malaysia Airlines which lost a jetliner with 239 people on board in 2014 in one of aviation's greatest mysteries has become the first carrier to adopt a satellite flight-tracking system.

- The airline will use a soon-to-be-launched satellite network to monitor its fleet in areas where there is currently no surveillance, including polar regions and remote areas of the oceans.
- "Real-time global aircraft tracking has long been a goal of the aviation community.
- We are proud to be the first airline to adopt this solution," Malaysia Airlines Chief Operating Officer Izham Ismail said in a statement to Bloomberg.
- The airline reached a deal for the service provided by US-based Aireon, FlightAware and SITAONAIR.
- Planes deviating from a flight path will be able to be identified more quickly with the system.