

SC questions Govt about making Aadhaar mandatory



The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Centre for making Aadhaar compulsory in filing of Income Tax returns, and asked how it was not a violation of the earlier court order against making

Aadhaar mandatory for services.

- A bench of Justices AK Sikri and Ashok Bhushan was hearing two public interest litigations — filed by SG Vombatkere, a retired Indian Army Officer and Bezwada Wilson, founder and convener of Safai Karmachari Andolan; and the other plea by CPI leader Binoy Viswam — challenging the Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act as amended by the Finance Act, 2017, making Aadhaar mandatory for filing I-T returns.
- The Centre, represented by Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, argued that this was being done to remove 'black money' from the economy.

India wins elections to two subsidiary bodies of UN



India has won elections to two subsidiary bodies of a UN organ focussed on social and economic issues.

- India along with 12 other members was elected to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social

Council (ECOSOC).

- The country garnered the most number of votes in the Asian group, with 49 out of 50 members of ECOSOC voting in its favour.
- The 13 members elected for three-year terms, beginning January 2018, include Burkina Faso, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the United Kingdom and United States.
- The CPC is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.
- India, along with 19 other nations, was also elected by acclamation to the International Narcotics Control Board for a four-year term beginning January next year.

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India successfully test fires land attack version of BrahMos



Adding a news shot in its arm, an Indian Naval ship for the first time fired a land-attack BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

- "Land attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was fired for the first time from an Indian Navy's

stealth frigate, off the eastern coast, at a land target," Times of India quoted a source in the Ministry of Defence.

- "So, far only anti-ship version of BrahMos had been fired by Indian Navy," the source added.
- This puts India in a select club of nations with such capability.
- The land-attack version of BrahMos has been operationalised in the Indian Army since 2007.
- The BrahMos missile, with a range of 290 km and a Mach 2.8 speed, is capable of being launched from land, sea and sub-sea pads against sea and land targets.

1st 'India Indonesia Energy Forum' held in Jakarta



Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Mr. Ignasius Jonan, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia met on 20th April, 2017 for the 1st 'India Indonesia Energy Forum', held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- The Energy Forum was preceded by 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) on Oil and Gas, 4th Joint Working Group on Coal and 1st Joint Working Group on New and Renewable Energy.
- The reports of three Joint Working Groups were presented to two Ministers during the Energy Forum.
- The 2nd JWG on Oil and Gas discussed policy framework of India and Indonesia, oil and gas infrastructure development, cooperation opportunities in capacity building and business opportunities in oil and gas sector in both countries.
- Representatives of major Indian companies in oil and gas sector such

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as ONGC Videsh Limited, Petronet LNG Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) participated in the JWG.

- Indonesian companies such as PT Pertamina, PT Triputra, PT Nusantara Regas, Medco Energy and PT PGN were also represented.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley participates in G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Washington DC



The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that the emerging economies have become increasingly important, accounting for more than 75 percent of global growth.

- He said that among the emerging economies, India has been a major driver of global economic growth with an expected growth of

7.5

percent for 2017-18 as against 7.1 percent in 2016-17. Shri Jaitley said that India's growth remains resilient, with low inflation, fiscal prudence and low Current Account Deficit.

- He said that India has also undertaken robust structural reform measures. The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley was addressing the gathering while participating in the G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Washington D.C. yesterday.
- The discussion sessions focused on the Compact with Africa, Financial Sector Development and Regulations, International Financial Architecture and Global Financial Governance.
- Speaking further on the occasion, the Finance Minister Shri Jaitley further said that India is on course to introduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 2017.
- He said that GST will eliminate the multiplicity of taxes and make India a single common market and as per IMF projections, India's medium term growth is poised to raise above 8%.

MasterCard creates credit card with fingerprint scanner



The days of tapping in your PIN at the checkout could be numbered after credit card provider Mastercard unveiled a payment card in South Africa featuring a biometric fingerprint scanner.

- Mastercard, which processes more than 65,000 transactions every minute worldwide, made the announcement on Thursday following two successful trials in South Africa.
- The technology works in a similar way to mobile phone payments, in which users must hold their finger over the sensor whilst making a purchase.
- Instead of a card user entering in their four-digit personal identification number (PIN), the payment card features a small biometric area designed to verify the user's fingerprint.
- The payment network said it is currently extending the trial process and hopes to fully implement the technology throughout Europe and Asia later this year.
- While fingerprint recognition is widely considered as a safer and more efficient way of payment authentication than PINs, analysts at Berlin-based Security Research Labs had previously hacked scanners such as the ones used by Samsung's Galaxy S5.

China launches its first ever unmanned cargo spacecraft



China on Thursday successfully launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft, taking another crucial step towards realising the Communist giant's ambition to have a permanently manned space station in the next few years.

- Powered by a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket, Tianzhou-1 roared into the air from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in the southern Hainan Province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.
- Hours later, space department officials declared the launch a success, as it entered the designated orbit.
- In space, the cargo ship will dock with the orbiting Tiangong-2 space station, provide fuel and other supplies, and conduct space experiments before falling back to Earth.

- China aims to build by 2022 a permanent space station, which is expected to orbit for at least 10 years, and the debut of the cargo ship is important as it acts as a courier to help maintain the space station.
- Without a cargo transportation system, the station would run out of power and basic necessities, causing it to return to Earth before the designated time.

Cricket excluded from 2018 Asian Games

One of the sports to miss out programme list of the 2018 Jakarta and Palembang is

- Apart from cricket, sambo and surfing are sports which have been the programme in order burden on Indonesian



from the Asian Games in cricket.

skateboarding, among the other removed from to reduce the organisers.

- This measure was taken as a part of the series of changes aimed at reducing the total number of events from 493 to 431.
- Also omitted from the list are kurash and belt wrestling events.
- This news was confirmed by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to insidethegames.
- Meanwhile, there will also be reduced competitions in the sports of ju jitsu, jet ski, sport climbing, paragliding, bridge and wushu.

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