

Pranab Mukherjee to Address Public Sector Day & Presents Scope Awards to CPSEs



President Shri Pranab Mukherjee will grace the occasion of Public Sector Day and present the prestigious SCOPE Awards to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on Tuesday next i.e. 11th April 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- Shri Anant G. Geete, Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Shri Babul Supriyo, Minister

of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises shall also grace the occasion in the august presence of Smt. Seema Bahuguna, IAS, Secretary, DPE, Shri Ved Prakash, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, MMTC, Shri R.K. Bahuguna, Vice Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, RailTel Corporation, Dr. U.D. Choubey, Director General, SCOPE and host of representatives from public sector enterprises, senior government officials, media etc.

- The Award function is being organized jointly by SCOPE and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE).
- SCOPE Meritorious Awards recognizes significant achievements of CPSEs in various fields leading to business excellence and competitive advantage.
- The function will be attended by Chief Executives/Directors of CPSEs besides Ministers, Secretaries and other senior government officials.

Deadline for account holders to give PAN till Jun 30



The Tax Department has given banks three more months till June 30 to obtain permanent account number (PAN) or Form—60 from all account holders as it looks to tighten the noose around evaders.

- Though the deadline for getting the PAN or Form 60 (if PAN is not available) by banks ended on

February 28, the tax department on April 5 notified the extension of the time till June 30.

- In the notification, the Income Tax Department said that in Income—Tax Rules 114B, in the fourth proviso, “for the figures, letters and words „28th day of February” the figures, letters and words „30th day of June” shall be substituted.”

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- Rule 114B lists various transactions for which quoting PAN is mandatory.
- The tax department had in January asked banks, post offices and cooperative banks to document PAN or declaration of Form 60 received from account holders and maintain all records for transactions under Rule 114B of I—T Act.

President of India to release India rankings 2017 report on April 10



- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee will release the India Rankings 2017 report on April 10, 2017 at a function to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- He will also present awards to top-ranked institutions i.e. top 10 in overall category and toppers in the streamwise categories -Engineering,

Management, Universities, Colleges and Pharmacy.

- India Rankings under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) were introduced in 2016 to rank Indian Universities.
- The Ministry of Human Resources and Development had launched the Ranking System on September 29, 2015.
- The first Rankings were announced on April 6, 2016.
- The Second Rankings (India Rankings 2017) have been announced on April 3, 2017.

Govt allows transgenders to use public toilets



While the Donald Trump administration in the US recently rescinded Obama-era guidelines that allowed transgender students unrestricted access to bathrooms matching their gender identity, the Indian government has moved to allow the members of the community to use toilets of their choice.

- In a significant move, the Ministry of Sanitation on Monday (April 3) issued

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guidelines to the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) stating that members of the third-gender community be allowed to use public toilet of their choice (men or woman), according to a report in Scroll.in.

- Under the heading of „Inclusivity,“ the statement said that a “conscious effort” should be made to ensure that members of the community are “recognised as equal citizens and users of toilets”.
- The guidelines on gender issues in sanitation also stated that there were examples from across India where those belonging to the third gender have played a significant role in taking the “message of Swachhata” to other households in their community.

SN Subrahmanyam chosen as new CEO of L&T



Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday announced that SN Subrahmanyam will be its new

- AM Naik, who has been serving as Chairman since 2003, will become the non-executive Chairman for three

years from October 1.

- Subrahmanyam, who joined L&T in 1984, is currently the Deputy Managing Director and President of the company.
- He has a degree in civil engineering and is a post-graduate in business management.
- In a brief telephonic conversation with BusinessLine, Subrahmanyam said succession planning in L&T has been a well-thought process.
- The company will move along lines that have already been planned, he said.

APPOINTMENTS

India and ADB Sign \$175 Million Loan Agreement to help improve Solar Transmission System



The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$175 million loan agreement to support construction of high voltage transmission systems to evacuate power generated from new mega solar parks to the interstate grid, and improve reliability of the national grid

system here yesterday.

- The loan will be given to the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) and will include subprojects in various locations in India.
- As an innovative feature, the project is designed to adopt the country systems on both safeguards and procurement at the agency level.
- This will be the ADB's first breakthrough of the country system's application to a specific project.
- Mr. Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary (Multilateral Institutions), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of India while Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission signed for ADB.

Thai king signs pro-military Constitution



In an elaborate ceremony, Thailand's king has signed the country's military-backed constitution.

- The document paves the way for Thailand to hold elections in the coming months, but critics say it only solidifies the power of the military.
- Voters approved the constitution by a wide margin last August, two years after the Thai military seized power in a coup, as The Two-Way has reported.
- The junta has argued that this constitution was badly needed to restore stability.

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- The new constitution "constrains further elected governments with an appointed senate, and commits governments to follow the military's 20-year development plan," according to the BBC.
- But this is actually a slightly different document than the one Thailand voted on.
- It contains six changes made at the request of new King Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, who acceded after the death of his father in October.

Those changes expand the power of the monarchy. For example, according to the Bangkok Post, the king may leave the country without appointing another regent. Also, it removes a requirement for the king to call a meeting with the heads of top courts and the Senate in the event of a constitutional crisis.

World Health Day



World Health Day observed by WHO

World Health Day is being observed on 7 April 2017 with theme 'Depression: Let's Talk'. On this occasion, the World Health Organization (WHO) is leading a one-year global campaign on depression which is the leading cause of ill-health and disability worldwide.

- The goal of the campaign is that more people with depression, everywhere in the world, both seek and get help.
- Depression is the leading cause of ill-health and disability worldwide.
- As per a report of WHO, more than 300 million people are now living with depression, which is an increase of more than 18 per cent between 2005 and 2015.
- At worst, depression can lead to suicide, now the second leading cause of death among 15-29-year olds.
- The World Health Day is being celebrated annually on 7th of April to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization.
- The day also provides with a unique opportunity to mobilise action around a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world.

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