

## **First expressway in Northeast to be built along the Brahmaputra**



The Assam government would soon start work on a 890-km Express Highway along the entire length of the Brahmaputra in the state from Sadiya in the east to Dhubri in the west, which in turn would also help arrest river-bank erosion, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said in Dibrugarh on Tuesday.

- Launching the survey work for the proposed Brahmaputra Express Highway, CM Sonowal said his government had already sought support from World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Ambassadors of several countries in recent weeks.
- Chief Minister Sonowal also announced that Government of The Assam government would also soon send an expert committee to China to carry out an in-depth study on how that country had tamed the Hwang-Ho river that was once termed as a sorrow of China.
- He also distributed engagement letters to 16 groups today for carrying out survey of the project.
- The chief minister also said that the concept of an express highway along both banks of the Brahmaputra was conceived by Union Road Transport and Highway Minister, Nitin Gadkari.
- The latter had pointed out that silt dug out by dredging the river could be used for construction of the express highway, Sonowal said.

## **Jawan who escorted Dalai Lama to India felicitated**



The Assam Rifles on Tuesday felicitated its veteran, Naren Chandra Das, who escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago at the force's headquarter here.

- Assam Rifles DG Lieutenant General Shokin Chauhan felicitated Das in the presence of the rank and file of the force during the commanders' conference.
- Assam Rifles chief reaffirmed the force's pledge to look after its veterans and how a special cell was started wherein all veterans can register and interact directly for their grievances.
- He said a befitting tribute was paid to 76 year-old Das, the only surviving jawan among the eight Assam Rifles men who escorted the Tibetan spiritual leader in 1959.
- Das, who was dressed in the force's uniforms, carried a broad smiled boasting of how he happily carried the duty entrusted to him when he was posted at Lungla near the China border.
- Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama had an emotional reunion with Das at Guwahati recently during the Namami Brahmaputra festival.

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## **Aditya Birla Group gets RBI Licence to start Payments Bank**



The Aditya Birla Group today said it has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India to start payments bank.

- Headed by Kumar Mangalam Birla, the group's outfit Aditya Birla Nuvo had set up a 51:49 joint venture -- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd -- with telecom major Idea Cellular to launch payments bank services in the country.
- At present, Airtel and India Post are offering payments bank services in the country.
- Idea Cellular Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Rajat Mukherjee had earlier said the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank will be launched in the first half of 2017.
- With the objective of deepening financial inclusion, RBI kicked off an era of differentiated banking by allowing SFBs (small finance banks) and PBs (payments banks) to start services.
- A total of 21 entities were given in-principle nod, including 11 for payments banks.

### **ECONOMY**

## **India 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in doping violations**



India may be a long way off from being counted among the sporting powerhouses in the world, but as far as finding a shortcut to a podium goes, the nation is placed third in the world.

- In the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency, India are placed third for a third straight year for the number of doping violations in the world.
- The report is for the year 2015 and the country saw as many as 117 athlete testing positive for banned substances.
- Ahead of India are the Russian Federation (176) and Italy (129) in the doping violation chart released by the WADA.
- All the violations by Indians came from urine samples.
- The violations were committed during 2015 and the WADA report was prepared after compiling information of analytical findings and sanctions rendered till January 31 this year by various accredited anti-doping bodies.
- This is the first set of Anti-Doping Rule Violation statistics under the revised WADA Code and third such report in its history since 2013.

### **SPORTS**

## **Classical singer Kishori Amonkar passes away**



Kishori Amonkar, the renowned Hindustani classical vocalist, passed away in Mumbai on 3 April 2017. She was 84.

### **OBITUARY**

- Amonkar, one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani tradition, was an innovator of the Jaipur Gharana.
- The Jaipur Gharana is a community of musicians sharing a distinctive musical style.
- Born on 10 April 1932 in Bombay (now Mumbai), Kishori began receiving vocal lessons in Hindustani classical music from several Gharanas along with her mother Mogubai Kurdikar.
- Trained under her mother, classical singer Mogubai Kurdikar of the Jaipur Gharana, Kishori was a performer of the classical genre khyal and the light classical genres of bhajan and thumri.
- In 1964, she turned towards the film music and sang playback for Geet Gaya Patharon Ne (1964) but returned to classical music.

## **Indian Malaysian firms exchange MoUs**



India and Malaysia on 1 April 2017 inked seven agreements including the development of a fertiliser plant in Malaysia.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

- The agreements were signed to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations.
- These MoUs/agreements were signed during the Malaysian Prime Minister Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak's visit to India.
- Raazak was on a six-day visit (from 30 March - 04 April 2017) to India.
- India-Malaysia inked seven agreements.
- The two nations signed an Air Services Agreement.
- MoU on Cooperation in the proposed development of a Urea and Ammonia Manufacturing Plant in Malaysia and off-take of existing surplus urea from Malaysia to India.
- It envisages Malaysian consortium of Isomeric Holding Sdn Bhd and Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd to put up a 2.5 MT/annum urea and ammonia manufacturing plant in Malacca, Malaysia for dedicated consumption by India.

## **BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING APRIL -5 CURRENT AFFAIRS**

It also envisages off take to India the existing surplus Urea from Malaysia as per India's requirement.