

New Bridge Constructed in Record Time of 165 Days on Savitri River



An old Masonry Arch Bridge on Savitri and Kal river near Mahad in Maharashtra having width of 5.90 m and length of 184 m constructed in 1928 collapsed due to heavy unprecedented rainfall on the night of 2nd August , 2016.

- The Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Shri Nitin Gadkari immediately announced to construct new bridge at this location within 6 months.
 - As announced by the Shri Gadkari, the project has been speedily rebuild on a record time of 165 days before the onset of monsoon rain with a total Cost of Rs.35.77 Cr.
 - The Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Shri Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister of Maharashtra will inaugurate the newly constructed Savitri Bridge and throw it open for the public on 05th June, 2017.
 - The New Bridge is 16 meter wide and 239m long with lighting arrangement, footpath, flood alarm system, anti-corrosive steel, Road safety measures and painted with carbonation paint.
 - The work on the construction of bridge started on war footing.
 - The Survey, design and detailed estimate was prepared by the State PWD in-house within 3 weeks and submitted to MoRTH, New Delhi on 20th August, 2016.
 - The Ministry of RT&H sanctioned the estimate on 2nd September, 2016 and on the same day tenders were called by NH wing of State PWD.
- The lowest tender was accepted and agreement was signed on 1st December, 2016. The appointed date for the project was issued on 15th December, 2016.

S.S. Ahluwalia leads Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Norway



Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, led an Indian Parliamentary delegation on a three-day visit to Norway for promoting and strengthening parliamentary relations between the two countries.

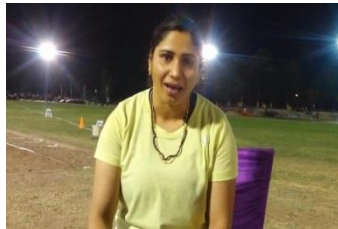
- The visit, which concluded late last night, is expected to further strengthen bilateral relations between India and Norway.
- During the visit, the Indian delegation met Ms. Monica Mæland, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms. Marit Berger Røsland, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway, Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Policy and Defence and Mr. Gunnar Gundersen, Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Business and Industry of Parliament of Norway and also visited the Norwegian Institute of Bio-economy Research (NIBIO), Ås, Norway.

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- Shri Ahluwalia, in his meetings with Norwegian dignitaries, stated that both India and Norway should work towards strengthening cooperation in areas such as, combating international terrorism, maritime cooperation, climate change, renewable energy, waste management, fisheries, agriculture, exchange of technology on horticulture and organic farming etc.

Sarita Singh sets new national record in Federation Cup



Sarita Singh of Uttar Pradesh set a new national record in the women's hammer throw with an effort of 65.25m to claim the gold medal at the 21st Federation Cup National Senior Athletics Championships at the NS-NIS athletics ground on Thursday.

- Sarita broke the previous national record of 62.74m recorded by Manju Bala in 2014. Sarita whose previous best before this edition of the Federation Cup was a throw of 61.81m recorded in 2016, was in red hot form today.
 - She improved on her personal best with her first throw today and broke the old national record in her second throw itself with a throw of 63.58m. She would keep improving on that mark before setting the new national record on her final throw.
 - Gunjan Singh finished second with a throw of 61.95 while Nidhi Kumar took bronze with a throw of 57.99m.
 - R Anu of Kerala broke a 15-year old meet record even as she won the women's 400m hurdles event here.
 - Anu recorded a time of 57.39 seconds to shatter the old mark, set by Shahebani Oram in Chennai in 2002. Running in lane five, Anu was challenged all the way to the finish by Odisha's Jauna Murmu in lane four, who also ran under the old meet record, clocking a time of 57.51 seconds. Arpitha M of Karnataka took bronze after recording a time of 57.64 seconds.
- The result was also a personal best for Anu, bettering her previous mark of 57.79seconds recorded two years back at the 2015 Asian Championships.

Microsoft co-founder unveils world's biggest plane



The world's biggest plane, boasting a 117-metre wingspan, has been launched by the Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

- The six-engine, dual-hulled Stratolaunch aircraft is designed to launch satellites into orbit.
- Launching the satellites on rockets while the Stratolaunch is in flight has the advantage of saving fuel comparing to sending them into orbit from a launchpad.
- It is designed to carry a rocket and payload with a combined weight of up to

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250,000 kg and when in development was expected to cost \$300m – although whether it came in on budget has not been revealed.

- Satellite networks, based on low-cost spacecraft, are the fastest-growing segment of the global satellite industry which reported more than \$208bn in revenue in 2015, according to a Satellite Industry Association report.
- The Stratolaunch was built by Scaled Composites and is similar in form and function to Scaled's aircraft built to ferry spaceships into the air and release them for independent rocket rides beyond the atmosphere, a service Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic intends to offer to paying passengers.
- There are no plans for the Stratolaunch to carry humans for business or research.

The twin-fuselage plane incorporates engines, landing gear, avionics and other parts from a pair of Boeing 747 jets coupled with a frame, wings and skin handmade of lightweight composites. It has 28 wheels.

Demonetisation pulls down India GDP growth rate to 6.1%

Pressure point



India's economic growth slowed for the fourth consecutive quarter in the three months ended March, mirroring the impact of demonetisation on key sectors including

- construction and financial services.
- Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 6.1% in the fiscal fourth quarter from 7% in the third, according to

data released by the government on Wednesday.

- The slowdown may put pressure on the Reserve Bank of India, whose monetary policy committee meets next week, to cut policy rates to balance its inflation-targeting focus with the need to stimulate economic growth.
- Real gross value added (GVA), another measure of economic activity that is arrived at by excluding net indirect taxes from GDP, slowed to a growth pace of 5.6% in the March quarter, also the fourth consecutive quarterly decline.
- The Central Statistics Office maintained its earlier full-year growth estimate for 2016-17 at 7.1% on top of revised 8% growth in the previous financial year.
- The growth numbers reflected the lingering effects in the March quarter of the government's demonetisation of high-value banknotes with effect from 9 November, which triggered a cash crunch and disrupted business, especially in the unorganized sector.
- The labour-intensive construction sector contracted as a result of the cash shortage and regulatory changes, and financial services grew at an anaemic single-digit pace.

Dangal earns record 1,000 crore in China



Aamir Khan's Dangal has created an unrepresented landmark in China by becoming the 33rd film in Chinese cinema history to cross one billion Yuan Renminbi.

- The revenue in Indian currency amounts to about Rs 1,000 crore.
 - According to Maoyan, a popular ticketing website in China, "Dangal's gross earnings it joining the exclusive club of just 32 films in China cinema history."
 - "It is an unprecedented success for an Indian film and an important landmark, making Dangal a super hit Indian film," said Prasad Shetty, partner of Strategic Alliance, a Chinese firm promoting Indian films in China.
 - The film which became big hit since it was released on May 5 slipped to second place in the Chinese box office on Sunday after staying on top for over a fortnight. Hollywood film Pirates of the Caribbean 5 is now at the top position.
- "Dangal is still playing in about 9000 screens," Mr. Shetty said. The film has also made Aamir Khan, 52, the most popular Indian star on Chinese social media, where he has over 6.55 lakh followers.

Rajasthan High Court wants cow declared national animal



The Rajasthan High Court today directed the state government to coordinate with the Centre and take necessary steps to declare cow as a national animal.

- A single-judge bench of Justice Mahesh Chand Sharma said the chief secretary and advocate general of the state will be the legal custodians of the cow.
- "Nepal is a Hindu nation and has declared cow as national animal.
- India is a predominant agriculture country based in animal rearing.
- As per Article 48 and 51A (g) it is expected from the state government that they should take action to get a legal entity for cow in this country," he said in his order.

While Article 48 of the Constitution says the State should take steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle, Article 51A(g) speaks of protecting natural environment and having compassion for living creatures.

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Shashi Sekar Vempati appointed as CEO of Prasar Bharati



Shashi Shekar Vempati was on 2 June 2017 appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati.

- He will have a tenure of five years from the date of assumption of office.
- He was appointed on the recommendation of the three member committee headed by Vice President M Hamid Ansari.
- Vempati is currently serving as a Part Time Member of the Prasar Bharati Board.
- An alumnus of IIT Bombay, Vempati has over two decades of experience as a technocrat with specialization in areas of corporate management, technology consulting and digital media.
- He served in tech giant Infosys for more than 10 years as a Product Strategist and Digital Innovator in North America.

He holds two patents in his name: Real Time Business Event Monitoring, Tracking and Execution Architecture and System; and Method for Monitoring and Management of Inventory of Products and Assets in Real Time.

APPOINTMENT