



Kenya just imposed the world's toughest law against plastic bags

- ❖ Kenyans producing, selling or even using plastic bags will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000 from Monday, as the world's toughest law aimed at reducing plastic pollution came into effect. The East African nation joins more than 40 other countries that have banned, partly banned or taxed single use plastic bags, including China, France, Rwanda, and Italy. Many bags drift into the ocean, strangling turtles, suffocating seabirds and filling the stomachs of dolphins and whales with waste until they die of starvation. Kenya's law allows police to go after anyone even carrying a plastic bag.

29 August: National Sports Day

- ❖ National Sports day is celebrated on 29th August every year to mark the birthday of Dhyan Chand. On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind will give away the sports Awards. A total of 29 players have been selected to receive the honours from President. The President will confer Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The Khel Ratna Award is honoured for the players' spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years at international level. The Arjuna Awards are given to recognize outstanding achievement in National sports while the Dronacharya Award is sports coaching honour.

HSBC India investment banking head Sunil Sanghai quits

- ❖ Foreign lender HSBC India's vice chairman and investment banking head Sunil Sanghai quit the British banking giant today and joined hands with the Dinesh Kanabar-promoted tax and regulatory firm Dhruva Advisors to start a merchant banking division. Sanghai, who has been occupying the current position since March 2016 and with HSBC since 2010, quit the bank earlier during the day.

Airtel Ties up With Symantec

- ❖ Bharti Airtel has entered into a partnership with Symantec Corporation to protect businesses in India from online threats. The partnership comes amid a spike in cyber attacks over the past few months, including ransomwares such as Petya and WannaCry that disrupted systems across the world. According to the agreement, Airtel will be the exclusive Cyber Security Services partner for Symantec in India, and will distribute the US-based software firm's enterprise security software. Through the partnership, the two companies will target the IT security requirements of large enterprises, small and medium businesses, as well as the government.

KSTDC announces special Golden Chariot packages for Dasara

- ❖ The Department of Tourism through Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has planned to launch "Dasara Special Tour Package" in Golden Chariot Luxury Train to promote the State festival. Golden Chariot is the South India's first and only luxury tourist train run by KSTDC.

it would provide an excellent opportunity to people to experience royalty on board, which would showcase the Nadahabba, Mysuru Dasara and its grandeur. This would be a unique opportunity for people to witness Dasara as a royal guest and also experience the great train journey at a subsidized cost.

Twitter launches digital education programme for media agency professionals in Asia Pacific

- ❖ Twitter has kicked off its new media agency programme called #TweetToTheTop in India. Eleven agencies from global media and advertising networks including Dentsu, GroupM, IPG and Omnicom will be participating in this initiative. #TweetToTheTop is Twitter's first year-long agency engagement programme dedicated to media executives in five countries in Asia Pacific: India, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia. #TweetToTheTop aims to attract hundreds of young media planners and executives from the five markets to showcase their best work using Twitter solutions.

Uber Selects Dara Khosrowshahi as Its New CEO

- ❖ Uber's board of directors selected Expedia's Dara Khosrowshahi as the company's new CEO. Khosrowshahi, a surprise candidate, will replace former CEO and co-founder Travis Kalanick, who resigned more than two months ago amid a series of scandals and controversies that have rocked the ride-hailing company for much of this year. Khosrowshahi, who is 48, has led Expedia since 2005, through a period of rapid expansion.

Fourth & Final Grand Slam of Season US Open Begins in New York

- ❖ In Tennis, the US Open, the fourth and final Grand Slam of the season, begins in New York. Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka, who won the tournament last year, is not taking part this year due to a knee injury. World number two Andy Murray is also out injured, with Serena Williams also not participating. Recently crowned world number one Rafael Nadal, this year's Australian Open and Wimbledon winner Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova, Karolina Pliskova and Simona Halep are among the top players taking part in the tournament. Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna are among the Indians who will be seen in action in the Doubles.

Fringe benefits availed by employees liable to GST

- ❖ The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be applicable on any non-monetary fringe benefit an employee gets from his employer. Monetary compensation paid to employees is not considered supply and will not attract GST. The monetary income will, however, continue to attract the relevant income tax. The compensation to employees in the form of money is not a supply. However, fringe benefits are a supply of goods or services and are liable to tax if not exempted. The fringe benefits are transactions in furtherance of business.