



Karnataka to merge health schemes, launch 'Arogya Bhagya'

- ❖ In a move to ensure medical benefits to entire population of Karnataka, the State government has decided to merge various health schemes and launch unified 'Arogya Bhagya' to cover all the 1.4 crore households. The Universal Health Coverage scheme would help the card holder get treatment in all the empanelled private hospitals besides government hospitals to get treatment without paying any cash. The main theme of the 'Arogya Bhagya' scheme is "Treatment First and Payment Next". All the health facilities will be provided through Aadhaar linked Universal Health Card. For priority households that consists of 1.05 crore families there will be no need to make any contribution. This include farmer household, teachers from aided schools, Anganwadi, Asha workers, mid-day meal workers, households

Iraqi PM Slams Kurdish Referendum as 'Unconstitutional'

- ❖ Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the referendum on independence of the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan was "unconstitutional", and rejected the Kurdish attempts to include the ethnically-mixed province of Kirkuk in the referendum. The Arab and Turkoman council members boycotted the session, as their communities in the oil-rich Kirkuk province oppose joining the Kurdistan region. The Iraqi parliament rejected the decision of Kirkuk's provincial council, after 186 lawmakers of the 328-seat parliament voted in favor of hanging only the Iraqi flag on Kirkuk's buildings. Disagreements between Baghdad and the Kurdish regional government have been intense for years, as the ethnic Kurds consider the northern oil-rich province of Kirkuk and parts of Nineveh, Diyala and Salahudin as "disputed areas" and seek to incorporate them into the Kurdish region.

Legendary footballer and Olympian Ahmed Khan dead at 90

- ❖ Ahmed Khan, a member of India's gold winning football team at the first Asian Games in 1951, passed away at the age of 91 after prolonged illness. A prolific striker, Khan represented India in two Olympic Games -- 1948 in London and 1952 in Helsinki apart from two Asian Games in Delhi and 1954 in Manila. Khan, who played as a striker represented India in 11 matches and made his debut against France in the London Olympics. He scored 3 goals including one against Yugoslavia in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

NITI Aayog Announces Women Transforming India Awards 2017

- ❖ Celebrating the outstanding achievements of women in India, NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations, announces winners of the Women Transforming India Awards, 2017. Awards ceremony recognizes the exceptional work of 12 women in critical areas such as preventing violence against women; bridging the gender gap in education; providing healthcare; building livelihoods and enterprises for women; and promoting inclusion for persons with disabilities. The awardees included Lakshmi Agrawal a champion of violence against women, goat veterinarian Sunita Kamble for creating alternative livelihood opportunities for women, Raji Borthakur for creating a smart glove which can predict epileptic seizures before they occur, Safeena Husain for her

work to transform girls' education in rural areas and Arunima Sinha for being India's first amputee to climb Mount Everest Jamuna Tudu for conserved 50 hectares of forest land around her village in Jharkhand.

14-yr-old beats 36-yr-old to become youngest TT champion

- ❖ Japanese table tennis player Tomokazu Harimoto, aged 14 years and 61 days, defeated 36-year-old German Timo Boll in the Czech Open final to become the youngest winner of an ITTF men's singles tournament. Harimoto broke the record of China's Yu Ziyang, who was aged 16 years and 30 days when he won the Japan Open in 2014.

Indian Hotels appoints Puneet Chhatwal as MD, CEO

- ❖ Tata group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) has appointed Duetsche Hospitality chief executive Puneet Chhatwal as its managing director and CEO. He will take over from incumbent Rakesh Sarna, who is stepping down on 30 September. Chhatwal is currently chief executive and member of executive board of Duetsche Hospitality/Steinberger Hotels AG, a large European hotel chain.

Dutch star Lieke Martens has been named UEFA Women's Player of the Year for the 2016/17 season

- ❖ The 24-year-old Barcelona forward, who recently helped the Netherlands to win UEFA Women's EURO 2017 on home soil and aided Rosengård to the UEFA Women's Champions League quarter-finals, received the award at a ceremony during the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco. The UEFA Women's Player of the Year award is based on players' performances during the 2016/17 season in all competitions, both domestic and international, and at club and national team levels.

BSE board approves another 5-year term for Ashish Chauhan as CEO

- ❖ Top stock exchange BSE's board has approved another five-year term for its chief Ashish Chauhan, who has steered a strong turnaround and a highly- successful initial public offering (IPO) of the bourse with strong business expansion. Chauhan, who joined BSE as deputy chief executive officer (CEO) in 2009, was made MD and CEO for a period of five years with effect from November 2, 2012. The board approved re-appointment of Ashishkumar Chauhan as BSE's Managing Director and CEO for a further period of five years from November 2, 2017, to November 1, 2022.

Two-day Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo from Aug 31

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will travel to Colombo to participate in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference to be held from August 31 in which Sri Lankan prime minister and president are among key speakers. Foundation, a Delhi-based think tank, will host the IOC 2017 in collaboration with RSIS, Singapore, and NIFS, Colombo—both research and study centres—and the theme of the conference is peace, progress and prosperity. This will be second IOC conference. The first was held in Singapore last year in partnership with think tanks from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh