



India's first hyperloop coming up in Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The journey between Vijayawada and Amaravati, could soon be a 5-minute ride, with Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) signing an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh government to build a connecting road between the two cities. The proposed route for the connector would be between the city centres of Vijayawada and Amravati. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that HTT, an American research firm, has signed with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB), is a first of its kind in India. The project will use a Public Private Partnership model with funding primarily from private investors. The project is expected to create 2,500 jobs and develop the region with its ultra-high-speed transportation.

Indo-US Exercise "YudhAbhyas 2017"

- ❖ A joint military exercise between India and the USA, "Yudh Abhyas-2017" will be held in Washington, USA from 14 to 27 September 2017. 'YudhAbhyas' is one of the largest joint military training and defense corporation endeavors between India and USA. This will be the 13th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

APEDA develops mobile app for farm registration, certification

- ❖ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has developed a mobile app for farmers to facilitate registration, testing and certification of certain fruits and vegetables. It said the app "Hortinet" is an integrated traceability system developed by APEDA for providing internet-based services to the stakeholders. The app will facilitate "farm registration, testing and certification of grape, pomegranate and vegetables for export from India to the European Union in compliance with standards". This initiative is expected to increase the accessibility and reach of the traceability software system among farmers and other stakeholders. The app would also assist state horticulture and agriculture departments to capture real time details of farmers, farm location, products and details of inspection.

September 8: International Literacy Day

- ❖ International Literacy Day is observed on 8th September every year to emphasize the importance of literacy to individuals, society and communities. The theme of this year's International Literacy Day, is 'Literacy in a Digital World'. A special two-day event will be organized at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, with an overall aim to look at what kind of literacy skills people need to navigate increasingly in the digitally-mediated societies. In India, the National Literacy Mission Authority has planned several functions at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi would including felicitation to dignitaries and conferring of the Saakshar Bharat Awards. The National Literacy Mission was initiated by the government on 5th May 1988 with the objective of eradicating illiteracy. In 1951, when first Census was conducted after Independence, the literacy rate of country was merely 18 per cent. However, in the last Census held in 2011, the country has achieved a literacy rate of around 73 per cent.

World University Rankings 2018: IIT Delhi, IISc Bangalore Slip In Times Higher Education Rankings

- ❖ Two UK institutions lead the Times Higher Education World University Rankings of the best universities for the first time in its history, with Oxford holding on to the number one spot for the second year in a row, while Cambridge has risen to second place. According to the rankings, India's representation has also declined, from 31 institutions to 30, while eight of its universities have slipped to a lower band. "The country's flagship university, the Indian Institute of Science, has been demoted from the 201-250 cohort to the 251-300 band as its research income and citation impact have declined. IIT Delhi slipped to 501-600 band from its previous year band of 351-400 while IIT Kanpur also fall from 401-500 to 501-600. Among the IITs, IIT Bombay's ranking of 351-400 band remained unchanged. While, China is the only BRICS nation that has advanced dramatically; it is now the fourth most-represented nation in the table, with 60 universities, including seven in the top 200, up from four last year.

Habib Bank to Wind Up From USA

- ❖ US banking regulators ordered Pakistan's Habib Bank to shut its New York office on the issue of not heeding concerns over possible terrorist financing and money laundering. Habib Bank, Pakistan's largest private bank facilitated billions of dollars of transactions with Saudi private bank, Al Rajhi Bank, which reportedly has links to al Qaeda and failed to do enough to ensure that the funds were not laundered or used for terrorism. A fine of 225 million Dollars is also imposed on the bank.

Narmada Mahotsav Started in Gujarat

- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani flagged off statewide 'Narmada Mahotsav Yatra' from Surendranagar district. The aim of this Narmada Mahotsav Yatra - is to create awareness about the importance of increased water supply from Narmada canal-based projects to different parts of the state. The 10 days long Narmada Mahotsav Yatra has also been flagged off in other districts, which will end at Dabhoi- in Narmada district where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the gathering.

Godrej's Sunil Kataria appointed as leader of the Indian delegation for the AdAsia Congress

- ❖ The Advertising Council of India (ACI) & The Advertising Club has announced the appointment of Sunil Kataria, business head, Godrej Consumer Products as leader of the Indian delegation for the AdAsia Congress to be held in Bali. The 30th edition of the media and advertising awards organized bi-annually by the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA) will see global marketing and creative industry practitioners be a part of the ideas exchange platform. The Advertising Council of India (ACI) was formed on April 20, 1999 by the Standing Committee on Advertising (STACA).

Sankara Narayanan takes charge as MD & CEO of Vijaya Bank

- ❖ R A Sankara Narayanan has taken charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Vijaya Bank. He has taken over the reigns of the bank from Kishore Sansi, who reached superannuation on August 31. Narayanan is a post-graduate in Public Administration with an MBA in Finance, CAIIB, PGDPM, PGDFM, DTIRM, DCP and BRM. He joined Bank of India as a direct recruit officer in 1983 and has headed various branches, zones and national banking groups across the country and many other departments in the corporate office, including treasury, retail, international banking, corporate credit, risk management, compliance, retail, marketing, recovery and human resources, with overseas assignments in Tokyo and Singapore