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Pat Hickey resigns from International Olympic Committee Board after ticket-selling scandal

- ❖ Mr.Pat Hickey has resigned from his member position in the International Olympic Committee Executive Board after he was accused in a ticket selling scandal in Rio Olympics 2016, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was arrested by Brazilian police during the Rio Olympics 2016 and was held in jail. He was later released on bail. He has claimed innocent of his charges till date. Mr.Hickey has stated in the letter that once he proves his innocence against all charges he wishes to rejoin the committee as a member.

Former Cong MP Shyama Singh passes away

- ❖ Congress leader and former Lok Sabha MP from Aurangabad in Bihar, Shyama Singh, died after a prolonged illness.Singh (74), the wife of former Kerala governor Nikhil Kumar. She was also the daughter-in-law of former Bihar chief minister Satyendra Narayan Sinha.Singh entered Parliament in 1999 from the Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat of Bihar. She was also the vice president of Bihar Congress.

Kochi to host summit on coastal shipping and waterways

- ❖ Kochi will host the 5th edition of the ‘Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017’ on 22nd of September at Hotel Crowne Plaza announced on 10th of Sept. 2017. Kerala Governor P Sathasivam will present the India Seatrade Award for Excellence in Coastal Shipping & Inland Water Transportation. The summit will be an initiative to explore the potential of coastal shipping and waterways. It will also help to build a shared commitment and decode the role that each stakeholder will have to play in integrating the coastal and waterways transport infrastructure.

Prince Charles Becomes Longest-Serving Prince of Wales

- ❖ Prince Charles, the heir to Britain’s throne, became the longest-serving Prince of Wales in history. The 68-year-old broke the record of Queen Victoria’s oldest son Albert, who went on to become King Edward VII after holding the title of Prince of Wales for more than 59 years before becoming monarch. Prince Charles is the 21st Prince of Wales in the current line. Prince Charles was created Prince of Wales when he was nine years old on July 26, 1958. He has now held the title for more than 59 years.

India, Sri Lanka hold ministerial level talks in New Delhi

- ❖ On September 9,2017, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Sri Lankan counterpart Tilak Marapana held wide-ranging talks to deepen bilateral relationship between the two countries. It is Marapana’s first overseas visit after assuming charge as foreign minister on 15th August Marapana

also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluding the official part of his three-day visit. Talks on the plight of fisherman issue was discussed from both sides, the talks are going on for the past one year in Columbo to arrive at a permanent solution. Wide range of co-operation in the areas of trade and investment. Faster implementation of bilateral projects like finalising the Mattala airport project.

World Congress of Optometry begins in Hyderabad

- ❖ The second World Congress of Optometry began in Hyderabad to discuss new ideas and share research and knowledge about various facets of optometry. It will be focused on the future of optometry, upgrading optometrists' skills, as well as developing clinical and professional knowledge and skills. The conference theme is 'Accessible, quality vision and eye health'. The biennial congress is a World Council of Optometry (WCO) initiative organised in partnership with the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO) and the India Vision Institute (IVI).

SEBI Advisory Committee to Discuss Trading Hours Extension

- ❖ An advisory committee of the Securities and Exchange Board of India is likely to discuss a proposal for extending stock market trading hours. The stock market in India currently opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3.30 p.m., but there is a view, including among stock exchanges, that the trade hours could be extended till up to 7.30 p.m. to better align domestic trading with global markets. The 19-member committee is led by Jayanth R Varma, professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. The move to extend trading timings will only serve to push up costs and will hurt small and medium brokers the most.

Nirmala Sitharaman inducted into CCS, CCEA, CCPA

- ❖ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was elevated in the recent Cabinet restructuring process, the government has not only included her in the high-profile Cabinet Committee on Security, but also made her a full-time member of the Cabinet Committees on Economic and Political Affairs. The Cabinet Committee on Security led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been expanded to include Ms. Sitharaman. Home Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj as well as Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley continue as members of the committee. Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan have also been upgraded from special invitees to full-time members of the CCEA.

BSNL and Punjab National Bank (PNB) Join Hands for Mobile Wallet Speedpay Rollout

- ❖ Punjab National Bank and state-run firm BSNL teamed up to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country. PNB Speedway wallet will operate like any other mobile wallet for paying bills, recharging phone besides its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorized retail outlets. Under the agreement, BSNL will expand Speedpay services in Punjab, Chandigarh (UT), Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand.