



Saina & Srikanth climb up ladder in latest BWF world ranking

- ❖ Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth climbed up the ladder in the latest BWF world ranking. Saina, who won a bronze at the World Championship, jumped four rungs to be placed at the 12th spot, while Kidambi Srikanth also improved two positions. Among others, Ajay Jayaram and B Sai Praneeth also improved by one and two places respectively to be placed at 16th and 17th spots. Mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy improved a place to be at the 19th spot, while women's doubles combo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki were static at 24th. World Championship silver medallist, P V Sindhu, retained her 4th position.

Ahmedabad gets India's first World Heritage City certificate

- ❖ Ahmedabad in Gujarat on Friday was formally accorded the status of India's first World Heritage City with UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova handing over the certificate in this regard to Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. On July 8, India secured the nomination for Ahmedabad on UNESCO's World Heritage list during the 41st Session of World Heritage Committee. The honour makes the walled city of Ahmedabad the first city in India, and the third in Asia. India now has a total of 36 World Heritage Inscriptions -- 28 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site. India is second after China in terms of number of world heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region, and overall seventh in the world.

Europe unveils world's most powerful X-ray laser

- ❖ The world's most powerful X-ray laser has begun operating at a facility where scientists will attempt to recreate the conditions deep inside the sun and produce film-like sequences of viruses and cells. The machine, called the European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL), acts as a high-speed camera that can capture images of individual atoms in a few millionths of a billionth of a second.

Amazon to help implement Karnataka milk scheme

- ❖ Amazon announced a partnership with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to implement the Karnataka government's 'Ksheera Bhagya' Scheme in the city, wherein schoolchildren would be provided a glass of milk each five days a week. The partnership aims to reach out to 170,000 children across 1,300 government schools in the state. The scheme is a dream project conceived by Karnataka Milk Federation on Chief Minister's (Siddaramaiah) suggestion to help poor children by providing them nutritious food essential for healthy growth and all-round development of schoolchildren.

Union Minister launches scheme for senior citizens belonging to BPL category

- ❖ Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched a scheme that provides for physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to the BPL category in Gujarat. This ambitious scheme, is expected to benefit 5, 20,000 senior citizens over a period of three years. The centrally-sponsored scheme, 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana', was unveiled on

April 1 this year and since then it has already been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Under the scheme, devices will be distributed to senior citizens free of cost.

Shallot processing centre opens in Perambalur

- ❖ A central processing centre for shallots (small onions) has come up in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur village. The Common Food Processing Incubation Centre was set up at a cost of 1 crore to prevent wastage of shallots and to increase farmers' income, said Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Food Processing Minister, who inaugurated the centre on Thursday. The centre will produce fresh shallot, peeled shallot, onion powder, onion paste and onion flakes. Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries launched Common Food Processing Incubation Center

Gaurav Bidhuri Clinches Bronze Medal At World Boxing Championships

- ❖ Gaurav Bidhuri completed his dream debut at the AIBA World Boxing Championships with a bronze in the bantamweight category (56kg), becoming the fourth Indian ever to win a medal at the global meet. Bidhuri, who hails from Delhi, lost to another debutant, 19-year-old Duke Ragan of the US in the semifinals in Hamburg on Thursday, settling for bronze -- India's only medal from this edition. The 24-year-old Bidhuri, who has been struggling from a back injury for almost six months, was happy to return home with a medal, which came after a lot pain and struggle the last few months.

Environment Ministry to Launch 'Prakriti Khoj' – An Environment Quiz

- ❖ The Environment Ministry will launch an environment awareness initiative, under which an online environmental quiz competition named "Prakriti Khoj" – an Environment Quiz to be conducted at the national level. The quiz is being launched on September 5 on the occasion of Teachers' Day. It will be an ideal medium to reach out to young minds through a fun-filled interactive learning mode to trigger their sensitivity towards environment protection and conservation. The objective of the quiz is to generate interest among school children about the science related to environment, interactions within it and the problems therein. This will help in sensitizing the children/youth to issues related to environment and development and motivate children towards environment conservation-oriented lifestyles.

Saab, Adani join hands for defence manufacturing

- ❖ Swedish defence giant Saab and Indian conglomerate Adani group have announced collaboration in defence manufacturing entailing billions of dollars of investment, mainly eyeing a contract for single-engine fighter jets for the Indian Air Force. The government is set to procure a fleet of single-engine fighters for the IAF and US defence firm Lockheed Martin will be a major competitor for Saab for the deal. The two companies said the collaboration will combine the technical and product excellence of Saab, along with the industrial engineering, system integration and mega project execution capabilities of Adani with the intention to manufacture defence systems locally in India.

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