



RACE™



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NATIONAL

DEFENCE ➤ India Among Top 5 Biggest Defence Spenders

India has emerged as one of the **five biggest military spenders in 2017** by surpassing France. The report was produced by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**. With an expenditure of **USD 63.9 billion** on military in 2017, India marked a **5.5 per cent rise** from the figures in 2016. **China** made the biggest leap with an increase of 5.6 per cent to **USD 228 billion**. The **United States** retained the **top spot** at **USD 610 billion**.

Kisan Kalyan Karyashala

In a massive, countrywide farmer outreach exercise, the central government has organized block level **Kisan Kalyan Karyashala**. Under Kisan Kalyan Karyashala, farmers from each block will gather to interact with agriculture officers, scientists and progressive farmers to **discuss ways to increase their income through adoption of new technology**.

14 Indian Cities In World's 20 Most Polluted Cities List

Delhi and Varanasi are among the 14 Indian cities that figure in a list of **20 most polluted cities in the world** in terms of **PM_{2.5} levels (Particulate Matter)** in 2016. In terms of **PM₁₀ levels**, **13 cities** in India figure among the 20 most polluted cities of the world in 2016. Nine out of 10 people in the world breathe air containing high levels of pollutants. The data was released by **World Health Organisation**.

PMSSY To Continue

In a major boost to expansion of health care infrastructure in the country, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)** beyond 12th Five Year Plan to 2019-20. The financial outlay for this purpose is **Rs 14,832 crore**.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

India- South Africa Business Summit

The first India-South Africa Business Summit 2018 held at the Sandton Convention Centre, **Johannesburg**. The event held at the presence of Indian Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu**, and South Africa's Minister of Trade and Industry **Rob Davies**. The Forum was led by **Adi Godrej, chairman of the Godrej Group** from the Indian side and **Vivian Reddy, founder of the Edison Group** on the South African side.

INTERNATIONAL

Dominican Republic Ties-Up With China, Breaks With Taiwan

The **Dominican Republic's** government has announced that it is establishing diplomatic relations with **China** and breaking its diplomatic ties with **Taiwan**. **Dominican Republic** will recognize Taiwan as an **"inalienable part of Chinese territory."**

LEPV- Dominican Republic ❖ Capital: **Santo Domingo** ❖ Currency: **Dominican peso**

APPOINTMENTS

Sitanshu Kar

Sitanshu Ranjan Kar took over as principal **Spokesperson of Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB)** in New Delhi. Kar succeeded **Frank Noronha**.

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Mallikarjun Kharge

Mallikarjun Kharge has been appointed as the new chairman of the 21-member **Public Accounts Committee of Parliament**. Kharge replaced Congress leader **KV Thomas**.

AWARDS & HONOURS

PC Chandra Puraskaar

Legendary singer **Asha Bhosle** was honoured with **26th PC Chandra Puraskaar** for her contribution in the field of Indian music. **Sharmila Tagore** was the Chief Guest at the event who also presented the prestigious award to **Asha Bhosle**.

Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018

Lewis Hamilton has won at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. **Lewis Hamilton is the Mercedes driver**. The 2nd place was got by **Kimi Raikkonen** (Ferrari player) and 3rd by **Sergio Perez** (Force India player).

Ankita Raina In Target Olympic Podium

Tennis player **Ankita Raina**, who has displayed good form this season both in the Fed Cup and the professional circuit, was included in the government's **Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme**. The TOP Scheme was formulated by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports within the overall ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

SPORTS

India Ranked 6th In The List Of Doping Violations

India ranked **sixth (from third)** in a report published for 2016 and maintained their dubious record of being among top 10 nations with regards to doping violations. The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** published its report as per samples collected in 2016. For three years in a row from **2013-15, India was ranked third** in doping violations.

LEPV- WADA ❖ Headquarters: **Montreal, Canada** ❖
President: **Craig Reedie**

Ashok Mitra

Noted **economist** and the **first Finance Minister** in West Bengal **Ashok Mitra** has passed away. He also worked with the Central Government as the **Chief Economic Adviser** and was a member of **Rajya Sabha**.

OBITUARY

IMPORTANT DAYS

Press Freedom Day

The World Press Freedom Day was observed on **May 3** every year. Theme: **Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law**.

ABBREVIATIONS IN THE NEWS

PMSSY: Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

WADA: World Anti-Doping Agency

SIPRI: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

NSDF: National Sports Development Fund

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