

MoU inked to dismantle oil refinery in US for relocation near Vizag

The Government has signed a MoU with a private company, Amerind Petroleum, promoted by a Hyderabad-based industrialist, Syed Badruddin, to dismantle a running oil refinery near New York in the US and relocate it near Visakhapatnam at a cost of Rs. 11,136-crore. It would be the first venture being launched in Petroleum, Chemicals and Petro-chemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) being developed over 6,000 sq km area along the coast between Visakhapatnam and Kakinada ports. The PCPIR in the State is one of the four sanctioned by the Centre for the entire country.

Wetland Development Project to be taken up in Pulicat lake

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has prepared a five-year management plan (up to 2017) to maintain brackish water eco-system in the lake, enhance livelihood for fishermen dependent on the water body, restoration of mangrove forests, improve marine productivity and preserve eco-tourism in and around the lake. Under 'Pulicat Wetland Development Project', the MoEF will conduct a study on the sources of fresh water flowing into the lake from Swarnamukhi and Kalangi rivers and other catchment areas and the inflow of salt water into the lake from the Bay of Bengal.

Saraswati Samman presented to Bhyrappa

Eminent Kannada writer S.L. Bhyrappa was honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2010 for his epic novel "Mandra", his musical take on the question of art against morality and other philosophies of life. The Saraswati Samman is given away by the K.K. Birla Foundation to a work published in the last 10 years picked up from among the works published in 25 Indian languages. Bhyrappa, 77, a veteran of 22 novels, many of which have been translated and have been bestsellers, had published "Mandra" or "The lower musical note" in 2002.

Netrani island: issue of notice to Defence Ministry ordered

The Karnataka High Court has ordered issue of notices to the Ministry of Defence, the Indian Navy, and the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board on a public interest litigation seeking to stop the Navy from using an island of heritage value near Bhatkal for its "target practice". The petition states that Netrani Island, situated at a distance of nine nautical miles from Bhatkal, is being used by the Navy for "target practice" from several decades, but there is no information on whether the Navy has obtained any permission from the authorities concerned.

IAF to activate advanced landing ground today

The Indian Air Force will activate an improved and expanded Advance Landing Ground (ALG) at Vijaynagar in Arunachal Pradesh as part of its plan to improve infrastructure close to the border with China in the northeastern part of the country. The airfield, not used for the past three years, is situated close to Myanmar. Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.J. Singh will inaugurate the ALG, situated at 4, 200 feet above the sea-level. The ALG was put to use in the 1962 operations, but closed in 2009 due to the poor condition of the runway. It has now been renovated and is ready to receive the first flight of AN-32 aircraft.

Afghan, Palestine activists get UNESCO award

Afghan women's rights campaigner Anarkali Honaryar and Palestinian peace activist Khaled Abu Awwad have been conferred the 2011 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, an award instituted in memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The \$1,00,000 award will be divided equally between the two laureates, who were selected by an international jury. The award ceremony will be held at the UNESCO in Paris on December 9. The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize was created in 1995 on the initiative of Indian writer and diplomat Madanjeet Singh to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is awarded every two years to individuals or institutions for outstanding contributions to the promotion of tolerance and non-violence.

Rajasthan plans country's first water resources law

Rajasthan is likely to enact a new law on management of water resources which will address the delicate subjects of demand and supply and specify duties and responsibilities of officials at various levels. The proposed legislation will also ensure public participation in the decision-making process for the water sector. According to State Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources) Ram Lubhaya, this would be the first ever legislation on water management in the country and would prove to be a "milestone" in harnessing of water resources. Bangalore's National Law University has prepared the draft statute for the State Government. He pointed out that similar laws had been enacted in Australia and in several African countries.

International homoeopathic congress in Delhi next month

The 66th World Congress of the Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI) will be held in the Capital from December 1 to 4 at Siri Fort Auditorium. This year's theme, 'Homoeopathy for Public Health', will emphasise safe and effective cure through homoeopathy. The event is being co-organised by the Homoeopathic Medical Association of India (HMAI), Indian Institute of Homoeopathic Physicians (IIHP) and Asian Homoeopathic Medical League (AHML).

China calls for dialogue on India's NSG entry

Different parties had "concerns" over India's possible entry into the 46-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) cartel, China said in the wake of Australia's moves towards reversing a ban on exporting uranium to India. Even as China prepares to go ahead with civilian nuclear cooperation with Pakistan in likely contravention of the trade cartel's guidelines, it has called for consultations with "all states" before any moves are made to expand the NSG to include India.

Space mission a success: China

China's mission to achieve a first-ever docking exercise in space, part of plans to build its own space station, was "a complete success", said officials as the unmanned Shenzhou-8 aircraft returned to Earth following a more than month-long docking exercise. As the spacecraft landed in the Gobi desert in the northern Inner Mongolia region by parachute, Chinese officials hailed its return as marking the completion of a key first step for China's space station ambitions. Shenzhou-8 rendezvoused and docked with the Tiangong-1, or "Heavenly Palace", space laboratory module. China is now only the third nation, after the United States and Russia, to achieve a docking in space.

M&M to form venture with U.S. firm

Mahindra & Mahindra and U.S.-based Telephonics Corporation, a leading designer, developer and manufacturer of high-technology integrated information, communication and sensor system solutions to military and commercial markets, announced a joint venture.

Nissan plans diesel engine unit inside Oragadam plant

Japanese car maker Nissan is setting up a diesel engine plant inside its manufacturing facility at Oragadam in Tamil Nadu. Initially, it will produce 2 lakh engines. This could be scaled up to 4 lakh numbers. Sunil Rekhi, Chief Financial Officer of Nissan Motor India, said Nissan would come out with the diesel version of its just-launched 'Sunny' sedan at the Auto Expo 2012 in January in Delhi.

Lupin to acquire Japan's I'rom Pharma

Pharmaceutical firm Lupin will acquire Japan's I'rom Pharmaceutical Co for an undisclosed sum as it looks to expand footprint in the country.

GE energy business gets new President

GE India has appointed Banmali Agrawala as President and CEO of its energy business in India. He was Executive Director of Strategy and Business Development at Tata Power Company.

SAIL, POSCO sign MoU

SAIL and POSCO have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for commencing feasibility study for establishment of a joint venture company for producing cold-rolled non-oriented (CRNO) products and formation of a joint venture with FINEX facility at Bokaro or any other location.

Richa makes a splash

Richa Mishra hogged the limelight of the 65th National aquatic championships at the Veer Budhu Bhagat Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand. She not only became the first woman to clock the best Indian time in 800m freestyle but also emerged the first to win three gold medals of the meet and set two senior championship marks (the other in 200m freestyle).