

Tirupati Balaji temple now in Kurukshetra

The holy city of Kurukshetra will be developed as a science and technology hub also. Laying the foundation of Sri Venkateswara Swamy (Balaji) Temple, at Kurukshetra Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the city is already being developed as a spiritual and tourist centre of international level. The Balaji temple will be constructed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) over an area of 5.52 acres on land provided by the Kurukshetra Development Board and at an estimated cost of Rs.30 crore.

Whistleblower Bill moved in RS

The government moved The Whistleblowers Protection Bill, 2011, which the Lok Sabha has already passed, in the Rajya Sabha with an amendment that seeks to keep issues relating to national security, sovereignty and integrity out of its ambit while seeking to protect public servants exposing corruption. Once passed by the Rajya Sabha, the Bill will be referred back to the Lok Sabha for considering the amendment. The Special Protection Group has also been kept out of the purview of the Bill, though those raising issues of corruption and violation of human rights in the Defence Ministry and intelligence agencies will be protected under the proposed law. Those disclosing the names of the whistleblower will be punished and the competent authority cannot drop a complaint without giving a personal hearing to the whistleblower.

House sparrow declared “State Bird of Delhi”

The good old house sparrow, which is becoming rarer by the day, has been declared “State Bird of Delhi” by Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit as part of a new campaign to save the species and enhance awareness about their life and habitat. The Nature Forever Society will be providing all help and resources to the Delhi Government in this regard.

Double-decker train for Jaipur

From August 16, the journey between Delhi and Jaipur can be a new experience as people will have the opportunity of travelling by an AC double-decker train. The much awaited train will be flagged off by Union Railway Minister on August 16 from Sarai Rohilla station. The train will cover the distance between Delhi and Jaipur in five hours. A daily service, the train will leave Sarai Rohilla at 5.35 pm and reach Jaipur at 10.05 pm. The AC double-decker coach has a seating capacity of 120 and every coach has fire extinguishers near its gate.

Central teams for Rajasthan, Karnataka to assess drought

Central teams are being deputed to Rajasthan and Karnataka to assess the drought situation there due to a deficient monsoon. Besides Rajasthan and Karnataka, Haryana and Gujarat have declared some areas as drought-hit. Maharashtra has also reported a drinking water shortage in Madhya and Marathwada region.

A big loss for BCCI, says Srinivasan

Board of Control for Cricket in India president has expressed his condolences to the family of Union Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, who recently passed away. Mr. Deshmukh was chairman of the BCCI's media committee and president of the Mumbai Cricket Association also.

Three tiger cubs die in zoo

The three cubs born to tigress Kaveri in Mysore zoo on August 11 have died. While two cubs died before, the third one passed away on August 14, according to zoo authorities. This was the second litter of Kaveri, which was paired with tiger Amulya on both the occasions. Kaveri gave birth to a female cub on November 29 last year, but it rejected the cub later. In spite of being hand-reared in the zoo hospital for five days, the cub did not survive.

'Anti-terror' exercises in Tibet

China held anti-terrorism exercises in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) amid reports of unrest, with two self-immolation protests and clashes with police forces in Tibetan areas. Officials said the exercises were held at the Lhasa railway station and the Gonggar airport in the TAR capital. Authorities cited intelligence reports suggesting that hostile forces would plan activities ahead of the crucial 18th Party Congress, scheduled for October or November.

The pioneer of the women's magazine

Helen Gurley Brown, who as the author of *Sex and the Single Girl* shocked early-1960s America with the news that unmarried women not only had sex but also thoroughly enjoyed it and who as the Editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine spent the next three decades telling those women precisely how to enjoy it even more, died in New York. She was 90.

Return of the Raleigh

When cycling was the main mode of commuting for many, a brand that rode high among cyclists was Raleigh. Now, the 125-year-old Raleigh-England has come back to India. Ludhiana-based Naren International, which entered into a licence agreement in January this year, has launched nearly 12 models of Raleigh mountain bikes. It plans to come out with many more, including the Raleigh-USA range, and take the total number of models to 26 by the end of this year.

Rousing reception for Sushil, Yogeshwar

It was a momentous occasion for Indian wrestling and the fans did their best to make it memorable. The homecoming of Olympic silver medallist Sushil Kumar and bronze winner Yogeshwar Dutt from London triggered massive celebrations at the Indira Gandhi International airport as the duo landed.