

Amarinder Singh sworn in as chief minister



Captain Amarinder Singh was sworn in as Punjab chief minister today after the Congress party's emphatic win in the Assembly elections held last month.

- Eight cabinet ministers were also sworn in after him.
- Amarinder, who recently turned 75, was the Congress party's projected chief ministerial candidate. He won from the Patiala seat in the

Assembly elections.

- The former royal has been largely credited for the Congress party's win in Punjab where it got a more-than-comfortable victory, winning 77 of 117 seats. This is his second stint as chief minister.
- Sworn in along with Amarinder were cabinet ministers Navjot Singh Sidhu , Manpreet Badal, Brahm Mohindra, Charanjit Channi, Rana Gurjit and Tripat Bajwa; Aruna Choudhary and Razia Sultana were sworn in as ministers of state with independent charge.

Largest Indian Engineering Sourcing Show opens in Chennai



Unfazed by global headwinds and forces of protectionism in some of the leading economies, India is all set to showcase its technological and engineering prowess to top international firms at the 6th edition of the International Engineering Sourcing

Show(IESS) at Chennai, expecting significant business deals during the three-day event, beginning March 16.

- IESS VI was inaugurated in a gala ceremony on 16th March 2017 in Chennai by Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman, Minister of Commerce & Industry (Independent Charge), Government of India; Shri Denis Manturov, Minister of Trade & Industry, Russian Federation; Shri Girish Shankar, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry Government of India, Shri Mangat Ram Sharma, Principal Secretary, Government

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of Tamil Nadu, Shri T S Bhasin, Chairman, EEPIC India and other senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce & EEPIC India.

- Prior to the inauguration, Smt Sitharaman and Mr. Manturov had a cordial meeting where a host of bilateral issues were discussed.
- They agreed that there is enormous potential to enhance the bilateral trade, which is presently US\$ 6.62 billion. They discussed the early operationalization of International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) that would cut the time and cost for transportation of goods between both countries.
- They also deliberated upon other measures to enhance the trade ties, including the proposed FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.
- The need to finalise a revised Bilateral Investment Treaty was also noted. Smt. Sitharaman also invited Russia to be the 'Partner Country' in India International Jewellery Show 2017 scheduled to be held in July 2017 in Mumbai and Advantage Healthcare India scheduled to be held in October 2017 in Delhi / Mumbai.

Festival of India Being Organized in Ukraine from March – October, 2017



A Festival of India is being organized in Ukraine from March – October, 2017.

- The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music, Rangoli Exhibition, Mango and Film Festivals, Seminars on Yoga and Think Tank and Fashion Week in different cities of Ukraine, namely, Kyiv, Odessa,

Mykolaiv, Kherson, Lviv, Ivano Frankivsk, Poltava and Ternopil.

- Following events will be showcased:
- Kathak Dance Group by Vidha Lal Group from 8-14 March, 2017
- Folk Dance organized by West Zone Cultural Centre from 21-27 June, 2017
- Yoga Seminar through Ministry of Ayush in June, 2017
- Mango Festival through APEDA in June, 2017
- Rangoli Exhibition by Ritu Kaushik group from 15-19 August, 2017

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Indian films and documentaries through Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in September/October, 2017
- Participation of Indian Artists in Ukrainian Fashion Week through Ministry of Textile in September/October, 2017
- Think Tank Seminar by Indian Council of World Affairs in September/October, 2017
- Screening of Movie 'Gandhi' on 2nd October, 2017

Deputy PM and Home Minister of Nepal calls on Union Home Minister



The Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Nepal Shri Bimalendra Nidhi called on the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh here today.

- Shri Rajnath Singh expressed his grief on the recent death of a Nepalese

national at the Indo-Nepal border in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.

- He stated that India will carry out a fair and impartial enquiry into the incident and associate the Nepalese counterparts in the effort to arrive at the truth.
- Shri Rajnath Singh said that wherever strip maps have been finalised, the same should be signed by the concerned authorities at the earliest.
- Shri Rajnath Singh further mentioned that the two countries enjoy friendly and family like relationship with each other in all areas including security and border cooperation.
- Shri Rajnath Singh said that any incident taking place even unknowingly, should be settled through joint inspection and investigation by the representatives of two sides.
- The Home Minister also asked for regular meetings between DG, SSB and Nepalese counterpart agency Armed Police Force.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

National Seminar on “Challenges In Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016” Held



The Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Divyang Jain) under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organised a “National Seminar on Challenges in Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016” here today with a view to draw out plan for effective implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPD Act, 2016) and to work out best strategies to implement the Act in comprehensive manner for the welfare of Divyangjan of India.

- The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri N.S. Kang, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- The RPD Act, 2016 was passed in the Parliament in Winter Session on 14th December, 2016 and was notified on 28th December, 2016.
- The Act has made various wider provisions for protection of the rights & privileges of Divyangjan by way of raising reservation in services and inclusion of additional 14 categories of disabilities under the Act which also includes new Acid attack victims, Thalassemia, Haemophilia, Dwarfism, Learning Disabilities and Parkinson disease.
- The new provisions & categories of disabilities, have been made in accordance with the recommendation of UN Convention held in 2007, wherein India was also a signatory to these recommendations.

New Chairman of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis along with two members assumed their Office



The newly appointed Chairman of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Shri Manhar Valji Bhai Zala along with two members Smt. Manju Diler and Shri Dalip Kallu Hathibed assumed his office here today.

- Welcoming the new Chairman and the members, Secretary of the

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Commission Shri Narain Dass said that the Commission can now work in a more effective manner as the posts of the Chairman and the members were lying vacant for the past almost one year.

- The Safai Karamcharis all over the country have been eagerly waiting for the new Chairman and the members so that they can take up their grievances with them.
- Expressing his deep gratitude to the Government, the new Chairman Shri Zala assured the Safai Karamcharis present on the occasion that he along with his new team will ensure that issues affecting their socio-economic and working conditions will be addressed to in the right earnest.
- He also said that the new Commission will see to it that the benefits of rehabilitation and welfare schemes being run by Central Government reach to their intended beneficiaries.

Uma Bharti launches Cleanliness Fortnight in her Ministry



Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti launched cleanliness fortnight in her Ministry by administering Swachh Bharat pledge to the officials and

employees of her Ministry in New Delhi today.

- Speaking on the occasion the Minister referred to the Clean Indian Mission of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and said every citizen has to be aware about the need for cleanliness.
- She said that the countries in the world which are considered very clean, we find that every citizen there is very conscious about cleanliness.
- Sushri Bharti called upon the employees of her Ministry to keep not only their office clean but should also endeavour for cleanliness around their residence also.
- The Minister requested them to devote at least two hours every week toward this cause.

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- Alongwith the main function in New Delhi today simultaneous functions were organized at Allahabad in UP, Neemrana in Rajasthan, Chandrapur in Maharashtra and Roorkee and Devprayag in Uttrakhand.
- The Ministry has organized about 200 programmes along water bodies located in Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttrakhand, West Bengal, MP, UP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Manipur, Kerala and Jharkhand.
- The participation of NGOs, community groups and industrial houses has been sought in this programmes.

Swachhta Pakhwada successfully celebrated across the country by the Ministry of Women and Child Development



The Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrated Swachhta Pakhwada between 1st to 15th March, 2017 through the country along with the International Women's Day.

- Briefing the media on the successful completion of the swachhta pakhwada, the Secretary WCD, Ms. Leena Nair said that the women and children have a pivotal role to play in the Swachhta Mission.
- Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shri Parameshwaran Iyer was also present at the briefing held in New Delhi today.
- The theme of the Swachhta Pakhwada observed by the WCD Ministry was to spread swachhta awareness and implementation across the country with a focus on role of women and children in taking a leadership role for community led sanitation initiatives.
- It has been realized that lack of sanitation and hygiene has a far reaching impact on women and children's health and safety, dignity, education and livelihood, Ms. Leena Nair explained.

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