

World's Largest capstone found at Burial Site in Telangana



The archaeology department of Telangana has discovered the world's largest capstone after excavating an ancient human burial site in Siddipet district, department officials said.

- The efforts to lift this massive capstone was coordinated by S S Rangacharyulu, archaeology consultant and K Padmanabha, assistant director (museums), as this mission requires great precision and caution, Department officials said.
- A large crane lifted the huge capstone at the excavation site in Narmeta village on March 21, department officials said.
- "The capstone of the menhir burial reportedly weighs about 40 tonnes," they added.
- The archaeology department is all set to undertake DNA testing of various artefacts that have been discovered at this site which will help in tracing the lineage of pre-historic humans, their food habits, lifestyle, and how their population later became extinct, the officials said.
- Last year, team of experts from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered a signet made of clay with ornamental design was among the about 3,000 ancient artefacts at the Keezhadi Pallai Sandhaipudur village in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu during an excavation.

Sanction of 101 New Integrated Cold Chain Projects



India is one of the largest food producers in the world and is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables yet only 2.2% of our fruits and vegetables are processed.

- India requires affordable cold storages and cold chains at every food producing hub in the country.
- While existing cold storages are concentrated in few states and roughly 80 to 90% are used for potatoes, India has a long way to go.
- MoFPI is building National Cold Chain Grid in the country so that all food producing hubs are connected to cold storage and processing industries.
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been constantly involved in setting up new cold chain infrastructure which has both cold storage and processing facilities.
- The Ministry had announced sanction of 30 Cold Chain Projects in May, 2015.
- Today Ministry announces sanction of 101 new integrated Cold Chain Projects spread across the country.

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- These projects are for fruits and vegetables, dairy, fish, meat, marine, poultry, ready to eat/ready to cook sectors.

'Railwire Saathi' - wifi kiosks to be set up



Aiming to provide connectivity in remote areas, Railways will set up Wi-Fi hotspot kiosks at about 500 stations and help people access an array of online services, including various government schemes.

- Christened as Railwire Saathi, the Wi-Fi kiosks will function like a PCO for Digital India and enable people to use services like e-commerce, online banking, offer them access to open school/university and insurance schemes, e-ticketing for train and bus services among others.
- Automated form filling, mobile and DTH recharge are other services which the Railwire Saathi is expected to provide in areas with limited connectivity.
- The Railwire Saathi aims to provide connectivity to the unconnected and at the same time offer jobs opportunities in rural areas, a senior Railway Ministry official said.
- While Railways is equipping about 400 stations with free Wi-Fi service in association with Google, this scheme has dual aim - providing jobs as well as connectivity.

Anupam Kher receives Kala Ratan Award



Veteran actor Anupam Kher will be honoured with the Kala Ratan Award by Vice President Hamid Ansari.

- Anupam Kher was honoured him the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.
- The actor who has worked mainly in Hindi films has also appeared in acclaimed international films like Bend It Like Beckham, Bride and Prejudice, The Mistress Of Spices, Ang Lee's Lust, Caution, and David O. Russell's 2013 Oscar-winning Silver Linings Playbook.
- Anupam Kher Says Indian Films Does Not Have A Legendary Detective Figure
- He has also teamed with Harry Potter actor Jason Isaacs and Dev Patel for another film Hotel Mumbai.
- Coming to his Bollywood projects, he will soon be seen in Taapsee Pannu starrer Naam Shabana where superstar Akshay Kumar will have a cameo.

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India Wins Archery Team Gold at Asia Cup



The Indian men's compound archery team overcame Iran in a nail-biting encounter to win gold in the 2017 Asia Cup Tournament Stage 1, which concluded at Bangkok today.

- The Indian trio of Aman Saini, Shivansh Awasthi and Robert Singh shot 231 against Iran's 230 to win the title.
- Both teams started off well, scoring 58 points each in the first round. The Indian trio, though, got the better of the Iranians in the second round and took a two-point lead with a total of 116 against Iran's 114.
- The Iranian trio reduced the deficit to just one point with a total of 171 against India's 172 in the third.
- In the fourth and decisive round, which was also the highest in terms of scoring, it was a treat for the viewers as Iran shot 59 out of 60 to pose a tough challenge to the Indians.
- However, the Indian trio managed to hold on to their nerves and finished with an equal score to maintain a one-point lead over their opponents and clinch the title.

RBI proposes exchange of Rs.4500 in old notes for Nepalese



A team of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) visiting Nepal has hinted that it will allow exchange of up to Rs 4,500 in banned Indian currency notes to Nepali citizens.

- As India had earlier allowed Nepali citizens to possess up to Rs 25,000 each, the central bank's proposal has sent waves of nervousness among the Nepali public.
- An RBI team led by Dipali Pant Joshi, executive director, RBI, held talks with a Nepali team, led by Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) Deputy Governor Chintamani Siwakoti, in Kathmandu and offered to provide exchange facilities up to INR 4,500 in banned Indian currency notes and gave one week's window to complete the exchange formalities.
- However, the Nepali side has been pushing to arrange facilities up to Indian Rs 25,000.
- The NRB team has conveyed to the RBI team that it is also impossible to exchange banned Indian notes within a week as the Nepali side is yet to

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- conduct inventory of banned Indian bills possessed by Nepalis.
- However, the RBI team said it was ready to exchange Indian notes held with Nepali banking and financial institutions immediately but currency notes held by individuals should be exchanged through the banking system.

Shaun Tait Retires from All Forms of Cricket



Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait has called time on his cricketing career early Monday morning after having represented his country in three Tests, 35 One-Day Internationals and 21 Twenty20 Internationals during which he picked up 95 wickets.

- "The Wild Thing", Tait had over the years been nursing a series of elbow injuries and eventually decided to hang up his boots.
- Despite not having represented Australia since January last year against India, Tait was a regular in the Big Bash and the Sheffield Shield.
- In fact it was his performance in this very tournament that paved the way for his selection in the Australian Test team in 2004.
- He eventually made his Test debut against England at Trent Bridge in the 2005 Ashes.
- On 29 January 2008, Tait announced that he would take an "indefinite break from cricket, citing being physically and emotionally exhausted" and then a year later, retired from first-class cricket.
- In the shorter format however, Tait remained a vital cog in Australia's scheme of things. During the 2007 World Cup that Australia, won Tait picked up 23 wickets.

Sebastian Vettel Wins Australian Grand Prix



Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel on 26 March 2017 defeated Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton to clinch the 2017 Australian Grand Prix.

- It was Vettel's first win since the Singapore Grand Prix in September 2015.
- Born on 3 July 1987, Sebastian Vettel is a German racing driver.
- At present, he is driving in Formula One for Scuderia Ferrari.
- He is a four-time Formula One World Champion. He won the championship in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 with Red Bull Racing.
- He has held numerous "youngest" Formula One records.
- A few of them are: the youngest driver to have taken part in an official practice session of a Grand Prix (until Max Verstappen at the 2014 Japanese Grand Prix), to score championship points (until Daniil Kvyat at the 2014 Australian

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- Grand Prix), to lead a race (until Max Verstappen at the 2016 Spanish Grand Prix), and others.
- At present, he is in fourth place among all time race winners.

