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12 Mascot of the 35th National Games, Ammu, in Limca Book of World Records**Feb Sports > 35th National Games**

The mascot for the 35th national games, Ammu, the horn-bill, was included in the Limca Book of World Records for its lead role in Kalikkunna Kuttikalkkayi Bharatham Kathirikkunnu (India Awaits Children Who Play), which was staged in 147 schools across 7 districts in Kerala. The play aims to promote sports among children and encourages school children to take up sports with academics.

The horn-bill was chosen as a mascot to highlight Kerala's concern for its conservation as an endangered species. Also the mascot was given a feminine name to showcase the role of women in Kerala, which is the only Indian state to have a female population higher than the male population.

13 Sunil Chhetri awarded with 2014 AIFF Player of the year**Feb Sports > AIFF Player of the year**

Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri was awarded All India Football Federation's 2014 Player of the Year award. This is the fourth time that he had been awarded. The footballer had previously won the award thrice in 2007, 2011 and 2013. He also surpassed IM Vijayan's record of winning the award thrice. Chhetri was chosen as the winner by top coaches across the country. Besides Chhetri, national women's team striker Bala Devi was presented with the 2014 AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year and FIFA Referee Santosh Kumar from Kerala was presented the 2014 AIFF Award for Best Referee.

16 At 750MW, Madhya Pradesh to get world's largest solar power plant**Feb Science and Technology > World's largest solar power plant**

Next year on 15th August, the world's largest solar power plant of 750-megawatt capacity will be established in Rewa Madhya Pradesh. The plant will be much bigger than America's 550-megawatt Desert Sunlight solar project in California, commissioned four days ago. Acquisition of 1,500 hectares of land for the Rs 4000 crore project is close to completion and government agencies are likely to invite tenders from developers by April. The state government is setting up the plant in a joint venture with Solar Energy Corporation of India. The expected cost of power production is pegged at Rs 5 per/unit which would be lower than production costs in any solar project in the country, including the one at Neemuch in MP and Mehsana and Patan in Gujarat.

16 Civil nuclear pact signed by Sri Lanka and India**Feb Politics and government > Civil nuclear pact**

A bilateral agreement on civil nuclear cooperation was made between India and Sri Lanka besides deciding to expand defence and security cooperation. At the meeting attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, a commitment was made to find a solution to the fishermen issue by adopting a constructive and humanitarian approach. Apart from nuclear pacts, three other pacts pertaining to the field of agriculture and Sri Lanka's participation in the Nalanda University Project were signed too. Narendra Modi said that India was honoured that Sirisena had chosen the country for his first overseas destination after assuming charge. Expressing satisfaction with the results of the talks between the two countries, Modi said that the two countries are committed on exploring the potential of economic cooperation.

Others

11 Feb Ratnakar Bank invests in IBM's platform for mobile applications

Bank specific > Ratnakar Bank

In a bid to offer its customers flexible mobile applications, Ratnakar Bank Ltd. (RBL) has signed a deal with IT giant IBM, in order to build, deploy and manage its applications on IBM's MobileFirst Platform. This new integration will open doors to a completely new mobile banking space for the customers of RBL, with introduction of user specific and transaction specific mobile apps for credit and debit cards. It will also provide secure transactions to its customers and financial transactions across banks 24X7. With the expertise of IBM's MobileFirst Platform, RBL is planning to build a set of internal apps for employees to improve workplace productivity and an app that will combine the social media capability targeted towards the younger generation. The bank is also looking forward to reach financial inclusion customers through their applications by enabling them for payments.

11 Feb Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Scheme revised by Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Sports > Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Scheme

The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has revised the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Scheme. It will be given in four categories as per the revision. The four categories are – identification and nurturing of young talent, encouraging sports through corporate social responsibility, employment of sports-persons and sports welfare measures and development of sports. The revised scheme has also prescribed eligibility criteria for the four categories, a new category for encouragement of sports through Corporate Social Responsibility has been provided in the revised Scheme, which has been included in the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013. A special provision to recognise NGOs working towards sports development has also been added. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Scheme was introduced in 2009 to encourage and promote involvement of corporates, sports promotion boards and others in the promotion and development of sports in the country.

12 Feb Web-based tool launched to keep atrocities on dalits in check

Science and Technology > Dalits

The National Dalit Movement for Justice (NDMJ) has launched a Web-based tool called Atrocity Tracking and Monitoring (ATM) system, under the aegis of the National Coalition for strengthening SC&ST PoA Act (NCSPOA). This tool is launched to track the crimes happening in the most vulnerable sections (the dalits and adivasis) of the societies and help them avail timely justice. It will also enable dalit human rights activists and organisations to create and maintain a repository of cases, track records, and facilitate information exchange for timely action. This initiative was taken due to rising crimes against the SCs/STs between 2001 and 2012; women being affected the most. About 100 atrocity cases have already been reported through this system and e-mails and SMS notifications have been sent to the officials concerned. Training workshops are being held to teach the operations of the ATM system.

13 Feb Editor Unplugged: Media, Magnates, Netas and Me - book by Vinod Mehta launched

Books > Editor Unplugged

The book Editor Unplugged: Media, Magnates, Netas and Me written by Vinod Mehta was a popular topic of the media in first week of February 2015. The book, published on 15 December 2014 by Penguin India, revolves around a young Lucknow boy and gives an account of his experiences in the corridors of power in Delhi. The book gives the author's take on Narendra Modi, Arvind Kejriwal and the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and their coalition politics. The author also discusses the significant changes that were witnessed in the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections, through his characteristic sharp insights, wit and wisdom.

The book examines the lack of humour in our political leaders and changing perspective of the Indian middle class and along with the sweeping changes that took place in the print and TV media. Personalities such as Ratan Tata, Nira Radia, Khushwant Singh, Sachin Tendulkar and Arundhati Roy have also been discussed in the book.

13 Feb ICC World Cup 2015 begins in New Zealand

Sports > Cricket World Cup

ICC world cup 2015 opened with a lavish ceremony at Hagley Park, Christchurch, New Zealand. It will be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand. The participating countries in this World Cup are New Zealand, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zimbabwe, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Australia, Afghanistan, West Indies, U.A.E., Scotland, Ireland and England. The 11th edition of Cricket World Cup is a 49-match schedule and fixtures will be played over the span of one and half months, starting from February 14 February to March 29 2015.

13 Feb World Radio Day observed on 13th February

Days > World Radio Day

World Radio Day was observed on the 13th of February, 2015 with the theme of Youth and Radio. The day is celebrated every year in order to commemorate radio as an information and entertainment forum, as a bridge of communication for remote communities and as a tool to empower people. The day is celebrated by the UNESCO by planning activities with broadcasters, organisations and communities the world over.

The UNESCO officially declared 13th February as the World Radio Day on 3rd November, 2011, as it marked the anniversary of the United Nation's first radio broadcast, which occurred on 13th February, 1946.

14 Feb Bank ATMs to enable card-less withdrawals by year-end

Bank specific > Card-less withdrawals

Customers of around 1 lakh bank ATMs will be able to perform card-less cash withdrawals by the end of the current year. This system will also be made available at lakhs of point of sale terminals at shops which provide cash-out facilities. While Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bank of India are already providing the facility of sending money via mobile phones, State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank are set to extend card-less withdrawal. This convenient facility has been made possible by the IMT Payment System, conceptualized and built by EMpays Payment System founded by Ravi Rajagopalan, a former executive with French telecommunications firm Alcatel-Lucent. IMT is gearing up to build a combined network of banks wherein withdrawals will be made possible within the network. For this, the banks will have to become the member of the multi-bank IMT system.

15 National Games ends on a colourful note

Feb Sports > 35th National Games

The 35th edition of the National games, held in Kerala, ended with Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) winning the overall championship. Analysis of the final National Games Medal Table, summarized by Sports Rediscovered, showed that the SSCB secured the first position by winning 91 gold medals, 33 Silver medals and 35 bronze medals. Kerala came second with 54 gold medals, followed by Haryana with 40, Maharashtra with 30 and Punjab with 27 gold medals. While Bihar and Daman and Diu did not win any gold medals, Goa, Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya won one each.

15 Two women scientists to get Nayudamma award

Feb Awards > Nayudamma award

Dr.Y. Nayudamma Memorial Award 2014 will be jointly presented to two women scientists for their remarkable contributions in defence research development and space research. One of the recipients, Tessy Thomas is the Director of Advanced Systems Laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Hyderabad and Project Director of (Mission) Agni V. The other recipient, Geeta Varadan is the Director of Advanced Data Processing Research Institute of ISRO. This is the first time that two women have become the joint winners of the prestigious award. The award was instituted in 1986 in memory of global leader scientist and former director general of CSIR, Yelavarthy Nayudamma.

15 EC to launch electoral authentication mission

Feb India > Election Commission

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) HS Brahma has announced that the Election Commission (EC) will launch the Mission of Electoral Roll Authentication and Purification drive by linking Aadhaar and Electoral Roll Database. The EC will launch the drive on the 1st of March and has requested all officers to come up with suitable plans in order to complete the mission by 15th August, 2015. The Director General and Mission Director of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Dr Vijay S Madan, assured all necessary support to link Aadhar with the Electoral Roll Database.

15 Supersonic BrahMos cruise missile successfully test fired

Feb India > Defence

The Indian Navy successfully test fired supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos from INS Kolkatta, the biggest warship in India on Saturday, 14th February, 2015. The missile has a range of 290 km and was fired through a vertical launch from the warship; it hit its target with pinpoint accuracy. The missile was fired as a part of the Theatre Readiness Operational Level Exercise (TROPEX) 2015. The Brahmos missiles have already been inducted in the army and navy and the missile's air-launched version is slated to be tested from a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter soon.

16 RR Patil, former Maharashtra home minister, passes away

Feb India > RR Patil

Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Maharashtra Home Minister, RR Patil, died yesterday in Mumbai. He was 57. Patil was undergoing treatment for oral cancer for the past three months and had reached the advanced stage of the disease. RR Patil was best known for his work as the Home Minister during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. He was one of the very few leaders of the NCP who were

never accused of any scam during his 15-year tenure as minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other political leaders paid condolences to the family of Mr. Patil.

16 First National Tribal Festival – Vanaj, 2015 held

Feb **India > Vanaj**

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram inaugurated India's first National Tribal Festival, Vanaj, on 13th February 2015 at the the Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. It is a week-long festival and will showcase the culture of the tribal people across the country, through various events and activities. It will also showcase tribal art, music, dance, painting, medicine and tribal cuisine. The festival will end on the 18th of February.