

May 10th news:

International:

Trump announces US withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal

US President Donald Trump on 8th May pulled the US out of the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran, an Obama-era accord which he has repeatedly criticised as "disastrous". "

Moments later he signed a fresh set of sanctions against Iran and warned countries against any cooperation with Tehran on its controversial nuclear weapons programme.

The "disastrous" deal gave Iran millions in cash and did not prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons, he said.

In reversing the signature foreign policy accomplishment of his predecessor Barack Obama, Trump by taking this decision ignored advice against such a move from his key European allies and top US Democratic leaders. Describing this as a bad deal, Trump said that the nuclear deal is unlikely to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The Iran nuclear deal was reached in Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) plus Germany and the European Union.

Trump's decision would have global ramifications, straining Iranian economy and heightening tensions in the Middle East.

US said that any nation that helps Iran in its quest for nuclear weapons could also be strongly sanctioned by the United States. America will not be held hostage to nuclear blackmail.

London ranked top city for students

London has been ranked the best city in the world for university students. The top 30 rankings for student cities, produced by the QS higher education data analysts, had previously put Montreal and Paris in first place, the BBC reported. The ratings are based on factors such as the number of top universities in a city, the local jobs market, the diversity of the culture and the quality of life, according to the report.

But London ranked poorly on one factor - affordability. The ranking of university cities, rather than the quality of institutions, is produced by the QS higher education group, which publishes the annual World University Rankings. The comparisons, which include a survey of the views of 50,000 students, are an attempt to quantify some of the attractions and disadvantages of cities for students

In second place is Tokyo, which does very well in terms of the "desirability" of the city. This measures factors such as safety, pollution and quality of living, it said. Melbourne is ranked as the third best city for students and Sydney is ninth.

In the academic World University Rankings, US universities dominate, taking all four of the top places in a league table headed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

National:

IT minister launches Digital India internship scheme portal

A Digital India Scheme Portal(www.meity.gov.in/schemes) was launched by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

The portal will facilitate students to apply online for internship. The Internship scheme intends to provide an opportunity for students to secure practical work experience under guidance of qualified supervisor/mentor.

MeitY's internship scheme offers 25 slots in each session, i.e, summer and winter. Remuneration of Rs 10,000/- per month will be offered to interns.

The proposed area of internship are R&D in electronics and IT, cyber law/IT Act, digital forensics, malware analysis, mobile governance, cloud computing, digital literacy, software/hardware industry promotion, digital payments, electronic equipment function testing etc.

Students pursuing B.E/B.Tech or M.E/M.Tech or dual degrees and are in their course of study can apply for internships on the portal.

Any Indian students from recognized universities in India who have secured 60% marks in the last held degree or certificate examination are eligible for internships.

West Bengal geologists discover India's oldest rocks

Two geologists from West Bengal discovered rocks, which date back to 4240 and 4030 million years. The rocks are believed to be the oldest in India and second-oldest rocks in the world.

The age of the Earth is generally derived from meteoritic record, which is 4568 million years. However, the oldest age recorded from rocks on Earth is 4400 million years, which is the age of a zircon grain.

The two geologists examined the rocks collected from Champua in Odisha and examined them under microscope at the Geological Laboratories in Kolkata's Indian Statistical Institute. The machine essential for such isotopic analyses is called Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP). This machine is not available in India.

So, the rocks were sent for testing in collaboration with Dr Yusheng Wan at Beijing Shrimp Centre under Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences.

SHRIMP analysis confirmed that the rocks to be possible oldest rocks in India. The results confirmed the presence of two zircons grains in the rocks, which are 4240 and 4030 million years old respectively.

Dr Rajat Mazumdar tried to get the findings tested in Australia and other countries. Finally, it was tested in China

According to Dr Mazumder, "Zircon, a very robust mineral can be used to date its parent rock. The oldest 4400 million years old zircon was discovered from a small exposure of metamorphosed sedimentary rock (reworked Zircon and known as detrital Zircon) at Jack Hill of Western Australia."

"SHRIMP Center in Beijing's Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences Beijing agreed to analyze only four samples on collaboration basis," Dr Mazumder said.

Bilateral:

India, Panama agree to unite against terrorism

India and Panama have signed two agreements on exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and in the field of Agriculture.

These agreements were signed in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and President of Panama Juan Carlos Varela Rodrigues and Vice President and Foreign Minister Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado in Panama city

In a joint statement, Mr Naidu and Panama's President said that India and Panama always had cordial relations. They said, these ties are based on our common values and a shared commitment to democracy, pluralism, multi-culturalism, and the rule of law.

The Vice President said that two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation will be setup by India in Panama worth US \$10 mn. and US \$15 mn. each.

Economy:

Walmart buys 77% stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion

Walmart buys 77% stake in Flipkart for 16 billion dollars; This is the american multi-brand retail giant's biggest ever foreign investment. United States retail giant Walmart will buy 77% stake in India's Flipkart for 16 billion dollars. Walmart's Krish Iyer will be the CEO of the company which will continue to be based out of Bengaluru.

Walmart and Flipkart will remain separate brands and the Indian e-commerce company will have an independent Board, which will be revamped to give representation to the US firm.

Founded in 2007, Flipkart has led the e-commerce revolution in the sub-continent, growing rapidly and earning customer's trust with digital technology including artificial intelligence to hard-sell a wide range of goods spanning electronics, appliances, mobile, fashion and apparel.

Persons in news:

Carlos Alvarado: He is new President of Costa Rica. He sworn on 8th May. At 39, Alvarado is the country's youngest president in modern history. Although Costa Rica is one of the region's most stable economies, the Central American nation is struggling to get its deficit under control amidst a Fitch downgrade and to combat a wave of record crime that has hit the country