

National News

SIDBI to raise 10000 crore for standup India fund

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to rise 10000 crore for Stand Up India Fund from Reserve Bank of India
 - Fund will be given to Dalit and women entrepreneurs.
 - Each bank is mandated to lend to one micro enterprise promoted by women and SC and ST entrepreneur.
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Government approves UDAY Bonds

- Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is to help DISCOMs financially and operationally healthy.
 - It will enable adequate power supply at affordable rates, enable electrification of villages and 24x7 power supply.
 - Finance Ministry has approved issuance of UDAY bonds by four states:
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Rajasthan
 - Jarkhand
 - Chattisgarh
 - Two new states have joined UDAY
 - Manipur
 - Tripura
 - There are totally 16 states in UDAY
 - 6 states have signed the UDAY contract
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Budget Cut for ICDS

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme has declined from 4.45% in 2008-09 to 3.26% in 2015-16.
- There has been a 7% reduction in funding.
- India has 442 million children. That is 39% of the country's population. It receives less than 3.26% of the budget.
- ICDS was launched in 1975 in accordance with the National Policy for Children in India.
- It aims at holistic development of children under six years old.

- **Six** services are provided by the scheme:
 - Supplementary nutrition
 - Immunization
 - Referral services
 - Health checkup
 - Pre-school non-formal education
 - Health and nutrition education
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Carriage by Air Amendment Bill approved

- The bill has been passed by the **Rajya Sabha**. Changes have been approved.
- It was passed by **Lok Sabha** in **December 2015**.
- Provisions of the bill are –
 - **Compensation for air travelers** in case of death, injury, loss of baggage or delay of flights.
 - **Indian airlines** will have to pay compensation once bill is implemented.
- The bill gives effect to the **Montreal Convention** which provides for application of international rules to domestic travel
- India **acceded to the Montreal Convention** in **May 2009**.

International News

Business and Economy

Two more AWACS from Israel

- **Additional surveillance aircraft** will be purchased from **Israel**
 - The proposal to acquire two more **Phalcon Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AWACS)** has been approved.
 - The cost of the acquisition will be **7500 crores**.
 - A **tripartite agreement** has been signed with **Russia and Israel**.
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Environment and Ecology

New frog species found in Biligiri

- New **frog species** has been found in **BR Hills Tiger Reserve**
 - The frog is named **Honnametti bush frog**.
 - It is a **cryptic bush frog**. It resembles another species of **Seshachar's bush frog**.
 - This is the **first cryptic species** found in the **Western Ghats**.
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Awards

Randeep Hooda awarded in Australia

- Randeep Hooda was honoured by Melbourne based south Asian community members with **Australia achievement award**.
 - Randeep Hooda launched **nonprofit organization 'Nobody dies Hungry'**
 - The organization was founded by **Australian Indian Alope Kumar**.
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Indira Gandhi Airport in World Number One position

- Delhi's IGI is world number one in 25-40 million passengers per annum category.
 - Ranking was announced by the **Airports Council International**.
 - It retained the rank from 2014.
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Sports

Rozle Prezelj elected chairman of IAAF Athletes commission

- The **International Association of Athletics Federation Athletes'** commission appointed **Rozle Prezelj** as chairman.
 - He will replace **Frank Fredericks** in the post.
 - **Britain Marathon world record-holder Paula Radcliffe** was nominated **Vice Chairwoman** of the committee.
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Art and Culture

Cave Art discovered in Kondane Caves in Raigarh, Maharashtra

- **40 rock paintings** have been discovered
 - Paintings include a **hunter standing with bow and arrow**, a **barasingha**, **footprints**, **palm impressions** and some trees.
 - Paintings are found in both **natural and man-made caves**
 - The man made caves also have **Buddhist architecture** which belongs to **Hinayana phase of Buddhism**.
 - Other paintings reflect **everyday life and occupations**
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