

## National News

### Setu Bharatam Project launched

- Will ensure **highways without railway crossings**.
  - Has a budget of **50,800 crore**
  - Target year for completion is **2019**.
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### India's first solar ferry in Kerala

- **Alphuzha backwaters** will get India's first solar ferry
  - Boat is built by **NavAlt**.
  - Project estimated to cost **1.7 crore**
  - Boat will be **20m long, 7m wide** and **max cruising speed of 7.5 knots**
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### Raisna dialogue begins in New Delhi

- **Three day** flagship program of **geopolitics and geo-economics**
  - Joint initiative by **ministry of external affairs** and **observer research foundation**
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### Aadhar bill introduced

- Will provide support to Aadhar for use **for transferring government subsidiaries and benefits to Indians**.
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### Panel for regularization of casual laborers

- Will look into **extent of problems** pertaining to **casual laborers and financial, legal and administrative issues**.
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### Japan pledges 5700 crore loan for highways in North east India

- **Japan International Cooperation Agency** will pledge the loan.
- **Two lane with paved shoulder** and **geometric improvements** of **NH54 in Mizoram** and **NH51 in Meghalaya**
- Interest rate for **loan on construction works and procurement of materials** is **1.4% per annum** and **0.01% for consulting**
- **Reimbursement** of amount to be made in **20 years** after payout period of **10 years**.

- **Engineering Procurement and Construction** mode has been adopted
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## International News

### World's costliest train station in New York

- Cost of station is **\$3.85 billion**.
  - **Connects New York to New Jersey**
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### Sanctions on North Korea over Nuclear Test

- **UNSC** has imposed the sanctions after the recent **nuclear test and missile launch by North Korea**.
  - The sanctions are
    - **Reduction or ban of exports of iron and iron ore, titanium, coal, gold, titanium and rare earth minerals and prohibit imports.**
    - **Cargos to and from North Korea must be inspected** by all the countries at the airport and sea ports.
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### Japan to supply defence equipment to Philippines

- It is the **first such pact by Japan** in **South Asian region**.
  - Will set **framework for supply of defence equipment and technology**
  - Japan has **similar pact with US and Australia**.
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### Sunil Sabharwal Occupies Key IMF Position

- He is an **Indian-American independent investor**
  - He will take charge of **International Monetary Fund's Alternate Executive Director**.
  - It is one of the **most powerful positions in the organization**.
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## Business and Economy

### MOU between Indian Army and Indusind Bank

- **First MOU** was signed in **2011** and valid for **3 years**.
- MOU has been **revised** to **suit requirement of soldiers** and **provides them modern banking facilities**.

- There will be **additional features free**, concessional services include free drafts, cheque books and free fund transfer to any bank, free ATM cards.
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### **Reliance Brands Ltd sign pact with Kate Spade and Co**

- Long term licensing and distribution deal to bring Kate Spade fashion to India
  - Few stores would be opened by Reliance initially
  - Will market apparel and accessories under two brands Kate Spade New York and Jack Spade in India
  - Kate Spade is an American fashion design house founded in 1993.
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### **Murgank Paranjape appointed as MCX MD**

- It is an independent Multi Commodity Exchange company founded in 2003.
  - Praveen Kumar Singhal has been redesignated as president and Full Time director with effect from April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Paranjape is currently head of Deutsche Bank.
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### **Pincon Spirit acquires Singapore based orbital solutions**

- The deal size has not been revealed.
  - Orbital Solutions becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of Pincon Spirits
  - Pincon has signed MOU with two brands Udan and Bengal Tiger.
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### **Third round of Gold Bond Scheme announced**

- Government has raised **Rs 1045 crore** through earlier two rounds.
  - Bonds will be **sold through banks, stock Holding Corporation of India limited and designated post offices.**
  - Bond **tenure** will be **eight years** with **exit option** from **5<sup>th</sup> year** onwards
  - Bond will be **tradable in bourses** and can be **used as collateral for loans.**
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### **Special Cell setup to gather data on subsidies of other nations**

- Will compile information on subsidies given by other countries to their industry.
- Anti-subsidy duties on subsidized imports of items such as steel will be imposed

- USA and other countries have taken trade measures to protect their domestic industries from unfairly low-priced imports.
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## Science and Technology

### Zika Virus kills cells that form key brain tissue

- **Zika virus** infects **neuronal cells** derived from **human induced pluripotent stem cells**.
  - This is the **first lab evidence** of the **potency of the Zika virus**.
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## People in News

### Former Lok Sabha speaker PA Sangama dies

- HE was a **nine time member** of Lok Sabha
  - He was speaker from **1996 to 1998**
  - He contested from **Meghalaya's Tura constituency**.
  - He held **various positions between 1974 and 2008** from **Independent and National Congress party**.
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### Coronation Street Creator Tony Warren Dies

- He has died at the age of **79**
  - **Coronation Street** has been aired for **56 years**.
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## Awards

### Manoj Kumar to be awarded Dada Sahen Phalke Award

- It is the **highest award in cinema**.
  - **Manoj Kumar** is a veteran actor who became famous with popular movies like **Roti, Kapda Aur Makaan** etc.
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### Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman win ACM 2015 A M Turing Award

- They are **cryptologist from Stanford**.
- The prize is referred to as the **Nobel Prize of computing**.
- It gets a **\$ 1 million prize funded by Google**.

- Cryptography is a method of **storing and transmitting data** in a **particular format** so it can be read by intended receivers only.
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### **Ratan Thiyam to get prestigious 11<sup>th</sup> Meta Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Award is given for **creating a new language in theatre** and **enriching the art form in various roles as writer, designer, director, composer and choreographer.**
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### **Singer Stevie Wonder was honoured with Global Green Hero award**

- Award has been presented at the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Green USA Pre Oscar Party**
- He has performed in the music industry since the **age of 11 till early 2010.**
- He has been **blind shortly after birth**
- He was honored with the **Gammy Award**

## Sports

### **Mumbai U-23 team wins CK Nayudu Trophy 2015-16**

- They beat Madhya Pradesh in the final
  - Mumbai senior team clinched their 41<sup>st</sup> Ranchi Torphy title against Saurashtra in Pune
  - The prize money for winning CK Nayadu Trophy is Rs 20 lakh.
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