

## National News

### **Germany to develop Bhubaneswar, Kochi, Coimbatore as Smart Cities**

- Will partner with India's flagship program **Smart City Mission**
  - Will develop **Bhubaneswar, Kochi, and Coimbatore** as smart Cities.
  - They are among the **20 cities** in the program.
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### **Telangana and Maharashtra sign MoU for five irrigation projects**

- **River Godavari Water Projects** have been signed.
  - construction of **five Barrages** on **Godavari River** and its **tributaries Penganga and Pranahita projects**
  - Project was delayed due to inter-state disputes
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### **Color based classification for industries.**

- New **Four-colour Classification Scheme** for industries based on their pollution level.
  - industrial sectors have been categorized into four colours category- **Red, White, Green and Orange**
  - It is based on **range of pollution index**
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### **Nagepur village in Varanasi selected for development under SAGY**

- Selected for development under **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**.
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### **Haryana Global Investors Summit 2016**

- **12 countries** will participate
  - Will discuss topics on **artificial intelligence, solar and renewable irrigation**
  - **Joint research projects** will be taken up for **development of new technologies and performance improvement**
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### **India's rank slips for proportion of Women in Parliament**

- Slipped from a rank of **117 among 188 countries** in 2014 to **144 among 191 countries**
- **16th Lok Sabha** has the **highest number of women** ever
- **12% of MPs in the Lok Sabha are women. 12.8% in Rajya Sabha**

- **Global average is 22%.**
  - **Rwanda ranks #1 with 63.8% women in the lower house of parliament and 38.5% in the upper house.**
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### **India at bottom of ranking for women membership at top science academics**

- Drop in the number of **women researchers at Indian National Science Academy (INSA)** in the past **three years.**
  - **15% of all members in 2010**
  - **6% in 2013**
  - **Of 864 members in 2013, only 52 were women**
  - **Until 2014, INSA had no woman in its 31-member governing body.**
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### **Tobacco use down in country**

- **Dip** in the use of all forms of **tobacco**, among men and women
  - Hailing as one of the **biggest successes in public health.**
  - In **Sikkim**, there is up to **20% dip in tobacco use.**
  - **Manipur and Meghalaya** show **increase in consumption**
  - Tobacco industry too has been reporting a **consistent dip in production since 2011.**
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## **International**

### **South Korea and US Begin Military Exercise**

- Training involves about **17,000 American troops** and more than **300,000 South Korean troops.**
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## **Business and Economy**

### **Forecast of India's growth at 7.5 maintained**

- The forecast is by **Global Rating Agency Fitch**
  - Sees **higher growth** over the **next two financial years.**
  - **8% growth** in short term is **not possible**
  - **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth forecast for India is at **5%**
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### **SoftBank splits into two subsidiaries**

- Move is to **bolster Shareholder value** after **\$ 4.4 billion** US share buyback plan a month ago.
  - The Company's **Japanese assets** will be put into a **distinct domestic operations management company**.
  - Company's stakes in **US wireless carrier Sprint** and **e-commerce company Alibaba** will be under a **new global operations management subsidiary**.
  - SoftBank has been investing in the **Indian Start-ups** like **Snapdeal, Oyo Rooms, Housing.com** and **OLA**
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### **Dedicated structure for monitoring taxpayer services**

- Approved by **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**
  - Two separate Directorates, called **Directorate of Tax Payer Services-I&II** have been set up.
  - Will be responsible for **delivery and monitoring of taxpayers services** in the field offices and e-services.
  - Responsibility for **delivery of tax payer services** has been **assigned at every level in the field offices**.
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### **Ford to setup tech and business center in Tamil Nadu SEZ**

- Proposed Centre is for **Research and Development unit** and a **product testing center**.
  - Centre will come up at **Tamil Nadu Government owned Electronics Corporation** in Chennai.
  - Will be **Co-developer of the Automotive Company for Developing IT/ITES services related to Automotive, Finance and Allied sectors**.
  - Company will be eligible for **all tax concessions** available for investment in the zones.
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### **Reliance-Jio to Offer Free Wi-Fi Services in 6 Stadiums**

- The move is launched ahead of the **T-20 World Cup**
- The stadiums are:
  - Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi
  - Eden Gardens in Kolkata
  - Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai

- Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru
  - IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali
  - HPCA stadium in Dharamshala
  - Network is supported by **100 Gbps. 15Mbps browsing speed** to be provided.
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### **"Mahila e-Haat" online marketing platform for women launched**

- An initiative for **meeting aspirations and need of women entrepreneurs**
  - As a part of **'Digital India' and 'Stand Up India'** initiatives.
  - More than **10000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 1.25 Lakh women** beneficiaries would be benefited
  - Will be integrated with **e-commerce portals** to provide a larger platform for selling and buying.
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## **Science and Technology**

### **China to land probe on Mars in 2021**

- Coincide with the **100th anniversary of founding of the ruling communist Party of china.**
  - Its **first mission in 2011 failed.**
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### **A 'meta-skin' to cloak objects from radars**

- **Flexible, stretchable and tunable**
  - Can **protect objects from radar detection**
  - Can help to develop **next generation of stealth aircraft** or even **invisibility cloaks**
  - By stretching and flexing the polymer meta-skin, it can be **tuned to reduce the reflection of a wide range of radar frequencies.**
  - Technology will find **applications in electromagnetic frequency tuning, shielding and scattering suppression.**
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## People in News

### M S Dhoni signed as Revital H brand ambassador

- New ad campaign featuring **MS Dhoni** will be showcased at the ICC T20 World Cup
  - Will reposition the brand after **25 years** since its launch in the **active lifestyle**.
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## Awards

### Saudi Arabian Prince conferred France's highest Civil Award

- The **Legion of Honour** award was conferred
  - It has **fueled controversies** in France
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### NTPC awarded Poll Based Investor Communication Award

- Award is given for following **transparent and fair communication practices** by **Research Bytes**
  - An independent poll having participation of over **3000 Fund Managers Analysts and Non Institutional Investors** was performed
  - The company was founded in **1975 and headquartered in Delhi**.
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## Sports

### Maria Sharapova provisionally suspended

- She **failed drug test** at **Australian Open**
  - **Meldonium** was found in her system.
  - She has been **taking it for years** for **health issues** including **family history of diabetes**
  - It became a **prohibited substance on January 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - World's **highest-paid female athlete** last year for the **11th consecutive year**.
  - Forbes put her off-court career earnings at more than **\$200 million**.
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