

National News

Enemy Property Bill Amendment Introduced

- Allow the **custodians** to continue to **hold sway over enemy properties**
 - Central government had designated some properties belonging to nationals of **Pakistan and China** as “**enemy properties**” during the **1962, 1965 and 1971 conflicts**
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Gujarat has most investment potential

- A survey was conducted National Council of Applied Economic Research (NACER).
 - **21 states** were surveyed
 - **Gujarat, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu** are the **top 3** states.
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Mukhyamantri Santwana Harish Yojana launched

- Will give **free treatment to accident victims for the first 48 hours** in any nearest hospital. (government or private)
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Policy to promote wind energy projects

- Incentives including an **interest discount of 0.25 %** for **increasing capacity of Wind mills of up to 1MW**.
 - Promote **optimum utilization of wind energy resources**.
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Women Pilots In Fighter Plane by June

- India's air force will induct its **first female fighter pilots** in June.
 - Women currently comprise just **5% of the armed forces**.
 - Working mostly in **non-combat roles**
 - Women were inducted as pilots in **1991**, but on only **helicopter and transport planes**
 - Three female pilots will complete their training and be inducted into the fighter plane force on 18 June
 - The three women are **Bhawna Kanth, Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh**.
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Indian Railways forms SPV to execute Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project

- Aimed on time to **avoid additional expenses** of the project
 - Joint Committee has been formed under the **Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog with the secretaries of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Departments of Economic Affairs and Foreign Ministry with the Chairman of Railway Board.**
 - It will take about **seven years to be completed**
 - **81%** of the funding for the project would come from the **loan from Japan**
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India, Saudi Arabia hold talks on regional and global issues.

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** held talks with her **Saudi Arabian counterpart Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir** in New Delhi.
 - **One fifth** of the country's **crude oil import** comes from **Saudi Arabia.**
 - They also discussed ways to **boost trading ties, exploring new areas of cooperation**
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Opposition has moved amendment to the "Motion of Thanks"

- **Against the minimum educational qualification** fixed for aspirants in **local and panchayat elections in Haryana and Rajasthan polls**
 - Amendment has been moved for the **5th time in Parliamentary history** and **2nd time in the tenure of this government.**
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India agreed to not issue 'compulsory' drug licenses

- **U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)** revealed that India has given private assurances to the US.
 - Will **not grant licenses allowing local firms to override patents and make cheap copies** of drugs by big Western drug makers.
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Kodaikanal mercury poisoning: Hindustan Unilever Limited, ex-staff sign settlement

- Will provide **"undisclosed" ex-gratia amount** to the victims consisting of **future health care benefits.**
- Company was facing a **'class action litigation'** moved by the former workers of its **thermometer factory.**

- Workers were allegedly exposed to **toxic mercury vapor** during their employment
 - **First ever class action litigation** moved by industrial workers against **occupational health exposure**.
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International

Women's wages remain unchanged in 20 years

- A new **International Labor Organization (ILO) report, Women at Work: Trends 2016** was released.
 - Women are **over represented in clerical service and sales work**.
 - They are the **lowest paying jobs**.
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Drop in aid to SAARC nations

- India's **development assistance** to all SAARC neighbors has been slashed.
 - **Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal** are worst hit by cuts.
 - Has **fallen by about Rs.500 crore**
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Business and Economy

YES Bank starts All Women Branch in Bangalore

- Launched an **all-women operated bank** branch '**Yes Grace**' to offer **customized banking solutions to women**
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RBI to share FDI details with IB & RAW

- To **prevent the entry of Black money** into the country.
 - A measure to **prevent the economic crimes** in the country
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Government removes proposed tax on EPF withdrawals

- Union government has **rolled back controversial EPF Tax withdrawal**
- **60%** of savers corpus withdrawn from the EPF tax-free **if invested in annuity**
- **60%** of corpus withdrawal from EPF fund will not be included for tax only **if invested in National Pension Scheme**

- **Remaining 40% to be tax free.**
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RBI signs information exchange pact with Bank of Israel

- For **Information Exchange and Banking supervision.**
 - To promote **greater co-operation and share supervisory information.**
 - RBI has signed **32 such MoUs, one Letter for Supervisory Co-operation and one Statement of Co-operation.**
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Indian Railways Signs Agreement with Bajaj Power

- For **Lalitpur- Udaipura rail section electrification project.**
 - Project would cost nearly **47 crore** to be completed in one year time by **PPP (Public Private Partnership)** model.
 - It would facilitate **uninterrupted coal supply to 1, 980 MW thermal Power Plant in Lalitpur district Uttar Pradesh.**
 - The **third unit of 660 Mw** is likely to get operational by this month.
 - Power plant wholly owned by **Bajaj Power generation Company**
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Tata Motors partners US Firm for 50K Crore project

- **Tri Partite Partnership with Bharat Forge and US based General Dynamics Land Systems**
 - **Future infantry combat Vehicle project.**
 - India's Defense Force needs partners with **long-term commitments** to develop products and solutions through **multiple generations of evolution.**
 - Will start development of the first **completely indigenized combat vehicle**
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Science and Technology

Iran conducts several ballistic missiles tests

- **Medium and long range precision guided missiles** were test fired from various sites
 - Display the country's **hostility to confront any threats.**
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Five health care ATMs in four states

- **Dispense Medicines** based on a prescription unless they refer the patient to a doctor.
 - In **Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
 - It is expected to handle the **massive deficiency of doctors in the country**.
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New mini fuel cell powers drones for over an hour

- **Miniaturized fuel cell** that can **power drones**.
 - May lead to **smartphone batteries** that **require charge only once a week**.
 - **Solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC)**, developed by **researchers in South Korea**,
 - May replace **lithium-ion batteries** in **smartphones, laptops, drones, and other small electronic devices**.
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Environment and Ecology

Climate change could kill 500,000 adults by 2050

- Latest computer modeling study reveals that **climate change** would badly **affect China and India**
 - Study released by The Lancet predicts **36 lakh death in India** and **2.48 lakh death in China**
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Government signs MoU on conservation of birds of prey

- **Raptor MoU** for **conservation of birds of prey**
 - India has become the **56th signatory State** to sign the 'Raptor MoU'
 - Was concluded on **October 22, 2008** and came **into effect on November 1, 2008**.
 - The Raptor MOU is an agreement under the **Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)** and is **not legally binding**.
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People in News

S Rao will take over as new public interest director and chairman of BSES

- He served as **Public Interest Director** of **Bangalore Stock Exchange**.
 - New Appointment is subjected to **SEBI's approval**.
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Gamlin appointed new CS of Arunachal

- **Shakuntala Doley Gamlin** has been appointed as **Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh**
 - **first woman IAS officer** from **Mishing tribe of Assam**
 - Served as **Principal Secretary (Power)** in New Delhi.
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Dr. Mahesh Sharma releases the book "The Culture Heritage of Trans Himalayas-Kinnaur"

- The book, **published by IGNCA** under **Ministry of Culture**.
 - Study of the **cultural heritage of the trans-Himalayan area of Himachal Pradesh**
 - Very useful for **research scholar and students** concerned with the **Cultural heritage of India**.
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Awards

President Pranab Mukherjee presented 2015 Nari Shakti awards

- **Pranab Mukherjee** presented **Stree Shakti Puraskars and Nari Shakti Puraskars** for the year 2015
 - On the occasion of **Women's Day**.
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