

## National News

### **Bureau of Indian Standards bill passed**

- was passed in the parliament, following its approval from Rajya Sabha
  - proposes to make **BIS, a national standards body**, introduce **mandatory hallmarking of precious metal**,
  - To **prevent misuse of Standard marks** and provide for **recall of ISI marked products not conforming to relevant standards.**
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### **57 Countries to participate in first Maritime Summit**

- **first Maritime summit** to be held at **India**
  - organized in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
  - conducted by **Union Ministry of Shipping in April,2016**
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### **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwal Yojana approved**

- Scheme for providing **LPG to households Below Poverty Line.**
  - estimated at the cost of **8000 crores**
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### **National Waterways Bill passed**

- Upper House of the Parliament passed The National Waterways Bill,
  - was tabled in **Lok Sabha** on **May 5, 2015**
  - Comes under **Entry 24 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.**
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### **Cycling event of Indian Army with theme Cycle to Recycle**

- A **10-member army team** boarded upon a **1,000-km bicycle journey**
  - Started from **Pangsau Pass** in the **India-Myanmar border.**
  - Organized as part of the **Assam Rifles 181st raising day celebrations**
  - Assam Rifles is the **oldest paramilitary force** of India
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### **National Anthem compulsory in all schools in WB**

- **Madras High Court** has mandated all the Private Schools to Sing **National Anthem** during morning Assembly.

- Move is to ensure that citizens have **adequate knowledge of the national anthem and the national flag**
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## International

### **Bangladesh and India sign \$ 2 billion agreement**

- To implement **socio-economic development projects** in **Bangladesh**
  - Will **strengthen bilateral relations**
  - **Interest rate** has been fixed at **1% annually**
  - **20-year repayment term**, including a **five-year moratorium period**
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### **India –Indonesia conduct joint Military exercise**

- Joint Military Exercise **Shakti IV** from **March 10-23** in **Indonesia**.
  - Was started in **2012** in **India**
  - Conducted on a **reciprocal basis**
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### **UNICEF & UNFPA launch Acceleration Program to end Child Marriage**

- Program is a **multi-country cooperative**
  - Will help protect the **rights of millions of the world's most vulnerable girls**
  - Involving **families, communities, governments and young people**
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### **34 countries don't have enough food for their people due to conflicts**

- The report has been done by the **United Nations**
  - Nearly **80% of them are in Africa**
  - Because of **conflicts, drought and flooding**.
  - Some of the countries are **Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and the Central African Republic**.
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### **Pak launches probe into MQM's alleged ties with RAW**

- The allegations levelled against **India's RAW** gave money to the **MQM party to destabilize Pakistan**
- India has dismissed the allegations levelled against it.

- Karachi based MQM party quoted that these allegations are **baseless and false**.
  - **Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)** to probe various allegations of funding by **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**.
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## Business and Economy

### **ICICI Bank launches credit-linked subsidy scheme under PMAY**

- Scheme will benefit the **individuals including women borrowers** from the **economically weaker section and low income grouped people**.
  - Will be able to acquire and construct the first brick-and-mortar house of the family by paying significantly **lower Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs)**.
  - Bank has signed a MoU with **National Housing Bank (NHB)** to enable beneficiaries to get **credit-linked subsidy**.
  - Eligible customers will get the subsidy at **5% per year** on a maximum amount of **Rs. 6 lakh** for a **maximum tenure of 15 years**.
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### **DIPP nods clearances for 12 industrial licenses for Reliance**

- Reliance Defence is part of **Reliance Infrastructure** for **manufacturing of Defence equipments in India and Overseas**.
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### **Quikr launches service for doorstep pickup & delivery of pre-owned goods**

- Available for all categories including **mobile phones, electronics, kitchen appliances**
  - Initiative to facilitate more **E-commerce transactions** on its platform
  - Testing features for its Doorstep service around six months ago
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### **Make in India model- Baleno introduced in Japan**

- Baleno has sold over **38,000 units in India** since its launch on **October 26, 2015**.
  - Company also plans to **export** the premium hatchback to more than **100 countries**
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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

### 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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### Project 'Mausam' aims to explore Multi-Faceted Indian Ocean 'World'

- Be implemented by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**

- To explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world' – collating **archaeological and historical research**
  - To document the **diversity of culture in Indian Ocean**
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## People in News

### **Tapan Chand elected AAI chief**

- He was serving **chairman and Managing Director of National Aluminum Company.**
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### **Brazilian percussionist Nana Vasconcelos dies**

- A master of the **single-string percussion instrument.**
  - **Eight time Grammy Award Winner**
  - Died of **lung cancer at age 71.**
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### **Sir George Martin fifth Beatle passes away**

- He was also an **arranger, composer, conductor, audio engineer and musician.**
  - He was recognized globally as one of **music's most creative talents**
  - He was **part of the Beatles for 7 years.** It is one of the most successful groups in music history.
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## Awards

### **Sonakshi Sinha enters Guinness book of records**

- Entered into the Guinness world book of records for **most people painting their nails simultaneously.**
  - Event was organized by **Inglot and Major Brands** as a celebration to mark the **International Women's Day**
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