

National News

State Budget of Chhattisgarh presented

- More budget allocation to **drought affected Agriculture sector**
 - Announcements to the **Maoists affected Bastar Region**
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Real Estate Bill passed

- Was passed by Rajya Sabha
 - In the **favor of protection of Home buyers**
 - **More transparency into the real estate business and avoid the flow of Black money.**
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New Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

- The Union Cabinet has approved the policy
 - The policy will **replace the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)**
 - **Enhance domestic oil and gas production**
 - Bring **substantial investment in the sector and generate sizable employment.**
 - Targets the **enhancement of transparency and reduction of administrative discretion**
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Sikh Gurudwara's Act approved

- Green signal to **remove the exception given to Sehajdhari Sikhs in 1944**
 - Exception was for **voting in the elections for selecting members of the board and the committees** constituted under the Act
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BIMSTEC Convention in Criminal Matters

- Bay of Bengal Initiative on **Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**
 - Comprises seven countries – **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**
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MoU between India and Bahrain on Cooperation for Prevention of Human Trafficking

- **Rescue, recovery, repatriation and re-integration of victims of trafficking**
 - Approved MoU is expected to be signed in **Bangkok in April.**
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IMF to set up data sharing centre in India

- To provide technical support and assistance to **India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bhutan.**
 - This would be the **first such initiative in Asia.**
 - Would rise India's quota to **2.7 % from the existing 2.44 %.**
 - **Brazil, China, India and Russia** will be among the **10 largest members** of the body.
 - Will ensure **better understanding of regional concerns**, including **trade, agriculture, climate change**, facilitating a reform process and support to **regional integration.**
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Amendment to mining law, move to spur M&As

- Will permit **transfer of captive mines** granted on discretion to **spur merger and acquisitions in the mining sector**
 - To help in checking **the stressed and non-performing assets of Indian Banking industry**
 - Also help to **push the stuck M&A deals** could be moved in the right direction.
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SC dismisses plea to name country 'Bharata'

- The court observed that every Indian has the right to call the country **India or Bharatha.**
 - The Supreme Court **has no interest in dictating or deciding** for a citizen what he should call his country.
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International

Syrian war enters sixth year

- Over the **past five years** the war has spiraled into a **complex conflict**
- **Regime forces, rebels, Kurdish fighters and jihadists** have carved out zones of influence.

- More than **4.5 million people have fled Syria** since the start of the conflict, most of them **women and children**.
 - **Neighboring Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey** have struggled to cope with one of the largest refugee exoduses in recent history.
 - **About 10% of Syrian refugees** have sought safety in Europe
 - **6.5 million People are internally displaced** inside Syria, **1.2 million were driven from their homes in 2015 alone**.
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Mexico opposes India's UNSC bid

- India's application for **permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** has **been opposed by Mexico**.
 - Mexico thinks adding more permanent members in the Security Council is not the solution to the existing problem.
 - **More veto power-wielding permanent members** will mean **more paralysis of the U.N.**
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Business and Economy

HDFC Bank ties up with 5 start ups

- The company chose **five startups from 30 applicants** during its **maiden Digital summit**.
 - Bank previously tied up with **Chillr** to enable its **customers pay without a wallet**
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New price formula for Undeveloped Gas Discoveries approved

- Will lead to a **near-doubling of rates**.
 - **Deep sea discoveries** which are **unexplored** will be given the **cost of alternative fuels**
 - Price will be the **lowest of weighted average of fuel oil and imported LNG**
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Mahindra Aerospace to set up operations in UAE

- Company currently the **world's largest importer of defense equipment**

- Will become the **third largest aerospace company by 2020** once the operations commenced formally.
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InnerChef acquires EatonGO, Flavour Labs

- Innerchef started its **operations in April 2015**
 - Working on the **ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat meals segments.**
 - Acquisition of **Flavor Labs**, a food company, will help InnerChef enter the **mobile kitchen segment**
 - **EatOnGo**, which specializes in breakfasts, will help the company **expand its presence in Bengaluru.**
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Science and Technology

NASA's new Mars exploration mission set for May 2018 launch

- It is named '**Insight Mission**'
 - Landing scheduled for **November 26.**
 - Will help scientists know how **rocky planets including Earth formed and developed.**
 - InSight Mission is **intended to study the inner workings of Mars**
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World's thinnest lens developed

- Australian scientists have developed **world's thinnest lens**
 - **2000 times thinner than human hair.**
 - **6.3 nanometres thick.** Previous versions of lenses were **50 nanometres thick.**
 - Scientists have used a **crystal of molybdenum disulphide** as a special ingredient in this lens.
 - Lens could have **revolutionary applications in medicine, science and technology** and can also be used to create **bendable TV and computer screens.**
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People in News

Balbir Singh Chauhan appointed as India's 21st Law Commissioner

- Currently the **head of Cauvery River Water Dispute tribunal**
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Egyptian diplomat Ahmed Aboul Gheit named Secretary General of the Arab League

- Will replace fellow Egyptian **Nabil El-Araby**
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Kangana Ranaut becomes Brand Ambassador of Reebok India

- New campaign has been released on international Women's day of the under the brand title of **Be More Human**.
 - Reebok International Ltd. is a **global athletic footwear and Apparel Company**
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Awards

Anand Mahindra conferred with France's highest civilian award

- **French Ambassador to India Françoise Richier** conferred the **Knight of the Legion of Honour** on **Anand Mahindra**.
 - Distinction comes in recognition of Mr Mahindra's **outstanding national and international achievements and initiatives** at the helm of the Mahindra Group.
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Sports

Rest of India wins 2015-16 Irani Cup Cricket Title

- They chased a **target of 480 runs**.
 - This is the **10th-highest successful chase** in the **history of First-Class cricket**.
 - It was also the **third-highest on Indian soil**.
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Jitu Rai wins gold at Shooting World Cup

- **Indian Shooter Jiturai** bagged **gold** at **ISSF World cup** held in **Bangkok Thailand**
 - Clinched gold in the **men's 50m pistol event** shooting World Cup
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Hyundai becomes Official Partner of BCCI

- As an **associate sponsor** for all **international matches** played in India.

- **Hyundai cars** would be used for **transporting various stakeholders** of the game throughout the event.
 - BCCI offered space for three official associate sponsors from which it would **get 150 crore in the next four years.**
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