

## National News

### **RUSA Scheme to improve Equity, Quality of Higher Education**

- Was first started in **2013**.
  - RUSA - **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan**
  - Will provide **strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions**
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### **Constitution Order Amendment Bill 2016 passed**

- The bill seeks to amend **the Constitution Scheduled Castes Order 1950**.
  - bill was passed on proposals of five states, **namely Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Odisha and West Bengal**, to **modify the list of Scheduled Castes in their states**
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### **AAHAR 2016 Inaugurated**

- **Largest fair on Food & Hospitality Sector in India**
  - **31st edition** in this series.
  - Organized by **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)**, supported by the respective ministries
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### **Over Rs 1 lakh crore disbursed under MUDRA Yojana**

- Loans between **Rs.50, 000 and Rs.10 lakh** are provided to **small entrepreneurs**.
  - Loans worth over **Rs.1.09 lakh crore** were given to over **2.96 crore beneficiaries**.
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### **Rs 609 crore for upgrading prisons in eight States**

- **Kerala - 154 crore**
- **Chhattisgarh - 150 crore**
- **Odisha - 100 crore**
- **Andhra Pradesh - 90 crore**
- **Maharashtra - 60 crore**
- **Tripura - 15 crore**
- **Mizoram - 30 crore**
- **Arunachal Pradesh - 10 crore**

- **4 lakh 18 thousand prisoners** in jails across the country
  - Overall **capacity is only 3 lakh 57 thousand**.
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### **Mega Food Park in Khammam**

- **Modern infrastructure for food processing** along the value chain from the farm to the market.
  - **First Mega Food Park in Telangana**
  - Project cost of **Rs. 108.95 crore** in an area of **78 acres**.
  - Part of the 'Make In India' initiative.
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### **Union Government and Jammu & Kashmir Government sign MoU on UDAY Scheme**

- Overall net benefit of approximately **Rs.9800 crore** to J&K by opting to participate in UDAY.
  - Jammu and Kashmir reforms and issue power bonds worth about **Rs 7000 crores**
  - Will pave the way for **reduced levels of transmission and AT&C losses** which implies **lesser cost per unit of electricity to consumers**
  - State would gain around **Rs.785 crore** due to these coal reforms.
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### **Voluntary certification process for domestically-produced medical devices.**

- Attempt by the center to **create confidence among doctors and consumers about availability of locally produced medical devices**.
  - Pharma produces were also asked to **adopt WHO standards** to reassure the world that **Indian drugs are not only cost-effective but are also of good quality**.
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### **Increase in research ties with Saudi Arabia**

- India has seen a **10-fold increase** in its **research collaboration with Saudi Arabia**.
  - Study conducted by **Thomson Reuters**
  - In the period **2005-2008**, **Saudi Arabia was only the 20th most prolific contributor of India**, with **123 jointly-authored papers**
  - This has increased to **1,303 in 2013-2014**
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### **Constitution Bench to decide on National Court of Appeal**

- **Apex court** would judicially pronounce on if there is a need to **bifurcate the higher judiciary**
  - The **Supreme Court will exclusively hear constitutional and public law cases.**
  - Apex court seems **to introspect on its own role as the single, final court** situated in the national capital dealing with an **increasing variety of cases.**
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## **International**

### **14 Indians in top 100 Global Venture Capitalists**

- Of the top **100 Global Venture Capitalists, 14 Indians** have made it to the list.
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### **Mauritania ratified 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention**

- Emphasizes the **global movement against forced labor in all its forms, including human trafficking.**
  - **Mauritania, Niger, Norway and the United Kingdom (Europe)** have ratified the protocol.
  - Slavery was eradicated in **Mauritania in 1980** and **criminalized in 2007**
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### **Nepal To Have Its First Woman Chief Justice**

- **Sushila Karki, the senior most of the judges in the Nepal's Supreme Court** has been nominated for the top post
  - **Nepal's first woman President Bindya Bhandari** endorses her nomination
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### **Bangladesh's bank governor resigns on \$81 million cyber theft**

- Cyber hackers cracked the **computer systems of Bangladesh Bank**
  - They **transferred the money from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to casinos in the Philippines.**
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### **UN suspends Maria Sharapova as goodwill ambassador after doping allegations**

- **Sharapova tested positive for meldonium** at the **Australian Open** and has been **provisionally suspended from tennis**

- She had started the role with the **UN Development Program in 2007** with a **special focus on helping with the recovery efforts after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.**
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### **ICANN submits Internet transition plan to US government**

- Result of an **inclusive, global discussion among representatives from government, large and small business, technical experts, civil society, researchers, academics and end users.**
  - Provides a **comprehensive package to transition the US Government's stewardship of the internet's key technical functions,**
  - Proposes ways to **enhance ICANN's accountability as a fully independent organization.**
  - Aims to maintain **Internet governance** under a **"multi-stakeholder" model** which **avoids control of the online ecosystem by any single governmental body.**
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## **Business and Economy**

### **RBI to pay 57000 crores as dividend to the Government**

- The amount paid is **slightly lesser than the previous fiscal year** but **much higher than the previous years**
  - Last year, the government received **Rs.73,905 crores as dividends**
  - In the **2016-17 fiscal year** it has estimated to receive **Rs.69,897 crores**
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### **SBI disburses Rs 1,465 crore OROP arrears**

- **7.75 lakh defense beneficiaries**
  - The scheme is expected to cost the government **Rs 7,500 crore per year**
  - **Family pensioners' and 'gallantry award' pensioners** will be eligible to get **full amount of arrears paid on 14th March.**
  - Under **One Rank One Pension** the pensioners will get their first instalment ( $1/4^{\text{th}}$  of total arrears amount upto February 2016).
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### **Interest on savings accounts every quarter: RBI to banks**

- Reserve bank of India asked banks to **credit interest on savings accounts** every quarter or shorter than that of the fiscal.
  - Revised interest rate credit payment **may put a burden of 500 crore on banks**
  - **Will benefit crores of savings account holders.**
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### **ICICI Bank launches contactless mobile pay solution 'iTap'**

- New system enables its credit and debit users to **make in-store contactless payments by using an NFC-enabled mobile phone.**
  - ICICI has become the **first bank** to use **Host card Emulation Technology** for its payment system.
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### **Survey lists Reliance, Tata Industries under Sustainable Business Practices**

- Survey **involves checking the environment, social and governance dimensions of business**
  - Measures the **progress of Indian companies in adopting sustainable business practices**
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### **Anti-dumping duty on Plastic-Processing imports**

- Duty will be levied on imports of **all kinds of plastic-processing or injection-molding machines.**
  - **Anti-dumping duty of up to 44.7 percent** on import of plastic-processing machines from **Chinese, Taipei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam for five years.**
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## **Science and Technology**

### **Malawi, UNICEF tested first UAV flights for early diagnosis of HIV in infants**

- Joint initiative took place at **Area 25 Health Centre in Lilongwe**
  - Drone airborne on its test flight to **Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH) covering a distance of 10 km at 400ft above sea level.**
  - This is the **first of its kind UAVs on the continent for improvement of HIV services.**
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## People in News

### **Gandhi: An Illustrated Biography authored by Pramod Kapoor**

- He is the **founder and publisher of Roli Books**
  - Has **conceived and produced award-winning books** that include **then and now series, Made for Maharajas, New Delhi: The Making of a Capital.**
  - It is a **biography of Mahatma Gandhi** who played a key role in Indian independence movement.
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## Awards

### **India-based software engineer wins First Prize in UN #LinksSDGs Data Visualization Challenge**

- **Abdulqadir Rashik** won the Challenge's top prize for his submission **Links to Sustainable Cities**
  - **Interactive visualization** that **identifies and maps the links between Sustainable Development Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and the other 16 Goals.**
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### **Mother Teresa to Be Canonized On September 4**

- Mother Teresa is set to **attain sainthood on September 4**, as confirmed by Pope Francis.
  - Was confirmed in **December 2015.**
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