

## National News

### World Sufi Forum Inaugurated In New Delhi

- **200 Sufi scholars** from across **20 countries** have converged for the 4 day conference
  - Organized by the **All India Ulama and Mashaikh Board**
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### Goa State Budget Presented for 2016-17

- The total size of the budget for 2016-17 is **14694 crore rupees**.
  - **9% higher** compared to the previous year
  - State achieved **highest per capita income of 257490 rupees** in the country during 2015-16.
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### Niti Aayog task force backs 'Tendulkar poverty line'

- **Niti Aayog's Task Force on Eliminating Poverty** has backed the **controversial 'Tendulkar poverty line'**,
  - Categorizes people **earning less than Rs.33 a day as poor**
  - The line is primarily meant to be an **indicator for tracking progress in combating extreme poverty**.
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### Maharashtra State Budget 2016-17 Unveiled

- Estimated **revenue deficit of Rs 3,644 crore**.
  - General **VAT rate hiked from 5 to 5.5%** in the State budget.
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### Indian Airforce to conduct day-night exercise

- **Six packages** depicting six themes in which more than **180 aircraft**, including fighters, transport and helicopters participated.
  - The event took place in **Rajasthan's Pokhran firing range**
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### Feni classified as "Heritage spirit of Goa."

- **Feni** is a form of Spirit produced **exclusively in the coastal state of Goa**
  - Brew made from **coconut or cashew**
  - Used in various **cultural traditions, cuisines and medicinal use**.
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### SC allows photos of CMs, Governors, and Ministers in Public ads.

- SC had **previously barred** publishing photographs of **politicians even State Chief Ministers and bureaucrats**.
  - It had only **permitted** publishing **photographs of President, Prime Minister and Chief Justice of India**.
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## International

### e-Atlas Of Gender Inequality In Education released by UNESCO

- AIM: To show **gender gaps in education and educational traits** of girls and boys.
  - **One out of eight children** between the ages of **6 and 15** remain **entirely excluded from receiving basic education**
  - **Girls facing the biggest barriers**
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### India provides 265 million grant for constituting Tagore's memorial

- **265 million** is given as grant to constitute **Rabindranath Tagore's memorial Auditorium in Sri Lanka**.
  - As a part of the **agreement signed during Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka**
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## Business and Economy

### Interest rates of PPF reduced from 8.7% to 8.1%

- Interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme will be **cut to 8.1% for the period April 1 to June 30, from 8.7%**
  - done to **create conducive environment for the Reserve Bank of India to ease monetary policy rates**
  - To help **banks transmit rate cuts to customers**
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### IOB becomes first bank to sell Indian gold coins

- Tied up with **Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC)** for the sale of **gold coins of 24 carat purity**.

- Coin carries **advanced anti-counterfeit features and comes in tamper-proof packaging.**
  - Current denominations available are **5, 10 and 20 gm.**
  - This gold coin is minted by **the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd and hallmarked by the Bureau of Indian Standards.**
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### **10 Indian Companies among the 25 best workplaces in Asia list**

- Best workplace in the world for **MNC- DHL**
  - Best workplaces in the world for **small & medium industry- Salesforce**
  - Best workplace in the **large industry- Atlassian**
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### **Biocon ties up with Mexico's PiSA**

- This collaboration will enable to manufacture the **rh-insulin drug product at PiSA's facilities in Mexico**
  - It will be commercialized under brand **Biocon in the US market.**
  - In the USA, **4 million people diagnosed with diabetes** every year.
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### **Magic Bricks acquires property analysis platform "Properji.com"**

- Magic Bricks has acquired **property analysis startup "Properji.com"** of **Invact Technologies** for an **undisclosed sum**
  - It will help the **consumer to make an informed property buying decision.**
  - Magic Bricks.com is a **subsidiary of Times Internet Ltd**
  - It provides a **common platform for property buyers and sellers** to locate **properties of interest in India, and source information about all property related issues.**
  - It has over **80,000 projects and over 1.2 million listings.**
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## Science and Technology

### **British Astronomers discover nine "monster stars"**

- **30 million times brighter** than the Sun.
  - It is the **largest group of very massive stars** ever identified.
  - Star cluster is named as **R136**.
  - It is located in the **Tarantula Nebula within the Large Magellanic Cloud**.
  - Includes **four stars which are more than 150 times the mass of the Sun, five which are more than 100 times as massive and dozens of stars exceeding 50 solar masses**.
  - It is **1, 70,000 light years** from Earth.
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### **Repeat animal testing of new drugs banned**

- Health Ministry has **banned repeat** animal testing of new drugs tested abroad **to prevent cruelty to animals**.
  - Animals will be spared tests for new drug registrations wherein **complete data from similar toxicity experiments exist for drugs approved abroad**.
  - New amendment will **save thousands of animals every year from being subjected to redundant animal testing**
  - Marks the beginning of a **potential new era of sophisticated animal testing alternatives** in India.
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## Environment & Ecology

### **New Golden Frog Species discovered in Colombia**

- Scientists have discovered a new species of **pale-gold colored frog** in the cloud forests of the **high Andes in Colombia**.
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### **Centre bans plastic bags below 50 microns**

- Will be implemented across the country **within 6 months**.
- **Thinner bags** currently pose a major threat to environment **due to its non-disposability**.
- **Manufacturers of plastic bags** will have to make **certain payments to states for its post-use disposal**

- **Manufacturing and use of non-recyclable multi-layered plastic will also be phased out in two years** under the new rules.
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## People in News

### **Pfizer appoints Sridhar as its MD**

- Sridhar has worked as the **Chief Financial Officer of the company for seven years**
  - Was appointed the **Executive Director on the Board in May 2013.**
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### **Honeywell appoints Suresh Senapaty as its Chairman**

- Honeywell Automation India Ltd (HAIL) announced appointment of **former Wipro CFO Suresh Senapaty as its Chairman.**
  - He has been appointed as an **Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent)** and as **Chairman of its Board of Directors**
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## Awards

### **Skoch Lifetime achievement Award presented to Venkaiah Naidu**

- selected for the award for his contributions to **inclusive growth and towards poverty alleviation in India**
  - **IT minister of Telangana State** KT Rama Rao was awarded the **Skoch Award in the Startup India category** for his initiative in establishing the **path breaking tech incubator T-Hub**
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## Sports

### **Du Plessis 2nd fastest to reach 1,000 T20I runs**

- **Faf du Plessis** became the **second fastest player** to reach **1,000 T20 runs, taking 32 matches.**
  - **Virat Kohli** was the **fastest** to achieve the feat, in **27 matches.**
  - Du Plessis also became the **third South African player** to reach **1,000 T20I runs, behind JP Duminy and AB de Villiers.**
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