

National News

Haryana Proposes tax Free State Budget for 2016-17

- Focus was mainly in **rural development** and it also **proposed relief to the riot-hit traders**.
 - **Budget increased 4% to Rs.88, 781.96 crore in 2016-17**
 - **Fiscal deficit is 47% of GSDP (without UDAY) in 2016-17**
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Rajasthan celebrates first IT Day

- **First IT Day** was based on the theme **‘Promotion of IT Start-ups’**, in line with the **State’s focus on empowering start-ups**.
 - The **State government has launched RajNET** — a wide area network **connecting the State capital with all 9,894 gram panchayats and 183 municipal areas**.
 - RajNET aims to **strengthen connectivity** and **allow the inclusion of remote areas through Information Technology**.
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Recommendations on Taxation of e-commerce submitted by Akhilesh Ranjan Committee

- Committee was constituted by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes**
 - Will examine **the business models for e-commerce, identify the direct tax issues in relation to e-commerce transactions and provide suggestions**.
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Mumbai’s Wilson College adopts railway station for cleanliness

- Part of the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**
 - College took the decision in response to the **appeal made by the Governor to colleges and universities to adopt a railway stations or any other public place nearest to the institution and to take care of its cleanliness and maintenance**.
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BHEL commissions second 270 MW thermal unit in Punjab

- It is commissioned at **Goindwal Sahibcoal-fired power project** in Punjab.
- The **first one was commissioned** at the site **last month**.
- The project **envisages design, engineering, manufacture, supply, erection and commissioning of steam turbines, generators, boilers, associated**

auxiliaries and electricals, besides Controls and Instrumentation (C&I) and Electrostatic Precipitators.

International

Nepal and China to have strategic rail link

- Nepal signed pact with China to build a **strategic railway link between the two countries through Tibet**
 - This will **reduce land-locked Nepal's total dependence on India**
 - Agreements signed include a **feasibility study on the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement**, China's assistance to build a **new airport** and a **border bridge over the Simikot-Hilsa road** section that will **connect Humla district with Tibet.**
 - Other agreements included a treaty on **economic and technical cooperation** to build a **Regional International Airport Project at Pokhara**, Nepal's famous tourist site.
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IKEA donates Rs 92 crore for safe water projects in India, Indonesia

- **Swedish retailing giant IKEA** majorly sells **Furniture**
 - It pledged to contribute **Rs 92.84 crore** to provide **safe water and sanitation** to **one million people in India and Indonesia** through **Water.Org.**
 - **2% of contagious diseases** in India are **linked to unsafe water** and the **lack of hygiene practices**
 - **50% of India's population** continues to **practice open defecation.**
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Business and Economy

Current Account Deficit fell to 1.3% of GDP

- **Excess of imports over exports** has **increased current account deficit** fall by a **further 1.3%** of the gross domestic products.
 - This is also due to **benefits of lower commodity prices.**
 - Reserve Bank of India data showed **current account deficit (CAD)** at **\$1 billion** in the **third quarter ending December**
 - **Lower than \$8.7 billion** or **1.7% of GDP** in the preceding quarter
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Paytm ties up with PVR to sell online movie tickets

- **Movie-ticketing market** lies about **\$2 billion, growing at 10% annually.**
 - Share of online **movie marketing is just 15%**
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Govt panel for levy on e-com through emails, blogs

- A **committee on e-commerce** has recommended a tax on digital transactions such as emails, blogs and downloads
 - Committee has recommended a tax of **6-8% on 13 services**, in a bid to **prevent tax avoidance by multinationals.**
 - Recommendations are **based on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting guidelines of The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** – which **provides economic solutions to member nations.**
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Cisco to invest \$100 million in India; to train over 250,000 students

- Investment aims to **connect thousands of villages to the Internet and create jobs.**
 - Company **will work with the Indian central and state governments** to start **incubation centers for entrepreneurs and to train students.**
 - will include **\$40 million** that will be used to **fund early-stage and growth-stage companies in the country**
 - Will train around **250,000 students by 2020.**
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Science and Technology

Prime minister launched Kisan Suvidha mobile app

- Will **provide information on** subjects such as **weather, seeds, market prices, pesticides, fertilizers, and agriculture machinery.**
 - Developed to **help farmers by providing relevant information** to them quickly.
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Researchers develop new Gravity Map of Mars

- Gravity maps **allow us to see inside a planet.** It will be **helpful for future Mars Exploration missions.**

- Better **knowledge of the planet's gravity anomalies** helps **mission controllers insert spacecraft more precisely into orbit about Mars**.
 - Improved **resolution of the gravity map** will help **understand the still-mysterious formation of specific regions of the planet**.
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Environment & Ecology

New Plastic Waste Management Rules to curb 6000 tonnes of plastic waste

- Industries using plastic will have to **pay proportionately towards collection** through the **same distribution system they use for retailing their products**.
 - This initiative aims to **standardize the 50 micron size plastic bags** as opposed to the **40 micron ones**, which was the **minimum permissible limit earlier**.
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People in News

Ali Mohamed Shein wins the Presidential election of Zanzibar

- He won with **91.4% of the votes**.
 - Presidential elections held was the **re-run of the elections held in October 2015**,
 - The elections in October was **cancelled on the grounds of fraud**.
 - Shein won **299982 votes against just 6076 votes (1.9%)** won by his main rival **Seif Sharif Hamad** of the **opposition Civic United Front (CUF)**
 - **Hamad was first vice president** in the **unity government** headed by Shein that has been **ruling Zanzibar since 2010**
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Former Intel CEO Andrew Grover dies

- **Hungarian-born American businessman, engineer, and author**.
 - **He was 79** and he has been **battling Parkinson's disease for years**.
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Awards

PM presents 2014-15 Krishi Karman Awards

- Awards were presented in two different categories viz. **Total food grain production and Individual Crops**.

- **Madhya Pradesh:** For production **greater than 10 million tonnes in Category I States.**
 - **Himachal Pradesh and Odisha:** For production between **1 and 10 million tonnes in Category II States.**
 - **Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya:** For production **less than 1 million tonnes in Category III States.**
 - **Individual Crops:** Total 5 winning states were awarded a **trophy, a citation and a monetary award of 2 crore rupees.** These states are
 - **Haryana, Assam: Rice.**
 - **Rajasthan: Wheat.**
 - **Chhattisgarh: Pulses.**
 - **West Bengal: Oil Seeds.**
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M.Sukumaran chosen for CV Kunhiraman Literary prize

- M Sukumaran is an **author and short story writer in Malayalam.**
 - He was **born at Chittur in Palakkad District, Kerala.**
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5th National Photography Awards

- Aim of this award is to promote **Nation's Art, Culture, Development, Heritage, History, Life, People, and Society** and to **encourage professional and amateur photographers across the country.**
 - Official theme of **5th National Photography Award** is **Save Mother Earth for Professional Photographers** and **Festivals of India for Amateur Photographers.**
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Sports

Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka win BNP Paribas Open titles

- **Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka** beat **Milos Raonic and Serena Williams** respectively in straight sets.
- **Men's Singles – Serbian Novak Djokovic**
- **Women Singles – Victoria Azarenka of Belarus**
- **Men's Doubles – Pierre-Hugues Herbert** and his compatriot **Nicolas Mahut** of France

- **Women's Doubles – US Pair Bethanie Sands and Coco Vandeweghe**
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Chennai girl wins at street Child Games in Rio

- **Hepziba won three medals, including a gold, at the Street Child Games in Rio.**
 - **She sprinted to win in the 100-metre dash**
 - **The tournament is a global movement for street children to receive the protection and opportunities that all children are entitled to**
 - **It unites street children from across five continents to play football and unite in a unique international conference.**
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