

National News

India to host BRICS summit in October

- The summit will be **hosted in Goa**.
 - India assumed **chairmanship of BRICS from Russia on February 15, 2016** and it will last till **December 31 2016**.
 - Core-theme will be **building responsive, inclusive and collective solutions for the grouping**.
 - India's emphasis would be on **institution building, implementation of previous commitments flowing from the past summits, and exploring synergies among the existing mechanisms**.
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Health Ministry launches Longitudinal Ageing Study in India

- This is the **largest survey of its kind**.
 - It will survey more than **60,000 elderly over 25 years plan**.
 - Jointly funded by the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the United States' National Institute on Ageing, and the United Nations Population Fund-India**.
 - Will **investigate various health structures, and impact of social determinants on health of the elderly**. It will also help in **framing evidence-based policy**.
 - Will help **design policies to mainstream the elderly, to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance access to various services**.
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Punjab Assembly passes Agriculture Indebtedness bill

- **Provides relief to the farmers**. The bill specifies that the **interest payable on debt** shall be **calculated at such rate as may be notified by the government**.
 - This would be **in accordance with the interest rates charged by banks on yearly basis**.
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Wages of NREGS hiked by 6%

- A new committee has been appointed to revise the **wage calculation formula for the MGNREGA workers**.

The wages will be calculated on **CPI-rural index**

- The **current scheme** of wages is based on the **agricultural labor index**
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India Post releases customized 'My Stamp' on HAL

- The stamp is released in recognition of the company's **75 years services to the nation.**
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Telangana signs pact with French aviation trainer

- A training institute will come up at **Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad.**
 - The French company plans to set up an academy to **train local talent** in addition to skilled workforce for the **maintenance, repair and overhaul.**
 - Program aiming to train at least **1,000 students a year in aerospace and related areas.**
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Government clears new Defense Procurement Policy

- Key changes to accord **priority to locally made equipment** and **fund private-sector R&D**
 - Policy will come into effect from **April 1, 2016.**
 - Will introduce measures to **promote indigenization and self-reliance in defense**
 - Will be unveiled at the Defexpo India 2016
 - Government will come with the update in Ordnance Factory Board and Defense Procurement Manuals in two months.
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NTPC starts 250 MW unit in Bihar

- Total capacity of **Nabinagar Thermal Power Station** has become **250 MW** and the total installed capacity of **NTPC group** has become **45,798 MW**
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Consumer Affairs Ministry signs MoUs to promote consumer welfare

- Has signed **MoUs with the Industry bodies**
- MoUs broadly covers the **collaborative programs on developing and implementing a self-regulatory code of fair business practices**

- MoU initiates advocacy action against **unfair trade practices** and **preventing fake, counterfeit and sub-standard products and services and adoption of voluntary standards.**
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Central Government amends Atal Pension Yojana(APY)

- The **spouse of the subscriber** shall be entitled to **receive the same pension** amount as that of the subscriber **until the death of the spouse**
 - After **death of both the subscriber and the spouse**, the **nominee of the subscriber** shall be entitled to **receive the pension wealth**, as accumulated **till age of 60 years of the subscriber.**
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International

Anand Mahindra and Aditya Puri among top global 30 CEO's

- Companies in the list – **Amazon, JP Morgan, Netflix, Disney, Alphabet and Google** are few top firms in the list
 - The **top CEOs** are
 - **Warren Buffet(Berkshire Hathaway)**
 - **David Cote(Honeywell)**
 - **Jamie Dimon(JP Morgan Chase)**
 - **Larry Page(Alphabet)**
 - **Howard Schultz(Starbucks) and**
 - **Mark Zuckerberg(Facebook)**
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Business and Economy

India's GDP growth projected at 7.7%

- **GDP growth** for the **current fiscal** is **estimated at 7.6%**
 - It is projected to grow to **7.75% in 2016-17**
 - **Increase in domestic consumption** after the implementation of the **Seventh Central Pay Commission's recommendations** and **One Rank One Pension (OROP)** is the reason for growth.
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Bajaj Finance enters life care financing segment

- It will **finance expenses for stem cells storage units, cosmetics-based hair treatment, dental and eye care, and many other issues.**
 - Anyone can get **interest-free loan for personal care treatment at VLCC, Kaya Skin Clinic and Enhance Clinic, among others.**
 - The segment has the potential to grow up to **12% of the portfolio.**
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Sachin Tendulkar invests in Smartron India

- **Sachin** invested **undisclosed amount** and also become the **brand ambassador of the company.**
 - Company is set to launch a **range of smart devices and IoT products** for consumer and enterprise markets in the first quarter of FY 2016-17.
 - Smartron is a **US-based semiconductor company** with **operations in US, India, and Russia.**
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Ola acquires payment solutions-Qarth technologies

- Has been acquired by Ola to integrate it with its **Ola money** to **facilitate payment**
 - Qarth Technologies is **incubated from IIT madras**
 - Qarth developed an **app X-pay** that will **enable customers to pay across 26 banks across the country**
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Science and Technology

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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British troops test 'invisibility cloak'

- Cloak is known as **"Vatec"** and allows soldiers to **hide from infrared and heat-searching devices.**
- This cloak **allows them to hide from the enemy.**

- Cloak attempts to replicate the **special ability of cephalopods** such as the **octopus and squid** to **blend in with the environment** to evade their predators
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Indian Coast Guard ship Arnavesh commissioned at Visakhapatnam

- The Ship will enhance **Coast Guard's capability** in **furthering its mandate of maritime safety, security on the eastern sea board**
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DRDO develops RADAR to look through walls

- Developed by: **LRDE (Electronics & Radar Development Establishment) of DRDO**
 - It looks through walls of **20-30cm thickness** and it **works based on Thermal RADAR technique**
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India deploys P8I maritime aircraft to Seychelles

- Will be deployed in **Seychelles till March 23, 2016**
 - Will help in **curbing illegal activities and piracy** and **ensuring stability and safety in the Indian Ocean region**
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Environment & Ecology

New standards for gensets

- **First time** such **mandated certifications** have been notified for gensets running on LPG or natural gas or in combination with diesel and petrol.
 - Primary aim is **to control air and noise pollution** emanating from the gensets.
 - Standards will be **revisited in 4-5 years** once air and noise emission quality data and technological details pertaining to the gensets are available.
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India's Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve added to list of perfect biospheres

- There are **669 biosphere reserves** in as many as **120 countries**.
- Out of **18 biosphere reserves in India**, Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is the **tenth one to be included** in the **UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network**.

- It covers about **3500 square kilometres**, and is part of **Tirunalveli and Kankyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Patanamthitta in Kerala.**
 - More than **2,250 species of dicotyledonous plants** are in the area and **29 are endemic to the region.**
 - It is home to more than **2000 species of plants, three wildlife sanctuaries and a tiger reserve**
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Sundarbans becomes no-pollution zone

- Objective of this program to maintain a **clean and green Sundarbans this polling season.**
 - A consensus was reached to **restrict the use of plastic or any other non-biodegradable material** during the campaign.
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People in News

Justice H L Dattu appointed as member of International Coordinating Committee

- Chief justice presence in the ICC Bureau will be aimed at **strengthening the ICC** and also **enhancing the role of NHRIs in the UN mechanisms.**
 - **NHRC, India** will now be representing the **Asia-Pacific region** along with **Mongolia, Qatar and Australia.**
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Paytm appoints ex-head of Alibaba as its President

- Paytm has appointed **Bhusan Patil** as its new President
 - to help **Paytm grow across the borders**
 - Paytm has a **user base of 125 Million** and it has **planned to sell \$ 2 billion worth products in 2016**
 - **Women's Doubles – US Pair Bethanie Sands and Coco Vandeweghe**
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