

National News

Power transmission line between India & Bangladesh

- A transmission line from **Tripura** that will supply **100 MW power to Bangladesh**
 - Aims to **strengthen the relationship between India and Bangladesh**
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Fasal Bima Yojana launched

- It is an insurance scheme for the farmers which **provide relief to the farmers when crops are affected by Natural calamities**
 - Different from the other schemes in that it provides a **higher sum** compared to other insurance schemes and also it **requires low premium**
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India & France sign MoU to create 6 Nuclear Reactors

- Proposed MoU will enable the building of **six new nuclear reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra**
 - Agreement was signed between **Electricite de France** and the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd**
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Cabinet approves agreements with other Nations

- **India and Lithuania** signed a MoU in the **field of agriculture** and the agreement proposes to include horticulture, post-harvest management, etc.
 - India signed an **agreement with UAE** in fields of **Infrastructure development with the NIIF**
 - **Ashgabat agreement** which facilitates **transport of goods between Central Asia and Persian Gulf**.
 - **India and Russia** will join hands to **minimize the consequences of Natural calamities like Flood and Earthquake**.
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Himachal, Mumbai to have electric buses

- **Zero-emission retrofitted electric buses** under the flagship scheme **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India)**.

- The department will fund up to **75% cost** and the department of heavy industry has granted in-principle approval.
 - **25 buses** will be rolled out in each state.
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Udaan scheme approved till 2019-20

- Udaan Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir extended till 2019-20 from the earlier time period of 2015-16.
 - Udaan is a **national integration scheme** with the goal to **mainstream J&K youth with rest of the country**
 - Targeting to train and enhance employability of **40,000 graduates, post graduates** and **three year engineering diploma holders**, will be achieved by 2019-20.
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National Highway project worth Rs 6,284 cr approved

- 11 highway projects with a total length of about **453 km**
 - Include **two four-laning of BRT Tiger Reserve boundary to Bengaluru section** of NH-209 in Karnataka at a cost of **Rs 1,253.51 crore**.
 - **Four-laning of Nerchowk-Pandoh project** of NH-21 on EPC mode in Himachal Pradesh at a cost of **Rs. 1273.71 crore**.
 - **Four-laning of Takoli-Kullu section** of NH-21 on EPC mode in Himachal Pradesh under NHDP phase-IV B at a cost of **Rs 742.40 crore**.
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Rashtrapati Bhavan among the cleanest buildings

- Under **Swachh Bharat Mission** the assessment workout was carried out by the **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)**
 - Cleanliness survey was based on **three distinct parameters sanitation infrastructure in the office and overall cleanliness**
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110 villages in Chhattisgarh declared 'open defecation' Free

- Total number of such villages in the state is now **1,849**.
 - This is under the Centre's **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** scheme.
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New gen NBFCs to target smaller cities

- **Tier-I cities are comfort zones.** But due to **compression in interest rates** and **increasing competition in tier-I cities**, NBFCs are looking at **tier-2 and 3 cities.**
 - **Repayment capacity of professionals**, such as doctors, in tier-II and -III cities **is better**, as there is **less competition for their skill.**
 - Lending to them is more beneficial as **they can recommend more borrowers/customers.**
 - NBFCs are also trying to expand their reach to smaller cities as they see business opportunities in the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector and plan to tap the needs of the self-employed.**
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International

Nepal to join Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- It is a **Beijing based security organization** established in **2001.**
 - The member nations are **China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**
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PM Modi, Sania Mirza among contenders for TIME's Most Influential people

- Editors of the Magazine will remain the final deciders
 - It has asked people to vote for their favorite leader among the **127 contenders**
 - Indian born CEO's of top firms **Google and Microsoft- Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella** also occupy the **honorary position**
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OECD released Standardized e-format for Exchange of Country-by-Country reports

- To ensure **swift and efficient implementation of the BEPS measures** and to **assist tax administration**
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Bill introduced in US Congress to help India join APEC

- An **economically prosperous India** benefits the **US' strategic goals in Asia.**
- Legislation notes that **US-India partnership is vital to the US strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe**, and is an integral aspect to the **Administration's Rebalance to Asia.**

- India enjoys a location within the Asia- Pacific region which provides an **avenue for continued trade and investment partnerships with APEC member states.**
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Business and Economy

World Bank to support Swachh Bharat Mission

- World Bank proposed a **\$1.5 billion dollar as funding** to the clean India campaign
 - The fund will be incentivized based on the performance based indicators like DLI's
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RBI makes it easier for banks to improve liquidity

- **Liquidity Coverage Ratio** need not include the retail deposits whose maturity value is beyond a month
 - The calculation also **excludes the pledged deposits over 30 days maturity date**
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Lakshmi Vilas Bank ties up with NBHC for collateral management & warehousing

- Primary objective of these services will allow **industry traders and farmers** in **financing their capital requirements at all stages of supply chain**
 - Would allow the bank to **provide financial flexibility to farmers, minimizing the seasonal price fluctuations and distress sales during crop harvest season.**
 - Services to the needs of the members of the commodities future exchange for strong commodities and delivery through designated warehouses.
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South Indian Bank gets ISO 9001:2008 certification

- Kerala based **South Indian Bank** has disseminated that its personnel department has achieved the **ISO 9001:2008 certification.**
 - Established in **1929** spread across more than **26 states and 3 union territories** in India
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Science and Technology

Telephone feedback mechanism for Grievance Redressal

- Will allow the people to come in **direct contact to register their complaints about various departments**
 - On the inauguration ceremony randomly **selected 3 persons** and contacted them directly over phone and **sought clarification about the clearance of their grievance**
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Environment & Ecology

Asia most exposed to disasters, Africa most vulnerable: Study

- Asia has the **largest number of people affected by natural disasters**,
 - **African countries are most vulnerable** largely because of **political instability, corruption, poverty and inequality**, a new global assessment shows.
 - Over **1.4 billion people in South Asia** such as **India, Bangladesh and Pakistan** face at least one major threat from nature.
 - In the case of **Bangladesh, 100% of its population is exposed**, compared to **82% for India and 70% in Pakistan**.
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People in News

Justice Permod Kohli appointed as Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal

- He is a **retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court**.
 - Kohli as Judge has provided services to the High Courts of **Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab & Haryana**.
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'Kadhprasangam' famous V D Rajappan died

- a **famous comedian in Malayalam cinema** and acted over **50 movies**
 - was in peak in **1970's & 1980's** for his unique satirical style of 'Kadhprasangam'
 - **Famous Kadhprasangams include 'Kumari Eruma', 'Mak Mak', 'Priye Ninte Kura', 'Amittu', 'Pothu Puthri' and 'Ennenum Kurangettandeh**
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Sports

Shane Watson to quit international cricket after World T20

- He has not featured in the **one-day team since September 2015,**
 - He **debuted** for the **Australian cricket team in 2002**
 - He **retired from Tests last year** after Australia's unsuccessful Ashes campaign in England
 - Shane Watson is the only player to win **Australian Player of the Year award** across all formats of the game.
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