

National News

Delhi Budget 2016 – 17 presented

- **Rs.46,600 crore annual budget** for 2016-17, pegging **plan outlay** at **Rs 20,600 crore**.
 - An **increase of Rs.8,850 crore** over last year
 - **Tax-free budget and rationalization of the VAT structure**
 - Allocated **Rs.10,690 crore for education** or nearly **23% of the total allocation**.
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Sixth Economic Census report of Himachal Pradesh released

- The survey was **started in 2012** and completed in two phases with **8303 enumerators, 3844 supervisors** and **175 charge officers** covering **24,932 enumeration blocks**.
 - **First state** in the country to complete the census and release the report
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Haryana launches 'Adapting homes for the differently-abled' scheme.

- **Six months' pension** would be given in advance to **persons with disabilities** for **adapting their homes as per their requirement**.
 - This amount would be recovered over a **period of 42 months** under the **'Adapting homes for the differently-abled' scheme**.
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BHEL commissions 40 MW hydropower generating unit in West Bengal

- Estimated **annual energy generation of 720 million units** from the project
 - Is expected to **reduce green-house gas emissions**
 - Will help in achieving a **low carbon development path** for the state as well as the nation.
 - Company has so far commissioned nearly **400 hydro generating sets** of various ratings with a cumulative capacity of around **20,000 MW**
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Haryana approves Jat reservation bill

- Bill proposes **reservation for Jats** and four other castes namely, **Sikhs, Rors, Bishnois and Tyagis**
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ADB, USAID to support India's clean energy expansion plan

- MoU signed to collaborate on supporting **India's expansion plans for clean energy infrastructure.**
 - ADB to provide financing up to **\$ 500 million** each to **support rooftop solar, and expansion of the transmission network to connect solar parks** in multiple states.
 - USAID to align the components of its technical assistance with ADB's current and planned investments in renewable energy.
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Project to restore Noyyal River and its tributaries launched

- Includes installation of **decentralized sewage treatment plants, developing parks** where space is available and **laying walking paths along the river.**
 - Project will be implemented on **divide-distribute-develop** model by **forming committees for every 500 meters of the river.**
 - Initiative will involve **educational institutions, businesses, the public and the Government.**
 - Noyyal River rises from the **Vellingiri hills in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu** and passes through **Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode and Karur** to join the **Cauvery at Noyyal village** (total of 160 km).
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International

Syrian Army recaptures historic city of Palmyra from IS

- mortal blow to militants who seized the city last year and dynamited its ancient temples.
 - Palmyra is an **ancient Semitic city** in **present-day Homs Governorate, Syria.**
 - loss of Palmyra represents one of the **biggest setbacks for the ultra-hard-line Islamist group** since it declared a **caliphate in 2014** across large parts of Syria and Iraq.
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Business and Economy

World Bank approved to Jordan and Rajasthan

- World Bank to offer **interest free loan of \$100 million loan to Jordan**

- World Bank Board granted **Long term Loan of \$250 million Development Policy Loan for Rajasthan.**
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Federal Bank to open incubation centres for startups

- To set up incubation centers for **startups in Bangalore and Ernakulam.**
 - To offer advice on capital, regulatory support and even disburse funds in the branches.
 - Equipped with **fast internet connections, support staff** from the **financial world and advisory mechanisms.**
 - **Dedicated startup fund of worth 25 crore** which will be utilized for **funding or lending to promising startups.**
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Ola ties up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- To provide motor insurance to its drivers. It will not only provide a **cover for accidents**, but will also **insure theft of vehicles** as well as **damage**
 - **Personal accident cover of Rs 2 lakh.**
 - Also working together to create a **digital infrastructure** that will bring **insurance transactions like purchase or claims, fully online.**
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Science and Technology

Singapore Navy Test-Fires Barak Missile

- Successfully test-fired a **Barak missile** from its **Victory-class missile corvette RSS Vigour** during **Fleet Exercise** conducted in the **South China Sea**
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Rotavirus vaccine launched

- Vaccine has been developed indigenously under a public-private partnership by the **ministries of science and technology and health and family welfare.**
- Will be initially introduced in four states – **Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.**
- As part of the Union Health Ministry's universal immunization program to **prevent diarrheal deaths due to the virus**

- An estimated **8.53 lakh children under the age of one** will be administered the vaccine **annually at 6, 10 and 14 weeks.**
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Sun may produce devastating 'superflares'

- Can not only **break down radio communication and power supplies**, but also affect **Earth's ability to support life.**
 - Super flares have been a mystery since the **Kepler mission discovered them in larger numbers four years ago.**
 - The **largest observed eruption** from the Sun took place in **September 1859.**
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Environment & Ecology

Union Government notified E-Waste Management Rules, 2016

- New rules focus on **phasing out of non-recyclable multi layered plastic and increasing reuse of plastic waste**
 - Minimum thickness of plastic carry bags increased **from 40 microns to 50 microns.**
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People in News

Indian-American named president CEO of bank of the west

- Indian-American **Nandita Bakshi** appointed the **President and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of the West.**
 - will replace **Michael Shepherd** as Bank of the West's next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
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Global Catholic Network founder Mother Angelica dies

- **Roman Catholic nun** who used a **monastery garage** to **begin a television ministry**
 - Had been in **declining health** since suffering a severe cerebral hemorrhage on **Christmas Eve 2001.**
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Indian appointed UN adviser on human rights and businesses

- **India-born academician- Surya Deva** has been appointed UN adviser on human rights and businesses

- Responsible for **strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights** around the globe and **for addressing situations of human rights violations** and make recommendations on them.
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Awards

63rd National Film Awards presented

- **Best actress: Kangana Ranaut** for 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns'
 - **Best actor: Amitabh Bachchan** for 'Piku',
 - **Best Film: 'Baahubali: The Beginning'**
 - **Best Director: Sanjay LeelaBhansali** for 'Bajirao Mastani'
 - **Best popular film providing wholesome entertainment: 'BajrangiBhaijaan'**
 - **Best Film Friendly State Award: Gujarat**
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Sports

India to host 2017 FIFA Under-17 World Cup

- **World championship of association football for male players under the age of 17** organized by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
 - A big chance to present the **Indian brand on the global level.**
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California Chrome lands world's richest horse race

- **California Chrome** won a **Kentucky Derby, a Preakness, and a Horse of the Year title**
 - California Chrome **won in the Dubai World Cup**
 - This victory brings Chrome of **\$6 million to his \$6.53 million career earnings**
 - **Surpassed 2008 World Cup champion Curlin** as the **all-time richest racehorse outside of Japan.**
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