

National News

3 mega projects started in Nagaland

- **Eri Silk Development Project**
 - **Apparel and Garment Making Centre** in Dimapur
 - **Muga P3 Basic Seed Station** Kobulong in Mokokchung district
-

Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) project instigated

- **100 Adarsha Vidyalayas** has been launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik
 - Schools will be **administered by the Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya Sangathan of the state.**
-

'Maa Annapurna Yojna' launched

- A beneficiary holding the Annapurna card will receive **wheat at Rs 2 per kilo and rice at Rs 3 per kilo.**
 - Currently, **Above Poverty Line (APL) card holding families** are entitled to a **monthly stock of 2.5 kg wheat per member of the family at Rs 7.70 per kg.**
-

Permanent memorial to Kalam at DilliHaat in INA

- Kalam's possessions from his residence will be brought by the center.
 - They will be **kept inside the Delhi Assembly** till July 27 and thereafter, they will be **permanently placed at DilliHaat.**
 - Delhi government will also have a **permanent exhibition on Kalam** at Delhi Haat.
-

Mumbai gets its first-ever AC local train

- Will have **2 ACs of 15 tonne per coach** and **electrically operated automatic sliding doors.**
 - New train will consume **25% lesser energy** as opposed to normal rakes.
 - Train has been in the making since July 2014 in the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, under an **Rs 54-crore project.**
-

Bihar Government imposes complete ban on alcohol

- Bihar would become the **fourth state in India** to impose a **total prohibition of alcohol**.
-

Transnational Skill Standards launched

- Initiatives will make **boost for the Government Make in India** and Skill India will be **benchmarked to United Kingdom** across **82 identified job roles** and to align to skill standards.
-

Water Films Festival inaugurated

- Organized by Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) Limited, as part of the **ongoing India Water Week 2016**
 - Water Resources are the **prime input to the growth and prosperity of a nation**
 - Films can prove to be an effective tool of communication to spread the message of water conservation
-

International

Stamps issued to mark Shakespeare's 400th death anniversary

- **Ten First Class stamps** pay tribute to the genius of Shakespeare
 - They will be sold at **8,000 post offices across Britain**.
-

'Capital punishment rose by 54% in 2015'

- Amnesty International (AI), in its latest **Death Penalty Report 2015-16**, has said that at least **1,634 people were executed by 25 countries in 2015**.
- Report notes that these numbers show an alarming **54% increase over the previous year**.
- **Most executions take place in China**, where such data remains a state secret.
- **Asia-Pacific region saw 367 people subjected to the death penalty** — more than a **ten-fold rise from 2014**.
- **Pakistan alone accounted for 326 of them**.
- **West Asia and North Africa saw a 26% rise in executions**,

- **U.S.** remained the **lone country in the Americas** to have **executed convicts**. But the numbers were the **lowest since 1991**.
 - **Four more countries abolished the death penalty for all crimes** in 2015, taking the tally of **abolitionist states to 102**.
-

Business and Economy

Export funding to Iran to Rs 3,000 crore

- Agreement between **Exim Bank of India** and a **consortium of Iranian banks led by Central Bank of Iran**
 - Financing the purchase of goods and services from India to **Rs 3,000 crore, from Rs 900 crore**
 - Will facilitate an opportunity to Indian companies to **penetrate and enhance their footprint in Iran**.
-

Power Grid commissions record Rs 30,300-crore projects

- **Navratna Company** has commissioned a record **Rs 30,300 crore projects in the last fiscal**
 - Achieved a planned capex of **Rs 22,500 crore**.
 - State run Electric power Transmission Company **PowerGrid**, commissioned transmission projects worth **Rs 30,300 crore during 2015-16**.
 - Highest-ever commissioning achieved by the company in its history.
-

ECoR becomes largest freight loading railway zone

- ECoR earned about **Rs 15,978.28 crore**
 - It is **14.13% more than the previous financial year**. It showed an **increase of Rs 1961.27 crore in earning**.
 - In coal loading, the railway zone has carried **79.4 rakes per day** against **72.7 rakes per day** in previous financial year.
 - Railway carried **131.2 rakes loading per day** from its jurisdiction against **122.4 rakes per day in 2014-15**.
-

Advanced R&D Centre in Pune opened by EMC

- Second CoE of EMC will **improve their business by creating their digital future**

- **Modernize, automate and transform IT through cloud computing.**
 - The company already has a **Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru.**
-

Orahi acquires Odd-Even.com

- Helps to find partners to commute during the **odd-even rule.**
 - Odd-Even.com was started by **Akshat Mittal, a 13-year-old.**
 - **Mittal** will be inducted to the company's advisory board **as a technical and domain expert**
 - Orahi will provide him **mentorship on running a carpool business.**
-

Science and Technology

China dispatched Retrieval Satellite to study Micro-gravity

- Aim to help scientists to **study micro-gravity and space life science**
 - Bullet-shaped probe was put into space by **Long March 2-D rocket** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwestern China's Gobi desert.
 - **Second of four scientific satellites** under a CAS space program and is returnable.
-

Smallest diode using a DNA molecule developed

- University of Georgia (UGA) and Israel's Ben-Gurion University has created the **world's smallest diode using a single DNA molecule.**
 - The diode as small as that it cannot be seen with **conventional microscope.**
 - **findings help to search for silicon chip replacements**
 - Could lead to the **creation of electronic devices** that are **smaller and more powerful.**
-

'Fast radio burst 'afterglow' came from black hole'

- Radio emission **believed to be an afterglow from a mysterious event called fast radio burst.**
 - Originated from a **supermassive black hole in the core of a distant galaxy.**
 - **First ones were only identified in 2007.** Their source has remained a **mystery.**
 - Most FRBs have been **identified in archival data,** making **immediate follow-up impossible.**
-

- New event is only the **second one to be identified in real time.**
-

Google now offers 'health card' for disease search

- India is the **third country** to get this feature after the **US and Brazil.**
 - Health cards were rolled out in the **US last year** and in **Brazil two weeks ago.**
 - Carries an **illustration, major symptoms, need for lab tests for diagnosis, most commonly affected age groups and indicates whether a disease is contagious, among other kinds of information.**
 - In India, the cards are available in **Hindi and English.**
 - Google has worked with **AIIMS, Apollo hospitals and Columbia Asia hospitals for this feature.**
-

Environment and Ecology

New Rules on Management of Hazardous Waste

- Include a **separate category of items like tyre, metal scrap, paper and certain electronic goods that can be recycled and reused.**
 - **Items banned for import are waste edible fats and oil of animals, household waste, tyres for direct re-use purpose, solid plastic wastes, including PET bottles, waste electrical and electronic assemblies scrap and other chemical wastes especially in solvent form.**
 - **Hazardous waste includes material like lead acid battery scrap, used oil, waste oil and spent catalysts.**
 - Rules make **state governments responsible for environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes**
 - States must also **submit annual reports regarding implementation of these rules to environment ministry.**
-

People in News

Iceland PM Sigmundur Davio Gunnlaugsson Resigns

- **Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson steps down**
- **First major casualty of the Panama Papers revelations**

- **China and Russia** are suppressing the news and **rejecting any allegations of impropriety by government officials**
 - Officials in **Ukraine, Argentina and other countries** are also facing **questions** about possibly dubious offshore tax-avoidance schemes.
-

M.H.P.Rao passes away

- Architect of **Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)**.
 - Specially appointed by the then **Nuclear Power Board** to administer the **construction and commissioning of the MAP**.
 - Served as a **member of Southern, Western and Northern Indian Regional electricity boards**.
-

Screenwriter Barbara Turner passed away

- Earned two Emmy norms for **“The War Between the Tates”** and **“Hemingway & Gellhorn”**
 - Worked on numerous films such as **“Petulia”, “Georgia” and “Pollock”**.
-

Sports

Chitra, Varshaa win Gold at WLBS World snooker championship

- Chitra defeated Sandra Bryan, Dannie Findlay and Michelle Brown before advancing over Sharon Kaur 3-0 in the final.
 - Varshaa overcame Claire Edgington and Yan Shut before putting it across Jeong Min Park 3-0 in the final.
-

Mother Dairy partners Delhi Daredevils as principal sponsor

- Brand **Mother Dairy** will be seen on Delhi Daredevils team jersey, along with the visibility at key spots in the stadium on match days.
 - **Delhi Daredevils franchise** owners are backed by the **GMR Group**.
-