

National News

Distribution of Energy Efficient Smart Agriculture Pumps & Fans

- **National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Program**
 - **National Energy Efficient Fan Program.**
 - Schemes will be implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited under Power ministry.**
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National Family Planning Summit 2016 in New Delhi

- Summit had **New Choices, New Horizons** as its theme.
 - Launched first **indigenously developed natural latex-based female condom.**
 - New latex version of female condom is manufactured by Kerala based HLL Lifecare Ltd under the brand name Velve
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Pact with Sweden for cooperation in rail sector

- **cooperation in areas of benchmarking railway policy and regulation development, exchange of knowledge and technical expertise, freight operations in colder regions and tilting coaches.**
 - Cooperation is achieved through **exchange of information on developments in areas of railways technology and operations, knowledge sharing, technical visits, training and seminars and workshops in areas of mutual interest.**
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New oil import policy approved

- Decision will provide a **more efficient, flexible and dynamic policy for crude procurement, eventually benefiting the consumers.**
 - Oil marketing PSUs have been allowed **to buy crude on a day-to-day basis**
 - **Prevailing practice is calling tenders two-months before purchase.**
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36 new CNG stations in Delhi & NCR

- Three stations were by Haryana City Gas in Gurgaon, **one by GAIL Gas in Sonapat and two stations by Adani Gas in Faridabad and Khurja have been set up.**
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Promulgation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Anatomy Regulation, 2016

- Procedures for providing **supply or availability of unclaimed of dead bodies to the Medical College for the purpose of studying the human anatomy in all systems of medicine.**
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3rd phase of Mission Indradhanush begins on 7th April

- 216 Districts across several States including **Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh will be covered**
 - Under the last two phases nearly **39 lakh children** have been **fully immunized.**
 - Aims to cover all those children **by 2020 who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against seven vaccine preventable diseases.**
 - Diseases include **diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B.**
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First Horticulture University in Haryana at Karnal

- will cater the needs to **support the gap between teaching, research and extension activities in the state**
 - will establish the **convergence and synergy to disseminate latest technology and horticulture education to our young generation**
 - Will **identify strategies for further development.**
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National Hydrology Project

- Aims to **collect hydro-metrological data across India and use it for efficient water management in the country.**
 - Project intends to set up a **system for timely and reliable water resource data acquisition, storage, collation and management.**
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OROP gets retrospective Cabinet nod

- One Rank-One Pension scheme to benefit more than **2.5 million ex-servicemen and war widows**
- Pension would be revised on the basis of the pension of retirees of calendar year 2013 and the benefit will be effective from July 1, 2014.

- Financial implications on account of grant of OROP, including pre-matured retiree cases, would be **Rs 10,925.11 crore for payment of arrears and annual financial implication would be Rs 7,488.7 crore.**
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International

Bronze bust of Aryabhata unveiled at UNESCO Headquarters

- Bronze bust of **ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata has been unveiled at the UNESCO** by the HRD Minister Smriti Irani
 - Bust has been **sculpted by renowned Indian sculptor Ram Sutar** who was awarded the Padma Bhushan.
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2015 report on "World Military Expenditure"

- India has been ranked at **6th Position in the 2015 report** on Trends in world military expenditure.
 - Chart has been topped by the **USA as the world's biggest spender**
 - Top 5 countries – **USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and UK.**
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Business and Economy

Recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission on Fiscal Deficit approved

- Permitted to the **states with adequate finance to borrow an extra 0.5% of their GDP, beyond the 3% stipulated** by the 14th Finance Commission, in order to help them **to meet their development needs.**
 - Approved it with year to year flexibility for **additional deficit of about 0.5%.**
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CCEA consented ATC Asia Pacific & Andrew Yule proposals

- Approval would bring in a total **foreign direct investment inflow of ₹5, 856.51 crore** into the telecom base of the nation.
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WTO cuts 2016 world trade growth forecast to 2.8%

- Global Growth will come **to 8% this year**, lower than a **previous forecast of 8.9%**
 - Economic growth of **2.4% in 2016 and 2.7% in 2017.**
 - Trade is likely to rise to **3.6% in 2017**
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BHEL commissions tiltable canal top solar plant in Andhra

- **First canal top project in Andhra Pradesh and also first such project executed by the company.**
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Future Group acquires online furniture retailer FabFurnish for Rs.20 Crore

- It is the **first acquisition of an Internet Store.**
 - FabFurnish's management team and about 100 employees are likely to join Future Group.
 - will use the online platform to take Home Town online.
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CSIR in the Thomson Reuters Top 50 Indian Innovator Companies and Research Organizations

- CSIR was also the recipient of the Thomson Reuters India Innovation Awards 2013 **in the category of Hi-Tech Academic & Government**
 - Known for its **cutting-edge R&D knowledgebase in diverse S&T areas,**
 - Having **pan-India presence, with a dynamic network of 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centers, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.**
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Science and Technology

Low cost and environment-friendly solar lighting device launched

- This technology would lead to the **saving of fossil fuels to a great extent as 1 unit of energy saved is equivalent to 3 units of energy generated.**
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Whatsapp introduces end-to-end encryption

- All private communications now would be protected by **enabling end-to-end encryption.**
 - New feature will allow users to access messages **while barring everybody else, including government agencies, from snooping.**
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Environment and Ecology

Teak absorbs max CO2 from air, helps check global warming

- Teak has the **highest capacity for carbon sequestration among trees in India.**
 - A teak tree with a girth of 10-30 cm can absorb **3.70 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.**
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People in News

Debraj Pradhan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Norway

- Holds **Master's Degree in Political Science.**
 - Joined the **Indian Foreign Service in August 1981.**
 - He was posted as **Third Secretary/Second Secretary to High Commission of India, Nairobi**
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C.P. Gurnani appointed as Chairman of NASSCOM

- Mr. Raman Roy, **Chairman and Managing Director of Quattro Global Services**, appointed as the **Vice Chairman of NASSCOM for 2016-17.**
 - NASSCOM, a non-profit organization is a **trade association of Indian Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing industry**
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Asia's 50 most powerful businesswoman list topped by Nita Ambani

- Featuring business women from **14 countries, including China, Indonesia, Australia, Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Philippines and New Zealand.**
 - **8 Indian women** have made their mark in the list of 50 women leaders
 - Topped by **Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani**
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Sports

India wins 2016 Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament

- **India defeated Vietnam in the finals**
 - **Kazakhstan and Iran** took the **third and fourth places** respectively.
 - **India earned 17 points**, two more than World and Olympiad champions China, to clinch the title
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