

National News

Delhi Government bans all forms of Chewable Tobacco

- Department of Food Safety releases a notification stated that **unpackaged products of chewable tobacco, too, are covered under the ban.**
 - The ban will be **in place for one year.**
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Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences signs MoU with PSU

- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and Educational Consultants India Limited, a central PSU, jointly signed a MoU
 - They will **work in areas of education and human resource development.**
 - **Will engage for academic collaborations and exchanges.**
 - EdCIL will provide **financial support for organizing research projects and conferences.**
 - EDCIL **offered books worth over Rs 5 lakhs to around 9000 tribal students from class I to class V of KISS on the occasion.**
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Kerala celebrates Harvest Festival

- Believers across the state are visiting temples, performing special pujas and exchanging gifts to mark the occasion.
 - **Vishu is the start of the Hindu Malayalee's New Year.**
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India, US to collaborate on tackling offshore tax evasion

- **Continued collaboration and sharing of experience in tackling offshore tax evasion and avoidance,** including joint tax audits and tax examination abroad.
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Google extends free internet service through WiFi to 10 railway stations

- The formal launch will be **started in Bhubaneswar.**
 - Free WiFi service now extended to **10 railway stations as a part of its tie up with Railtel.**
 - **Pune, Bhubaneshwar, Bhopal, Ranchi, Raipur, Vijayawada, Kacheguda (Hyderabad), Ernakulum Jn (Kochi) and Vishakhapatnam** are the other stations.
 - Free WiFi service was **launched first at Mumbai Central in January 2016**
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Law to increase workers' bonus faces fresh hurdles

- Government's attempt to **appease the working class by paying higher bonus under a 2015 law** has been **stayed in eight states by the High Courts.**
 - The **Act doubled the statutory bonus paid to employees** and made **more workers eligible for bonus** by raising the salary ceiling under the law from **Rs.10,000 a month to Rs.21,000 a month.**
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National Agriculture Market

- **E-platform** aims to provide **more options to farmers to sell their produce** and is **part of implementation of the roadmap for doubling income of the farmers by 2022.**
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Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan

- Campaign was launched on the **125th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar at his birthplace.**
 - Aim of this campaign is to make **nationwide efforts to strengthen Panchayati Raj and through it, boost social harmony in the villages, promote rural development and foster farmers' welfare & livelihoods of the poor.**
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International

Fairness for Children report released by UNICEF

- presents an **overview of inequalities in child well-being of the European Union (EU) and the organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
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Pakistan, China kick off joint air exercise

- Exercise will **enhance the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China.**
 - Strategic partnership has been further strengthened through the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, infrastructure development and routine joint military exercises.**
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El Salvador declares drought emergency for first time ever

- Central American country of El Salvador has **declared a water shortage emergency**
 - The **first drought emergency in its history.**
 - Water shortages in recent weeks. **River and water reserve levels have reached a critical state.**
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Microsoft sues US government over data requests

- Microsoft Corp has **sued the US government for the right to tell its customers when a federal agency is looking at their emails.**
 - The lawsuit argues that the **government is violating the US Constitution by preventing Microsoft from notifying thousands of customers about government requests for their emails and other documents.**
 - Microsoft's suit **focuses on the storage of data on remote servers, rather than locally on people's computers,** which Microsoft says has provided a new opening for the government to access electronic data.
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Business and Economy

NDB sanctions \$250 million for India's renewable energy scheme

- Loan from the BRICS's China based **New Development Bank (NDB)** which gave a **\$250 million** funding to **Canara Bank** for a renewable energy project.
 - Development Bank has approved **four green renewable energy projects from India, China, Brazil and South Africa** entailing Bank financing of **\$811 million**.
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RBI cuts maturity of masala bonds to three years

- The term "**Masala Bond**" is used to refer to **rupee-denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas markets**.
 - **Minimum maturity period** for the rupee-denominated bonds issued overseas **reduced to three years from the previously stated five years**.
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Union Government imposes anti-dumping duty on N-Butyl Alcohol

- Normal Butanol **exported from the EU, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the U.S. was found to be below its normal value**.
 - N-Butyl Alcohol is a chemical **used in fermentation of sugar**
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Chennai's Freshdesk acquires Social Engagement Tool Airwoot

- The **fifth acquisition of Freshdesk**.
 - Other previous acquisitions include **1CLICK**, a live video chat platform, **Frilp**, a social recommendation app, **Konotor**, a mobile first user engagement platform, and **Framebench**, a platform for creative collaboration.
 - New Delhi-based **Memetic Labs Technologies**, the creators the **Airwoot**
 - It is a **SaaS-based helpdesk product to manage customers over social media**
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People in News

Ukraine appoints Groysman as new Prime Minister

- MPs voted to approve **Mr. Groysman's appointment** and accept the **resignation of his predecessor, Arseniy Yatsenyuk**.
 - He was voted in by **MPs 257 to 50** as the **16th Prime Minister of Ukraine**.
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Susmita Pande as National Monument Authority (NMA) Chairperson

- Appointed as the **new chairperson of the National Monument Authority (NMA) for a three-year term**.
 - Would succeed **Himanshu Prabha Ray**, the professor at **Jawaharlal Nehru University**.
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British playwright Arnold Wesker died

- He had **Parkinson's disease**.
 - Produced more than **40 plays**, as well as books of essays, poetry and short stories,
 - Work also included **children's fiction** and a first novel, **Honey**, which was published in **2005**.
 - His plays have been translated into up to **20 different languages** and performed **worldwide**
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Punjab lokpal Justice J.S. Sekhon passes away

- Had **been fighting cancer** for more than a year.
 - Started his career as a **lawyer at the Ferozepur district and sessions court**
 - Before being **elevated as high court judge** he worked as district and sessions judge in **several courts of the state**.
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Hero group co-founder Satyanand Munjal dies at 99

- Popularly known as '**mahatma**' Satyanand Munjal for being devoted to several social causes related to the Arya Samaj.
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Sports**Paddlers Soumyajit Ghosh, Manika Batra book Rio 2016 Olympic berths**

- Indian Paddlers **Soumyajit Ghosh and Manika Batra** booked their Olympic tickets by winning their respective groups in the **Asian Qualifiers in Hong Kong**.
 - **No other country from the region** participating in the **South Asian Zone** qualification event,
 - Competition was restricted to the Indian paddlers alone.
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AIBA names Mary Kom as ambassador for World Championship

- **Manipuri boxer MC Mary Kom** has been named as one of the **brand ambassadors of the forthcoming World Championships by the International Boxing Association (AIBA)**.
 - **Kazakhstan capital of Astana** will host more than **300 of the world's top female boxers** for the **AIBA Women's World Championships**.
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