

National News

Cabinet approves signing the Paris Agreement

- Adopted at the **21st Conference of Parties** held in Paris in last December.
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Gold Finial unveiled at Humayun's Tomb

- **18 feet tall Finial at Humayun's Tomb**, New Delhi as part of the ongoing conservation effort.
 - Tomb is a UNESCO World Heritage Site one of three in the capital has reinstated with a gold crown.
 - Humayun's Tomb is model of the 18-foot tall structure weighs about **300-kg finial made of 4 percent pure copper and plated with 3.5 kg of 24-carat gold.**
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Visit to Nagaland by Union Minister for Science and Technology

- Inaugurated DBT created **Biotech Infrastructure facility at ICAR- National Research Centre on Mithun, Jharnapani.**
 - Inaugurated **Twinning Network Project on Chemical Ecology of North Eastern Region at Nagaland Science and Technology Council.**
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Government merges Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan with Khelo India

- **Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS)**
 - **National Sports Talent Search Scheme (N-STSS)**
 - **Rs 140 crore** allocated for the above projects in the current budget.
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MoU on Youth Exchange Programmes with foreign countries

- Support **exchange of ideas and values amongst youth of different countries** and help in **developing international view among the youth.**
 - Will pave the way for **people-to-people contacts**, these **Programs promote peace and understanding and strengthen friendly relations between countries.**
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MoU between India and Bhutan on Technical Cooperation

- Technical cooperation in the field of **capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering.**
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Ceasefire in Nagaland extended by one year

- Agreement targets to bring **lasting peace in the state of Nagaland** with the **involvement of Naga people.**
 - Both the sides agreed that the **ceasefire will follow Ceasefire Ground Rules (CFGR) as mutually ratified**
 - CFGR will subject to **mutual review and amendment with the involvement of both the parties.**
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India to Purchase 145 M777 Howitzers

- **145 M777 Howitzers for \$750 million to prepare the Mountain Strike Corps.**
 - Decision to buy **ultra-light Howitzers produced by UK based BAE Systems** under the Make In India
 - Under Make in India initiative **BAE Systems had tied up Mahindra as its business partner for its proposed in-country assembly, integration and test (AIT) facility** for the M777 Howitzer.
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Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojana notified

- Haryana government has notified **the Affordable Plotted Housing Policy 2016 for low and medium standard towns**
 - To achieve the **goal of providing houses for all which will facilitate creation of additional affordable housing in these towns.**
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Unauthorized places of worship insult to God.

- Supreme Court has expressed **anguish over inaction of authorities for allowing the existence of unauthorized places of worship on roads and pavements across the country**
 - Court has **warned chief secretaries of states and Union territories of serious consequences if they did not comply with its orders directing removal of such religious structures**
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Most of rural India still opts for open defecation: NSS report

- **nation-wide rapid survey was conducted during May-June 2015, concurrently with the 72nd round of the NSS**
 - **52.1% of people in rural India choose open defecation compared to 7.5% in urban India.**
 - Survey was to **track the government's flagship program, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.**
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Trading bloc to India: cut tariffs

- **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership** has asked India to agree to **eliminate tariffs on most products quickly**
 - **Or else, India has to leave the talks on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA).**
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New PF withdrawal norms on hold

- A **complete and unconditional rollback of new PF norms that barred employees from withdrawing their provident fund corpus before retirement.**
 - Previously, **employees had been allowed to withdraw the total EPF amount before retirement for medical emergencies, to fund children's marriage or while changing jobs.**
 - Under the norms that now stand reversed, **employees could withdraw their own share of PF savings along with the interest on them.**
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International

India ranked at 133 on World Press Freedom Index

- Shows the **levels of freedom that journalists, News Organizations enjoy in the country**
 - India gains at **133 among 180 countries** in the recent annual meeting of World Press freedom Index
 - **Finland is in first place for the sixth consecutive year. Netherlands and Norway follow.**
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Business and Economy

Health insurance cards distributed in Punjab

- Issued **303074 pre-active cashless Farmers Health Insurance Cards** under **Bhagat Puran Singh Sehat Bima Yojna** in the **maiden phase of project.**
 - Scheme enables farmers and their families to get health cover up to **Rs 50,000 for their treatment and compensation of Rs 5 Lakhs in case of death**
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IFMR Capital initiates first capital market transaction for MUDRA

- Joint initiative would **facilitate accelerated impact on the sector by leveraging MUDRA's capital and risk appetite.**
 - **Securitization transaction Mjolnir IFMR Capital enabling Mudra to invest Rs 50 crore in the A (-) rated senior tranche of securitized MSME loan portfolio of Janalakshmi Financial Services.**
 - **Short term transaction with tenure of 1.5 years. Which in turn will gain exposure to over 100 high quality MFIs and NBFCs in the Nation.**
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US think tank launches India-US trade initiative

- To generate **American support for continued economic engagement in India and to forge collaboration on issues of trade and commerce,**
 - Tremendous potential for the future in a number of sectors including **renewable energy, infrastructure, smart cities, IT services, digital economy, and defense**
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People in News

Obama nominates Indian-American Geeta Pasi as US envoy to Chad

- At present the **Director of the Office of Career Development and Assignments** in the **Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of State.**
 - **Career member of the Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counsellor. She served as US Ambassador to Djibouti from 2011 to 2014.**
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Laos appoints new president, prime minister

- Communist Party Chief Bounnhang Vorachit was appointed as the country's **new president**
 - Foreign minister Thongloun Sisoulith as the **prime minister**
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Ajith Kumar as Rubber Board Chief

- A **1994 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre**
 - The post has been lying vacant since **August 2014**.
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BCCI appoints Rahul Johri as CEO

- Johri was **executive vice-president and general manager for South Asia at Discovery Network**.
 - He will be **responsible for the stakeholder management and building robust strategies for further promoting the sport**.
 - Appointment is **in line with the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee**.
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Silicon Valley's Legendary 'Coach' Bill Campbell Dies

- **Former Ivy League football coach**
 - **Management guru for Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and other Silicon Valley luminaries**
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Science and Technology

Russia Test-Fires 'Iskander' Tactical Ballistic Missile

- Live-fired a cruise missile from the **Iskander tactical missile against a simulated enemy's command post at a distance of around 200 km**.
 - Missile systems are **capable of hitting both small-size and large-area targets at a distance of up to 500 km**
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Awards

2016 Pulitzer Prize Winners

- Awarded for **achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature and musical composition in United States**
 - Public Service – Associated Press
 - Breaking News Reporting – Los Angeles Times Staff
 - Investigative Reporting – Leonora LaPeter Anton and Anthony Cormier of the Tampa Bay Times and Michael Braga of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune

- Explanatory Reporting – T. Christian Miller of ProPublica and Ken Armstrong of The Marshall Project
 - Local Reporting – Michael LaForgia, Cara Fitzpatrick and Lisa Gartner of the Tampa Bay Times
 - National Reporting – The Washington Post Staff
 - International Reporting – Alissa J. Rubin of The New York Times
 - Feature Writing – Kathryn Schulz of The New Yorker
 - Commentary – Farah Stockman of The Boston Globe
 - Criticism – Emily Nussbaum of The New Yorker
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Sports

Hockey India decides to withdraw from Sultan of Johor Cup

- **National junior team** to withdraw from the **annual Sultan of Johor Cup** to be held this year due to injury concerns.
 - **Junior World Cup is to be held in India in December**
 - Hockey India considers **there is little time to recover in case of an injury.**
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