

National News

Gurdwara amendment bill 2016

- Under **Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925**, every Sikh who is above **21 years of age** can cast their vote in the **Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SPGC) Election**.
 - Act had created an exception for **Sehjdhari Sikhs** who trim or shave their beard or hair to vote in the elections.
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Biotech centre bill passed

- Lok Sabha passed the **Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016**
 - To **establish a Regional Centre for Biotechnology**, a study center of **Education, Training and Research** under the sponsorship of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.
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Panic Button and Global Positioning System in Mobile phone handsets from 2017

- Aim:
 - Providing **security to millions of women** who face panic situation
 - Panic button **will act as restrictions to assaulters**
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Operation Sulaimani to eradicate Poverty in Kozhikode District

- Aim is to **eradicate poverty and to avoid food wastage** in the district.
 - Will provide **food to around 1,000 people** per day.
 - **Price of the food will be covered through sponsorship**.
 - People in need can collect a **free meal coupon from any of the distribution centers** and walk into any restaurant in the city.
 - Hungry people will be **served food for free without asking any questions**.
 - Coupons will be distributed through the counters to be opened in the collectorate, village office and Taluk offices.
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Haryana govt to give free laptops to first 500 meritorious students

- The laptops will be provided under **State Merit Scholarship scheme**.
 - Free laptops to **500 meritorious students** who secure a minimum of **95 per cent marks in Class X Board examination** this year.
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Rs 1 lakh per month to Rio-bound athletes

- **Rs. One lakh per month** as **Out of Pocket allowance** to the sports persons under the **Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme**.
 - an initiative of **Union Sports Ministry** under which sports persons are funded by the government for **top class training as part of their preparations for the Games**.
 - **77 Indian athletes in eight disciplines** have qualified for the **Olympics** and many more are likely to qualify in the next two months.
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Generics prescription law Cure for high medicines bill

- Central government is **considering the introduction of a law to make it mandatory for doctors to prescribe generic drugs**
 - **So that patients can access affordable medicines** provided through state-run Jan Aushadhi stores.
 - **Doctors usually don't prescribe generic medicines supplied through Jan Aushadi stores.** So patients find it tough to ask for the correct generic equivalents.
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Centre steps in to expedite patent approvals

- Government is **taking measures to reduce the time to examine patent applications for clearing them at the earliest.**
 - Time is between **5 and 7 years for the first examination of patent applications.**
 - **Target is to bring it down to 18 months**, which is the benchmark in the U.S. for the first examination after the applications are filed.
 - To bring down the examination time, **government will be setting a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and an annual benchmark.**
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NIMZ in Medak

- **Final approval to the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zaheerabad in Medak district, Telangana.**
 - Estimated **total investment by the manufacturing industry** by the end of the ultimate phase of the NIMZ's development is **Rs.17, 300 crore**
 - **Employment generation is about 2.77 lakh.**
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Government considering axing 52 out of 200 allowances

- Seventh Pay Commission **found inadequate the justifications offered by the Ministries for these allowances.**
 - Commission suggested that another **36 be subsumed in an existing allowance or in new allowances it proposed.**
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International

INS Karmuk engaged in Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol

- **22nd Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT),** scheduled from **19-27 April 2016 in the Andaman Sea.**
 - Two navies have been **carrying out CORPATs along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2005.**
 - **Strengthened understanding and interoperability between the navies and facilitated institution of measures to prevent unlawful activities at sea as well as conduct Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.**
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Business and Economy

8.7% interest on EPF for 2015-16

- **8.7% interest on PF deposits** for over **5 crore subscribers** of retirement body **Employment Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**,
 - **Lower than 8.8% decided by Central Board of Trustees (CBT).**
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Rs 694 crore LPG project in West Bengal

- To **boost supply and help achieve the government's target of making LPG available to each household** by 2018.
 - **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)** will set up an **import terminal at Haldia** to import 1 mmtpa of refrigerated Propane and Butane
 - Will transfer it through **7.5-km long twin transfer pipeline for LPG production**, dispatch of bulk LPG via road tankers and bottling of LPG in cylinders
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Uber partners with Election Commission in Tamilnadu

- **"#TN100percent initiative"** To spread awareness on voting among the electorate for the upcoming election
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Cadbury inaugurates largest Asia-Pacific facility in India

- **Company's largest plant in the Asia-Pacific region**
 - **Plant's capacity is 250,000 tonnes a year**, which the company hopes to touch by 2020.
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Videocon d2h Ties up with Vodafone M-pesa

- Now **customers can recharge their d2h service using Vodafone m-pesa.**
 - Tie-up will **serve both Videocon d2h and Vodafone subscribers** by providing a safe, secure and convenient mode to pay for services to customers
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Nokia plans to acquire Withings for \$191 million

- Planning to buy **France's Withings S.A. for 170 million euros (\$191 million)** in its bid to **expand into digital health markets.**
 - Withings' **products include activity trackers, weighing scales, thermometers, blood pressure monitors, home and baby monitors.**
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People in News

Natekar first non-cricketer added to CCI's Legends Club

- **Badminton ace Nandu Natekar** has been inducted into the **Legends Club**, founded by the late Cricket Club of India president **Raj Singh Dungarpur**
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JKLF founder Amanullah Khan dead at 82

- **Founder of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)**, Amanullah Khan died in Pakistan. He was 82.
 - Considered to be the **architect of Kashmir's armed insurgency**
 - **Founder of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front** that led a **violent campaign for independent Kashmir**
 - Listed among the **most wanted fugitives in India** by the **Central Bureau of Investigation for "murder and criminal conspiracy"**
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Science and Technology

NMA'S online web portal 'NOAPS' to facilitate single window clearance

- Portal has used the **technology and expertise of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**.
 - Web portal of NMA has now been **integrated with the online portal of local bodies of Delhi and Mumbai viz. NDMC, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and MCDs (South MCD, North MCD, East MCD)**
 - To facilitate **single window clearance for construction on a common application form**.
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Missed call service launched for local train updates in Mumbai

- Commuter needs to dial the **Toll Free No. 1800 212 4502** and the **call will get disconnected automatically after two rings**
 - Subsequent to which **an SMS will be sent informing the running status of the suburban trains**.
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Awards

IIT Scholar wins International Award on Plant Nutrition

- **K Ashok Kumar**, a **food engineering research scholar from IIT Kharagpur** wins **prestigious International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award on Plant Nutrition**.
 - Pursuing his PhD at the Department Of Agricultural and Food Engineering, IIT Kharagpur on **nutrition management of rice-chickpea production system in laterite soil**
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George Clooney awards new humanitarian prize to Burundi Orphanage Founder

- Burundian activist Marguerite Barankitse awarded **First Humanitarian Prize with saving thousands of children during a 12-year civil war**
 - The **first recipient of a new humanitarian prize**
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Sports**Football Striker Jeje clinches FPAI Indian Player of the year Award**

- Indian Football Striker Jeje Lalpekhlua won the **Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) – Indian Player of the year award**
 - Awarded during Annual Awards function at Cooperage Football Stadium in Mumbai
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Wrestler Sandeep Tomar (57 kg) & Rower Dattu Bhokanal book berth for Rio Olympics

- Indian Wrestler Sandeep Tomar qualified for the Rio Olympics after winning a bronze in the **freestyle 57 kg category** at the **World Qualifying Tournament in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**
 - Indian Rower Dattu Bhokanal booked a berth for the Rio Olympics after winning a silver in the finals of men's single sculls at the **2016 FISA Asian and Oceania Olympic Qualification Regatta at Chung-ju in South Korea.**
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