

National News

States to put stock holding limits on sugar

- Union cabinet decided to allow States to impose and enforce stock limits on sugar to verify its market price rise.
 - In the face of adequate availability of sugar stocks with the Sugar Mills, the wholesale and retail prices have shown a spurt.
 - move will empower State and Central players to impose stock limits and regulate supply, distribution, storage and trade of sugar to bring down sugar prices at reasonable level
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100 rural drinking water projects in Odisha

- 100 piped water supply projects for rural areas and piped water provision in all gram panchayats by 2017.
 - project is made at an estimated cost of Rs 72 crore
 - Will help as many as 1, 72,000 people residing in rural areas.
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Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh Govt implement NFSA across state

- Northeastern states Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to implement the National Food Security Act,
 - Scheme empowers 87% of the priority households in the state population.
 - Tripura had implemented the Food Security Act in August 2015, Meghalaya in September 2015, Assam in December 2015, and Mizoram in March 2016.
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Jail term up to 5 yrs for chain snatchers

- Maharashtra government has pledged to increase the punishment for chain snatching up to 5 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 25,000.
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International

India 3rd in worldwide dope violation in new WADA report

- India has become No. 3rd in Anti-Doping Rule Violation in 2014
 - Russia ranked first followed by Italy
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Business and Economy

NZD \$5 bill named best Banknote of the year

- Mountaineer and Explorer Sir Edmund Hillary is featured on face of the \$5 bill currency note which is best Bank Note of the year
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Banks have to report foreign contribution to NGO's within 48 hours

- Banks mandated to report to the central government within two days any information on NGOs getting foreign funds.
 - Amended Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules 2015 directed these rules in **Gazette of India on December 2015**.
 - **Applicable irrespective of whether or not such person is registered or granted permission under the FCRA.**
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MoU between Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and the Insurance Authority, UAE

- Agreement pave the way for **enhanced cooperation between the two bodies in the field of insurance supervision**
 - Move will further **improve mutual understanding through the exchange of regulatory and relevant information** including confidential information
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DBS Bank launches mobile-only bank

- **Singapore based DBS Development Bank** launched a **mobile-only bank in India**
 - Uses technologies like **biometrics and artificial intelligence for paperless, signature-less and branchless bank.**
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Isuzu opens manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh

- Japanese automobile maker **Isuzu** has opened its new factory at Sri City in Andhra Pradesh
 - New production unit has come up on a **107-acre factory will generate jobs for around 2,000-3,000 people**
 - Company has earmarked **Rs. 3,000 crore investment over next five years.**
 - An annual capacity of **50,000 units which can be scaled up to 120,000 units.**
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Cabinet approves BPCL's Oman investment

- Approved an **increase in investment in Bharat Oman Refineries** (A Bharat Petroleum Corporation owned company) to a **maximum of Rs 3,000 crore.**
 - Move will **enhance the availability of petroleum products in the Northern and Central parts of the country.**
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Tata Power commissions 44 MW Lahori wind farm project

- **100 % subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited .**
- Tata Power's **total installed capacity of 9,183 MW in addition to the two million customers it serves through retail power distribution.**

- New **44 MW project** is expected to generate about **84 million units (MUs)** per year.
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People in News

United Nation Chief Ban Ki Moon appoints Indian to University Council United Nation

- To formulate its principles & policies, approve biennial Budget and work program.
 - **12 members** including an Indian Academician named Radha Kumar.
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South Sudan's rebel Chief Riek Machar made as Vice president

- He **wound up the civil war** in two years.
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Cartoonist Toms Passes Away in Kerala

- Created everlasting cartoon characters like **Bobanum Moliyum (Boban and Molly)**, kids lawyer **Pothen**, the flirty **Appy Hippy**, the nincompoop panchayat president **Ittunnan (chettan)**, his wife (**chettathi**), **Unnikkuttan**, **Kunchukuruppu** and so many creatures.
 - Bobanum Moliyum strip **was first published in Malayala Manorama in 1957**. Toms retired from the newspaper in 1987.
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Science and Technology

Russia's brand new cosmodrome launches first-ever rocket

- **Unmanned rocket called Soyuz-2.1A** rocket carrying three satellites
 - All three satellites launched on the Soyuz rocket have been **successfully deployed to their specified orbits**.
 - Existing roadmap aims **the cosmodrome should have up to 10 launches every year in the next several years**.
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China launches sounding rocket

- Designed to **conduct research and take measurements and scientific experiments** at Hainan Province in China.
 - **Kunpeng-1B was launched from Danzhou** by the National Space Science Center
 - Rocket reached a **maximum height of 316 kilometers (196 miles)**, with **the total flight time coming to 10 minutes**.
 - **These rockets are low-cost launch vehicles** developed to **carry scientific instruments that take measurements during the rocket's sub-orbital flight**.
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Seventh navigational satellite IRNSS 1G launched

- The satellite with a **design life time of 12 years** has **2 payloads for navigation and ranging**.
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Environment & Ecology

4,800-year-old fossil of mother cradling baby

- Taiwan Archaeologists have discovered a **4,800 year old human fossil of a mother holding an infant child in her arms**
 - **Carbon dating** was the method adopted to determine the ages of the fossils.
 - **48 sets of remains unearthed in graves in the Taichung area** are the **earliest trace of human activity found in central Taiwan.**
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Awards

Indian Institute of Management Calcutta Acquires EQUIS Accreditation

- IIM Calcutta becomes the **first Indian business school to achieve the 'Triple Crown' in accreditation**
 - Only **5 business schools in Asia and 73 business schools around the world** are currently 'Triple Accredited'
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Sports

TVS Racing signs up first woman rider Shreya Sunder Iyer

- **First woman rider Shreya Sunder Iyer** in the **Indian National Rally championship** this year.
 - Shreya started a **career in motor racing at 20**
 - **First Indian woman rider to successfully complete a ride across the sand dunes in Dubai**
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ICC suspends the Cricket Association of Nepal

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has **suspended the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN)**
 - This is due to **government intervention in the cricket board**
 - Cricket administrating body suspended the membership of CAN for **breach of Article 2.9 of the ICC's Articles of Association.**
 - ICC code of the Article 2.9 **prohibits government interference and requires free and fair elections.**
 - **CAN not to be entitled to receive any ICC funding.**
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Deepika Kumari equals world record in recurve event at archery World Cup

- Gained a **score of 686/720** that **equaled the record-breaking score of 686/720 set by South Korean archer Ki Bo-Bae in 2015.**
 - She has **booked berth for the upcoming Rio Olympics** with her **performances at the World Championships in Copenhagen last year.**
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