

National News

Rural Sanitation Initiatives for Ganga Rejuvenation in Jharkhand

- Aim of the projects
 - Improve the **health and quality of life of around 45,000 households located in these 78 villages of the Ganga River basin** in Jharkhand through enhanced sanitation practices
 - **Developing the quality of waste water and storm water runoff flowing**
-

Railways sets up directorate to generate funds via advertisements

- a **dedicated wing with the mandate to focus on non-fare case revenue.**
 - Many of the **world railway systems generate 10-20 per cent of their revenue from these type of sources.**
 - The board of executives will draw officers from engineering, traffic-commercial and finance departments.
 - board will **utilize the railway assets viz advertisements at stations, commercial exploitation of vacant land and space rights over station buildings, including station redevelopment, advertisements on coaches and locos etc.**
-

Commemorative Coin on Maharana Pratap

- **Commemorative coin of Rs. 100/- and a Circulation coin of Rs. 10/- as a part of 475th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Maharana Pratap.**
-

Solar rooftop project for citizens in Gujarat

- Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Power Project with an **aim of scaling up the present solar power generation in Gujarat.**
 - The installations will be done through channel partners intended to save time and energy of consumers in finding right contractor.
 - GEDA agency has set a target of **generating 50 megawatt (MW) of electricity by installing such rooftop solar photovoltaic units across Gujarat in the current fiscal of 2016-17.**
-

Rs.4.77 cr Kumudvathi rejuvenation project completed

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has completed Rs 4.77 crore Kumudvathi river rejuvenation project near Nelamangala in Bengaluru rural district.**
 - Eight villages were got benefitted by this CSR movement project.
 - The project intend to rejuvenate Kumudvathi River as it earlier **catered to 30% of Bengaluru's water needs.**
-

DBT scheme for farmers in Odisha

- Digging of at least **one lakh bore wells** to improve irrigation facilities.
 - Famers will get themselves registered online to purchase seeds and get the subsidy amount in their bank accounts directly of the state.
-

Chhattisgarh relaxes labor laws

- will help MSME players to **avoid regular inspection from labor department officials.**
 - the industry will file a **third-party certificate to underline that industrial and labor norms are implemented in the unit.**
 - routine inspection in the facility will not be conducted by the labor department inspectors as against inspectors conduct surprise inspections in units even without the knowledge of their superiors
-

Khadi Spinning and Weaving Centre in Srinagar

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Kalraj Mishra inaugurated the **Harmukh Khadi Gram Udyog Sansthan, a spinning and weaving centre in Srinagar**
 - Minister distributed **25 new model charkhas among local artisans at the function**, which was organized Khadi and Village Industries Board Srinagar.
-

Bird flu: Alert sounded across Karnataka

- Poultry farm owners have been instructed to take precautionary measures to prevent infection of chicken with H5N1 virus.
 - Scientists have advised farm owners not to sell or move any of the birds/eggs and material out of farm. They have been instructed to adopt adequate bio-security measures
 - Avian influenza (AI), commonly called bird flu, is an infectious viral disease of birds often causing no apparent signs of illness.
-

Digital DBT aids rural job schemes

- Government has **electronically transferred more than Rs.61,000 crore in the last financial year through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme.**
 - **61,824.32 Crore was transferred to 30.8 crore beneficiaries in 59 schemes.**
 - **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) payments made up Rs.25,800 crore, or 42% of total DBT schemes.**
 - **85% of the MGNREGA payments made in 2015-16 were done directly into the beneficiary's bank accounts.**
-

'Cooling-off time' for Christian divorces may be cut

- **Present law mandates Christian couples to live separately for two years** before they can apply for dissolution of marriage.
 - Centre's move is triggered by the Supreme Court's comments that this condition, called judicial separation, **"makes no sense" today.**
-

India may solve Venezuelan defaults

- To **address the issue of non-payment of dues by Venezuelan importers to Indian exporters.**
- Ministry has written to the Venezuelan government to resolve the issue of payment defaults.

- Under the proposed payment mechanism when Indian importers pay for oil and other imports from Venezuela, a certain portion of the payment will be held by an Indian public sector bank in Venezuela.
-

Army chief orders rightsizing study

- A high-level study to determine and recommend measures to improve its tooth-to-tail ratio.
 - Study will comprehensively look at all arms and services, including logistics organization and establishment to achieve right-sizing. Operational logistics will be reviewed, along with the philosophy and concepts to arrive at an optimal substance model both in peace and war.
 - Other objective of the study is to achieve savings in manpower and cutting down on the burgeoning revenue expenditure to free up resources for military modernization.
-

International

UN launches Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Zika Virus response

- Aims:
 - To provide a rapid, flexible and accountable platform to support a coordinated response
 - Support the Zika Strategic Response Framework, developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in consultation with UN agencies, partners and international epidemiological experts
-

Greece passes pension, tax reform bill

- A bill that would reform the country's pension and tax systems.
 - Vote took place during a crippling general strike and protests.
 - Introduced as part of requirements the country must meet under its third international bailout,
 - To increase social security and pension contributions and raise taxes for most people.
-

Business and Economy

South Indian Bank announces tie up with National Australian Bank

- For online inward remittance from Australia at competitive rates.
 - Remittance fee is as low as AUD 7 and the arrangement enables faster, hassle-free emittance through internet at the best exchange rates
 - The remitted money can be either converted into Indian rupee or can be kept in Australian dollar.
-

UBIN drive for budding entrepreneurs

- The UBIN would be **automatically linked to Corporate Affairs Ministry portal after it is issued to the intended beneficiary.**
 - Will be **subsequently sent to the Central Board of Direct Taxes which would nomenclature it as PAN for UBIN.**
 - a **major step towards boosting ease of doing business and the start-up India initiative** also in line with the minimum government and maximum governance movement of the government.
-

Knowlarity acquires customer engagement platform Smartwards

- To provide **enterprise software solutions to small & medium businesses.**
 - Move will **help in businesses manage their customer loyalty programs in-store and out-of-store, through an app.**
-

People in News

Sanjay Kaul as new India head for Apple

- Apple has reportedly promoted **Sanjay Kaul as the country manager for Apple India operations.**
 - **Apple is attempting to open its own-brand stores in India**
 - Has been **associated with Apple since 2011** and has **been taking care of the Apple's iPhone business.**
 - His stint was with **BlackBerry in the capacity of Director – Channel sales for India for over two years.**
-

Australian TV producer Reg Grundy dies

- He is known as the **father of Australian television.**
 - **Reg Grundy Organization** established in 1959, **produced many of Australia's most-popular television shows.**
-

Pakistan's Human right activist Khurram Zaki shot dead in Karachi

- He is known for his **strong stance against hatred and violence targeted at Shia Muslims.**
 - **Hakimullah Mehsud faction of the Taliban claimed responsibility** for the attack
 - Zaki was working as an **editor for Let us Build Pakistan website that condemns sectarianism and is seen as promoting democratic and progressive values.**
-

Former MLA Rajeshwara Rao passes away

- **Former Sircilla MLA Chennamaneni Rajeswara Rao** has passed away.

- He is a **freedom fighter** also won as **MLA** for half dozen times and **actively took part in Telangana armed struggle.**
 - Worked for the **Communist Party of India** for **four decades** since his student days and was elected as its **MLA** four times from **Vemulawada**, **president of the Telangana Freedom Fighters Association** and the **president of the farmers' wing of CPI.**
 - **detached himself from politics after 2009**
-

Science and Technology

Web-Based Application on Integrated Waste Management System

- for **better management of waste** also to provide **an opportunity to all the industries dealing in hazardous waste to apply online**
 - The **application that can track the movement of hazardous waste** and will also **help in ensuring its proper management.**
 - **43000 industries dealing in hazardous waste, of which about 30000 industries have been mapped** through this application.
 - **Move also to reduce the time taken for processing applications**, seeking various types of permissions under the recently notified waste management regulations.
-

Second Exomars in 2020

- **Second Exomars mission** will also be launched from **Baikonur in Kazakhstan** with the help of a **Proton rocket**. It **involves a Russian-led surface platform and a European-led rover.**
 - **Roscosmos State Corporation** and the **European Space Agency** had launched the **Exomars 2016 mission which is due to reach Mars in October this year.**
-

Sports

Novak Djokovic wins 2016 Mutua Madrid Open in Men's Singles title

- **Serbian Novak Djokovic** clinches **2016 Mutua Madrid Open Trophy** against **Andy Murray**
 - **Netherlands' Jean-Julien Rojer / Romanian Horia Tecău – Mens Doubles Trophy**
 - **Romanian Simona Halep – Women's Singles Trophy**
 - **French Caroline Garcia / French Kristina Mladenovic - Women's Doubles Trophy**
-

Indian boxers fetch 4 medals from Asian Youth C'ship

Contestant	Category	Medal
Ankush Dahiya	60 Kg	Silver
Ashish Kulharya	64kg	Silver
Reyal Puri	81kg	Silver
Manjeet Singh	+91kg	Bronze

Awards

BAFTA TV Awards announced for the year 2016

- **Leading Actress – Suranne Jones**
 - **Leading Actor – Mark Rylance**
 - **BAFTA TV Fellowship Recipients – Ray Galton & Alan Simpson**
-

Nagaland police bags award for smart policing

- **SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System of Nagaland police has bagged the National Award for Smart Policing instituted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**
 - Award is presented for the Best Practice in the category of Road Safety and Traffic Management.
-