

National News

Anti-hijacking bill providing for death penalty

- Anti-Hijacking Bill that award **death penalty to the criminals in case of death of hostages or security personnel**
 - **Initially Life imprisonment or confiscation of Movable and immovable property as punishment to the Accused**
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"Agri Business Policy 2016" announced in Gujarat

- in order to promote food processing and agriculture waste management during the festival of 2016 Krishi Mahotsav
 - Aims:
 - **Promoting Food Processing Industry**
 - **Applying new technique to convert agriculture waste into valuable products**
 - **Developing the entire value of chain of exporting locally grown farm produces**
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Panel to frame policy for taxi operators

- Three-member committee to frame a **policy framework for taxi aggregators and other transport operators.**
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Infosys Foundation signs pact with IISER

- **to pursue 'high quality' education for economically weaker section students.**
 - MoU aims to provide **high quality science education and research through scholarships, fellowships and travel awards** also creating **equal opportunities for students from poorer background and advancing the quality of research done at Indian institutions.**
 - corpus fund of Rs 5 crore named as **The Infosys Foundation Endowment Fund** that will continue in perpetuity to benefit a **minimum of 50 students annually**
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Ayush to sign pact with WHO

- To spread the **importance of Ayurveda and Ayush across the world.**
 - Agreement will take place in the US in the presence of Prime Minister Modi.
 - On behalf of this India and the US will sign an **agreement in the next two months to carry out a research on cancer.**
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'Chakravayuh-II' training exercise in Rajasthan by Indian Army

- to **validate battle readiness and operational effectiveness of the Pivot Formation and Rapid Division**
 - Army's follow up mission with the Air Force to its recently-concluded month-long Exercise Shatrueet by the Strike Corps (Strike One)
 - **Intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and communication systems were put to test in a network-centric battlefield environment supported by required operational logistics.**
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Annual core sector growth at decade low

- India's annual core sector growth has slowed to a **decade low of 2.7% in 2015-16, slower than the 4.5% pace in the previous financial year.**
 - The eight core industries **account for 38% of India's industrial output.**
 - **Growth was pulled down mainly by steel and crude oil, both of which saw output contracting by 1.4% and natural gas that dropped 4.2%.**
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International

New restrictions on Syrian antiquities

- United States President Barack Obama signed into a law regarding **new import restrictions on Syrian cultural artifacts**
 - **Prevent cultural artifacts removed from Syria from being sold or imported into the U.S.**
 - **Islamic State and other militants** have made millions of dollars by selling unique artifacts on the black market,
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Details of Panama Papers released online

- published online detailed data that covers **nearly 40 years, from 1977 through the end of 2015** from the Panama Papers trove
 - database built on just a portion of a total cache of **11.5 million documents, leaked from the Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca**
 - Reveals more than **360,000 names of individuals and companies behind the anonymous shell firms.**
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Airport Show opens in Dubai

- participation of more than **300 companies from 55 countries including India** is on the go in Dubai from May 9 to 11
 - **Germany will be the biggest in terms of exhibitors** with largest participation with more than 40 exhibitors in the showcase
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UN launches trust fund for C'bean Zika virus response

- Zika Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) **to finance critical unfunded priorities in the response to the outbreak of the mosquito borne virus in Latin America and the Caribbean.**
- Fund aims to provide **a rapid, flexible and accountable platform to support a coordinated response from the UN system and partners.**

- Donors will **contribute to a central point, and an Advisory Committee will direct funds to the highest-priority activities in the affected countries.**
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Business and Economy

Draft norms for universal bank licenses on tap

- **Allowing individuals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance to apply for a license**
 - Initial minimum paid-up voting equity capital required is **Rs.500 crore**, and thereafter the bank should maintain a **minimum net worth of Rs.500 crore at all times.**
 - **Applications will be screened by the RBI to assess the eligibility of applicants with regard to the criteria laid down in the guidelines.**
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Quikr acquires beauty services provider Salosa

- Quikr India has acquired on-demand beauty service provider **Salosa**, owned by Beawel Tech Pvt
 - Will help to **strengthen the home services segment.**
 - The company has **250,000 service providers who offer more than 80 services for consumers and has about 100,000 daily customers.**
 - **Beauty services market is close to \$5 billion in India and growing**
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People in News

ICI Prudential appoints Sankaran Naren as executive director

- Prior to the new appointment currently **his role as the CIO who oversees the investment functions across the mutual fund**
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Mrugank Paranjape takes charge as MCX MD & CEO

- **Exchange has been headless for the past two years.**
 - Singhal has been **re-designated as the President and Whole Time Director with effect from April this year.**
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Shashank Manohar Resigns as BCCI President

- Manohar has left the office as **he believes recommendations made by RM Lodha panel are impossible to implement.**
 - The election process will be **overseen by the ICC's independent Audit Committee Chairman and all present and past ICC directors will be eligible to contest the election.**
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Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu adopts AP village

- Mahesh Babu has adopted a village in **Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district village Burripalem under the Smart Village-Smart Ward program.**
 - Financial grant of **Rs 2.14 crore used for the construction of an Anganwadi building, a community hall, additional classrooms in the local school, laying of water pipelines, development of roads and drains in the village.**
 - Smart Village-Smart Ward initiative of Andhra Pradesh **aims for inclusive growth of villages with mutual cooperation between villagers and corporate.**
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US actor William Schallert passes away

- Former SAG president William Schallert, best known as **TV dad Martin Lane on The Patty Duke Show has died at the age of 93**
 - Served as **President of the Screen Actors Guild from 1979 to 1981.**
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Science and Technology

ISRO sets up nozzle testing labs

- **Nozzle Testing laboratories (NTL) are at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.**
 - **First of its kind** also intended towards carrying out **advanced R&D in the area of rocket nozzle to cater to a wide range of studies**
 - **Studies related to nozzles such as contour optimization for large AR (Area Ratio) nozzles, flow separation, techniques for flow separation control, nozzle wall heat transfer.**
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World's first holographic flexible smartphone developed

- World's **first holographic flexible smartphone called the HoloFlex**
 - let's users interact with **3D videos and images without any headgear or glasses**
 - Can be used for **holographic gaming**. Allows users to bend the side of the display to pull the elastic rubber band.
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Baby born in U.K. through new DNA method

- UK's first baby resulting from an **embryo that was screened using next-generation DNA sequencing** has been born in Oxford.
 - Method uses a **revolutionary IVF technique.**
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Environment and Ecology

Royal Botanic Garden, Kew Report makes new tally for number of World's Plants

- Researchers have estimated that **390,900 plants are known**.
 - **First Global assessment of the world's flora** and carried out by the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew.
 - **2,034 new species of plant were discovered in the year 2015**
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Fossils of first plant-eating marine reptile found

- **World's first plant-eating marine reptile** named **Atopodentatus** found
 - reptile that lived **242 million years ago in what is found in southern China**,
 - The fossil, discovered in 2014, has a poorly preserved head, but it seemed to have a flamingo-like beak
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Awards

MP Tourism wins 'Best Indian Destination for Wildlife' award

- Madhya Pradesh has **25 wild life sanctuaries including nine National Parks**.
 - State government launched number of programs for the conservation of flora and fauna because of which **Kanha and Pench were regarded as the most beautiful national parks in Asia**.
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Gorakhpur scientist bags SGD 3mn grant from Singapore's NRF

- Manvendra K Singh, among the **seven young scientists from across the world to be endowed with the Singapore NRF fellowship**
 - To research in **congenital and adult cardiovascular diseases**.
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