

# National News

## Meeting of SAARC Countries on protection of Children held in Delhi

- The eight nations composing the South Asia Initiative **to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)** are assembled.
  - **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**
  - **To set strategies and agree on commitments to ensure the protection and security of the children** of the region
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## Investments through Mauritius to be taxed from April 2017

- **To curb tax evasion and round-tripping of funds**
  - **Mauritius and Singapore are among the top-most sources of foreign direct investments** into India
  - **Capital gains tax will be imposed at 50 per cent** of the prevailing domestic rate. **Full rate will apply from April 1, 2019.**
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## bill on potable alcohol

- bill seeks to **transfer from the Centre to states the control over industries engaged in the production of potable alcohol**
  - **Bill envisages central government would continue to be responsible for formulating policy and regulating foreign collaboration for all products** of fermentation industries, including industrial and potable alcohol.
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## Congress Government wins the Floor Test in Uttarakhand Assembly

- **Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and Congress leader Harish Rawat** won the Assembly floor test.
  - Floor test aka trust vote, was held to ascertain whether the ousted chief minister still enjoys a majority in the House.
  - Union government has **imposed President's Rule in Uttarakhand in March** citing Rawat lost his majority.
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## Meghdoot postcards to 3 lakh voters

- **'Meghdoot' postcards** to three lakh voters inviting them to cast their votes in the May 16 Assembly polls in Puducherry.
  - Cards **carry a message that visually challenged voters will also have the Braille voting system** also **assistance would also be provided to orthopedically and physically challenged persons**
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## Panel to draft national policy on marine fishery

- New panel to prepare a **draft national policy on marine fishery** after **ascertaining the current status of exploitation of the resources.**
  - Committee was constituted on July 28, 2015, under the chairmanship of S Ayyapan, former director general of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
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### **India fails to get Mallya deported**

- Britain has told India that **it cannot deport Vijay Mallya**, who is facing money laundering charges in the country
  - But could **consider an extradition request for him**.
  - Britain has clarified that **deportation can't be allowed if someone entered UK through valid passport and then it is cancelled**.
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### **National Technology Day**

- National Technology is being celebrated **on May 11 across India**.
  - **a very special day for Indian Technology since 1999**
  - It was on this day that the first, **indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown at Bangalore**.
  - India also performed **successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day, May 11 and executed three successful nuclear tests, carried out at Pokhran, in Rajasthan**.
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## **International**

### **US -India Defence Cooperation Act introduced**

- To **elevate the status of the Indo- US defense relationship on par with that of America's closest allies like NATO and Israel**
  - US government's focus on the US -India security relationship while sending a **powerful signal to India that the US is a reliable and dependable defense partner**.
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### **More funding and leadership needed to end AIDS Epidemic By 2030: UN**

- Fight against AIDS **threatened by lack of money and leadership**.
  - **Prevention programs are suffering from a lack of leadership, accountability and funding**.
  - To ensure that the **global AIDS epidemic is ended as a public health threat by 2030**.
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### **Bangladesh executes Jamaat chief Nizami for war crimes**

- Bangladesh **executed Islamist party Chief Motiur Rahman Nizami for convicted criminal during the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan**.
  - A **death sentence imposed by a special tribunal for genocide, rape and arranging the massacre of top intellectuals during the war**.
  - The **fourth Jamaat leader and the fifth person hanged after being convicted of war crimes by one of the two International Crimes Tribunals**.
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## Business and Economy

### RBI to issue Rs 1000 banknotes with inset letter R

- banknotes will also **have on the obverse side that all the other security features, including ascending size of numerals, bleed lines and enlarged identification mark,**
  - Banknotes will bear signature of RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan. It will also have the **year of printing 2016 printed on the reverse side.**
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### ceiling price of 54 drug formulations fixed

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority **fixed the ceiling price of 54 drug formulations used for treatment of cancer and other diseases it also fixed the retail price of 11 drugs.**
  - fixed/revised ceiling prices of Schedule-I under Drugs Price Control Amendment Order, 2016 and Retail Price of 11 formulations under-2013 Amendment.
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### Nalco signs MoU with BARC for research and development

- National Aluminium Company has signed a MoU with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, **for research and development cooperation in the fields of mutual interest.**
  - NALCO's first R&D project with BARC for R&D projects like **Extraction of Gallium from Bayer liquor, Extraction of rare earth elements from Red Mud and Development of Reference Standards**
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## People in News

### Senior advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni appointed Additional Solicitor General

- Bombay High Court's senior advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni as **Additional Solicitor General for a period of three years.**
  - He had **served as Advocate General also called highest law officer of the Goa.**
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### Rodrigo Duterte wins 2016 Philippines Presidential Election

- DP-Laban party's Rodrigo Duterte has Won Presidential Election in the Philippines with **an unbeatable lead in unofficial tallies**
  - General election in the democracy saw a record engagement with an **estimated 80% turnout of the 54 million registered voters.**
  - Among the **longest-serving mayors in the Philippines** and has been **mayor of Davao City working out more than 22 years.**
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### Michel Platini to resign as UEFA President

- Michel Platini will resign from European football's governing **body after failing to overturn his ban at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.**
- Court of Arbitration for Sport panel also **reduced the ban from six years to four years.**
- Court also ruled that Platini **was guilty of conflict of interest for taking a \$2 million payment from FIFA** approved by Sepp Blatter in 2011.

### **India vs Pakistan: Why Can't we just be Friends by Husain Haqqani Book launch**

- **Former Pakistani ambassador to the US, Husain Haqqani authored a book titled India vs Pakistan: Why Can't We Just Be Friends**
- Book reveals that **US intelligence agencies had evidence about Pakistan spy agency ISI's involvement in the November 26, 2008 Mumbai terror attacks**
- Husain Haqqani has **exposed Pakistan's role in the deadly terror attacks.** He also has **mentioned about the ISI's role in the 26/11 attacks.**
- The author said that **retired Pakistan Army officers were behind the Mumbai attacks.**

## **Science and Technology**

### **NASA's Kepler telescope finds largest trove of exoplanets**

- **1284 new planets outside our solar system** discovered by Kepler, **more than doubling the number of known exoplanets.**
- **Unmanned Kepler space telescope works by observing a dimming in the light of star, known as a transit observatory.**
- It was **launched back in 2009** and has been **scanning 150,000 stars for signs of orbiting bodies.**

### **Indian Navy launches underwater vigil system in Visakhapatnam & decommissions fighter planes Sea Harriers**

- Indian Navy has launched **Harbour Defence Systems** at the Naval Dockyard in **Visakhapatnam.**
- These state-of-the-art systems would **enhance the Navy's surveillance capability and response to security threats.**
- The Iconic **Sea Harrier's will be decommissioned from the Indian Navy after 30 years of service** for the country's various mission.
- Harriers have been **replaced by a squadron of Russian MiG 29k jets.**

### **Reliance Jio Infocomm launches digital wallet**

- Reliance Jio has launched **digital wallet service called JioMoney** for common people.
- Users can do **mobile and DTH recharges, send/receive money, make bill payments, pay insurance and other premiums**
- Powered by **4G small cell technology.**

- Reliance has partnered with over **50000** merchants to enable transactions through **JioMoney** on their respective platforms.
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### **Scientists develop second skin to reduce wrinkles, eye bags**

- Scientists developed an **invisible elastic film** called **second skin** that can be applied to the skin **to reduce the appearance of wrinkles and eye bags and even reshape your face.**
  - **Developed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in America.**
  - Can be **used to treat eczema, psoriasis and other skin conditions by covering dry itchy patches with a film that moistens and soothes.**
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