

National News

Railway launches week-long drive

- **“RAIL HAMSAFAR SAPTAAH”** – a Week Long Celebration to showcase Railway Achievements during 2014 – 2016.
- Held during **26th May to 1st June, 2016**
- To highlight the Initiatives and Significant achievements by Indian Railways in the areas of responsiveness, accessibility and improvement of passenger amenities.

first ever Passenger Satisfaction Survey at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport

- CBEC engaged a reputed Management School, L. N. Welingkar Institute of Management, Mumbai (WE School)
- To conduct a survey of Passenger Satisfaction levels of customs clearance process
- **Focusing on three aspects** – Information, Behaviour and Process.

Railway projects worth Rs 11,000 crore cleared

- approval for Railway projects worth Rs **11,000 crore for improving infrastructure** in various states.
- group of projects include Bina-Katni 3rd line project at an estimated cost of nearly 2,500
- Vizianagaram and Titlagarh **3rd line project**, will be constructed at an estimated cost of 2,335 crore.
- completion of these projects will be between **three to five years**.

Six new IITs, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad upgraded to IIT

| S.No | Location | State |
|------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Tirupati | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2 | Palakkad | Kerala |
| 3 | Dharwar | Karnataka |
| 4 | Bhilai | Chhattisgarh |
| 5 | Jammu | Jammu and Kashmir |
| 6 | Goa | Goa |
| Conversion | Indian School of Mines- Dhanbad to an IIT | |

ex-post facto approval to Amendments in Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950

- move is to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of five States and identification of **new communities in the Puducherry** for the first time.

| State / UT | Included Community in ST |
|--------------|---|
| Assam | i) Boro, Boro Kachari, Bodo, Bodo Kachari ii) Karbi (Mikir) |
| Chhattisgarh | iii) Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, Bhuyan iv) Dhanuhar / Dhanuwar v) Kisan vi) Saunra, Saonra vii) Dhangad |
| Jharkhand | viii) Bhogta, Deshwari, Ganjhu, Dautalbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut, Maajhia, Khairi (Kheri) ix) Puran |
| Tamil Nadu | x) Malayali Gounder xi) Narikoravan, Kurivikkaran |
| Tripura | xii) Darlong |
| Puducherry | xiii) Irular (including Villi and Vettaikaran) |

Nirbhaya buses with safety measures for women

- bus security measures include **Vehicle Tracking System (VTS), CCTV and panic buttons** on every seat.
- proposed **20 Mahila Gaurav Express** buses in a pilot basis that would run between Delhi and Rajasthan.

Dial 139 for wait-listed ticket cancellation

- Earlier only confirmed ticket holders could cancel their tickets through 139 service and IRCTC website.
- move will pave the way for the wait-listed and RAC allocated train ticket holders can cancel their tickets **by dialling 139**.
- online cancellation **by 139** will be allowed only **4 hours** before the scheduled departure of the train in case of confirmed tickets
- half an hour before the scheduled departure of the train in case of **RAC and wait-listed cases**.

Government waives off loan worth Rs 9079 cr

- Waived off loans worth over **Rs 9,079 crore** in a bid to restructure the PSU that owed by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (HFCL).
- Cabinet also approved transfer of **56 acres of ash dyke land** of Barauni (Bihar) State-Power Generation Company Ltd to settle dues of **HFCL**
- Restructured unit will create 400 direct and 1,200 indirect employment opportunities in the circle

Bharatavani Portal, India's largest online repository of dictionaries launched

- multilingual knowledge portal named **bharatavani** which has over 130 dictionaries, glossaries and terminology books in text and PDF formats launched
- Mysuru based **Central Institute of Indian Languages** is implementing this ambitious project of **MHRD**.
- aims to foster national integration by highlighting on **multilingual and cross-lingual learning tools and technologies**.
- portal has been launched in **22 scheduled languages**, which eventually will be extended to 100 more languages.

NITI Aayog Launches 500 Tinkering Labs for Schools

- It will provide one time establishment grant-in-aid of **Rs. 10 lakh** for establishing and Rs. 10.0 lakh would also be provided for over a period of 5 years for operational expenses
- Atal Incubation Centres will provide pre-incubation facilities, common infrastructure and services such as technology development assistance, networking and mentoring, funding access, training and development, business support services.

GAIL reconfigures Rs 12,000 crore Jagdishpur-Haldia gas pipeline

| Phases | Total Span | Estimated Cost |
|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Phase-1 | 755-km | Rs 3,200 crore |
| Phase-II | 1200-km | Rs 5,565 crore |
| Phase-III | 583-km | Rs 3,425 crore |

International

Actions on Air Quality Report released

- Air Pollution range increased by **8% and affect the Air Quality**, Report on Air Quality released by United Nations Environment Program

India becomes 5th largest producer of e-waste in world

- India emerged as the Second largest mobile market with **1.03 billion subscribers**

- About **100 crore mobile phones in circulation**, nearly **25 per cent end up in e-waste annually**.
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Business and Economy

Islamic Development Bank to open its first branch at Ahmedabad

- Jeddah-based **Islamic Development Bank** is all set to open its India operations at Ahmedabad in Gujarat
 - objective is to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries as well as the Muslim community.
 - move is part of **MoU signed between India's EXIM Bank** and IDB
 - a **100 million dollar** line-of-credit was to be given to facilitate exports to IDB's member countries.
 - IDB will **provide 350 fully-equipped medical vans** mobile clinics) to India, 30 of which will be received by Gujarat in the maiden phase.
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EPFO doubles insurance for subscribers to Rs 6 lakh

- EPFO to closely double the maximum sum assured under its insurance scheme to **Rs 6 lakh** from Rs 3.6 lakh for its **4 crore subscribers**.
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Union Bank of India launches e-SBTR to facilitate stamp duty and registration

- a facility for a single window payment facility of **both stamp duty and registration fee** for home purchase in Maharashtra.
 - eSBTR allows payment without any ceiling and is available **on 24x7x365** through internet banking.
 - system improves ease of process and convenience for citizens by providing single window payment facility
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Coverfox ties up with Oriental Insurance Company

- to facilitate the PSU's comprehensive motor insurance product for both **four and two wheelers** in online mode.
 - online portal **Coverfox becomes** the first to offer such scheme.
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Aditya Birla Fashion signs MoU with Forever 21

- California-based fashion retailer **Forever 21** to acquire its India business from its current franchise Diana Retails
 - deal comes with an unspecified amount that includes the online and offline rights of Forever 21 for the Indian market and its store network in the India.
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Science and Technology

FSSAI bans potassium bromate, cancer-causing chemical

- to ban potassium bromate as a food additive in bread products on behalf the recommendations from a scientific panel
 - **84 per cent of 38 commonly** available brands of packaged breads tested positive for potassium bromate **and potassium iodate**.
 - It is a powerful oxidizing agent used for **flour treatment** in bread and other bakery products because it makes the **bread fluffy**, soft and also gives it a good finish.
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Maharashtra Mantralaya's 150 Computers Attacked By Locky Virus

- Maharashtra's e-governance platform **Mantralaya's 150 computers** have been attacked by a malicious software
 - irus blocks access to computers by encrypting important files from the Public Works Department and the Revenue department.
 - damaged **over two lakh systems** in **Germany and the United States** in the last two years.
 - the information technology department isolated all the systems that went under the attack.
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