

National

Union Government to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme

- to promote yoga
 - AYUSH ministry is working on the scheme and it will start giving the award from 2017.
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New Indian reserve battalion named after Maharana Pratap

- Government to set up **17 new reserve battalions** for Jammu and Kashmir and Left Wing Extremism affected areas.
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Google, Tata Trusts launch 'Internet Sathi' in West Bengal

- **Google India and Tata Trusts** jointly launched **Internet Saathi program** in **West Bengal** to focus on training women and larger communities in the state
 - Initiative is part of Google's **Helping Women Get Online campaign** to create awareness about the benefits of Internet among women in rural parts of India.
 - the initiative will initially be rolled out to cover over 400 villages in Purulia district with an objective to reach **1 lakh women**
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21st of every month as Yoga Day in Maharashtra

- Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate the 21st day of every month as Yoga Day across all schools, colleges and universities in the State.
 - Also a dedicated state-level committee will monitor and coordinate with these committees.
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International

India ranked 141 in Global Peace Index

- India ranked **141st** position out of 163 countries. India jumped from 143rd during last year to 141st position
 - The slight rise due to worst performance of other countries
 - Iceland – 1st
Denmark – 2nd
Austria – 3rd
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World Bank Report cuts global growth forecast to 2.4%

- **World Bank** has decreased its forecast for the global growth to 2.4% for the year 2016
 - World economy is challenging opposing forward motion.
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Thailand becomes first Asian country to eliminate mother to child HIV

- **Thailand has** become the **first Asian country** to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission to ensure an **AIDS-free generation**.
 - report also says **Belarus and Armenia were** also stated free of mother-to-baby HIV transmissions
 - Both countries have a much lower dominance of the virus.
 - **Cuba was the only other country** and the first country to eliminate this epidemic under the WHO's criteria in 2015.
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India becomes third largest oil consumer

- **India** has exceeded Japan to become the world's **third-largest oil consumer**, with its oil demand galloping **8.1 % in 2015**.
 - India with demand of 4.1 million barrels a day becomes the third-largest consumer behind the U.S. (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd).
 - India accounted for 4.5 per cent of world oil consumption in 2015.
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Awards

Vladimir Putin awarded UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Order of Friendship

- **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** has been honoured with Russia's Order of Friendship by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin
 - **Purpose:** To award foreign nationals whose work, deeds and efforts were aimed at the betterment of relations with the Russian Federation and its people.
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People in News

Rama Mohana Rao named TN Chief Secretary

- Would also hold full additional charge of **Vigilance Commissioner** and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms.
 - Rao was a 1985 batch of **IAS** and hails from **Andhra Pradesh**
 - he has held key positions in many departments – Health, Water Resources, Transport, Social Welfare and other stints.
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Swedish general appointed to head UN India-Pakistan military observers

- High-ranking Swedish military official will be the new head of the United Nations mission tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - **Major General Per Gustaf Lodin** as appointed by United Nations
 - He succeeds Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi of Ghana, who completes his two-year assignment as chief military observer and head of mission for the UNMOGIP on July 2.
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MTNL CMD Narendra Kumar Yadav steps down

- **MTNL Chairman and Managing Director** Narendra Kumar Yadav has resigned on completion of his tenure.
 - Telecom major has operations in **Delhi and Mumbai** circles and in the island nation of Mauritius in Africa.
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Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T S John passed away

- John was founder member of Kerala Congress, he represented **Kallooppara constituency in the State Assembly** four times.
 - He served as the **Speaker** for one year period during **1976-77**.
 - He was the Civil Supplies minister in A K Antony **cabinet in 1978**.
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Sports

Maria Sharapova receives two-year suspension

- Russian tennis star **Maria Sharapova** was banned **for two years** by the International Tennis Federation.
 - ban comes after the Russian tested positive **at the Australian Open 2016** for using the banned substance meldonium.
 - **Meldonium** was put on the banned list by the World Anti-Doping Agency this year.
 - She had been taking the drug for a **decade** legally for health reasons she said.
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Eden to host first day-night Test in India

- **Eden Gardens** will host to the **first ever day-night Test** in the country when India take on **New Zealand** later this year
 - venues for the **Test matches** are **Indore, Kanpur and Kolkata**.
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