

National

Odisha State Government to provide education loan at 1% interest

- new Scheme called as “**Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana**” to afford **education loan at 1% interest** to students for pursuing higher studies
 - **Fund requirement:** Rs. 500 Crore
 - **Purpose:** To help for students pursuing higher education including Management, Law, Engineering and Medicine
 - **Aim:** Ensuring that meritorious students do not stop enrolling for higher education due to financial stress.
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Assam's famous Kamakhya Temple receives an aid Rs. 25 crore for Infrastructure

- **aid of Rs 25 crore over** the next couple of years for the infrastructure development of **Kamakhya temple**.
 - announcement comes during the Ambubachi Mela festival which is the celebration of goddess Kamakhya's annual menstruation cycle, considered as a symbol of fertility by the Hindus.
 - festival is the eastern **India's largest congregation of pilgrims** – drew a whopping 25 lakh devotees this year.
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Headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force inaugurated

- newly built headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force **Jharkhand Jaguar** which has got permanent place since its inception in 2008.
 - Jharkhand Jaguar, also known as **Special Task Force**, towards becoming a substitute for the central forces engaged in anti-guerrilla **operations 22 of the state's 24 Maoist-hit districts**.
 - HQ that sprawl over **173 acres in Tendagram** in Kanke block houses anti-guerrilla warfare training facilities, functionally rich barracks, parade grounds, firing range besides administrative block and officers' mess.
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web based App CMRS for better crop and Nutrient management released for Bihar farmers

- **Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) App** for better crop and Nutrient management for **Bihar farmers in a program organised at ICAR-RCER in Patna**.
 - App will be a part of Digital India program and will be linked **with Soil Health scheme** for bringing access to new technologies to rural India
 - App had been already launched by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
 - CMRS is a web-based App that can be used with computer, mobile and tablet and aims to increase farmer's net income and sustain the productivity for **rice-based cropping systems** in Bihar, India.
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International

India ranked 105th out of 130 countries on Global Human Capital Index

- **Criteria:** Nations ability to nurture, Develop and organize talent for Economic Growth
Released by: World Economic Forum, Geneva
 - **Ranking:**
 - 1st Position – Finland
 - 2nd Position – Norway
 - 3rd Position – Switzerland
 - 4th Position – Japan
 - 5th Position – Sweden
 - 6th Position – New Zealand
 - 7th Position – Denmark
 - 8th Position – The Netherlands
 - 9th Position – Canada
 - 10th Position – Belgium
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IMF clears payment of USD 500 million to Pakistan

- International Monetary Fund cleared decks for the **payment of USD 501 million** for Pakistan taking the total amount given to the country **to USD 6.1 billion** in the last few years.
 - decision comes after 11th review of **Pakistans economic performance** in a three-year program supported by an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement,
 - allows immediate disbursement of about **USD 501 million to Pakistan**.
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3 Indian Navy Ships Reach Russia To Enhance Maritime Cooperation

- **a four day visit as** part of efforts **to enhance maritime cooperation** between the navies of both countries.
 - ships representing Indian Navy namely **INS Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch**, under the Command of the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, **Rear Admiral SV Bhokare**, as part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea.
 - ships will have professional interactions with the Russian Navy aimed at enhancing co-operation and bolster the strong bonds of friendship between the two forces.
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Awards

Viswanathan Anand honoured with 'Honoris Causa' Doctor of Science degree

- **Five Time Chess World Champion Viswanathan Anand** has been conferred with the Honorary Degree Doctor of Science by Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
 - **Awarded by:** NITI Aayog Chairman Arvind Panagariya
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Kartik Sawney and Neha Swain get Queen's Young Leaders Award 2016

- **2016 Queen's Young Leaders award** for their exemplary work, the award will be presented by **Queen Elizabeth at the Buckingham Palace**.
 - **Sawhney** is a visually challenged young man with a passion for education and a youth facilitator from Hyderabad
 - he founded Project **STEMAccess**, which offers hands-on science workshops in India, as well as virtual training sessions.
 - Neha Swain is a youth facilitator and co-founder of **NGO Rubaroo** for young people, irrespective of their socio-economic background, to develop their leadership skills through interactive workshops.
 - Award recognizes and celebrates unique people **aged 18-29** from across the Commonwealth.
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People in News

Shariah High Court appoints first women judges in Malaysia

- **Noor Huda Roslan** and **Nenney Shuhaidah Shamsuddin** have been appointed as judges of **Malaysia's Islamic Shariah High Court** for the first time in the history of the judiciary of the Muslim-majority country.
 - Government of Malaysia had ratified the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** and the appointments were in line with empowering women.
 - Shariah High Court, also called **Syariah High Court**, refers to **Sharia law in Islamic religious law** and deals completely with Islamic laws, having jurisdiction upon every Muslim in Malaysia.
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Ulf Mark Schneider as Next CEO of Nestle

- Health care executive **Ulf Mark Schneider** as **its new CEO**, as the food and drinks giant seeks to **evolve** into a **nutrition, health and wellness business**.
 - Ulf Mark Schneider is the first outsider to take the helm at the Swiss group since 1922.
 - Schneider is a German and American dual national, has headed health care giant Fresenius Group since 2003.
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N S Vishwanathan appointed as the new deputy governor of RBI

- He would **succeed H R Khan**, who will retire next month.
 - Viswanathan is currently working as an executive director at the RBI since 2014 and put on in supervision of the banking regulation and **non-banking department**.
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Naga Insurgent Leader Isak Chishi Swu passes away

- Naga militant leader **Isak Chishi Swu** has died following multi-organ failure. He was 87-year-old
 - Chairman of Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) who led a bloody insurgency in the Northeast for over **three decades** had been undergoing treatment.
 - He alongside NSCN-IM general secretary **Thuingaleng Muivah** made the **group in 1980** opposing the Shillong Accord signed by the then **Naga National Council (NNC)** with the Centre for bringing peace in Nagaland.
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Founder of Titan, Xerxes Sapur Desai passes away

- **Xerxes Sapur Desai, has passed away** following acute gastroenteritis in **Bengaluru**. He was 79 year old.
 - had played a key role in announcing **India to its first quartz watch when** he set up Titan Co. Ltd
 - Desai graduated in Oxford University who had joined Tata Administrative Service (TAS) in 1961.
 - also worked with Tata Press, Tata Chemicals and Taj Hotels **before setting up Titan in 1986**.
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Science and Technology

CSIR launches anti diabetic ayurvedic drug BGR -34

- **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** under the aegis of Ministry of Science and Technology, has launched an **anti-diabetic ayurvedic capsule** priced at Rs. 5 per tablet.
 - Capsule named **BGR-34**, abbreviated name for **Blood Glucose Regulator** that designed for **type 2 diabetes**.
 - **BGR-34** is developed jointly by the **National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)** and the **Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP)**.
 - will be available on all major medical stores in Karnataka and adjoining states.
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Introduction of Sericulture in Poyen Village of Kargil

- Scientists from **Temperate Sericulture Research Institute** of **SKUAST**, Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir has successfully introduced **Sericulture** in **Poyen Village** of **Kargil**.
 - breeding of Sericulture in Kargil will **serve purpose of achieving cocoon productivity** that will ultimately spur employment and **generate income for rural youth and tribal farmers**.
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First Dark Sky Reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution

- **China** has established **country's first dark sky reserve** for astronomical observation to limit light pollution and preserve sites for making astronomical observations in the **Tibetan prefecture of Ngari**, bordering Nepal and India.
 - reserve sprawls over an area of **2,500 square kilometers** was jointly initiated by the China Biodiversity Conservation and **Green Development Foundation (GDF)** and the regional government of Tibet.
 - dark reserve is an area that is kept free of artificial light pollution to preserve is generally to promote astronomy.
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Sports

Argentina women win record seventh FIH Champions Trophy title

- Argentina women's team has claimed a **record seventh Champions Trophy title**

- a 2-1 win over Netherlands the World and Olympic champion's side in the title clash at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London.
 - In the bronze medal game, USA fought to a shootout victory over Australia, making the team a first Champions Trophy medal since winning bronze at the 1995.
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India's Sanjeev Rajput wins silver in ISSF World Cup

- **Sanjeev Rajput** bagged silver medal in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event of the ISSF World Cup in **Baku Azerbaijan**.
 - his third World Cup medal and his first in five years, Rajput finished seventh in the qualification with a score of 1167 in kneeling, **prone and standing position**.
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