

National

Majuli to become India's first river island district

- The island is sprawl over 400sqkm Island in the river Brahmaputra.
- Assam government has granted a river island named **Majuli** in the state as district status.
- The erosion-troubled Majuli was a sub-division of Jorhat district, will become the **34th district of Assam**.

Supreme Court rejects petition seeking ban on WhatsApp messenger

- Supreme Court discharged a **petition filed by** RTI activist **seeking a complete ban** on online messaging platform **WhatsApp** which have end to end encryption.
- petitioner in his file citing this as a National Security concern as demanded the messaging platform to provide a key for the government.

Cabinet clears pay hike for 1 crore govt employees, pensioners

- recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission which will give a substantial raise to the salaries and pensions to one crore central government employees of central government employees that will be **implemented from January 1, 2016**.
- Entry level pay to be raised to **Rs.18,000 per month** from the **current Rs.7,000** a month while maximum pay fixed at Rs. 2.5 lakh per month, up from Rs.90,000 per month that would be drawn by the Cabinet Secretary.

Union Cabinet clears National Mineral Exploration Policy

- Pave the way for auction of **100 prospective mineral blocks and enhancing** mining potential in India.
- Policy likely to attract **private sector in exploration** through the mineral exploration policy.
- Private entities involved in carrying out regional and comprehensive exploration would get assured share in revenue in mining operation from the successful **bidder after the e-auction** of block.

Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of Eight New IITs

- Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of eight New IITs at **Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar**.
- it would add student strength in each IIT at the end of the project **will be 2360**. The total student capacity **would be 12880 in these eight IITs** by the end of 2019.
- revised Cost Estimate is **Rs. 13,990 crore** against original project cost was Rs. 6080 crore **for establishment of eight new IITs** over a period of 11 years from 2008-09 to 2018-19.

International

"State of the World's Children 2016" Report

- United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released the annual report **"State of the World's Children 2016"** to curb the harassment against the children
 - **Problems facing by Children:** Children are affected due to Poverty, Illiteracy and early deaths
 - If the present situation exists, the world would be affected by
 - i. Poverty of about 167 million children
 - ii. 69 million children under 5 years of age fatal due to preventable causes
 - iii. 70 million women will have been married as children by 2030.
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Business and Economy

\$201.50 million for Technical Education Quality Improvement Project in India

- **Purpose:** To improve the quality of Engineering education in selected states of India
 - **Objectives of the projects:**
 - To improve quality and equity in participating engineering education institutes
 - To enhance the efficiency of the engineering education system in states
 - **Fund Allotted:** \$201.50 million
 - **Maturity period:** 25 years plus 5 years grace period
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Nod to proposal to set up India Post Payments Bank

- Indian Post Payments Bank with capital of **Rs. 800 Crore and to set up 650 branches by September 2017** as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts, with **100% Government of India (GOI) equity**
 - **Focus:** To increase financial inclusion in the country
 - **Initial Setup:** 22,137 Post Offices linked with core banking facility
 - The bank will be operated by a board which has five independent directors
 - In every district, Post offices will be linked to core branch of Postal bank
 - Staff of the postal bank will be from different postal department and staff is expected to be around **2000 members**
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Axis Bank opens innovation lab to create investment fund

- **innovation hub** situated in **Bangalore** will emphasis on curating start-ups and working with them to help them develop the value propositions and the bank will look at absorbing their technology.
- start-ups will mainly be centering across lending, digital, payments and artificial intelligence space. For this, the bank has joined hands with Zone **Start-ups, Nasscom**, venture capitalist and some global banks.

- **HDFC Bank, SBI, Federal Bank, RBL, ICICI Bank** among others have either allocated funds or created special divisions to engage with the start-up ecosystem
 - most recently Barclays has also opened a fintech innovation platform.
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\$63 million for Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand

- paves the way for **Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women** in Jharkhand.
 - first **World Bank project** in India that is especially dedicated on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women.
 - project will support adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 14 and 24 to complete their secondary level education. It will also help them to acquire relevant skills for the job market.
 - In Jharkhand there are **56 percent of young women** (ages 15-24) are neither engaged in education, nor employment or training.
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Awards

4 Indian-Americans Honored With Great Immigrants Award

- Google Chief Executive Office Sunder Pichai and other three Indian Americans are among the 42 United States citizens conferred with Prestigious “**Great Immigrants: The Pride of America**” award.
 - **Presented by:** Carnegie Corporation
 - **Indian Americans Awardees:**
 - ◆ Sunder Pichai – CEO of Google
 - ◆ Hari Sreenivasan – Anchor and Senior Correspondent, PBS News Hour
 - ◆ Vikram Malhotra – Chairman of the Americas, McKinsey & Company
 - ◆ Bharati Mukherjee – National Book critics circle Award winning author
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CAG Shashi Kant Sharma gets honorary professorship in China

- He has been conferred honorary professorship by the Nanjing Audit University in China.
 - Nanjing Audit University is recognised by **the Institute of Internal Auditors**.
 - Sharma is the 12th CAG of India.
 - Shashi Kant Sharma is a **1976 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the Bihar cadre.
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Sports

Virat Kohli launches new startup Stepathlon kids to promote fitness

- **Stepathlon Kids** – a company focused on the health and wellness of the next generation.

- **Stepathlon Kids will press** the Indian children to **take 15,000 steps a day** to a healthy lifestyle and to **create long term positive behavior**.
 - **Stepathlon lifestyle** will drive the launch 30-day, pedometer-based, mass participation virtual race, across the nation built to promote fitness among children.
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Indore to host first ever Test, no day-night Test in NZ series

- **Indore** is all **set to host its first-ever cricket Test during** India's home series against New Zealand in September-October
 - New announcement from the BCCI says no Day- Night game against the Blackcaps during the NZ tour, against the earlier plans to have a game with the pink ball.
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