

National

National Mineral Exploration Policy to accelerate activity in the country

- **Aim:** Motivating the exploration activity in the country through improved participation of the private sector.
 - **Focus:** To make use of full mineral energy such as non-Fuel and non-Coal to the extreme and maximize sector contribution to the Indian Economy.
 - **Fund Allocation:** Rs.2116 crore over 5 years
 - Providing platform for Geo-scientific Data of world standards in the public domain
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MoU between UPSC and Bhutan's Royal Civil Service Commission

- Will tighten the relationship between Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan and Union Public Service Commission.
 - will support sharing of experience and capability of both the parties in the area of recruitment process.
 - enhance institutionalized linkage between the Public Service commission of both nations.
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pact with ASCI to check misleading advertisements

- council has been given a suo motu monitoring mandate by FSSAI to process complaints against misleading advertisements of food and beverages.
 - Agreement also requires ASCI to report to FSSAI non-compliance of ASCI's decisions for further action as required per provisions of the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act
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'Prashikshak'- a teacher education portal

- Prashikshak' is launched with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.
 - Prashikshak Portal has started only for DIETs, it will cover block level institutes in the future and identify gaps at the bottom of the pyramid.
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International

MoU between India and Tanzania in the field of water resources

- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation have been signing bilateral agreement with other countries in related to water resources development and management.
 - Memorandum of Understanding between India and Tanzania for bilateral cooperation in water resources Management and Development
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Ethiopia, Bolivia, Sweden and Kazakhstan elected non-permanent UNSC members

- elected as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year period beginning in January, 2017.

- will replace Spain, Malaysia, New Zealand, Angola and Venezuela.
 - **Italy and the Netherlands** had been vying for the one remaining seat, but the voting yielded no clear winner so they have proposed to split a two-year term on the UN Security Council.
 - voting for these countries in the UNGA was conducted by secret ballot in which members of the UNGA had voted.
 - **Bolivia (183 votes) and Ethiopia (185 votes)** were chosen from Group of Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa region respectively.
 - **Sweden (134 votes)** won from the Group of Western Europe.
 - Kazakhstan won from the Group of Asia Pacific against Thailand.
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SCO Summit 2016 concludes in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- **2-day meeting** was conducted under the presidency of Uzbekistan.
 - **India and Pakistan** signed the Memorandum of Obligations on 24 June 2016.
 - They are expected to become full members of the SCO by the next meeting at Astana in 2017.
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People in News

Rodrigo Duterte sworn in as President of Philippines

- He will have a six-year term.
 - first Mindanaoan president of the country, Duterte succeeds Benigno Aquino III.
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Suzuki Motors appoints scion Toshihiro Suzuki as CEO

- appointment came after **Osamu Suzuki** announced that he will decline the CEO position to take responsibility for the automaker's use of incorrect testing methods when calculating vehicle mileage.
 - Toshihiro Suzuki is the son of Suzuki Motor Chairman Osamu Suzuki.
 - Toshihiro served as a Senior Managing Executive Officer and Senior Managing Director of Suzuki Motor Corp.
 - He joined Suzuki Motor Corp. in January 1994.
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Renowned artist K.G. Subramanyan dies at 92

- **K.G. Subramanyan**, credited with being one of the pioneers of Indian modern art, passed away in Vadodara,
 - He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2012.
 - In 1951 he became a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts in M.S. University in Baroda.
 - He was famous for his terracotta murals, glass paintings, illustrated children's books, works on canvas that drew upon myth, memory and tradition, sculptures and drawings.
 - **Awards and Honours:** Padma Vibhushan (2012), Padma Bhushan (2006) and Padma Shri (1975)
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Business and Economy

India to get \$1 bn World Bank funding for solar projects

- World Bank committed USD 1 billion (about Rs 6,750 crore) to support solar energy program in India,
 - reducing dependence on conventional energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - the multilateral funding agency will provide more than USD 1 billion to support India's ambitious solar initiatives through investments in generation.
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Science and Technology

India's First Integrated Defence Communication Network Launched

- network enables the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process.
 - first tri-service communication and IT network of the Armed Forces.
 - strategic, highly secure and scalable system. It has a pan-India reach from Ladakh to the North East to island territories.
 - network has been fully designed and developed in India by HCL Infosystems.
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Sweden inaugurates world's first electric road

- one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads.
 - involved a current collector on the roof of the truck that feeds 750 volts DC to the truck's hybrid electric system.
 - current conductor can connect automatically at speeds up to 90 km/h.
 - tests will continue up through **2018**.
 - will provide knowledge of how electric roads work in practice, and whether the technology can be used in the future.
 - experiment is based on the **Government's goal of energy efficiency and a fossil fuel-free vehicle fleet by 2030**, and will contribute to strengthening Sweden's competitiveness.
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Anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra inducted in Navy

- The induction of the anti-submarine torpedo makes India one of the eight countries to have the capability to design and build such a system.
- has been developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a premier laboratory of DRDO.
- Weighing around 1.25 tons, it can carry about 250 kg of explosives at a speed of around 40 nautical miles an hour.

- almost 95 per cent indigenous content. It is capable of targeting stealthy and quiet submarines, both in deep and littoral waters in intense counter-measure environment.
 - Varunastra has been designed with latest technologies such as high-speed and long endurance propulsion, software driven intelligence, conformal array acoustic homing with wide look angle and advanced digital signal processing.
 - has a GPS-based locating aid, a unique feature in contemporary torpedoes in the world.
 - also equipped with advanced autonomous guidance algorithms with low drift navigational aids, insensitive warhead which can operate in various combat scenarios.
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Sports

Amul signs up as official sponsor of Indian team to the Olympics

- **Amul** has signed up as the official sponsor for the Indian contingent to the **Rio Olympics 2016**.
 - company will launch a series of advertising campaigns for milk and other dairy products to promote this association.
 - the company's products will also sport special branding to promote this association.
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