

# Carpe Diem

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## NOT SO SPECIAL ANYMORE

The Centre claims that following the increase in tax devolution to States from 32% to 42% of divisible pool of central taxes, there is no further need to give 'Special Category' status to any State

BENEFITS AS PER GADGIL-MUKHERJEE FORMULA	
<p><b>CRITERIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hilly terrain</li> <li>Low density</li> <li>Location along borders</li> <li>Economic backwardness</li> </ul>	<p>On account of their location and backwardness, Special Category States have been allocated assistance as grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are provided <b>30 % of the total central assistance</b> (90% of it as grants)</li> <li>Special plan assistance for projects (90% of it as grants)</li> <li>Untied special central assistance (100% of it provided as grant)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance for externally aided projects (90% grant)</li> <li>Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) assistance (90% as grant)</li> <li>Central incentives for the <b>promotion of industry</b> on account of economic backwardness</li> </ul>
DILUTION FOLLOWING UNION BUDGET 2015-16	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discontinued</b> are central assistance, <b>special central assistance</b> and special plan assistance</li> <li><b>Very few</b> externally aided projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Allocations under AIBP reduced</b> from Rs.8,992 crore in 2014-15 to just Rs.1,000 crore: scheme to be run with a higher matching contribution by States</li> </ul>

Graphics: L.Balamurugan



ISSUES AND ANALYSIS



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The Hindu-

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The improving fundamentals owe more to favourable external circumstances than to domestic policy choices

Indian Express-

➤ **Undo the wrong**

An ordinance to overturn the Supreme Court order on SC/ST Atrocities Act is much needed

Live mint-

➤ **Revenue sharing: Are states in South India being taken for a ride?**

The issue of revenue sharing among states isn't exactly a 'North India vs South India' debate. Rather, it is more of a poor-vs-rich issue

## National

- The Hindu-  
**Minority institutions panel gets court relief**  
NCMEI has jurisdiction to determine minority status: SC
- The Hindu-  
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States to get leeway in developing tourism, industrial infrastructure  
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Commission also wants the cricket board to be brought under RTI Act for scrutiny by any citizen
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**Chip in TV set-top boxes: Why govt wants 'accurate' viewership data**  
What is the background and relevance of the discussion between TRAI and the Ministry?
- Livemint-  
**Kathua rape case puts spotlight on crimes against women by juveniles**  
According to NCRB data, in 2016, 1,970 cases were registered across India against juveniles for raping, gang raping and attempting to rape women
- Live mint-  
**Study in India: Govt sets target to attract 200,000 foreign students**  
HRD minister Prakash Javadekar says India's higher education sector often complains about restrictive rules but now the govt is making a conscious effort to liberalize it

## ECONOMY

- The Hindu-  
**'Bank credit: can't be business as usual'**  
RBI's Vishwanathan says stressed asset norms aimed at changing behaviour of lenders and borrowers
- The Hindu-  
**'Sweden-ing' India's vision for the long-haul economy**  
Nordic nation makes strong pitch to ramp up investments
- Live mint-  
**The welfare effects of rural electrification**  
Rural electrification will not only help improve education, health and connectivity but will also enable India meet its climate change commitments
- Live mint-  
**India's fiscal outlook poised for a reset: IMF**  
India's declining debt-to-GDP ratio will create the basis for a lower interest rate regime, says IMF in its fiscal monitor report, and set the stage for a sovereign rating upgrade

## Science and Technology; Environment

- Indian Express Explained-  
**Why trains keep killing elephants**  
Four elephants, including a calf, were cut down by a train in Odisha on Monday. Trains now kill 17 elephants every year on average in India. Here's what makes the Elephas maximus so vulnerable.

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