

National News

India Inks Social Security Agreement Pact with Australia

- Employees deputed to Australia from India and vice versa **need not make double social security contribution.**
 - Provides the exception to the employees who have been deputed on a **short term basis of less than 60 months** from paying **social security contribution to both the countries.**
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India and China Exchange Tariff Cut Offers

- **Liberalize trade ties** as they exchange offers on tariff cuts in goods imports.
 - India's offer to remove **5% of tariff lines under the 16-country Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**
 - China has expressed its willingness to abolish **equivalent amount of tariff lines for India.**
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Punjab passed Punjab Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal land Bill 2016

- Bill was passed in contradiction of the **construction of contentious Sutlej Yamuna Link.**
 - **Transfer of proprietary rights back to the land owners** from whom the land was acquired by the state government for the construction of SYL free of cost.
 - allows to transfer **free of cost** the entire **5,376-acre land** to the owners that was acquired for the **Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal** over three decades ago.
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Singareni 600 MW power unit synchronized in Telangana

- Power generation in the **first of two 600 MW** plants has been synchronized at the Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP)
 - Telangana will get an **additional 1, 200 MW of power** from Singareni from May this year.
 - The New Plant will ultimately bring down the **deficit in power generation** in Telangana.
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Career Guidance Counselling Centers launched in Delhi

- first of its kind **dedicated to women**
 - **Young women seeking employment in the Delhi NCR region** can receive career Guidance
 - Physical centers will be complemented by a **cloud-based platform** which provides services such as **work readiness, e-learning, comprehensive mapping of the opportunities existing in the vicinity**
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India aviation show 2016 begins in Hyderabad

- **5th edition of the India Aviation Show** and a **five-day biennial aviation show**
 - Organized by the **Union Civil Aviation Ministry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
 - Theme of Indian civil aviation sector is to showcase **Potential as global manufacturing hub**.
 - **25 countries and 200 major participants** are expected to take part
 - Leading aircraft and helicopter manufacturers such as **Boeing, Airbus, Textron, AA Embraer, Gulfstream, Dassault, Agusta Westland, Bell Helicopters, and Russian Helicopters** are participating
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Punjab Government notified Swine Flu under Epidemic Disease Act

- **All the hospitals** will have to inform the **Department of Health** about a **case of ILI (Influenza like Illness) having chronic diseases**.
 - **Treatment of swine flu is provided free of cost** to all the patients as recommended by the Government.
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Lok Sabha clears Aadhaar Bill

- The **opposition in Rajya Sabha** had recommended **five amendments to the Bill**.
 - Lok Sabha has **not incorporated any of these amendments**.
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Ethics panel to probe bribery charges against TMC MPs

- Issue of **alleged unethical conduct of some Trinamool Congress members** has been reported to the Ethics Committee of the House.

- The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha was constituted on **16 May 2000 as an adhoc committee.**
 - In August 2015 it was given **permanent Standing Committee status.**
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International

India ranked 118 in Happiness Index

- **Denmark tops the list** holding the tag of **Happiest Nation in the world**
 - Followed by **Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden**
 - **USA occupies 13th position.**
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Modi's wax statue at Madame Tussauds Museum

- Modi figured in the **Time Magazine's Person of the Year's list** which gives him enough support to figure in the museum.
 - Currently the **second most followed politician on twitter after President Obama**
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4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves inaugurated in Lima

- World meeting of the Committees of **UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB)**
 - Participants include **experts from governments, biosphere reserves, local communities, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and organizations and institutions from all over the world working with the MAB Program.**
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First Electrical Double decker bus operated in London

- Built by **Chinese manufactures BYD**, will be able to travel **180 miles on a single charge**
 - Buses are expected to cost more than **£350,000**
 - Electric buses will **lower carbon emissions and help improve London's air quality**
 - Buses will come into **operation by April**
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Business and Economy

Four Oil Psus Sign Pacts to Raise Stake in Russian Oil Field

- First MoU was signed between **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)**, the overseas investment arm of ONGC, and Russia's Rosneft
 - Have signed **two separate memorandums of understanding, one Heads of Agreement, and one sale purchase agreement worth \$2 billion**
 - Will increase India's participation in the Siberian oil and gas fields **to 26 per cent from the existing 15 per cent.**
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SBI Partners With Uber for Instant Vehicle Financing

- The scheme would **encourage skilled drivers to overcome liquidity crunch and excess documentation requirements to become an entrepreneur**
 - Loans could be sanctioned **in one day** using an **inbuilt digital offering.**
 - Loans would be **collateral free** as well as carry a very **competitive interest rate.**
 - Loans will be covered under the government's **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna Scheme**
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Gamesa wins solar order from Sri Lanka

- **Spain Major Gamesa Wind Turbines** has won the solar energy order from **LAUGFS Power Ltd in Sri Lanka**
 - To provide **solar power in Baruthankanda village in Sri Lanka.**
 - The project is expected to commence **operations by October.**
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Science and Technology

Google to submit fresh proposal for Loon Project

- Government has asked Google for a fresh proposal for testing its balloon-based Internet technology for the Loon Project in India
- This is because of **interference issues in the frequency band.**

- Project Loon is a **research and development project** being developed by **Google X** with the mission of providing **Internet access to rural and remote areas**.
 - Project uses **high-altitude balloons** placed in the stratosphere at an **altitude of about 32 km** to create an **aerial wireless network with up to 3G-like speeds**.
 - Already tested this technology in **New Zealand, California (in the US), and Brazil**.
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People in News

Michelle Yeoh appointed UNDP goodwill ambassador

- Will focus on **raising awareness and mobilizing support** for the recently proposed **Sustainable Development Goals**.
 - Will pursue her **longstanding passion for global development issues, including gender equality and the eradication of poverty**
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Merrick Garland nominated for US Supreme Court

- **US President Barack Obama** has nominated Merrick Garland.
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Fazle Kabir appointed as Governor of Bangladesh's Central Bank

- He is **former finance secretary and chairman of Sonali Bank**
 - Appointment comes from the government **after governor Atiur Rahman resigned over the recent cyber heist of \$81 million**
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Ashley Judd appointed U.N. Goodwill Ambassador

- Ashley and UNFPA will be **joining forces to raise awareness about women dying while child birth**.
 - To **empower women to choose when and how often to become pregnant**.
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Shehnai Exponent Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan Passes Away

- Born on **March 21, 1939** in **Kolkata**
- He taught **Shehnai** at **Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata** in **1974**
- He represented the **Benaras School of Shehnai**

- He was regularly featured on **All India Radio and Indian Television**
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Paul Daniels, TV Magician, Dies Aged 77

- Daniels is best known for his **BBC TV series The Paul Daniels Magic Show, which ran from 1979 to 1994.**
 - He achieved **international fame through his television series**
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Awards

Andrew Wiles awarded with the Nobel Prize of Mathematics

- Has been awarded the **2016 Abel Prize** which is the **Nobel Prize equivalent for Mathematics**
 - He won the award for his **proof of Fermat's Last Theorem** which baffled the Mathematicians for more than **300 years.**
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Sports

Paralympics Games began in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Three-day event** being organized by the **Arunachal Pradesh Paralympics Association (APPA)** scheduled to be held from March 15 to 17.
 - Demand of **Corpus fund of Rs.20 Lakh for Paralympic Games, Rs.10 Lakh each for Umang Festival** and for **procurement of sports goods, boys' and girls' hostels for persons with disabilities, their training at SLSA, and appointment of five posts of coaches for them.**
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