

## National News

### **Supreme Court stops Punjab from levelling SYL canal land**

- **Supreme Court** has **ordered status quo** on the land meant for the **Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal**
  - **Haryana alleged attempts by Punjab to alter its use by levelling it.**
  - Punjab assembly passed the Punjab Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (Rehabilitation and Re-vesting of proprietary Rights) Bill, 2016 to **de-notify the land acquired to build the canal in Punjab.**
  - Haryana argued the **Bill would negate the Supreme Court's 2004 decree** calling for **unhindered construction of the canal** which will **give Haryana its share of water.**
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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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### **Online System to automate all the operations of FCI depots launched**

- Important project under **Digital India initiative** of Government.
- System will **automate/streamline** all the activities during the **stock inflow/outflow** by road.
- System will provide an **efficient way to monitor & track the movement** of items by rail.
- **Godown operation** such as dumping management etc **will be automated.**
- System will **keep track of all the millers/Agency** that are associated with the depots
- System will track **chemical spraying, fumigation & procurement quality check.**
- Facilitate the **depot management for FCI**, helps in **speeding up operations, Free up manpower from laborious data collation and report preparation**
- **Saves operational costs** by proper planning & **optimizing the administrative.**

- Will help **save costs and prevent leakages.**
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### **India signs Loan agreement with World Bank**

- Loan agreement of **35 million dollars with World Bank** for “**Madhya Pradesh Citizen Access to Responsive Services Project**”.
  - Project size is **\$50 million**
  - **\$35 million will be financed by the Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded out of State Budget.**
  - The project duration is **5 years.**
  - Objective of the project is to **improve access and quality of public services in Madhya Pradesh through implementation of the 2010 Public Service Delivery Guarantee Act.**
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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 13<sup>th</sup> 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

### AP Fiber Grid project in Andhra Pradesh

- The government has signed a **MoU with Cisco** as **technical partner** for the project.
  - Cisco will complete **aerial cable connectivity in North Andhra** by **April-end** and across the **entire State** by **July-end**.
  - Total cost for **aerial cables to provide internet, telephone and 100 free-to-air channels** is **Rs.330 crore**.
  - In the second phase, **underground cable network** will be laid.
  - The nodal agency **AP State FiberNet Ltd** will provide **15 Mbps connection** to households at **Rs.149** and to **100 Mbps to offices** at **Rs.999** per month by **involving local cable operators**.
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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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