

National

Super fast train between Vijayawada-Secunderabad launched

- new superfast intercity express train between **Vijayawada and Secunderabad** with just one stop.
 - train will cover a distance of **351km** between the two cities in less than 6 hours
 - announced to ease travel of **Andhra Pradesh Government employees** to the new capital region from Hyderabad.
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Andhra Pradesh village, "Mori" to be developed as 'Smart Village'

- **Andhra Pradesh Government** and Garwood Centre for Corporate innovation of UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business joined hands to develop the **village Mori into a Smart Village**.
 - Mori village in East Godavari district is known for cashew-exporting to turn 'smart' by mid-December 2016 using digital tools, real time information and uninterrupted internet connectivity.
 - village will be **provided 24*7 power** supply, uninterrupted power supply (USP) and **fibre optic connectivity**. Around **1900 households** will be connected **with 15 Mbps link**.
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silver coin to mark Martyrdom Day of Banda Singh Bahadur

- To mark the **300th Martyrdom Day** of **Banda Singh Bahadur**. **Bahadur** is regarded as the **first sovereign ruler of Punjab**.
 - **Banda Singh**, who was born in 1670 in Rajouri, had sacrificed his life at the age of 46 to safeguard honour and tradition
 - He established his rule by defeating Mughals in 1710.
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DSGMC, India Post launch Baba Banda Singh post card

- **(DSGMC), along with India Post** launched a postal cover featuring **Sikh general Baba Banda Singh Bahadur**
 - to commemorate his 300th death anniversary.
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South Delhi Municipal Corporation signed MoU with SECI

- MOU, signed for a **period of 2 years**, comes after the Municipal Corporation has decided to go green
 - aims at generating **solar power of around 10 MW** on the rooftops of **440 buildings and 10MW** on the **spare vacant land**.
 - Municipal body is likely to **save Rs 6 crore** from the expenditure incurred on power bills thus reducing the dependence on discoms.
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Expert Committee set on examining Specific Relief Act, 1963 submits its Report

- **committee infused some** modifications in the Act that will help in ensuring the **ease of doing business**.
 - To modify the approach, from damages being the rule and specific performance being the exception to specific performance being the rule, and damages being the alternate remedy.
 - To take measures that reducing the discretion granted to Courts and tribunals while granting performance and injunctive reliefs.
 - To ruminate addressing unacceptable contracts, unfair contracts, reciprocity in contracts etc., and implied terms.
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Business and Economy

SBI in 'Hall of Shame' of banks

- **State Bank of India** has been named in a **Hall of Shame list** of 158 banking and financial institutions worldwide that have invested billions of dollars in enterprises **making cluster bombs**.
 - list was prepared by **Dutch campaign group PAX Worldwide Investments** in Cluster Munitions report.
 - maximum number of **74 banks are from** the US, followed by **China (29) and South Korea (26)**.
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I-T department to block PAN, LPG subsidy of tax defaulters

- to block **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** of wilful defaulters and their LPG subsidy and take measures to ensure that they are not sanctioned loans.
 - slew of such measures have been suggested by the tax department, to be started this financial year,
 - to curb the menace of **large-scale tax avoidance and evasion**.
 - also mulling to subscribe to the **Credit Information Bureau Limited (CIBIL)** data, on a possible payment basis, to check out the financial activities of debtors and commence action against them for recovery **and freezing of assets**.
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Rules for premature withdrawal of PPF announced

- New rules allowing for **premature withdrawal** of the Public Provident Fund (PPF) account deposit scheme account **has completed five years**.
 - subscriber shall be allowed premature closure of his account or account of a minor of whom he is the guardian on ground that the amount is required for treatment of serious ailments or **life-threatening diseases**.
 - withdrawal will also be allowed if the amount is required **for higher education** of the account holder or the minor account holder, on production of documents and fee bills in confirmation of admission **in India or abroad**.
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Tata Power wins solar project in Maharashtra

- **30 MW solar grid connected** photovoltaic project in **Maharashtra** under the **National Solar Mission**.
 - TPREL has received the Letter of Intent (LoI) to develop the project and will sign a 25-year power purchase agreement **with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam**.
 - project have been awarded in the **Domestic Content Requirement category** under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) under 'State Specific Bundling Scheme',
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Twitter buys artificial intelligence firm Magic Pony

- **Twitter** has announced to buy **artificial intelligence** startup **Magic Pony** to help it enhance video and live services on its platform.
 - London based Magic Pony which was started by entrepreneurs and **Imperial College graduates** Rob Bishop and Zehan Wang in 2014,
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People in News

Virginia Raggi became first female mayor of Rome

- Virginia Raggi has been elected as **Rome's first female mayor**
 - Raggi lawyer and local councilor swept into Italian capital after **winning 67% of the vote** in a runoff ballot against the Democratic Party's (PD) Roberto Giachetti.
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Softbank president Nikesh Arora resigns

- Softbank President and **COO Nikesh Arora** has resigned from the company with immediate effect,
 - Arora will move to an advisory role in advisory role effective July 1, 2016, and continue to support SoftBank.
 - was hired in 2014 after a **decade at Google** and promoted to president in June of last year.
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Science and Technology

China's Sunway TaihuLight named world's top supercomputer

- Chinese **supercomputer** using domestic chip technology named **Sunway TaihuLight** with **93 petaflop/second** speed was declared as the world's fastest supercomputer.
- System was publicized in the **TOP500 list of supercomputers** released at the **International Supercomputing Conference (ISC)** in Frankfurt,
- list **topped by China** leads with **167 systems** and the USA is second with 165.
- Asian share of 218 systems, up from 173 in November 2015, includes 8 supercomputers owned by Indian-based organizations.
- TaihuLight is encompassed of **some 41,000 chips**, each **with 260 processor cores**.

- This makes for a total of **10.65 million** cores, compared to the 560,000 cores in America's top machine.
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FSSAI bans use of potassium bromate

- **Food Safety Standards Authority of India** has banned use of potassium bromate as a food additive
 - Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study that found its presence in **bread causing cancer**.
 - CSE observed that **84 percent of 38 commonly available** brands of pre-packaged breads, including pav and buns, tested positive for **potassium bromate and potassium iodate**.
 - These are banned in many countries and listed as **hazardous** for public health.
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HP launches the world's thinnest laptop

- claimed to be the thinnest in the world by the US-based firm. With a **thickness of 10.4mm, it's thinner than** both the **12-inch MacBook and** 13-inch MacBook Air.
 - cutting edge svelte dimensions, the company has decided to go all out with its latest top-end laptop, and the Spectre 13 is the **first to sport its new logo** for the premium range.
 - It has been priced starting at **1,19,990 in India**.
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Mars crater named after Nepal quake-hit village Langtang

- Langtang which is also a popular trekking site that was worst hit by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.
 - In the Earthquake at-least **215 people were killed** in Langtang when the April 25 quake triggered an avalanche that swamped the village.
 - Astronomical Union has now named a 9.8 km (six mile) wide crater on Mars as Langtang.
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Sports

Andy Murray wins record 5th Queen's title

- **Andy Murray** defeated Milos Raonic of Canada by 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 and 6-3 managed to retain the Queen's title and
 - Queen's Club Championships is an annual tournament for male tennis players, held on grass courts at the Queen's Club in West **Kensington, London**.
 - This is the 5th time he has won the title.
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Awards

Indian war heroes honoured in UK digital archive

- a new digital archive telling the exciting stories of **war heroes**, including **six Indians**, as part of government's centenary celebrations to mark World War I.
- can be accessed through the official gov.uk portal.

- 175 men from 11 overseas countries were
 - **War Heros**
 - Risaldar Badlu Singh
 - Sepoy Chatta Singh
 - Naik Darwan Singh Negi
 - Rifleman Gabar Sing Negi
 - Lance-Daffadar Gobind Singh
 - Lance Naik Lala
 - **awarded Britain's highest award for valour, the Victoria Cross (VC), during the war.**
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- **State**
 - Punjab
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Uttarakhand
 - Uttarakhand
 - Rajasthan
 - Himachal Pradesh