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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Ranchi**-based software developer **Ranjit Srivastava** is developing the **world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot**, claimed to cost just **Rs50,000** so far.
 - Named **Rashmi**, the **AI-powered robot** can also speak **Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English**, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems. He was inspired to create **Rashmi** after seeing **Hong Kong-made humanoid 'Sophia'** in 2016.
- The Ministry of Culture launched a scheme called “**Seva Bhoj Yojna**” to reimburse central share of **CGST and IGST on food, prasad, langar or bhandara** offered by religious and charitable institutions.
 - The scheme will compensate such institutions of the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (**CGST**) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (**IGST**) so as to lessen the financial burden on religious and charitable bodies that provide **food/prasad/langar (community kitchen)/bhandara free-of-cost without any discrimination to public/devotees**.
- The **NITI Aayog** has launched **Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon** to crowd source solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
 - The **Hackathon** will be one of the **largest hackathons globally** and the **Move Hack is focused on 10 themes**.
 - The hackathon has a two-pronged campaign approach (i.e) “**Just Code It**” and “**Just Solve It**”.
- To create awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (**IPRs**), the Commerce and Industry Minister **Suresh Prabhu** launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indications (**GI**).
 - The ministry had launched a contest for designing a **logo and tagline** for **GIs**. The slogan for the GI tag is: **Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India**.

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched Mission **Solar Charkha** for implementation of **50 Solar Charkha Clusters** throughout **India**.
 - This scheme will offer direct employment to around **1 lakh people**. This Mission was launched by President **Ram Nath Kovind** on the **UN Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (27th June 2018)**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The United States Congress has passed the **National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19)** which capped its security-related aid to Pakistan to **\$150 million**, significantly below the historic level of more than **\$ 1 billion to \$750 million per year**.

ECONOMY

- **Morgan Stanley** has predicted, India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow by **7.5 %** in this **financial year 2018 – 2019**.
 - **Morgan Stanley's** report forecasts Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation to remain above the inflation target of **4 %** and the current account deficit below **2.5 % of GDP**.
 - Morgan Stanley said that, **India's GDP** is expected to grow by **7.5 %** in this financial year **2018-19 as against 6.7 % in 2017-18**.

AWARDS

- **President Ram Nath Kovind**, presented the Outstanding **Parliamentarian Award** for the years **2013-2017**, in **New Delhi**.
 - Winners of the award are listed below:
 - **Dr Najma Heptullah-2013**
 - **Hukum Dev Narayan-2014**
 - **Ghulam Nabi Azad-2015**
 - **Dinesh Trivedi-2016**
 - **Bhartruhari Mahtab-2017**

APPOINTMENTS

- **Oscar Kerketta** was appointed the **next High Commissioner of India** to the **Republic of Rwanda**. At present, **Oscar Kerketta** is **Additional Secretary** in the Foreign Service Institute (FSI).