



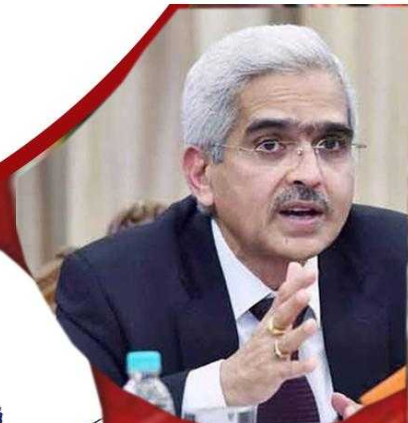
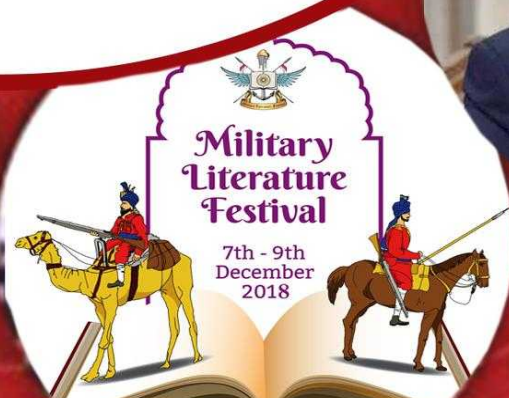
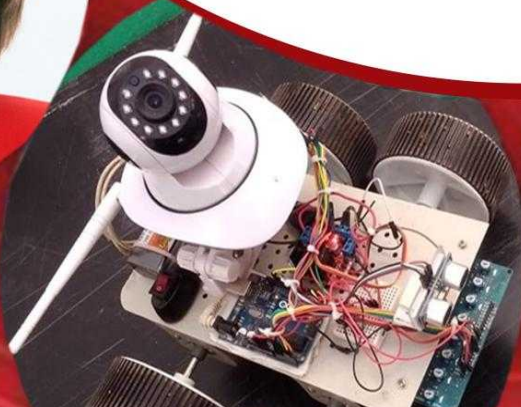
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NATIONAL NEWS

- In a major fillip to **Punjab**'s persistent efforts for securing the waiver of **Rs 31,000 crore** food account, Chairman of **the 15th Finance Commission N K Singh** formed a committee to find ways of settling the matter.
 - The committee under the **Finance Commission**, with the Centre, the State, and the FCI, would explore all possibilities, given its terms of reference and constitutional propriety, to settle the festering problem.
- India's Environment Minister **Harsh Vardhan** declared a **“war against pollution”** and **launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**. NCAP calls for a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in particulate pollution over the next five years.
 - Our report titled – **India's ‘War Against Pollution’: An Opportunity for Longer Lives**, released finds that a **25 per cent** reduction in particulate pollution in India.
- An **eight-member search panel** formed to select members of **anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal** held its first meeting, nearly four months after it was announced by the Modi government.
 - The committee, headed by **former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai**, is understood to have discussed modalities related to the appointments of the chief and members of Lokpal.
- **Uttar Pradesh** is set to construct the **World's Longest Expressway**. During the ongoing **Kumbh Mela**, the Yogi Adityanath-led UP government approved the construction of the **Ganga Expressway for better connectivity of Prayagraj with western districts of the state**.
 - UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presided over the cabinet meeting, where the approval for the construction of the **600-km long expressway** was given.
- Union Minister for Human Resource Development, **Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated new Campus of the **National Museum Institute in Noida**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Italian Prime Minister **Giuseppe Conte** has opened a **new centre** in **Rome** set up by the government in partnership with the **UN to fight climate change and boost sustainable development in Africa**.
 - It will help develop and scale-up innovative solutions for sustainable development, implement the goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda and the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
- The central banks of the **UAE and Saudi Arabia** have launched a **common digital currency called "Aber"**, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through **Block chains and Distributed Ledgers technologies**.

ECONOMY

- The government has imposed an anti-dumping duty on a chemical from China, **used in photography and manufacturing of dyes, for five years** to protect domestic producers of the chemical intermediate from cheap shipments.
 - The anti-dumping duty on **Meta Phenylenediamine (MPDA)** imported from China will be in the range USD 573.92-USD 1,015.44 a tonne, according to a notification of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar**, assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**. An alumnus of National Defence Academy at **Khadakvasla in Pune**, he was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on July 1, 1982.
- **Senior diplomat Sunjay Sudhir** has been appointed as **India's Ambassador to the Maldives**, the Ministry of External Affairs announced.

AWARDS

- **Rajiv Nath** was conferred with the prestigious '**Award of Appreciation**' by **Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare** for his contribution to the Global Public Healthcare sector at **The Award of Appreciation Ceremony** held at Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, organized by **Diaspora Foundation**.

SPORTS

- **Jason Holder** has become the **first West Indian** since cricket great Garfield Sobers to be named as the **world's leading all-rounder** following his superb display against England in Barbados.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **National Martyr's Day or Sarvodaya Day - 30th January**
 - In India, there are five days declared as **Martyrs' Day** (at national level also known as Sarvodaya day). **30th January** is the date observed at the national level. The date was chosen as it marks the **assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Ji in 1948, by Nathuram Godse**.