



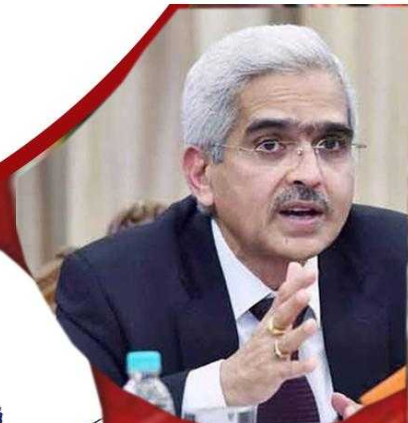
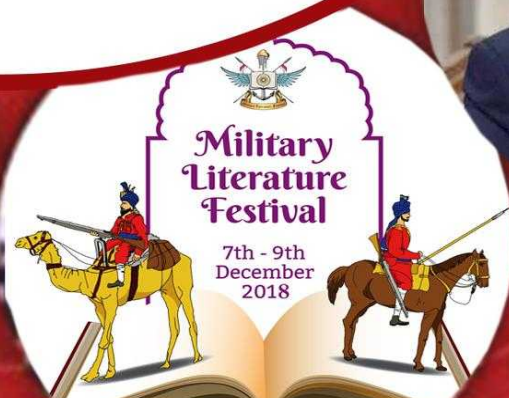
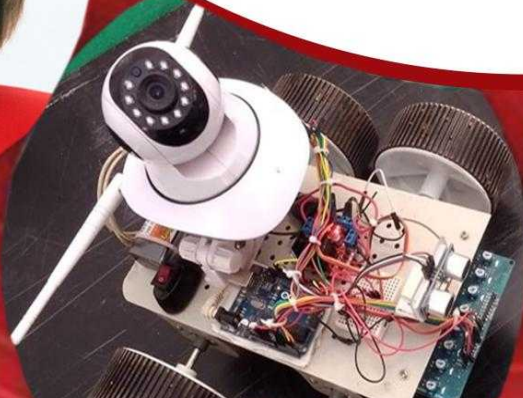
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## FEBRUARY - 2019

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## TNPSC

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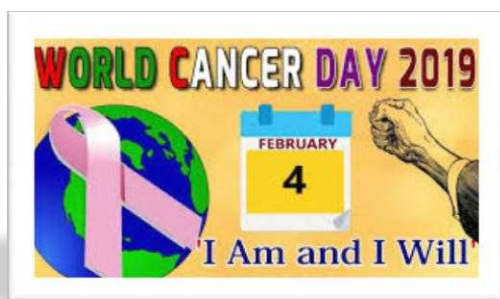
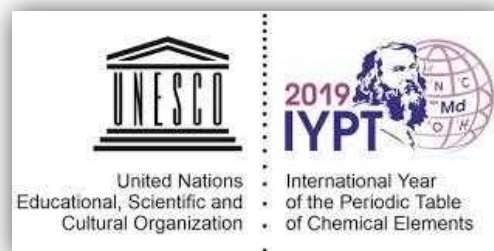
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## NATIONAL NEWS

- Punjab government approved a rural development scheme **“Smart Village Campaign”** worth **Rs 384.40 crore** to build village infrastructure and provide essential amenities.
  - The SVC is aimed at improving the condition of rural areas by supplementing the ongoing government schemes for building **infrastructure and providing essential amenities.**
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the **National Salt Satyagraha** Memorial at **Dandi** in Navsari district, Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi’s death anniversary.
  - At the memorial site, he also unveiled statues of Mahatma Gandhi and 78 Satyagrahis who had marched with him during the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930 to make salt from sea water against the British law.
- To mark the **50-years of formalization of diplomatic ties between India and Bhutan**, a two-day **international conference on 8th century Himalayan sage Guru Padmasambhava** was held in **New Delhi**.
  - This conference was organised by the **Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP)** and was titled **‘Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava’**, was held on **January 29-30.**
- **The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** has been renamed as **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** proposes **three models** through which the states can implement the scheme. The models are **insurance model, trust-based model and hybrid model.**
- As per **National Sample Survey Office’s (NSSO’s) periodic labour force survey (PLFS)** India’s unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of **6.1%** in 2017-18.
  - It is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after demonetization.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **The International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements** will be launched at **UNESCO’s Headquarters, Paris.** According to a statement from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, events and activities will be held throughout the year to celebrate the **150th** anniversary of the organisation of the periodic table by **Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev**, one of the fathers of modern

chemistry.

## ECONOMY

- The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation has revised the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) Growth forecast to **7.2%** from earlier estimate of **6.7%**.
  - The revised GDP growth rate shows that the effect of **demonetization** was not as severe as predicted earlier. Hence various economists have criticized the revision of growth rates.

## APPOINTMENTS

- The MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), **Punit Goenka** has been elected as the new chairman of **Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC)**. He will be taking over from Nakul Chopra, a senior advisor at Publicis.
- Ministry of External Affairs appointed 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer **Sanjiv Ranjan** who is current Ambassador to **Argentina** as the new Ambassador to the **Republic of Colombia**.

## SPORTS

- **Haryana Hammers** won the **fourth edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL)** as they outclassed Punjab Royals 6-3 in the summit clash at the **Gautam Buddha University indoor stadium in Greater Noida**.
- India's Women Cricket team captain, **Mithali Raj** became the **first female player** to play **200 ODIs** during the 3rd and Final ODI against New Zealand.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Wetlands Day – February 2**
  - World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on the **2nd of February** to raise global awareness on the **value of wetlands for humanity and the planet**.
  - Theme of World Wetlands Day 2019 is” **Wetlands and Climate Change**”