



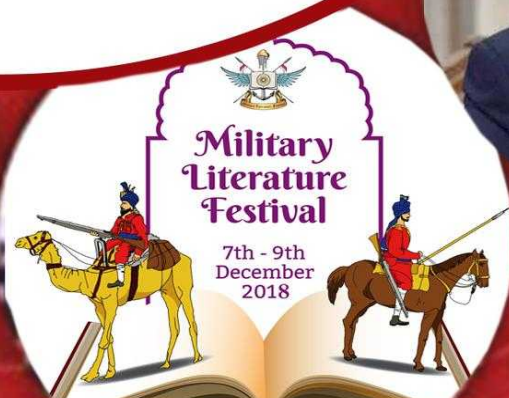
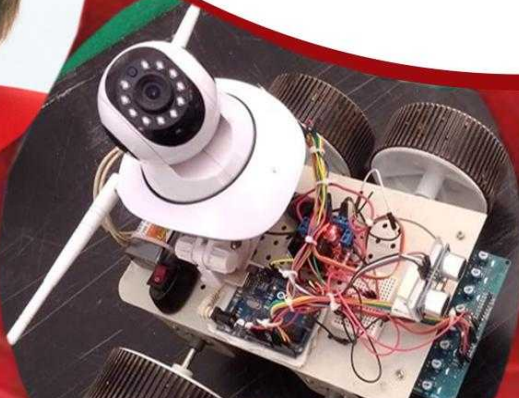
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2

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INDEX

- 👍 **National News**
- 👍 **International News**
- 👍 **Economy**
- 👍 **Appointments**
- 👍 **Science & Technology**
- 👍 **Sports**
- 👍 **Business & Economy**
- 👍 **Appointments & Resigns**
- 👍 **Important Days**



National News

- **International Spice Conference 2019**

- International Spice Conference is considered as platform for all business houses, the spice associations, the policy makers, the farmers and the users, to connect and interact.
 1. The fourth edition of this conference was held in the City of Pearls and the capital city of Telangana-Hyderabad.
 2. The theme for the conference 2019 is ‘Challenges of Change, Redefining the Value Chain’.
 3. Third edition of this conference was held in Jaipur with the theme ‘Managing Disruptions through Transformation and Collaboration’.

International News

- **2019 is the International Year of the Periodic Table**

- The United Nations announced 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements to highlight its first publication in 1869.
- The periodic table was first designed by the Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev.
- The announcement by the United Nations will help to raise the profile of how chemistry can provide solutions to global challenges in agriculture, education, energy and health.

Economy

- **Lendbox receives NBFC – peer – to – peer (P2P) certification from RBI**

- Delhi based P2P Lending platform, Lendbox has received its NBFC – Peer – to – Peer (P2P) certification from the RBI.
- NBFC – P2P is a new class of NBFCs, for non-banking institutions which

carry on the business of Peer to Peer Lending in adherence to the guidelines released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Lendbox began operations in November 2015 and is one of India's largest P2P Lending platforms with almost 200,000 registered users and a loan book size of almost 40 crores.
- **PNB MetLife introduced P.V. Sindhu as brand ambassador**
 - The **Punjab National Bank** associated life insurance company, PNB MetLife has introduced the ace shuttler P.V. Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
 - Sindhu will support various initiatives under project Damini, a CSR initiative intended to empower girls at every stage of the journey into womanhood.

Appointments

- **Sanjiv Ranjan appointed as the India's envoy to Colombia**
 - Ministry of External Affairs announced that Sanjiv Ranjan appointed as new Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia
 - Ranjan is the current Ambassador to Argentina, is expected to take up the assignment shortly
 - He was 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service officer holds a bachelor in Economics from Delhi University and an M.A. in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University.
 - The government also appointed Dinesh Bhatia, the present Consul General, Consulate General of India at Toronto as the next Ambassador of India to Argentina.

Science & Technology

- **Scientists create AI based system that translates thoughts into speech**
 - Scientists have created an artificial intelligence (AI) based system that directly translates thoughts into intelligible, recognisable speech
 - The technology developed by researchers from Columbia University in the

United States.

- The research will help people who cannot speak regain their ability to communicate with the outside world.
- **Sikkim signs MoU with Microsoft for digital learning**
 - On January 31, 2019, In order to improve the education system Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sikkim government .
 1. The MoU was signed between the state Human Resource Department RB Subba and Managing Director of Microsoft India, Manish Prakash to boost digital literacy and new age technology knowledge in government schools.
 2. This agreement will also help Sikkim to upgrade its state curriculum from class VI to class X with IT course.
 3. In order to bring the plan in action and build student-teacher capacity in digital skills, enhance digital literacy and digital citizenship, Microsoft will adopt two schools.
- **Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to play 200 ODIs**
 - Mithali Raj, India's One-day International (ODI) captain becoming the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs.
 - The Indian captain also holds the record for most runs scored in ODIs with 6,622 runs including 7 centuries and 52 half centuries.
 - She already holds the record for the most-capped women's cricketer in the history of the game. Mithali Raj had achieved the milestone when she played her 192 ODI of the career.
- **Qatar won their First-ever Asian Cup Title In Football by defeating Japan**
 - On 2nd February 2019, Qatar won its first major soccer title by beating four-time champion Japan 3-1 in the 17th edition of the AFC Asian Cup held in United Arab Emirates (UAE).
 - **KeyPoints:**
 1. Sudan born Almoez Ali, became the first player to score nine goals

at a single Asian Cup. He broke the record of Iranian Ali Daei, who scored eight goals in 1996.

2. **Awards Conferred:**

- Top scorer of the tournament was conferred to Almoez Ali (He created a Record After Scoring 9 Goals)
- Best player of the tournament was conferred to Qatar Almoez Ali
- Best goalkeeper of the tournament was conferred to Qatar Saad Al Sheeb
- Japan Received the Fair play award

Business & Economy

- **Defence Ministry approves procurement of 73,000 assault rifles from US**
 - On 2nd February 2019, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved the procurement of around 73,000 Sig Sauer rifles from United States of America under fast track procurement mode in a major move towards infantry modernization.

Appointments & Resigns

- **Rishi Kumar Shukla** has been appointed as the **new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**
 - On February 2, 2019, Narendra Modi Government appointed Rishi K Shukla, former Madhya Pradesh DGP, as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a fixed tenure of two years.
 - After the unceremonious exit of Alok Verma, M Nageswara Rao had been working as the Interim Director.

Important Days

- **2nd February – World Wetlands Day**
 - Every year on 2nd February, World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran. It was first celebrated in 1997. World Wetlands Day 2019 theme is ‘Wetlands and Climate Change’.
- **2nd February – Kala Ghoda Arts Festival**
 - Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is annually held in Mumbai. This year, the event will be held from 2nd February to 10 February, 2019 and marks the 20th year of the festival and commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Basically, this event is a meeting point of arts from various walks of life. On 30th October, 1998, Kala Ghoda association was formed with an aim of maintaining and preserving the heritage and art district of South Mumbai.



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