



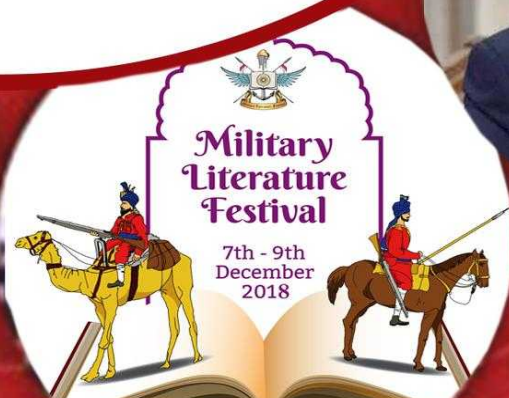
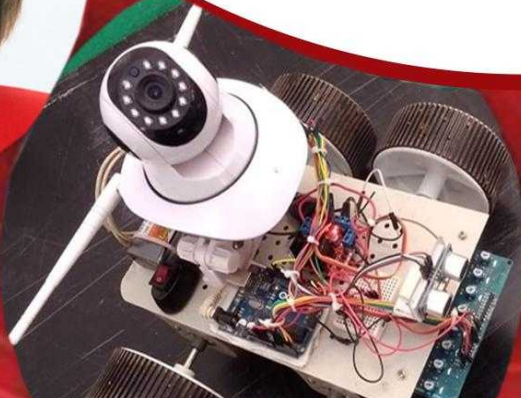
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National News

- **Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2019**

- The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is organized every year by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- The state of Maharashtra is the Theme State and Thailand is the Partner Nation Country for the Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2019

- **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan**

- The Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announced the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan scheme in the interim budget 2019 for workers in the unorganized sector.

About the scheme

- The features of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan scheme are:
- Under the scheme, an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 per month will be provided to workers in the unorganized sector after 60 years of age.
- To avail of the scheme, workers will have to contribute a minimal Rs. 100 month per month.
- The scheme is expected to benefit 10 crore workers.
- This new pension scheme will run alongside the existing Atal Pension Yojana, which guarantees returns post-retirement.

- PM inaugurates Railway electrification of 294-km long Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and khana-Sainthia Sections in West Bengal

- On 2nd February 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Railway electrification of 294-km long **Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and khana-Sainthia sections in West Bengal.**

- **Key Points**

- The electrification of 294-km sections will make the transportation of coal and stone chips to North and North East India fast and convenient.
- The 20-km long Hijli-Narayangarh third line was also inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced various schemes has been launched in this year's budget that will benefit more than 12 crore families of small farmers, 30-40 crore workers and 3 crore middle-class families.

About west Bengal

- Capital:Kolkata
- Governor:Keshari Nath Tripathi
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

- **Piyush Goyal launches the IEA's 'The Future of Rail' report**

- On 30th January 2019, Minister of Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the International Energy Agency's (IEA) "The Future of Rail" report which analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world in New Delhi.
 - At the launch of report, the Chairman of Railway Board Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav said that rail transport is superior than any other form of transport in terms of energy efficiency and environment friendliness.
 - Minister for IT inaugurated 'ICT Academy Bridge 2019' conference
 - On January 31, 2019, 'ICT Academy Bridge 2019' the 37th edition of conference, was inaugurated by **Dr. Manikandan**, minister of information and Technology, **Tamil Nadu**.
 - Union Minister: Piyush Goyal
 - Minister of State: Manoj Sinha and Rajen Gohain
- About the Conference**
- This conference is conducted every year with a motive to develop a better education system and formulate strategic regulatory framework
 - The theme of the 37th edition of the conference "**Fostering India for Industry 4.0**"
 - During this conference, ICT Academy conferred "**TN icon award 2019**" for their contribution to the growth of extensive use of new technology.
 - Shankar S, Film Director, Producer, Writer
 - Arun Alagappan, Executive Director, Cholamandalam
 - R. Dinesh, Managing Director, TVS Logistics Services Limited

Business & Economy

- **INSTEX: Iran Trade Promotion Plan**
 - In order to save Iran from the US (**United States**) sanctions, project **INSTEX** (Instrument in Support of Trade Exercise) was launched by the governments of United Kingdom, France and Germany.
 - The Special payment system, INSTEX will save Iran nuclear Deal by allowing Iran to keep trading with countries of European Union despite of sanctions re-imposed by USA.
 - INSTEX has supervisory board chaired by UK with members from France and Germany and it is registered with Paris with an Initial 3000 Euros.
- **New E-commerce Policy comes into effect**
 - On 1st February 2019, the new E-commerce Policy comes into effect which was notified in December 2018 by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) headed by the ministry of Commerce and industry.

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)

- Founded: 1995 (Reconstituted in 2000)
- Parent Organization: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Appointments & Resigns

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Secretary Ramesh Abhishek got additional charge of Civil Aviation Ministry
 - On January 31, 2019, Ramesh Abhishek, secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) was appointed as an additional charge Secretary of the **Civil Aviation Ministry**
 - He succeeded **R N Choubey**, who resigned as he is appointed as the **member of UPSC**.

Science & Technology

- ISRO launches Human Space Flight Centre in Bengaluru
 - On 30th January 2019, **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** launched the **Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)** which will act as the hub of ISRO's future manned missions at the headquarters of ISRO in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Key Points

- India's first manned mission was announced on **15th August 2018** and it is set to happen by **2022** which is going to be the 75th year of Independence.
- Former ISRO chairman K. Kasturirangan unveiled the full scale model of Gaganyaan's crew module in the presence of ISRO's chairman K. Sivan.
- S. Unnikrishnan Nair and R. Hutton was declared as the **founder Director of HSFC** and **Project Director of Gaganyaan** respectively by ISRO chairman Dr. K. Sivan.
- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

Sports

- Smriti Mandhana Tops Women's ODI Batting Record
 - On February 3, 2019, **India's Smriti Mandhana** attained top in the ICC ODI rankings for batswomen, she grab first position after the match against **New Zealand**, whereas **Ellyse Perry** followed her in the **second position** and Indian ODI skipper **Mithali Raj** in **fifth position**.
 - In the ODI Bowler's ranking, veteran pacer **Jhulan Goswami** is **fourth**, with **Poonam Yadav** at **eighth**, and spinner **Deepi Sharma** at ninth.

- Whereas, **Deepti Sharma** is **fourth** in the **All-rounders rank** and is the Indian cricketer to be the top-10 list.

Appointments

- Rishi Kumar Shukla appointed CBI Director
 - IPS officer Rishi Kumar Shulka has been appointed as the chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a fixed tenure of two years. Rishi kumar shukla is currently serving as the chairman of Madhya Pradesh police Housing Corporation in Bhopal.
 - The appointment of the Rishi Kumar Shukla was approved by the Appointments Committee of the cabinet based on the recommendation of the selection committee headed by the Prime Minister. The CBI Director search committee headed by Prime Minister has the Chief justice of India and the Leader of Opposition as members.

Important Days

- **4th February – World Cancer Day**
 - Every year on 4 February World Cancer Day is observed globally and is celebrated by WHO to aware people about the diseases Cancer and how to cure it. To give all the information related to Cancer to the people and to provide the preventive measures to fight with this diseases. 2019 theme is ‘I Am and I will’. According to WHO, the theme is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future.
- **4th February – National Day of Sri Lanka**
 - On 4 February every year Sri Lanka’s National Day is celebrated as independence Day. Sri Lanka got freedom from British rule on 4 February, 1948.