



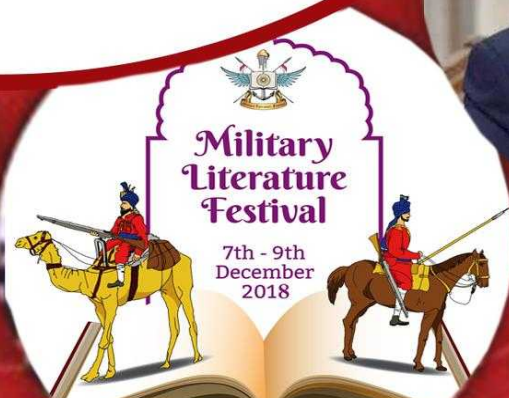
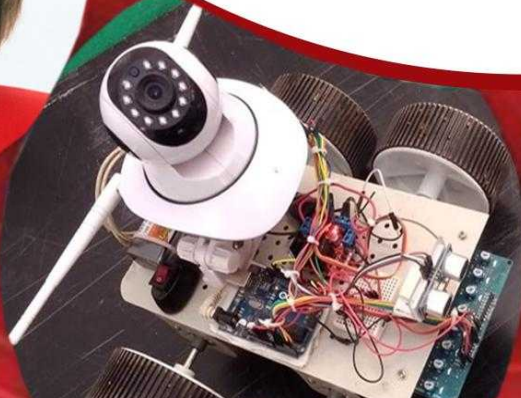
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National News

- **Government** said that **8000 Health and Wellness Centres** have become operational in **35** states and Union Territories. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Ashwini Kumar Choubey**, said this while chairing the **6th meeting of the Mission Steering Group of National Health Mission in New Delhi**.
 - The government has set a target to set up nearly **1.5 lakh health and wellness centres by 2022**.
- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced the new '**KALIA Chhatravritti Yojana**', which is a scholarship for the children of farmers who are the beneficiaries of **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme**.
 - Under this scheme, the children of farmers, who are the beneficiaries of the KALIA scheme will be provided scholarships for pursuing higher education in professional courses free of cost.
- 12th Regional Standards Conclave was held in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) that took place on 1st Feb on the occasion of 4th day of the trade fair.
 - This conclave will have an onlooker on industry, regulators and experts sharing their views on the importance of Standards for Global trade, with focus on Odisha.
- **Kerala** became the first state to set up price monitoring and research unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of **essential drugs and medical devices**. This move is taken by the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**.
 - The new watchdog will offer technical help to the State Drug Controllers to monitor notified prices of medicines, detect violation of the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
- 325 children including 11 girls have been rescued in Hyderabad under "Operation Smile" which was launched on 1st January 2019.
 - **AIM of Operation Smile:** The One month long programme aims to rescue child labourers and children engaged in begging.

International News

- **The United States of America** pulls out of **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty** with **Russia**. This was announced by the US on 20 October 2018. Russia also pulls out of treaty on 2nd February 2019.
 - This treaty was signed on **8 December 1987** in Washington D.C. by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Economy

- Under the sponsorship of Indian Bank, two regional rural bank – Pallavan Grama Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank will be amalgamated to form a single RRB i.e. Tamil Nadu Grama Bank in Tamil Nadu. The consolidation will be effective from April 1, 2019.
 - This newly integrated bank will be sponsored by Indian Bank and will have its head office located at Salem, Tamil Nadu.
- Fitch Solutions the research arm of Fitch Group projected fiscal deficit to increase the budgeted target by 0.2 per cent to **3.6%** of GDP in 2019-20 fiscal
 - Government has reported fiscal deficit 3.4% of GDP in the interim budget on 1st February 2019.

Awards

- **9th edition of Aegis Graham Bell Award** was held in **Panaji Goa**. **Uniphore Software Systems** received the Aegis Graham Bell Award under **Innovation in Data Science** for its flagship product **auMina**.

Appointments

- **Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya** has been appointed as

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country's ambassador to India. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Acharya in Kathmandu. He has been appointed on the recommendation of the cabinet.

- Former mayor Nayib Bukele won El Salvador's presidential election. He will succeed **Salvador Sánchez Ceren**, after whom the leadership chair was vacant for a period of time.

Sports

- Indian squash player **Ramit Tandon** win the fourth title of Seattle open title by defeating **Mohamed El Sherbini** of **Egypt**. Seattle Open is a PSA challenger squash Tour held in **USA**.
 - **Jacques Fountaine** is president of World squash federation which is headquartered at East Sussex, England.

Important Days

- **National Road Safety Week - 04th February to the 10th February**
 - **Road safety week** is a national event aimed at raising public awareness about traffic rules and ultimately to reduce casualties due to road accidents. **30th Road Safety Week 2019** will be celebrated in India from **04th February to the 10th February**. There have been various awareness campaigns and events which are being conducted across the country in all the states.
 - **Theme for Road Safety Week 2019** is same as last year "**Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha**".