



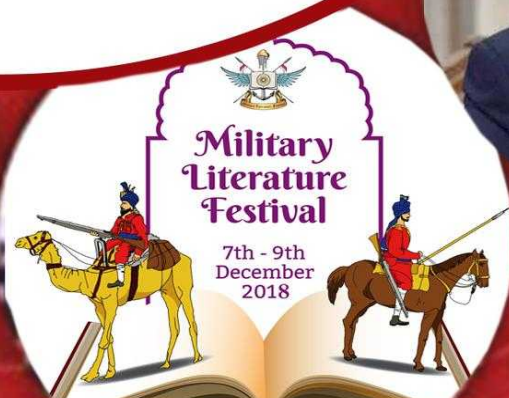
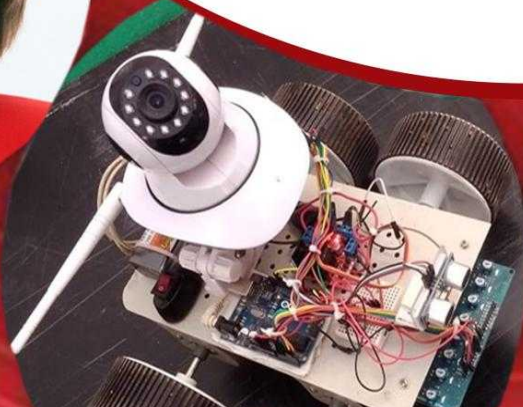
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## FEBRUARY - 2019

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## TNPSC

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## National News

- On 15th February 2019, Finance minister has implemented the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana** which is primarily a pension scheme for the labours, associated in the unorganized sector. It was announced in Budget 2019.
- The semi-high-speed **Train 18** or **Vande Bharat Express** was flagged off by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on **15th February 2019**, from the New Delhi railway station.
  - Vande Bharat Express will travel from **Delhi** to **Varanasi** in **9 hours and 45 minutes**, with stoppage points at **Kanpur** and **Allahbad** (now Prayagraj).
- The **5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting**, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh **Dr Abdul Momen** was held in **New Delhi**.
  - It was the first high-level visit from a Bangladesh since the victory of Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina's** victory in the parliamentary elections in **December 2018** and Dr. Abdul Momen's first time in India as Foreign Minister.
  - **Four** MoUs were signed during this meeting
- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna – Urban (PMAY-U)** mobile application **at New Delhi**.
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission had a meeting with the Ministry of Power in New Delhi today. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Power, Shri R. K. Singh along with the Chairman of the Finance Commission Shri N.K. Singh. Members of the Commission and Senior Officers of the Commission, Ministry of Power and its Public Sector Undertakings were also present.
  - The meeting discussed the impact of the power sector reforms on state finances as there was a significant correlation between the two.

## International News

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- The country formerly known as the **Republic of Macedonia** officially changed its name to the **Republic of North Macedonia** on paper ending a decades-long dispute that should pave the way for NATO membership.
  - The freshly named country celebrated the event with a flag-raising ceremony marking its prospective – and long-awaited – accession to NATO.

## Economy News

- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-January 2018-19 are estimated to be USD 439.98 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 9.07 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-January 2018-19 are estimated to be USD 530.55 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 10.74 per cent over the same period last year.

## Science & Technology

- NASA's next **SPHEREx mission** will aim to understand how our universe evolved and the prevalence of ingredients for life in galaxy. For this mission, **Epoch of Reionization and ICES explorer 'SPHEREx'** program is slated to launch in **2023**.
  - For 2 years, SPHEREx will contemplate the sky in optical and near-infrared light, gathering data on more than 300 million galaxies and 100 million stars in our galaxy.

## Sports News

- **Derrick Pereira** was named head coach of the **India U-23 team for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Qualifiers** slated to be held **in Tashkent, Uzbekistan** from March 22.
  - Pereira, who is the technical director of Indian Super League (ISL) club FC

Goa, will be in charge of the preparatory camp in Goa which kicks-off from March 2.

## Appointments

- **Chandramouli Ramanathan** has been appointed as the world body's controller by Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**. Ramanathan will simultaneously be the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

  
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