



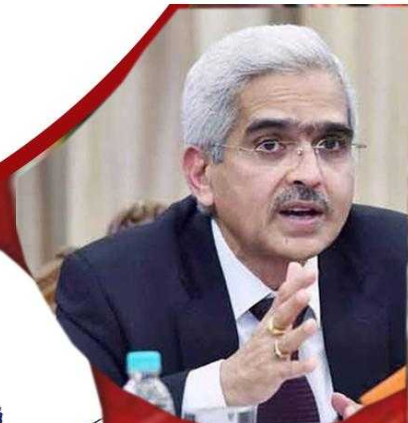
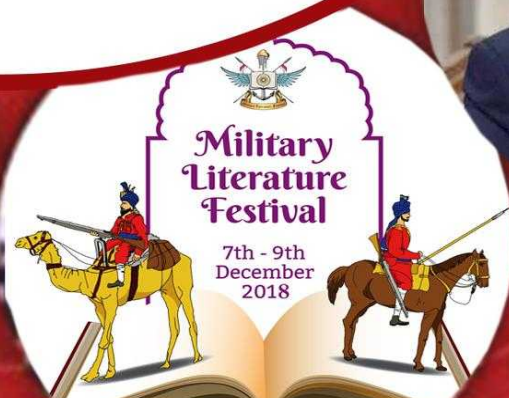
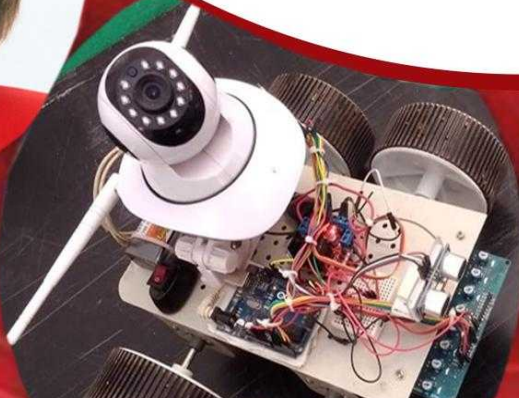
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Main Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Chromepet, Chennai

Phone: 8939144344, 8939244344

Branch Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Plot No: 47/60, "AK" Block,
7th Main Road, Anna Nagar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 040.

3rd Floor, West Wing, Gokul Arcarde,
No.2, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 020.

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NATIONAL NEWS

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the **world's first Diesel to Electric Converted Locomotive at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) campus in Varanasi**. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed **Madan Mohan Malviya Cancer Centre of Banaras Hindu University**.
 - The hospital aims to provide affordable cancer care to patients in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttarakhand and even neighbouring countries like Nepal.
- **India is hosting the 12th edition of "Aero India 2019" Asia's biggest defence exhibition show at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru**, from 20 to 24 February, 2019.
 - **Aero India** will provide an unique opportunity for exchange of information, ideas and new developments in the aviation industry.
- Union Science & Technology Minister, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, inaugurated the 2-day long **One Health India Conference 2019** in **New Delhi**.
 - The purpose of the conference was to launch **India's new One Health Initiative** – an inter sectoral approach to tackling the most urgent health threats in **India** as well as in low- and middle-income countries **across South and South East Asia** and **Sub-Saharan Africa**.
- **Nagaland** became the **first state** in the **Northeast and second** in the country after **Himachal Pradesh** to launch a **pan-India single-number** emergency mobile application which will have a special women safety feature for immediate assistance from police and volunteers.
 - Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi** launched a range of citizen safety initiatives in **New Delhi**.
- Union Tourism Minister, **Shri K. J. Alphons**, inaugurated the **'Eco Circuit: Pathanamthitta – Gavi – Vagamon – Thekkady'** project under the **Swadesh Darshan** scheme of the **Ministry of Tourism**, at **Vagamon, Kerala**.
 - The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15. This flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tourism aims

at the development of thematic circuits in a planned and prioritized manner across India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **JP Morgan** rolled out the **first US bank crypto currency**. The currency is designed to be **decentralized** so that no one has control over transactions being sent over the network. It will be used **internally** by the bank to enable instant transfers of payments between **institutional accounts**.
 - Crypto currencies are used successfully to move money between the bank and a client which usually runs on a **blockchain technology**.

APPOINTMENT

- **Lieutenant General Depinder Singh Ahuja**, awardee of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, has taken charge as the new **Chief of Staff** at the headquarters of **the Southern Command** in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

AWARDS

- **Tennis world No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia won his fourth Laureus World Sportsman of the Year** and American record-holding gymnast **Simone Biles bagged the World Sportswoman of the Year Award**.
- **The Maharashtra government has bestowed the ‘Shiv Chhatrapati Lifetime Achievement Award’ on mallakhamb coach Uday Deshpande** for 2017-18
 - **Shiv Chhatrapati award for players among several others** was presented to Smriti Mandhana, opening batswoman of the Indian Women’s Cricket team.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Bandicoot**, a drainage-cleaning robot, has been introduced for the **first time** in **India** at the **Kumbakonam** city corporation as part of efforts to rid of manual scavenging at the cost of Rs 18 lakh in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
 - It is a **semi-automatic robot** can enter manholes for cleaning sewage lines with its **robotic arm** and is equipped with **5 night-vision cameras** to relay the scenario underneath.

SPORTS

- A 22-year old men's indoor world record in **1,500 metres** was broken by **Samuel Tefera**, an Ethiopian teenager. He broke the record at the **Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix** by finishing the race in **3 minutes, 31.04 seconds**.
 - He achieved this by defeating **Yomif Kejelcha** in final bend by 0.54 seconds and 200m.