



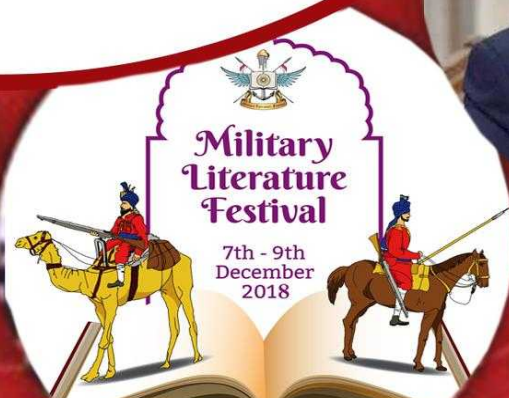
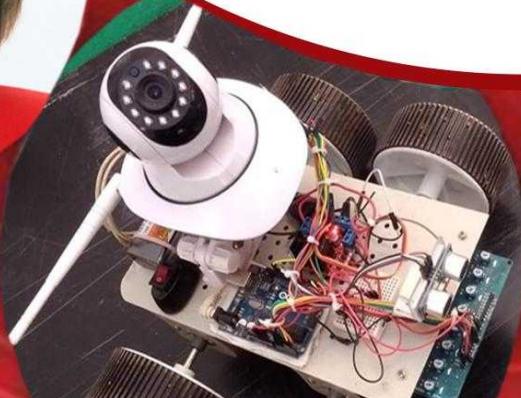
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National News

- A regional conference on **'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)'** was organised in Kolkata, West Bengal.
 - Under this scheme, monetary help is provided to around **600 NGOs** which work in the field of education and rehabilitation of **persons with disabilities**.
- Supercomputer named **'PARAM Shivay'** of 833 teraflop capacity is built for ₹32.5 crore, at IIT-Banaras Hindu University (BHU). It will include 1 peta byte secondary storage.
 - India's **first supercomputer called PARAM 8000** was launched in 1991.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada** for next **10 years** to explore opportunities for collaborations in the field of **Forestry Science** and to work on various environmental issues like **Climate Change, Forest Resource Management and Wildlife**.
- The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has received a bulk production clearance from the Indian Army and the Defence Ministry for production of 114 'Dhanush' artillery guns. 'Dhanush' is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India. It is a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative.

International News

- **55th Munich Security Conference (MSC)**, an annual meeting that brings together leaders and security experts from across the world, was held at **Munich, Germany**
 - **India** received widespread support on the issue of **Pakistan's** role in cross-border terror attacks including **Pulwama** strike at the conference.
- Chinese news agency **Xinhua** unveiled the world's **first female** AI news anchor

Xin Xiaomeng. She has been developed in collaboration with **Sogou Inc**, a search engine company. She is expected to make a debut in **March**, during the upcoming meetings of China's national legislature.

- Earlier, Xinhua also developed **Qiu Hao**, the world's **first male** AI news anchor at the **World Internet Conference** in **Wuzhen** held in November 2018.

Appointment

- The **Supreme Court** appointed its former judge, **Justice D K Jain** as the **first ombudsman** for the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
 - The ombudsman will be resolving any issue that comes with regards to the players, as also financial issues.

Awards

- **Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** presented the **7th National Photography Awards** in a function organized at National Media Centre in New Delhi.
 - The theme for the Professional category was **“Women led Development”**, while the theme for Amateur category was **“Fairs and Festivals of India”**.
 - **Lifetime Achievement Award** Received by Shri Ashok Dilwali.

Science & Technology

- **Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan**, inaugurated **India's first Humanoid Police Robot named KP-BOT**, ranked as Sub-Inspector (SI), at the Police Headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 - The robot's gender is declared female keeping in mind women empowerment and gender equality.

Important Days

- **International Mother Language day - February 21, 2019**
 - **International Mother Language day** was observed on **February 21, 2019**. This day is observed to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education. Since **2000 International Mother Language day** was observed on 21st February every year.
 - Theme for the year 2019- **“Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation”**.


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