



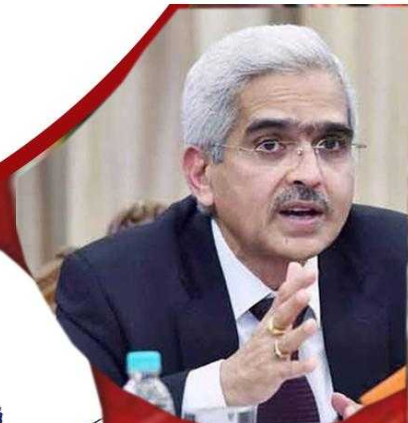
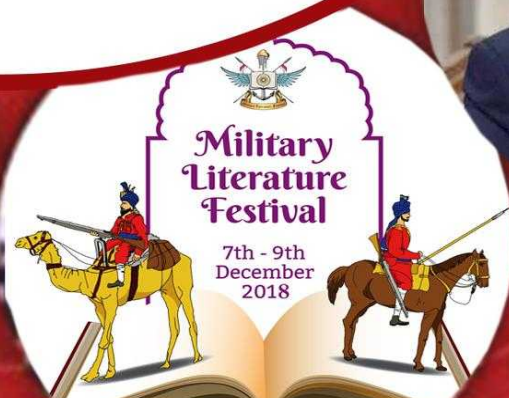
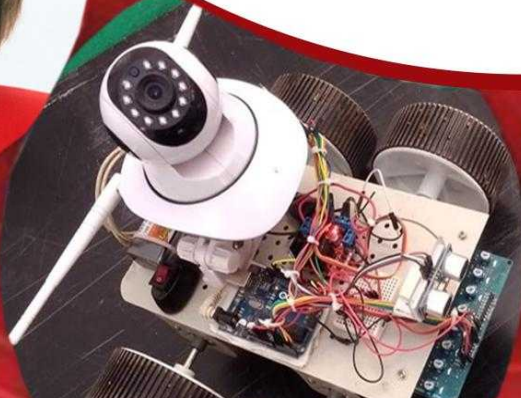
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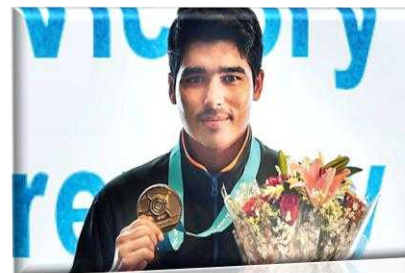
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NATIONAL NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the **National War Memorial near India Gate in New Delhi**. It is a tribute to India's soldiers who were martyred post-independence.
 - It also commemorates the soldiers who participated and laid down their lives in **Peace Keeping Missions and Counter Insurgency Operations**.
- The GST Council slashed tax rates on under-construction **housing properties to 5% from the existing 12%**. The Council also cut GST rates on affordable housing to 1% from the current 8%. The new tax rates will come into effect from April 1, 2019.
 - The council also altered the definition of affordable housing and said any house built on an area of 60 square meters or less in the metro cities of India will now be categorized as affordable housings.
- Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched the **national action plan for viral hepatitis in Mumbai**. The action plan takes forward the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program launched by the Union Health Minister in July 2018.
 - The aim of this program is **to eliminate hepatitis by 2030**.
- **International Advertising Association (IAA)**, the integrated association of advertising agencies and the media, will organise the **44th edition of its global summit at Grand Hyatt-Lulu Convention Centre, Kochi**. The three-day summit will see the participation of dignitaries from various fields and industries all over the world.
 - The **theme** of the 44th edition is **'brand dharma'**.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched a helpline for quick **redressal of public complaints**. People can call on the helpline number **"1905"** to lodge their complaints.
 - Citizens can contact any department under the this step has been take to ensure speedy functioning of the government departments and step up transparency in their work.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani flagged off the first Afghan cargo** from western Nimroz province that will be **exported to India through Chabahar Port in Iran** which was inaugurated in 2017.
 - The Chabahar port which provides an alternative route for trade between India and Afghanistan is located in Southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **World Bank, UN Women, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** have joined hands to launch a new social impact bonds exclusively for women, called **Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs)**, with an initial corpus of **Rs 300 crore**.
 - The proposed bond will enable individual women entrepreneurs in sectors like food processing, agriculture, services and small units to borrow around **Rs 50,000 to Rs 3 lakh** at an annual interest rate of around **13-14 per cent or less**.

APPOINTMENT

- **Saudi Arabia** has appointed Princess **Reema bint Bandar**, a former business executive and philanthropist, as its first female ambassador to the **United States**.
- The governor of Gezira state, **Mohamed Tahir Ayala** was appointed as **Sudan's Prime Minister**.
 - Sudan's Defence Minister Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf was appointed as first vice president while remaining in his defence post.

AWARDS

- A film on menstruation, set in rural India, titled **"Period. End of Sentence,"** has won the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards. Award-winning filmmaker **Rayka Zehtabchi** has directed the short film.
 - The documentary feature is set in Hapur village outside Delhi, where women lead a quiet revolution as they fight against the deeply rooted

stigma of menstruation.

SPORTS

- The 16-year-old Indian Shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** claimed **gold medal** in the men's **10m air pistol event** with a **world record** score of **245.0** in the final at the season-opening **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** event.
 - In addition, he sealed a berth for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.


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