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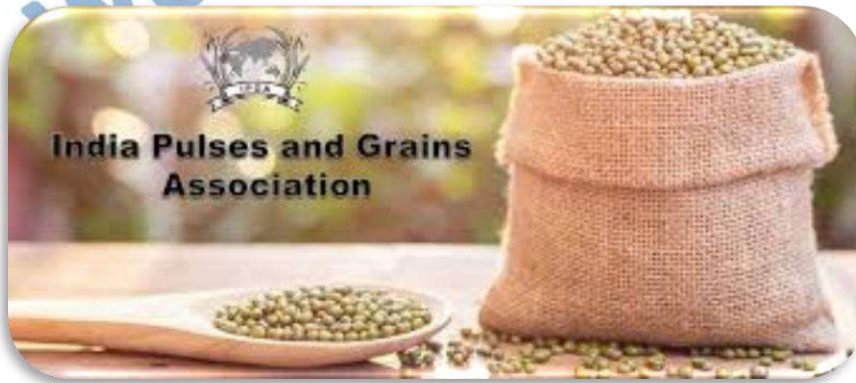
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NATIONAL NEWS

- The **Supreme Court** has **declared access to internet a fundamental right**. A government cannot deprive the citizens of fundamental rights except under certain conditions explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
 - The ruling came on hearing of a plea in connection with Internet blockade in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5 -- in the view of revoking of **Article 370** in the Union Territory.
 - Related Keys
 - **Supreme Court Established - 1 October 1937**
 - Supreme Court Location - Tilak Marg, New Delhi, Delhi
- On January 11, 2020, Home Minister **Amit Shah launched** the country's first **Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called the AASHVAST in Gandhinagar**. Along with AASHVAST, the Video Integration and State Wide Advance Security project called VISWAS was also launched.
 - The AASHVAST is a unit that will act to prevent cyber crimes with the help of VISWAS and NETRANG.
- **India recently attended the Hormuz Peace Initiative that was held in Tehran**. The initiative aimed at stabilizing one of world's busiest shipping lanes, the Strait of Hormuz amidst US-Iran tensions. It was attended by leading trade partners of Iran namely China, Oman, India and Afghanistan.
 - The countries that attended the initiative reviewed the **"Hormuz Peace Endeavor"** (HOPE) that was proposed by Tehran.
 - Related Keys
 - Tehran is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province.
 - Tehran It is ranked 24th in the world by the population of its metropolitan area.

- **India Pulses and Grains Association** (IPGA), the nodal body for the country's pulses trade and industry on announced that the **fifth edition The Pulses Conclave, will be held from February 12-14 in Lonavala, Maharashtra.**
 - IPGA expects close to 1500 trade stakeholders from India and key pulses exporting countries like USA, Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi.
 - Related Keys
 - Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
 - Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **Israeli defence ministry** has hailed a "**breakthrough**" in the development of **cheaper laser-based air defences**, as tensions soar in the region after **Iran hit US targets** in retaliation for a **high-profile assassination.**
 - The lasers, still under development, would be capable of intercepting "everything" fired at Israel, including long and medium range missiles, rockets, mortar rounds and drones, an official told AFP on Thursday, asking not to be identified.
 - Related Keys
 - The Israeli defence ministry Formed - 1948
 - The Israeli defence ministry Headquarters Matcal Tower, Tel Aviv

WORDS OF THE DAY

- **Hackneyed** - having been overused; unoriginal and trite.

- Similar Words - overdone , overworked
- Antonyms - original , fresh

- **Havoc** - widespread destruction.
 - Similar Words - damage , desolation
 - Antonyms - construction , creation


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