



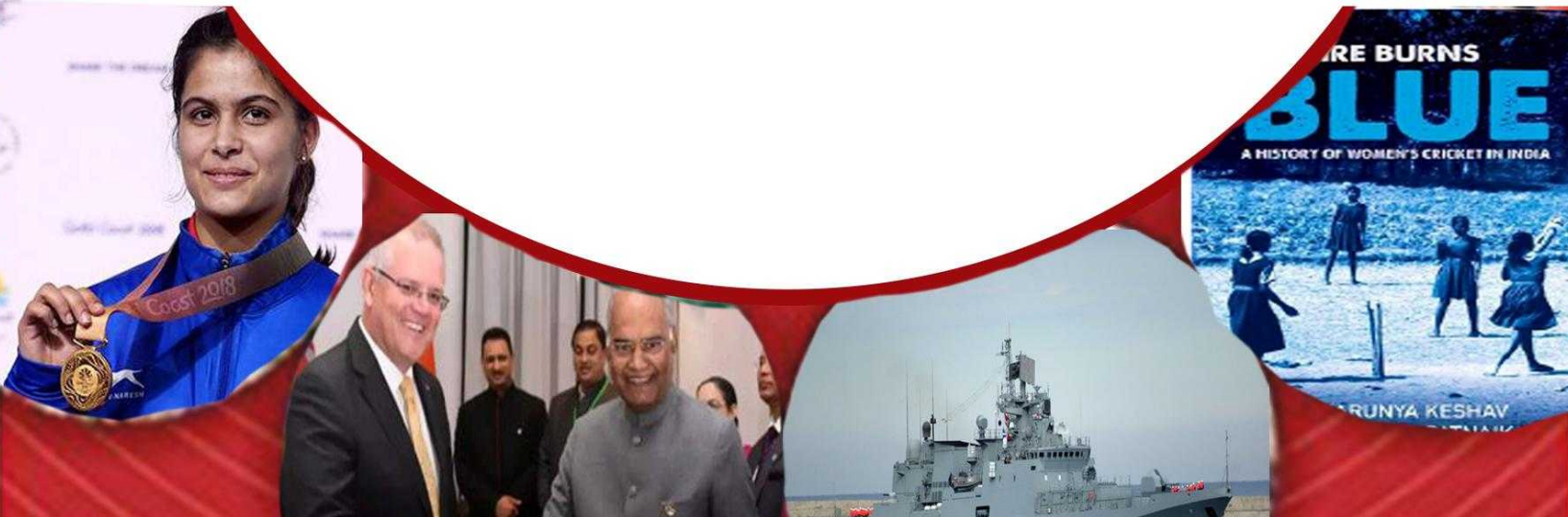
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JANUARY - 2019

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We Shine Academy™
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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.

<https://weshineacademy.com>

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National News

- Gujarat has become the first state to implement the **10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category**. This comes a day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bill.
- **Puducherry government has imposed a ban on the sale and use of plastic products** in the Union Territory from March 1.
 - On March 23 last year, the Maharashtra government had issued a notification, imposing a ban on the manufacture, use, sale and distribution of all plastic materials like plastic bags, spoons, plates, bottles and thermocol items.
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India is organizing the **9th International Micro Irrigation Conference on Modern Agriculture at Aurangabad in Maharashtra** from January 16–18, 2019.
 - The event will be a multi-disciplinary dialogue in the form of a conference discussing issues related to micro irrigation for modern agriculture and various related issues like new techniques in micro irrigation for increased crop productivity, micro irrigation in cluster level farming etc.
- Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment and Forests and Climate Change, **Dr Harshvardhan** launched the special weather services for the benefit of people visiting Prayagraj during **Kumbh Mela** at a function in New Delhi.
- **Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan** launched country's largest startup ecosystem, integrated startup complex **under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, at the **Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ)**, in **Kochi, Kerala**.

International News

- Macedonia's parliament passed an amendment to the constitution to rename the

country as **Republic of North Macedonia**, on a mutual agreement with Greece to put an end to a **27-year rivalry**.

- The agreement was reached between **Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras** and his **Macedonian counterpart Zoran Zaev**. The language of the country would be referred to as **Macedonian** and its people known as **Macedonians**

Science & Technology

- The Chennai Traffic Police inducted a road safety robot into its fold. **Named ROADEO**, the robot will make the pedestrians, especially children, feel safe while crossing the roads.
 - It will also ease the work of traffic police, as these robots can be integrated with the traffic signals, as well as can be operated manually, through a Bluetooth app.

Economy

- The **National Wildlife Board** after receiving recommendations from the state **Wildlife Board**, approved extraction of natural gas from **Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary** by state-owned **ONGC Tripura Asset**.
 - Under the project, **10-12 gas** bearing wells had been discovered by **ONGC Tripura Asset** for extraction of **natural gas** from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Belonia subdivision of Gomati district, **Tripura**.

Awards

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, received the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award, in **New Delhi**. This award is given in remembrance of works and contribution done by **Prof. Philip Kotler**, who is a well-known in the field of Marketing.
 - The Award focuses on the triple P's of the Nation: **People, Profit and**

Planet. It will be offered annually to the leader of a Nation.

Appointment

- **Dr. T.C.A Anant**, former Chief Statistician of India & Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, took the Oath of Office and Secrecy as **Member, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. Oath was administered by **Shri Arvind Saxena, Chairman, UPSC**.

Sports

- Asian Cup gold medallist **Shakil Ahmed** set a world record in indoor rowing by completing **1,00,000 (one lakh) metres** in **10** hours, in above-40 years category, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
 - He also has the record of completing 50,000 metres of simulated rowing in four hours and 13 minutes which is already in the Limca Record Book.

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