



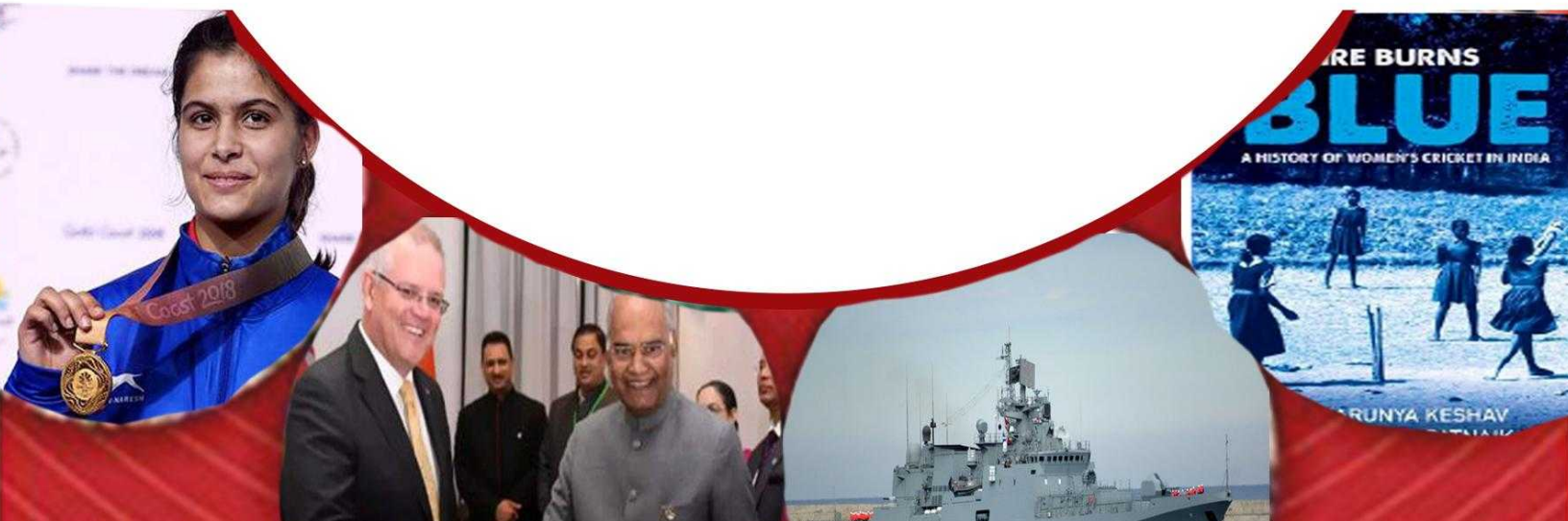
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JANUARY - 2019

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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

- Government eMarketplace (GeM) has launched an **initiative – Womaniya on GeM** – to enable women entrepreneurs and self-help groups to sell different products at the platform.
 - GeM is an online platform of the ministry for procurement of goods and services by government departments, public sector units, and other agencies.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Bolangir-Bichhupali railway line in Balangir, Odisha**.
 - The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a permanent building at the Kendriya Vidyalaya at Sonapur and inaugurated new Passport Sewa Kendras at Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapur, Puri, Phulbani, Bargarh and Balangir.
- Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the **Global Aviation Summit 2019 in Mumbai**. The two-day summit, with a theme **‘Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion’**, is being organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with FICCI.
 - It offers stakeholders an opportunity to explore, deliberate and understand how technology-driven innovations will change air travel in the decades to come.
- Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** inaugurated Regional Centre of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at **Mohali, Punjab**. It is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development.
 - This organisation have already four such Regional Centres one each at **Bangalore, Guwahati, Indore and Lucknow** besides the Headquarters at **New Delhi**.
- The **First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme** was organised by **Ministry of External Affairs** in New Delhi. The event will be concluded on 1st February 2019.

- The Fellowship Programme, which is being held at the **Foreign Services Institute, New Delhi** will be attended by Young Diplomats from 27 countries.

International News

- The second India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise '**IMBEX 2018-19**' **commenced at Chandimandir military station** near Chandigarh.
 - During the exercise, focus will be on training the Myanmar Army on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by the contingent of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

Science & Technology

- Scientists at the **National Chemical Laboratory, Pune** suggested that albumin can be a better indicator of diabetes.
 - This can be achieved based on measurements of levels of free albumin and albumin attached to glucose molecules in the blood. These albumin levels in blood influence glycation of haemoglobin which further helps in diagnosis of diabetes.

Economy

- According to an official release by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**, citing cooling food and fuel prices as the reasons, it stated that **wholesale and retail inflation** reduced to a multi month low with **CPI** falling to an **18-month low in December, 2018**.
 - India's headline **inflation** rate based on the **consumer price index** (combined) reduced to an 18-month low of **2.19%** in December, down from 2.33% in November, 2018. It was 5.21% in December 2017.

Awards

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- Detained Chinese lawyer, **Mr Yu Wensheng** who is best known for suing the Beijing government over the city's once chronic pollution, granted a human rights award by the **French** and **German** ambassadors to China at an event organised by the German embassy in Beijing.
 - Yu Wensheng's wife, **Madam Xu Yan**, received **the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law for 2018**, on his behalf.

Appointment

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced the appointment of **Manu Sawhney as its new Chief Executive Officer**.
- The government extended the service of **Finance Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha** by a month till February-end. He was to retire on January 31.

Sports

- **Mohammed Ali Qamar** was the man who brought India her first Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing in 2002. Qamar has added another feather to his illustrious career as he takes over as chief coach for the country's women pugilists.
 - Thus, he becomes the youngest ever to get the top job. He, thus, replaces veteran Shiv Singh.