



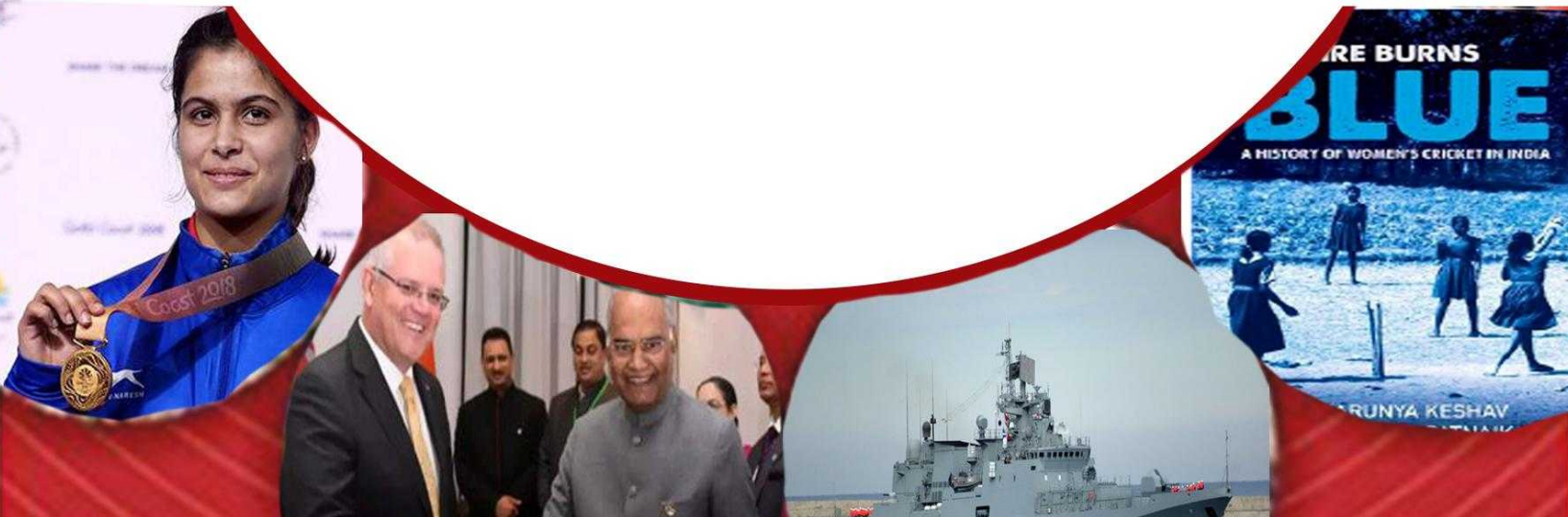
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JANUARY - 2019

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National News

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of skill development implemented **new reforms for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) to enhance skill ecosystem and entrepreneurship in most of the remotest areas of India under centre's flagship programme Skill India** at the **National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) in New Delhi**.
- The second edition of **Tamil Nadu** government's ambitious two-day **Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019** which aimed at showcasing the state's potential business opportunities and wooing investment was inaugurated at Chennai Trade Centre, **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
 - The event had managed to exceed the target investment of Rs 2 lakh crore and has witnessed the signing of **304** Memorandums of Understanding (**MoUs**) worth **Rs 3.4 lakh crore** with promise of job opportunities for about **10.5 lakh** people in the state.
- South Africa President **Cyril Ramaphosa** arrived in Delhi for his first state visit ahead of the **Republic Day celebration parade**, where he is the chief guest. Ramaphosa is **second** South Africa's President after Nelson Mandela to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade.
- **India** opened the year's space campaign by putting into orbit defence imaging satellite "**Microsat R**" for the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and students-built nano-satellite "**Kalamsat**" in a copy book style.
 - **India** has successfully launched its **46th flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44)** carrying **Kalamsat**, a communication satellite developed by students and India's military satellite **Microsat-R** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**.
- **Nepal and India** have agreed to set up an '**Energy Banking**' mechanism that would help the Himalayan country export its surplus electricity to neighbour India during the monsoon season and import power during its lean season in winter.
 - The agreement on the 'Energy Banking' mechanism was arrived at during a meeting between the Nepali and Indian Energy Secretaries in Pokhara.

- **The Telangana government** has decided to form a ‘**State Tiger Protection Force**’ to save the Big Cat population in the State. The 112-member-armed STPF will be headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests to protect tiger population in **Amarabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves**.

International News

- **The Pakistan government declared sugarcane juice as the “national drink”** of the country. The announcement came after the government conducted a Twitter poll where people were asked to decide on the country’s national drink with two other options orange and carrot besides sugarcane.

Science & Technology

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully launched Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) jointly developed by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries** from INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha.
 - LR-SAM will improve air defence capabilities. It also had a system which includes a Multi-Functional Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar (MF-STAR) for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile.

Economy

- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** in collaboration with **Indian Air Force (IAF)** released a new standard for **Aviation Turbine Fuels (ATF)** which can be used as bio-jet fuel on all military and civilian aircraft.
- **Global growth is expected to remain at 3 per cent in 2019 and 2020**, however, the steady pace of expansion in the global economy masks an increase in downside risks that could potentially exacerbate development challenges in many parts of the world, according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects

2019.

Awards

- **“No Presents Please”**, originally written in Kannada by noted author Jayant **Kaikini** and translated into English by **Tejaswini Niranjana**, was announced as the winner of the prestigious **\$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2018** at the **Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet in Kolkata**.

Important Days

- **National Voters Day-25th January**
 - India is celebrating **9th National Voters Day on 25th January 2019** for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. The main purpose of celebrating National Voters Day is to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters. The National Voters Day was first celebrated on **25th January 2011**.
 - The **theme** for this years **National Voters’ Day** is **‘Accessible Elections’** to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.