



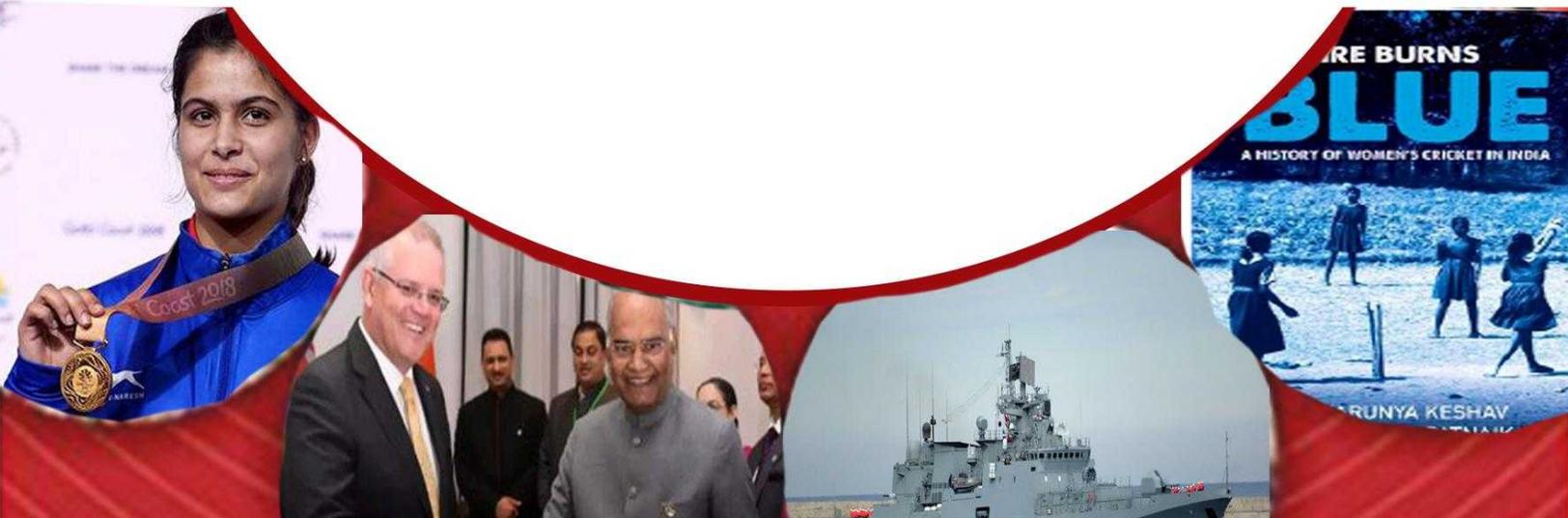
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JANUARY - 2019

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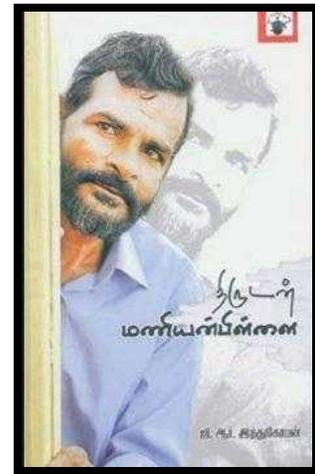
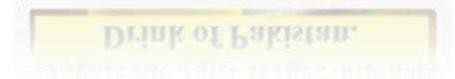
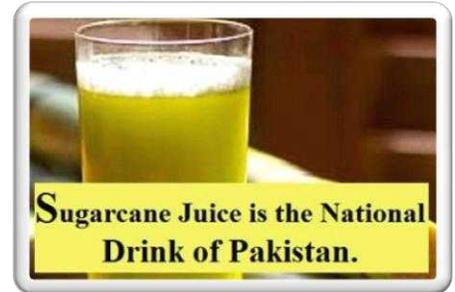
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NATIONAL NEWS

- **The government of Uttarakhand** has obtained the permission to develop the **tulip garden** over 50 hectares of forest land **in Pithoragarh district at a cost of Rs 50 crore**. The Tulip Garden will be developed by **ONGC**.
 - It will be the **second Tulip garden in the country** after the one located in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Union Civil Aviation minister **Suresh Prabhu inaugurated India's 1st Geographical Indication store at Goa International Airport in Dabolim**. The store is located on the first floor on Departure Terminal, and jointly set up by **Airports Authority of India** and **The Cashew Export Promotional Council of India**.
 - The Union Minister informed that currently there are **270 GI** registered products in the country and the store will be a boon for the global tourists.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** stated **that GST on Haj** has been reduced from **18% to 5%** and this will significantly lower the airfare thus saving Haj pilgrims' **113 crore** rupees this year.
 - Mr. Naqvi also stated that for the first time since the independence 2,340 women from India will go on 2019 Haj without Mehram.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated **Kochi Refinery project and IOCL LPG Bottling Plant to the Nation in Kochi, Kerala**. Prime Minister also laid a foundation stone for Petrochemical Complex.
 - PM also laid the foundation stone for Skill Development Institute at Ettumanoor. He laid the foundation stone of **AIIMS in Tamil Nadu's Madurai**.
- The final planning conference to work out the modalities for **Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019** was conducted **at Pune, Maharashtra**. The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India.
 - It aims at synergising humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations. The initial planning conference for the exercise was held in December 2018.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia** have launched a common digital currency called “**Aber**”, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
 - Through this digital currency, both the **United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAECB)** and the **Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA)** are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

ECONOMY

- **India has replaced Japan as world’s second largest steel producing country**, while **China is the largest producer** of crude steel accounting for more than 51 per cent of production, according to **World Steel Association (worldsteel)**.
 - **World Steel Association (worldsteel)** is one of the industry associations in the world.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Suman Kumari** has become the **first Hindu woman** to have been appointed as a civil judge in Pakistan after passing an examination for induction of judicial officers. Kumari, who hails from Qambar-Shahdadt, will serve in her native district.

AWARDS

- **India** received the **Award of Excellence** for ‘**Best in Show**’ at the **New York Times Travel Show 2019**, the largest travel show in **North America**. India was honoured during the Closing Bell Ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange.
 - The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India participated as the ‘**Presenting Partner**’ in the New York Times Travel Show (**NYTTS 2019**) organised at Jacob K Javits Centre.

SPORTS

- **India's Kartik Sharma** won the **New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship** in **Australia**. Kartik notched up a magnificent win over **Australia's Nathan Barberie** in the scheduled 36-hole final to emerge as champion.
 - Kartik had also won the Indian golf union **western India amateur golf championship 2018**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Data Protection Day-January 28**
 - Data Protection Day also known as Data Privacy Day was observed in some parts of the world to raise awareness and promote privacy and data protection. It is an annual event which was observed for the first time on 28th January 2007 by Council of Europe as European Data Protection Day.
 - The Day is currently observed in the 47 European Countries, United States, Israel and Canada.

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