



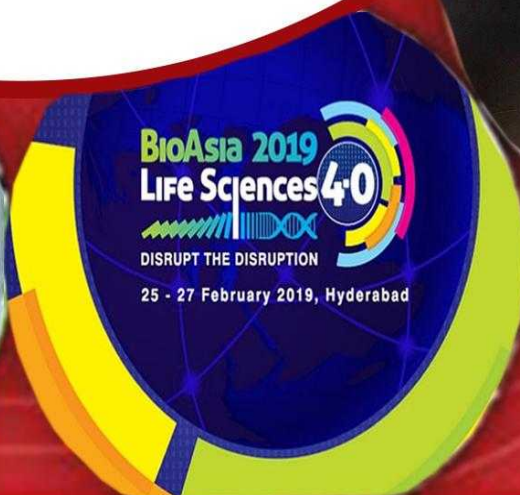
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Main Office @

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
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NATIONAL NEWS

- According to a new survey conducted by the **Research Institute for Compassionate Economics**, **85%** of the **Ujjwala** beneficiaries in rural Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan still use solid fuels for cooking.
 - Cooking with Solid fuels can lead to infant deaths and harm child development, heart and lung disease among adults.
- **On 8th April 2019**, the **biannual Army Commanders'** Conference began in **New Delhi** for the planning and execution process of the Indian Army.
 - The festival was organized by **Delhi-based entertainment company Question Associates Pvt Ltd.**
- **India and Sri Lanka** have agreed to increase **cooperation in security and defence** spheres in several areas, including regional security, curbing drug smuggling and human trafficking.
 - The issues came up for discussion when **Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra** called on Sri Lankan President **Maithripala Sirsena** in Colombo during his official visit.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **16th** edition of the joint military exercise between **Morocco and the United States** named "**African Lion 2019**" was held from **March 16 to April 7, 2019** in **southern Morocco** in the cities of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata, and Ben Guerir near Marrakech.
 - African Lion is an annual exercise organised to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- On 5th April 2019, **Chinese scientists** have discovered a mechanism named "**death switch**" **mechanism in the plant's immune system** that can keep the plant healthy.
 - This new mechanism triggers infected cells to self-destruct and thus limiting the spread of the disease.

ECONOMY

- The World Bank notified that India's GDP growth boosted by continued investment strengthening, especially private-improved export performance and consumption, is

expected to accelerate reasonably to **7.5 per cent 2019-20 (fiscal year)**.

- The real GDP growth is estimated at 7.2 per cent in FY18/19. According to the latest World Bank's report, data for the first 3 quarters show that growth has been broad-based.

SPORTS

- The 2019 Malaysia Open, officially known as the **CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019**, is a badminton tournament which takes place at **Axiata Arena in Malaysia**. It has a total purse of **\$700,000**. This year, sports event was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from **2nd to 7th April, 2019**.
 - Lin Dan of China has claimed title in Men's Singles category by defeating China's Chen Long, whereas **Tai Tzu-ying** of Chinese Taipei has claimed the title in Women's singles by defeating Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On 7th April, 2019, Usha Padhee**, joint secretary in the civil aviation ministry take over as additional charge of the post of Interim Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of the Pawan Hans Limited.
 - She has been given charge of interim CMD of the helicopter services providing company.

AWARDS

- The **Guwahati Railway Station** has become the first ever railway station in the Indian Railways to get an **ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation)** certification from the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**.
 - It has been given this certificate for providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment.