



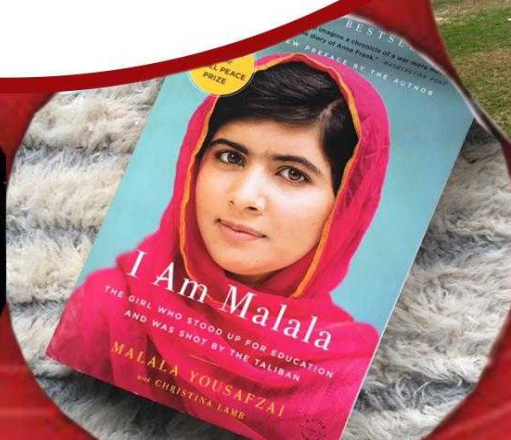
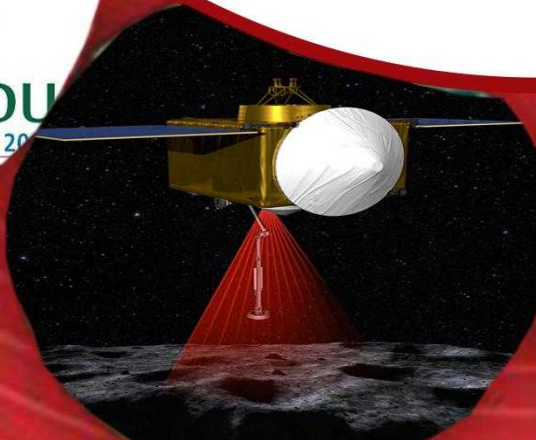
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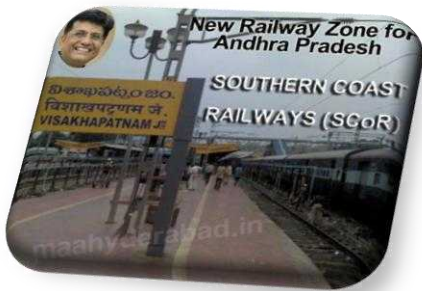
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NATIONAL NEWS

- **SHREYAS – ‘Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills’** launched by the Union minister **Prakash Javadekar** for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates.
 - This scheme is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three central ministries, including the **HRD, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.**
- Union Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced a new railway zone for **Andhra Pradesh**, that is the **Southern Coast Railway** and it will be headquartered in **Visakhapatnam**. It will be the **18th zone** in the country.
- The 2-day long session of the **20th India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC)** was held in **New Delhi**
 - This was co-chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu** and the Deputy Minister of Economic Development , **Mr. Michele Geraci.**
- **The National Institute of Design has been inaugurated at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam.** The Union Minister for Commerce and Industries **Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the Institutions.
 - National Design Policy 2007 had recommended setting up design institutes on the lines of NID, Ahmedabad in other parts of India to promote design programs.
- A three-day Working Group Meeting, organised jointly by the **Ministry of AYUSH and WHO**, to review the WHO document **“Benchmarks for Training in Yoga”** began in **New Delhi**.
 - The meeting will discuss the challenges in training of Yoga, review and discuss the scope and structure of the working draft document, identify the type, scope and criteria of information/data that are further required.
- **NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **Adobe** signed a **Statement of Intent (SOI)** to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)** in **India**.
 - The **Adobe Digital Disha Programme**, launched in **2018**, is aimed at

driving synergies in creative thinking and technology-based learning.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **India and Brunei** signed a pact **for exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to taxes** in order to **curb tax evasion and tax avoidance** in **New Delhi**.
 - This agreement will facilitate both the countries to exchange information, including banking and ownership information for tax purposes and will also avail mutual assistance in collection of tax revenue claims.

ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan** have signed an agreement for **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** between the two countries. The BSA was negotiated between **India and Japan** during the visit of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to Tokyo last year.
 - **India can access 75 billion dollars for its domestic currency**, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

AWARDS

- **The Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC), Bhopal and West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC), Indore** were conferred with the **“Saubhagya Award”** under **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** at the National Conference of Energy Ministers by the Union Minister of State for Energy, R.K. Singh.
- Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director **Mukesh Ambani** became the **first Indian** and the **only Asian** to enter the **Global top 10 richest billionaire** list compiled by **Hurun Research, China** after a **USD 9 billion**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **National Science Day -28th February**
 - The **National Science Day** is observed to mark the discovery of the **'Raman Effect'** by the physicist **Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman**, well-known as **CV Raman**.
 - Theme of **National Science Day 2019** is **"Science for people and people for science."**
 - **CV Raman** gave the theory of **Raman Effect** for which he won the **Nobel Prize** in **1930** and became the **first Indian** and the **first Asian** to win the prestigious award. He was also awarded **Bharat Ratna** in **1954** for his contribution in science, particularly **Physics**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Veteran author **Nayantara Sahgal** unveiled her new novel **"The Fate Of Butterflies"** at a function attended by bibliophiles.
 - The novel confronts the toxic dangers of "war, religious polarisation and authoritarian charisma-a dystopian future that is already upon the world".