



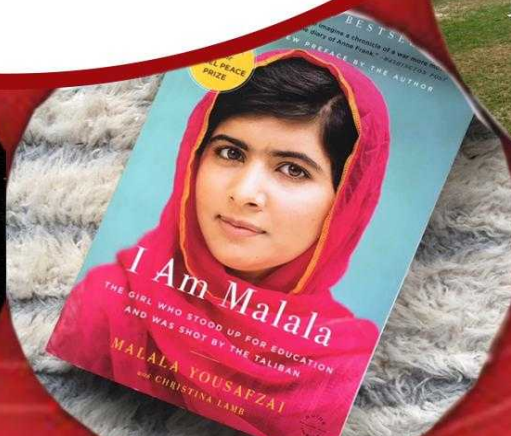
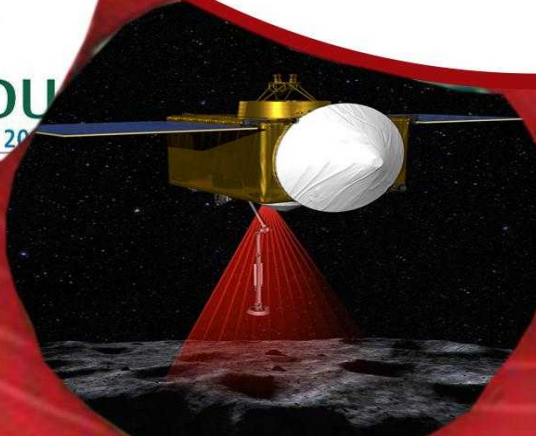
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# நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

## MARCH - 2019

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## National News

- **Gram Samridhi Yojana**, a **Rs 3,000 crore** scheme funded by the **World Bank** and the **Government of India**, is being worked upon by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** in order to strengthen the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas.
  - The scheme is aimed at helping the **cottage industry, farmer producers' organisation** and **individual food processors** to increase capacity, upgrade technology besides skill improvement, entrepreneurship development and strengthening the farm-to market supply chain.
- **“Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi”** scheme was launched by **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** in **Chandigarh**. It is primarily meant for farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas upto **five** acres and the families with an income of less than **Rs. 15,000** per month.
  - The scheme would provide a sum of **Rs. 6,000** yearly and each family has to nominate a member who will be provided with this amount.
- A water conservation scheme **‘Jal Amrutha’** was launched by **Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy**, in **Bengaluru**. For the purpose of inauguration of the scheme, a function was organized by the **Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department** at **Dr B R Ambedkar Bhavan in Bengaluru**.
  - The scheme plans to make people aware about the importance of conserving water and to prompt them to come up with ways to avoid wastage of water.
- External affairs minister **Sushma Swaraj** attended the **inaugural plenary session of the 46th meeting of OIC’s Council of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi** during March 1-2 at the invitation of her UAE counterpart, **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan**. She addressed the inaugural plenary session as a **guest of honour**.
  - **The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting**, which has the theme **“50 years of Islamic cooperation: the roadmap for prosperity and development”**
- **Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB)**

concluded a three-day '**Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019**' as a part of 'Confidence Building Measures' between the two border guards.

- The main objective of this exercise was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations.

## International News

- The **7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting** was organized in **Siem Reap, Cambodia**. It was also attended by **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation- Suresh Prabhu**.
  - **RCEP** is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) or comprehensive regional economic integration agreement between **10 ASEAN countries** (Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its **six** FTA partners (India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea).

## Economy

- **Reserve Bank of India** has constituted a task force which will be headed by its former deputy governor, **Usha Thorat** to examine issues related to **offshore rupee markets** and recommend policy measures.
  - The motive behind this is to develop deep and liquid on-shore financial markets that will act as a price setter of the Rupee globally.

## Science & Technology

- **Pulkit Sapra**, 26, from **Delhi** and **Suman Muralikrishnan**, 27, from **Chennai**, former students and researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi** have created a laptop for visually-impaired called "DotBook".

## Awards

- **Steel Minister of India** has presented the **25th Prime Minister's Trophy and Steel Minister's trophy** along with other awards for the best performing integrated steel plants for the year **2016-17**.

## Appointment

- **Ministry of External Affairs** has appointed Pranay Kumar Verma as the India's **Ambassador** to Socialist Republic of **Vietnam**.

## Important Days

- **Zero Discrimination Day - March 1**
  - **Zero Discrimination Day is observed on March 1** and it aims to address the issue of discrimination faced by people across the world. The day further intend to achieve equality before law throughout all member countries of the UN.
  - The **theme for Zero Discrimination Day 2019 is 'Act to change laws that Discriminate'**.

## Books & Authors

- **"The Fate of Butterflies", Nayantara Sahgal** new novel was unveiled at a function hosted by **Namita Gokhale** at **Oxford Bookstore, New Delhi**.