



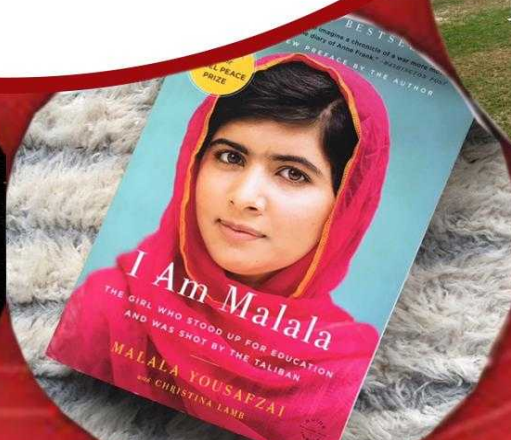
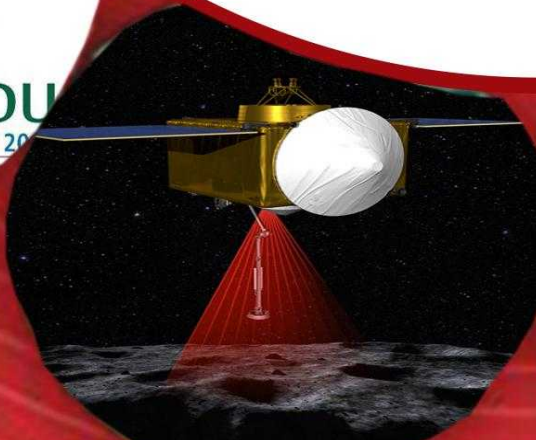
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National News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **two day Expo-cum Conference on Construction Technology India 2019 (CTI-2019) in New Delhi.**
 - **The main beneficiary of the initiative is youth.** Technologies which are proven during CTI-2019 will further invited to design and build lighthouse projects.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared **‘April 2019–March 2020’ as Construction-Technology year** and the use of advanced technology to meet the increasing demand of housing in the country caused by rapid urbanization got stressed.
 - The declaration was made during the inauguration of **Construction Technology India 2019 Expo-cum-conference held in New Delhi.**
- An anthem **“Plastic Waste-Free India”** which has been composed and produced by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Manch (PDUSM)**– a non-profit organisation which works in the field of social and environmental issues was launched by **Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan.**
 - It is a part of an initiative which aims to turn India into a plastic-free nation by 2022 and aims at supporting and improving the plastic waste management and recycling ecosystem in the country.
- Union Minister of Textiles, **Smriti Irani**, launched a comprehensive scheme for **Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector** under **PowerTex India** in **New Delhi** where she also interacted with industry associations related to knit wear sector in **three** clusters of **Kolkata, Tirupur** and **Ludhiana** through video link.
- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Dharmendra Pradhan** said that **Tripura is country’s number one gas producing point** and every poor household in the state will have **LPG connection in 2019.**
 - The **ONGC** will fulfil all the energy requirement of the state with regard to power plants, domestic industries, transportation and domestic fuel.

International News

- The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in **Jerusalem**, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the **Palestinians** by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to **Israel**.
 - The U.S. State Department stated that the decision was driven to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in diplomatic engagements.

Awards

- **SKOCH award**, the highest independent honour in the country, was given to **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)** for the first time for its remarkable achievements in the field of disaster management.

Appointment

- **Bhagwan Lal Sahni** who hails from **Muzaffarpur, Bihar** has been appointed as the chairman of the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**. This committee was approved by **President Ram Nath Kovind**.
 - The NCBC was constitutionally recognized by Parliament in **2017**, after repealing the **National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993**. The NCBC now has the authority of a civil court after being given Constitutional status. It was established under **123rd** Amendment Bill of the Constitution.

Sports

- **Roger Federer** made history at the **Dubai Championship** as he defeated reigning champion Stefanos Tsitsipas to win his **100th** tour-level title.
 - The 37-year-old is just the second player to accomplish this feat, joining Jimmy Connors who has tour-level title 109 times.

Important Days

- **World Wildlife Day -March 3**
 - **World Wildlife Day** is observed on **3rd March** every year to spread awareness about wildlife. This date was designated as the **World Wildlife Day** on **20 December 2013** at the **68th** session of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. On this day, the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** was signed.
 - The theme for World Wildlife Day 2019 is '**Life below water: for people and planet**'.

Books & Authors

- Union Finance Minister, **Arun Jaitley** released a book titled '**Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio**' during a function in **New Delhi**. **The book contains 50 episodes** of PM Modi's sincere talk with the citizens of India which is **broadcasted by All India Radio**.
 - The book gave a rare and exclusive opportunity to readers with unknown facets of Modi's thinking and beliefs related to 'Mann Ki Baat'