



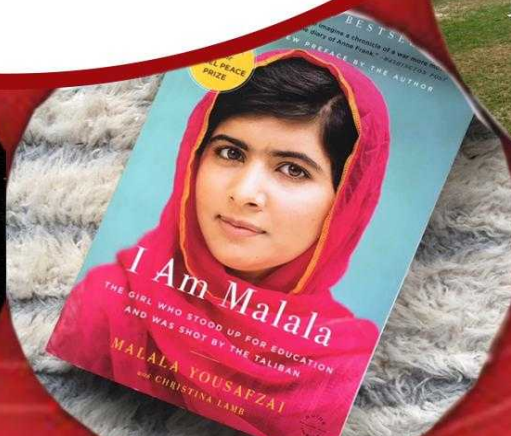
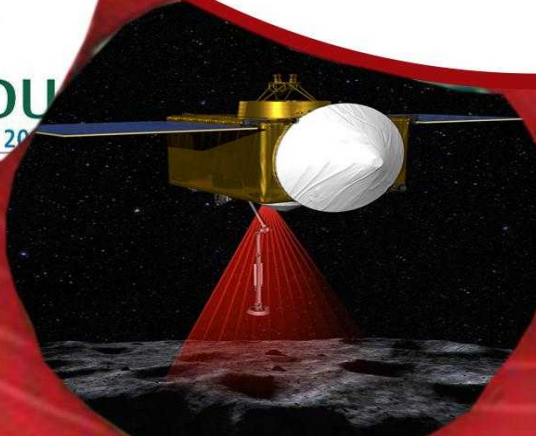
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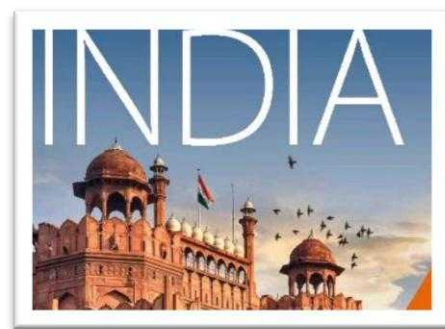
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National News

- India's food processing ministry is working on a new scheme — **Gram Samridhi Yojana** — to bolster the **unorganised food processing sector** concentrated in rural areas. The scheme will be run in **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab** for a 5-year period in the initial phase and thereafter in other states of the country.
 - The **Rs 3,000 crore scheme** funded by the **World Bank** will help cottage industry, farmer producers' organisation and individual food processors.
- The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, **Prakash Jayadekar** **launched STARS – Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science** to fund science projects. The ministry has approved funds worth **Rs 250 crore** for the scheme.
 - The project will be coordinated by the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.**
- According to the **Delta ranking report released by NITI Aayog, Assam's Hailakandi** has become the top aspirational district among the 112 aspirational districts of the country.
 - Hailakandi in Assam has made a giant leap from **52nd position to no. 1 position** on the basis of its performance during November-December 2018 and January 2019.
- **The Uttarakhand government** has decided to set up **a centre of excellence for Himalayan fibre in Almora district of Kumaon.** The centre of excellence will be set up with support from the **Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) - Ghaziabad.**
 - NITRA, which comes under the **Union Ministry of Textile**, will set up a training institute for developing fibre products at the Centre.
- **India** has signed a deal with a **Russian firm** to manufacture **7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles**, the latest derivative of the AK-47 rifles. The AK-203 rifles will be produced at the **Indian Ordnance Factory at Amethi's Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.**
 - The new rifles will replace the **indigenous INSAS rifles in the Army, Air**

Force and Navy.

International News

- **India ranked first in the Confidence Board Global Consumer Confidence Survey** which was conducted in collaboration with a global performance management company **Nielsen Holdings**.
 - **South Korea has the most pessimistic consumer** who are worried about rising inflation, lower wage growth, unemployment, a weak stock market and global trade uncertainties in the world.

Awards

- **Tripura's Thanga Darlong**, the last tribal musician to play **Rosem** a bamboo made a flute-like musical instrument, was conferred the **Atal Behari Vajpayee Life Time Award** during the **37th Agartala Book Fair in Agartala**.

Appointment

- **Anil Kumble**, a former India captain and great leg spinner was re-appointed **ICC (International Cricket Council) Cricket Committee** Chairman for a final **3 year term** in a board meeting of cricket council in Dubai.
- **Ajay Narayan Jha** joined the **15th Finance Commission as its member**. He joins in place of Shaktikanta Das who had resigned as a member of the Commission after being appointed as governor, Reserve Bank of India.
 - Jha had also served as the secretary to the 14th Finance Commission which was headed by former RBI Governor Y V Reddy.

Sports

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- **57th International Wrestling Tournament ‘Dan Kolov – Nikola Petrov’ conducted in 3rd March 2019.** The International tournament in the memory of Dan Kolov and Nikola Petrov is **organized by the Bulgarian Wrestling Federation.**
 - Indian Wrestler won medals in the tournament: **Bajrang Punia won gold medal in 65 kg freestyle category defeating Jordan Oliver of USA** and **Pooja Dhanda won gold in 59 kg women’s freestyle category.**

Important Days

- **National Security Day-4th March**
 - Every year, **National Security Day** also known as **Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas** was celebrated on **4th March** to praise the work of security forces such as army officers, para-military, policemen and commandos.
 - First National Security Day was celebrated in **1972** and **48th** National Security Day was celebrated this year.