



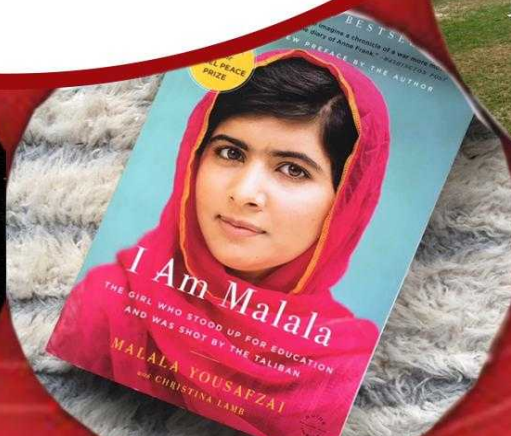
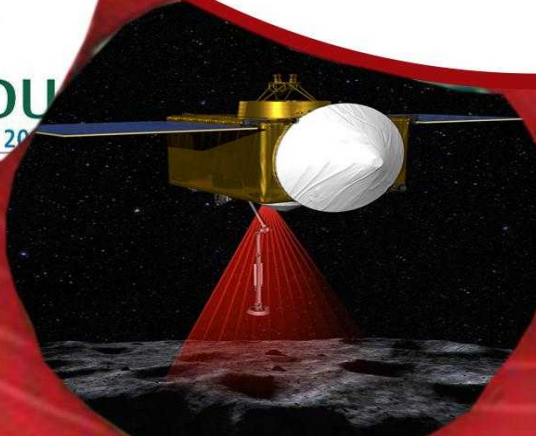
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National News

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** approved **Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teacher's Cadre) Ordinance 2019** which will restore **200-point roster system** for faculty recruitment.
 - The decision will allow filling up of more than **5000 vacancies** by direct recruitment in **Teachers' cadre** duly ensuring that the Constitutional provisions of **Articles 14, 16** and **21** are complied with and reservation criteria for the **Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes** and **Socially and Economically backward classes** are met with.
- A **5-member committee** to examine issues related to framing of a proper and structured scheme for providing of insurance cover to the **advocates** and to suggest modalities for the implementation of such a scheme has been set up by the Union Minister for Law & Justice, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** under the chairmanship of Secretary Legal Affairs, **Dr Alok Srivastava**.
- On 8th March 2019, **India and Japan** organised a joint space dialogue in **New Delhi**. It aimed at providing a platform for both the countries to explore ways to enhance cooperation between the space agencies of both the nations.
 - **Indra Mani Pandey**, Additional Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs headed the **Indian** delegation while **Kansuke Nagaoka**, Deputy Assistant Minister, Foreign Policy Bureau, and **Shuzo Takada**, Director General, National Space Policy Secretariat jointly led the **Japanese** delegation.
- On 5th and 6th March 2019, the **2nd** edition of **Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) – 2019** was organised in **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**. It focused on involving the global strategic community in reviewing India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **The Marayoor Jaggery**, the traditional and handmade product **from Idukki district of Kerala** received the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag from the Central Government. It is dark brown in colour, high in sweetness and iron, with less sodium content and insoluble impurities.
 - The Marayoor jaggery finally managed to get the GI Tag after two years of

continuous efforts by the Agricultural Department of the state. The GI tag will provide more windows of opportunity to the traditional sugarcane farmers in Marayoor.

Economy

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and **National Health Agency (NHA)** will set up a **joint working group** for better implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**. The working group will do a comparative study of packages and define standards for quality healthcare.
 - The 11-member group will have representatives from both **IRDAI and NHA**. **Dinesh Arora**, Deputy CEO of NHA **will chair the working group**.



- India got their 61st Grandmaster when 16-year-old P. Iniyan, hailing from Erode, won at the ongoing Noisiel Open in France. Iniyan defeated GM Sergey Fedorchuk of Ukraine in the sixth round to become the 61st Grandmaster for India as he crossed the 2500-point in ELO ratings.
 - Even though Iniyan had earlier received his three GM norms, the teenager could not get his ELO rating past 2500 points, thus failing to become a GM. He went past the 2500-mark with a win over top seed Fedorchuk.

Appointment

- **The Appointments Committee of Cabinet** has approved designating **Subhash Chandra Garg**, IAS Secretary, Department of economics Affairs, Ministry of Finance **as Finance Secretary**. Garg would replace Ajay Narayan Jha, who got superannuated recently.
 - The Centre had extended Jha's term by a month to February 28. He had also been named a member of the **15th Finance Commission**.

Awards

- **ACKO General Insurance** a new-age digital insurance company, was awarded the coveted **Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award – 2019**, for their contextual microinsurance product –“**Ola Ride Insurance**”. The award was presented to **Biresh Giri**, Appointed Actuary & CRO, Acko in the presence of global business leaders at the recently held event **in Dubai**.


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