



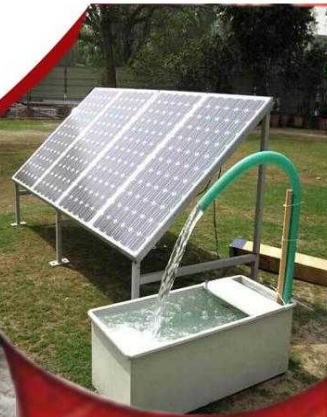
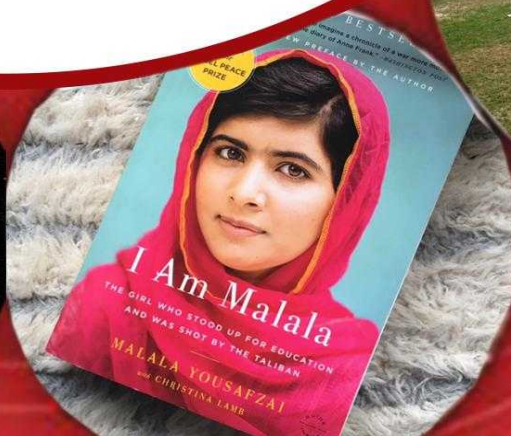
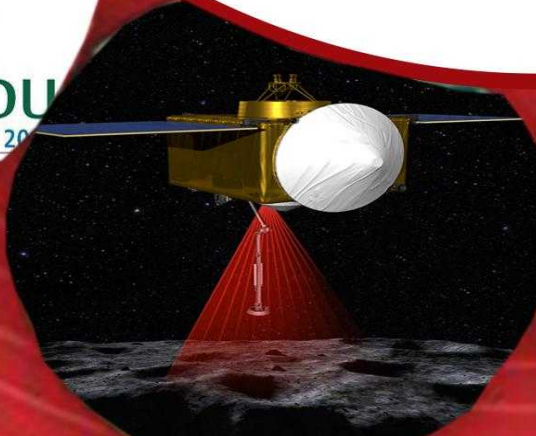
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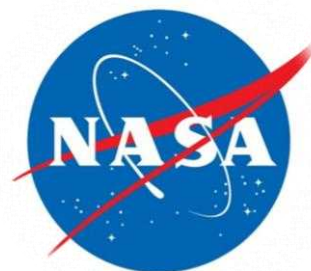
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National News

- The **Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF)**, a global leadership platform in partnership with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**'s Federal Government has decided to give further momentum to **India-UAE** ties.
 - **2019** has been declared as UAE's **Year of Tolerance** by the UAE Government to underline the commitment to make compassion, inclusion and acceptance a part of everyday life.
- In a meeting between Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** and his Saudi counterpart and the chairman of **Saudi Aramco, Khalid A Al-Falih**, in **New Delhi**, it was decided that **India** and **Saudi Arabia** will revive and expedite the implementation of **USD 44 billion West Coast** refinery project in **Maharashtra**, in which **Saudi Aramco** will be holding a considerable stake.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and along with the Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**, unveiled **e-plaques** for development projects in **Bangladesh**, through video conferencing.
 - The e-plaques are for the following projects: Supply of buses and trucks, Inauguration of 36 community clinics, 11 water treatment plants and Extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh
- **The 34th edition of Aahar – the International Food and Hospitality Fair commenced in New Delhi.** The five-day fair, organised by **India Trade Promotion Organisation, ITPO**, features wide range of food products, machinery, food and beverages equipment, hospitality and decor solutions, confectionery items from over 560 participants from India and foreign countries.
 - The foreign participants in the fair are from countries including China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Spain, USA and UK among others.

International News

- On 11th March 2019, Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu is on a 2 Nation

visit to Paraguay and Costa Rica. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including the Minister of State for Tourism K J Alphons, the Members of Parliament and Senior Officials.

- Venkaiah Naidu attended India-Paraguay Business Forum

Science & Technology

- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Guided Pinaka weapons system from Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan.
 - The two rockets, which were tested using the guided **Pinaka** system, succeeded in hitting the **90-km** mark signalling a boost in the efficiency, as the rockets had touched the **70-km** mark in their last trials, held in **May, 2018**.

Economy

- India lost its position as the world's largest importer of weapons, which it held for over a decade, with Saudi Arabia topping the global share of arms imports between 2014 and 2018, as per the data published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

Sports

- The **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** had banned **Russia** in **November 2015** because of evidence of state-sponsored doping and have decided to maintain it until samples and data from **Moscow's** former anti-doping laboratory are made available.
 - It is the 10th time the IAAF has turned down Russia's appeal for reinstatement, having requested the same assurances when it upheld the ban in December 2018.

Awards

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Raghuram Rajan**, for his contribution towards economic development, was awarded the '**Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018**' on March 12, 2019, which was the 106th birth anniversary of late Yashwantrao Chavan, the first chief minister of **Maharashtra**.
 - The award is given annually to individuals or institutions for their outstanding contribution towards national integration.

Appointments

- Aditya Kumar Misra, a veterinary scientist specializing in economically significant diseases of goat, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Agricultural Scientific Recruitment Board (ASRB).
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the his appointment and he will hold the new post till 5th January, 2022 from the date he takes the charge.