



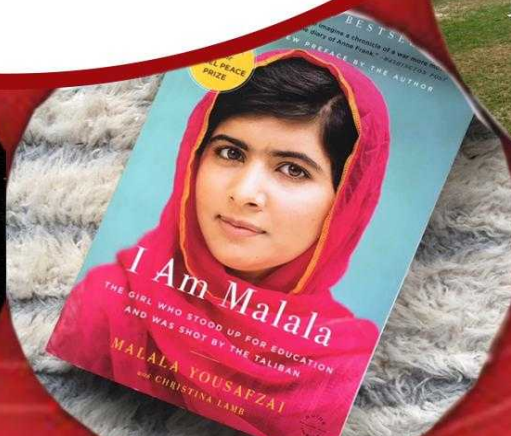
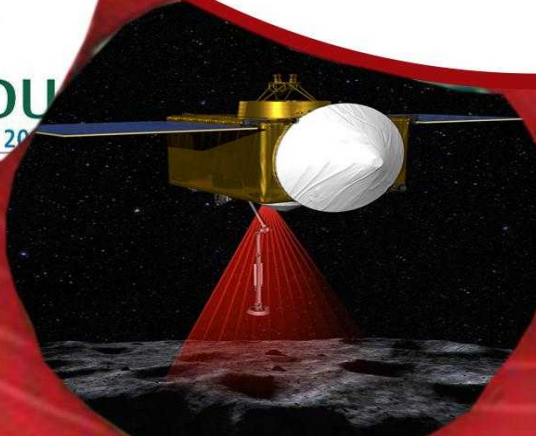
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National News

- The Union Cabinet has approved “**General Election to the Lok Sabha 2019 – statutory notifications under the sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Representative of the people Act, 1951**”, which would begin the election process for the 17th House of the People.
- **Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS)** partnered with **NASSCOM Foundation**, to launch a centre of excellence in **Bengaluru** for training differently-abled persons (PwDs) which will train a minimum of **100** PwDs making them industry-ready over the next **12** months with a goal to place at least **50%** of them in companies already sensitised for hiring them.
 - The trainees will be skilled in a variety of job roles suitable for hospitality, IT or BPM and retail industries and will also be trained on soft skills, interview skills, communication skills, and English language.
- After an eight-year-long process, **Erode turmeric (of Tamil Nadu) finally got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag** from the Geographical Indication Registry. **The Erode Manjal Vanigargal Matrum Kidangu Urimaiyalargal Sangham** applied for the GI tag in January, 2011, at the office of the Deputy Registrar of GI Registry in Chennai.
 - A Geographical Indication is a name or sign used on certain products that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The entry or transit of **Boeing 737 Max 8** aircraft has been banned by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the Indian airspace from 1600 hrs IST or 1030 UTC 13th March 2019.
 - The airlines affected by this are SpiceJet which has 13 jets of the model 8 variant and Jet Airways which has 5 jets of this variant.

International News

- The **3rd** edition of the series of bilateral joint exercise between the armies of **India** and **Oman**, called **Exercise Al Nagah III**, commenced on 12th March 2019 and

will continue till 25th March 2019 at **Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains** in **Oman** where both the armies will be exchanging expertise in tactics, weapon handling and firing, in order to enhance inter operability in counter-terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.

Science & Technology

- A new population of ultraviolet stars has been discovered in the Globular Cluster **NGC 2808** by Indian astronomers from Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai, using the Indian multi-wavelength space observatory **AstroSat**.

Economy

- According to the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC), India, the world's largest consumer of gold, has the 11th largest gold reserve, with the current holding secured at 607 tonnes.
 - The number one slot is occupied by the U.S., which has gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.

Sports

- Spanish football club **Real Madrid** has re-appointed **Zinedine Zidane** as its coach till **30th June 2022**. He had earlier led the team to victory in **three** consecutive Champions League titles.
 - He succeeds **Santiago Solari** from France, who was removed from the post less than five months in charge

Awards

- **Sona Yukti**, a skill development institute, was honoured with the **Social**

Enterprise Network (SEN) sustainability award for education by **Young Presidents Organisation** at its annual event held in **Cape Town, South Africa**.

- It is the only **Indian** organisation to be selected as part of the SEN awards for **2018**.

Appointments

- On 12th March 2019, **Rakesh Makhija** was appointed as the non-executive chairman of **Axis Bank**. His would start serving on this post from 18th July 2019 and will do so for a period of 3 years. He succeeds **Sanjiv Misra**.


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