



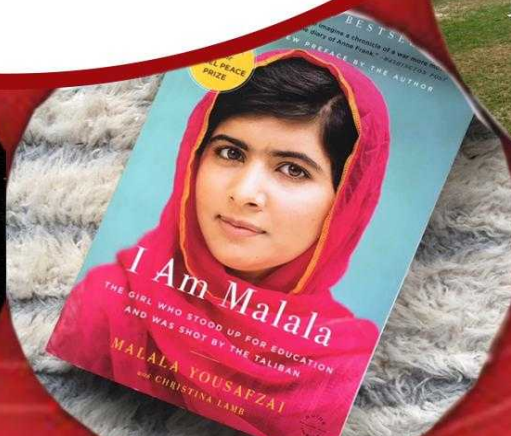
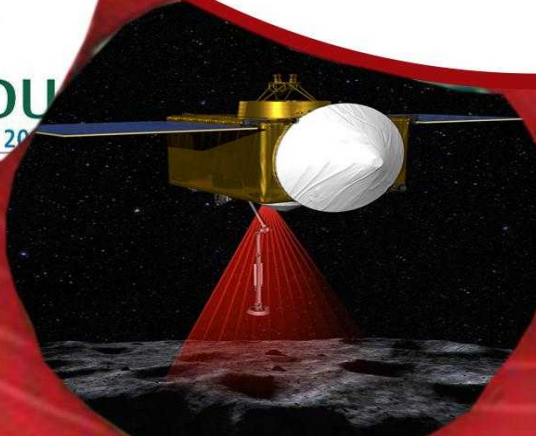
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit** has released the report of the **Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2019**.
 - For the first time in its **30-year history**, three cities have been accorded the title.
 - Singapore which top's of the rankings for the sixth consecutive year is joined there by Hong Kong and Paris.
 - Zurich in Switzerland stood at the fourth position followed by **Japan's Osaka** which shared **fifth place** with Geneva, also in **Switzerland**.
 - World's cheapest cities include Indian cities **Chennai and Delhi** jointly shared the space of **125th place followed by Bengaluru in 129th place**.
- Kazakhstan renames its capital **Astana** as **Nursultan** after ex-president
 - On 20th March 2019, **Kazakhstan** has renamed its capital as Nursultan from its previous name Astana in order to recognize its outgoing leader Nursultan **Nazarbayev**(78), who has served nearly 30 years as president of Kazakhstan.
 - The name was changed after **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev sworn** in as president of Kazakhstan. The new president will serve till **April 2020**.
- **Africa-India** joint field training exercise (**AFINDEX-19**) starts in **Pune**.
 - The inaugural **Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019** for India and African nations called AFINDEX-19 started with a grand opening ceremony at **Aundh Military Station, Pune**.
 - The aim of the exercise is to practice the participating nations in planning and conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations.

NATIONAL NEWS

- The 33rd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (**IND-INDO CORPAT**) was inaugurated at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
 - The IND-INDO CORPAT 2019 is held from 19 Mar to 04 Apr 2019.
- Mobile app developed by **IIPHG, PHFI** to combat exam pressure
 - A mobile application to cope with exam related stress and anxiety for students and their parents has been developed by Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, Gujarat, (**IIPHG**) in collaboration with **National Mental Health Program**, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat.
 - The mobile application is called '**Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior.**'

- **Ola Signs MoU With Telangana To Implement Smart Traffic Solutions**
 - Ola, one of the **world's largest ride-hailing platforms**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana, to support their efforts towards strengthening the traffic infrastructure in **Hyderabad city**.

AWARDS

- **Karen Uhlenbeck** is the first women to win the **Prestigious Abel Prize**.
 - Able Prize Able Prize established by the Oslo government in **2002** honour outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics, a discipline not included among the Nobel awards.
 - Able Prize is named after the 19th century Norwegian mathematician **Niels Henrik Abel**.

APPOINTMENTS

- Mumbai social worker **Gauri Sawant** has been designated as first transgender election ambassador by The **Election Commission of India**.
 - There was no separate classification of transgenders as voters till **2014** but after that transgenders were first enrolled as voters along with males and females.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **The World Sparrow Day** is observed annually on **20th March** to spread awareness about the house sparrow as well as to educated people about the threat to their population.
 - The **Theme** for this year's World Sparrow Day is **"I love sparrows"**.
 - In the year 2010, the first World Sparrow Day was celebrated and in the year 2012, a campaign **"Rise of Sparrows"** launched by Delhi Government aimed at conservation of House Sparrow and also declared as **'state bird'** of Delhi.
- **International Day of Happiness – 20 March**
 - Main concept of the day is to create awareness about importance of happiness in everyone's life around the world.
 - Theme of International Day of Happiness 2019 is **'Happier Together'**.
 - This year also celebrates with a central aim **"Share Happiness and be Part of Something Amazing."**

SPORTS

- **Asian wrestling championship** taken away from India, to be now held in **Thailand**
 - The United World Wrestling (UWW) has taken away the hosting rights from India for the junior Asian Championship.
 - It is the first sporting event to be taken away from India after the denial of visas to Pakistan's shooters last month for the **ISSF World Cup** prompted the International Olympic Committee to censure the Indian Olympic Association.


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