



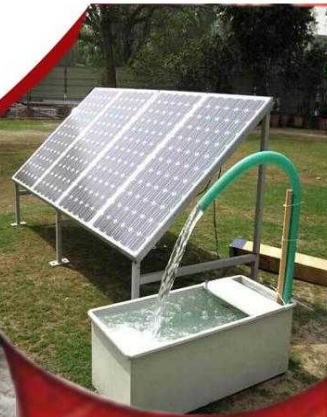
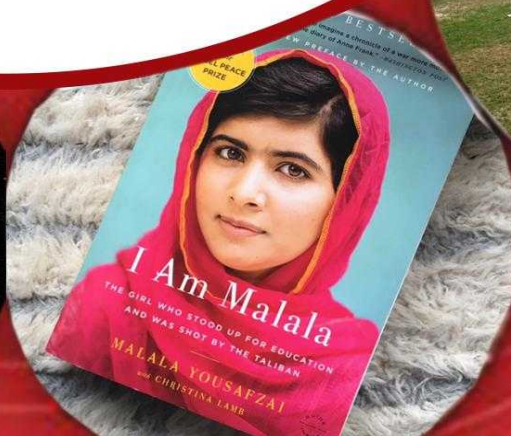
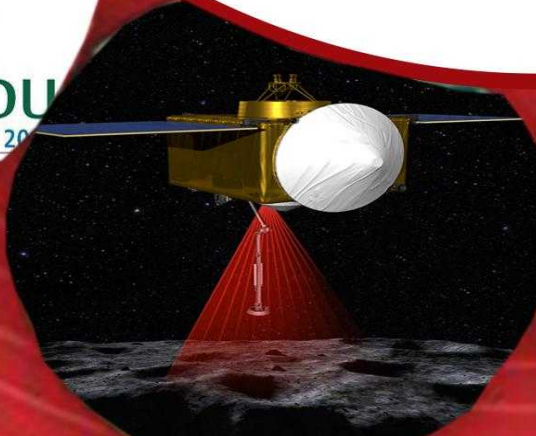
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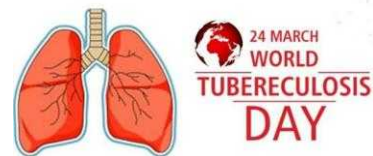
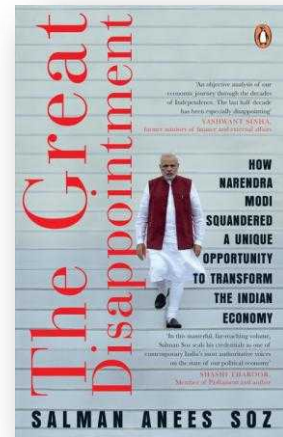
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NATIONAL NEWS

- **India extended a financial grant of 35.5 million Nepalese rupees to Nepal** for the construction of an educational campus to boost the learning environment of the students. The educational campus was jointly inaugurated by District Coordination Committee and Campus management committee on **22nd March 2019**.
 - It was made under the **Development Partnership Programme** which is administered by the Development Administration Partnership division of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Xiaomi launched Mi Pay**, its very own Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based payments service in India. The app is already available in **China and was first introduced in India last December in beta mode**.
 - The Chinese electronics company partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) who approved it and **ICICI Bank** to launch the app in India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- In accordance with the preliminary **world airport traffic rankings for 2018** released by Airports Council International (ACI), the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) of **New Delhi has elevated 4 ranks** to reach at **12th spot in terms of busiest airport** as compared to **2017's 16 spot**.
 - The list of world's busiest airports by passenger traffic ranking has been topped by Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport (US) followed by Beijing Capital International Airport (China) and Dubai International Airport (UAE).

ECONOMY

- **On 23rd March 2019**, Government outreached its disinvestment target of Rs 80,000 crore for the current financial year (2018-19) by **Rs 5,000 crore**.
 - The disinvestment target has been fixed at Rs 90,000 crore for the next financial year (**i.e. FY 2020**).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **On 20th March 2019, Indian Institute of Technology Madras has partnered with ESPN cricinfo to launch Super stats** which is a next level artificial intelligence to

analyse cricket statistics through machine learning and forecast.

- Super stats is developed by a team headed by the **IIT Madras** research scholars **Raghunathan, Rengaswamy, Mahesh Panchagnula** along with the ESPN team.

SPORTS

- **On 20th March 2019, Annual Telangana Sports Journalist Association (TSJA)** named London Olympics Bronze medalist **Saina Nehwal** as **sportsperson of the year**, **Pullella Gopichand** as **Coach of the Year** and **PV Sindhu** as **Outstanding Performer in women's section**. Badminton Association of **Telangana** received **Association of the Year award**.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On 23rd March 2019, Vice Admiral Karambir Singh** has been appointed as the **next (24th) chief of naval staff**. He will succeed present Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba who retires on May 2019.
 - At present, he is a Flag Officer Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.

AWARDS

- **On 22nd March 2019**, the forest certification scheme '**Certification Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**' developed by the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forest (**NCCF**) got global recognition by a Geneva based non-profit firm.
 - Forest certification is a market based conservation tool which is designed to promote sustainable management of trees outside forest by an independent third party.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Meteorological Day** is observed annually on **March 23** to commemorate the establishment of World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) in **1950**. The day also underlines the efforts of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for the safety and well-being of society.