Prelim Bits 03-06-2018

IMAP

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- NASA’s Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) mission will help researchers better understand the boundary of the heliosphere.
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- NASA is targeting 2024 for the launch of a new mission to learn more about the generation of cosmic rays in the heliosphere.
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- Heliosphere is the region where the constant flow of particles from our Sun, called the solar wind, collides with material from the rest of the galaxy.
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- Cosmic rays created locally and from the galaxy and beyond affect human explorers in space and can harm technological systems, and likely play a role in the presence of life itself in the universe.
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- The spacecraft will be positioned about 1.5 million kilometres away from Earth towards the Sun at what is called the first Lagrange point or L1.
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Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)

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- AWSAR initiative will each year reward 100 best articles by PhD students with cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 each and a certificate of appreciation.
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- It is an effort to encourage and equip PhD scholars and post-doctoral fellows with skills to communicate science with lay people.
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- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) plans to reward students who write popular articles about their research.
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- The articles can either be submitted to DST directly or published in newspapers.
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- There is a yawning gap between research being done in labs across the country and what the public knows.
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- The intent of the program is to inculcate popular science writing skills and bring science closer to the society.
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Paryavaran Rakshaks

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- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has urged school children to become environment protectors (ParyavaranRakshaks).
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- They will help the government and society overcome the menace of plastic pollution.
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- The Minister administered a pledge to the children to undertake one Green Good Deed every day, minimise the use of plastic and contribute their mite to totally stop single use plastic in our day-to-day life
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- The minister expressed the idea in a mini marathon called Envithon.
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- June 3 is also being celebrated as World Bicycle Day across the world for the first time.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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