

October – 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kumar Tuhin (IFS:1991), presently High Commissioner of India to Namibia has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary.
- ❖ Vikram Misri (IFS:1989), presently Ambassador of India to Myanmar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Four-time Olympic gold medallist athlete Sanya Richards-Ross has been named as the event ambassador for the Delhi Half Marathon scheduled to be held on October 21.
- ❖ Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) aimed at providing sustainable alternative towards affordable transportation.
 - The initiative was launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs i.e. IOC, BPCL and HPCL).

NATIONAL

Air Safety Oversight Score

- ❖ A report on "Air Safety Oversight Score" was recently released by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
- ❖ It seeks to identify if countries have effectively and consistently implemented the critical elements of a safety-oversight system.
- ❖ India has slipped below its previous ranking of 66% to 57% and is one of the 15 countries that are below the minimum target rates.
- ❖ India's score is lower than that of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and even North Korea in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ The only countries that rank below India are small and little known such as Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Samoa.
- ❖ A downgrade would mean Indian airlines won't be able to mount new flights to the US or form alliances with US airlines.
- ❖ This can stifle Indian carriers' plans of global expansion.

Largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs

- ❖ India was ranked 5th among 206 countries in **the Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018** released by Canadian Cancer Society.
- ❖ India secured the 5th rank jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85% warnings.
- ❖ The ranking of the countries was in terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs.
- ❖ In India, 85% of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings.
- ❖ In 2018 report, **Timor-Leste** has the **largest warnings on cigarette packages** in the world with 92.5% on front and back.
- ❖ It was followed by Nepal and Vanuatu with 90% and New Zealand at fourth with 87.5%.
- ❖ It was released in Geneva at 8th session of Conference of Parties to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

INTERNATIONAL

U.S.A - Mexico- Canada Agreement (USMCA)

- ❖ The United States, Canada and Mexico recently concluded an agreement on a revised trade deal called the USMCA.
- ❖ USMCA will replace the 25-year old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was created in 1994.
- ❖ It gives the U.S greater access to the dairy markets of Canada and Mexico and allows extra imports of Canada cars.
- ❖ It is intended to last 18 years and will be reviewed every 6 years.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA): WHAT'S NEW?

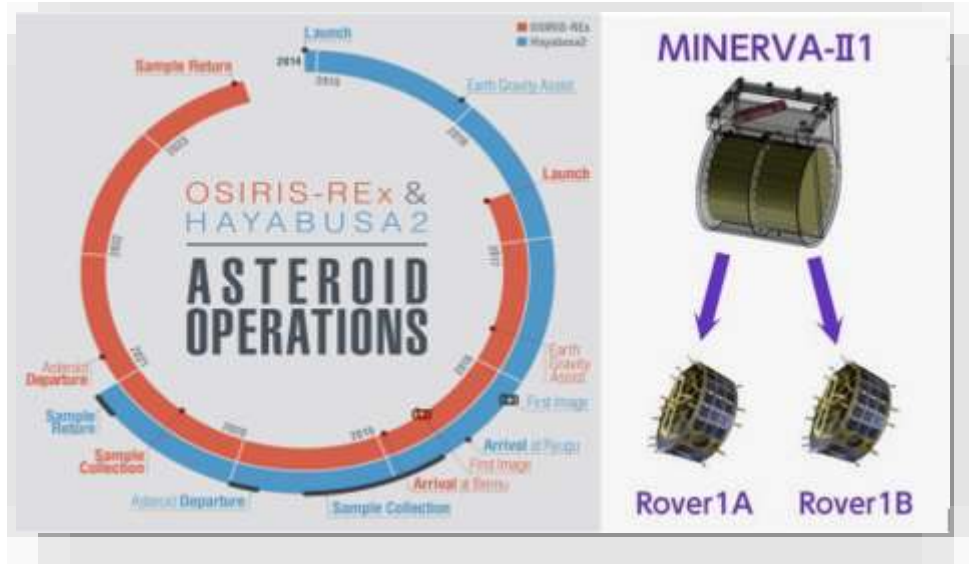


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Japan Landed Rovers on Asteroid

- ❖ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) made history by landing two rovers on a 1 km asteroid.
- ❖ This is the first time that the world will observe the surface of an asteroid via moving robots.
- ❖ The small compact MINERVA-II-1(Micro Nano Experimental Robot Vehicle for Asteroid, the 2nd generation) rovers separated from the Hayabusa2 spacecraft.
- ❖ The MINERVA-II 1 consists of two rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B.

- ❖ The 2 rovers Hayabusa2 managed to land on the asteroid are expected to take advantage of the low gravity and jump around the surface, reaching heights of up to 15 meters.
- ❖ The Hayabusa2 probe was launched in December 2014 to explore the surface of the **asteroid known as Ryugu**.



Rail heritage digitization project

- ❖ Union Railway Ministry has launched Rail Heritage Digitisation Project in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture Association.
- ❖ It can be accessed at “<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/indian-railways>”.
- ❖ It is first-of-its-kind project that aims to showcase India’s rail heritage to the national and international audience in an online story-telling platform.
- ❖ It is also largest cultural heritage digitisation project in India and possibly in entire Asia Pacific Region.

STATES

India's 1st Corn Festival

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the first corn festival of the country is being held in Chhindwara.
- ❖ The festival is one of a kind international event.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest corns producing states in India, with Chhindwara being the highest corn producing district.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

UN refugee prize

- ❖ South Sudanese surgeon Dr. Evan Atar Adaha has been named the 2018 winner of UNHCR's (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) Nansen Refugee Award.



- ❖ He had been honoured for his outstanding 20-year commitment in providing medical services to people forced to flee conflict and persecution in Sudan and South Sudan.
- ❖ The Nansen prize, awarded annually, is named after Norwegian polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen, who served as the first high commissioner for refugees during the League of Nations.
- ❖ The Award honours extraordinary service to the forcibly displaced.
- ❖ Last year's winner was Nigerian Zannah Mustapha.

Right Livelihood Award

- ❖ The 2018 Honorary Award goes to anti-corruption champions Thelma Aldana (Guatemala) & Iván Velásquez (Colombia)
- ❖ It has been awarded for their innovative work in exposing abuse of power and prosecuting corruption, thus rebuilding people's trust in public institutions.
- ❖ The three cash awards go to the following Laureates:
 - 3 imprisoned civil and human rights defenders from Saudi Arabia, Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani and Waleed Abu al-Khair.
 - A farmer from Burkina Faso named Yacouba Sawadogo and
 - Australian agronomist Tony Rinaudo.
- ❖ It is the first time that a Right Livelihood Award goes to Laureates from Saudi Arabia.

Right Livelihood Award

- ❖ The Award was established in 1980 to “honour and support courageous people and organisations offering visionary and exemplary solutions to the root causes of global problems”.
- ❖ It has become widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' and is Presented annually in Stockholm.

SPORTS

Asia Cup 2018

- ❖ India has defeated Bangladesh to win the Unimoni Asia Cup Title 2018.
- ❖ This was the second successive Asia Cup final where India took on Bangladesh.
- ❖ Overall, this was India's seventh Asia Cup triumph.
- ❖ Liton Das was the Player of The Match and Shikhar Dhawan was declared as the Player of The Series.

Sreeshankar breaks long jump national record

- ❖ Long jumper M Sreeshankar broke the national record at the 58th National Open athletics championships in Bhubaneshwar with a jump of 8.20m.

- ❖ The 19-year-old representing Kerala broke the record of 8.19m held by Ankit Sharma, which was set in July 2016.
- ❖ His 8.20m jump is the world leading jump of the season among Under-20 athletes, bettering Cuban Maikel Yorges Vidal's 8.12m effort in June.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Heart Day – 29 September

- ❖ World Heart Day is celebrated on September 29 every year to create awareness about cardiovascular diseases.
 - ❖ The theme for the year 2018 is 'Your heart, my heart'.
 - ❖ It was launched in 2000 by the World Heart Federation as an annual event.
 - ❖ Initially, the World Heart Day was celebrated on the last Sunday of September, but since 2011, September 29 is the fixed date.
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