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OCTOBER

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We Shine Study Circle

TNPSC

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(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

OCTOBER - 02.10.2018



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NATIONAL NEWS

- To boost availability of more affordable transport fuels with better usage of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative**.
 - It was launched as a part of **Swachhta Hi Seva** movement. This practice of using bio gas as a fuel would help provide an additional revenue source to farmers and vehicle-users.
- United Nations Secretary General **Antonio Guterres** arrived in New Delhi on his maiden visit to India as the head of the world body that coincides with the commencement of events marking the **150th** birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - The UN chief will meet the top leadership of the country including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is likely to discuss key global issues such as climate change and terrorism during his three-day visit. On October 3, Guterres will attend the **'Champions of Earth'** ceremony in New Delhi.
- **The Government** constituted a seven-member ministerial **panel headed by** Bihar Deputy Chief Minister **Sushil Modi** to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters. The panel would submit its report to the GST Council by October 31.
- The **Uttarakhand** Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to declare cow the **'Rashtra Mata'** or the mother of the nation. State Animal Husbandry Minister Rekha Arya, who moved the resolution in the Assembly, said that considering it a request from Uttarakhand Assembly, the Centre must grant the status of mother of nation to the cow.
- Inaugurating the three-day conclave **Kalahandi Dialogue**, Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced that the **Regional Research & Technology Transfer Station (RRTTS), Bhawanipatna**, will henceforth be the Centre of Excellence for cotton, tropical fruit, crops and aromatic rice.
 - He also announced opening of five PG departments on Agronomy, Soil Science & Agriculture, Chemistry, Entomology, Plant Physiology and Plant Pathology in the College of Agriculture.

- The **President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi**. India is striving to eliminate **open defecation in its entirety by October 2, 2019**.
 - The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention is being organised by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** to mark the beginning of the **150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi**, also coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- **NITI Aayog** has signed an agreement with **cloud services provider Oracle, hospital chain Apollo Hospitals, and pharmaceutical manufacturer Strides Pharma Sciences**. The agreement aims to curb the distribution of fake drugs using new technologies.
 - The partners will pilot a real drug supply chain using **blockchain decentralised ledger and IoT software**.

INTERNATIONAL

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between the **Portuguese Environment Ministry and the Public Works Department of Goa**. It will help the State manage its water resources better. Goa Public Works Department Minister **Sudin Dhavalikar** and Portugal's Minister of Environment **Joao Pedro de Matos Fernandes** signed the MoU in the field of water supply, waste water management and sanitation to be implemented in the state.
 - As part of the MoU, the assessment of two of the biggest **water treatment and supply plants at Selaulim and Opa in Goa** would be undertaken. The MoU is for a period of **two years**.
- **The Indian Government has** signed an agreement with the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**. JICA has agreed to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of around **Rs 5,500 crore (89,547 million Japanese Yen) as Tranche 1** for the the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Japan's two **Minerva-II-1 rovers** have sent first video images from the surface of asteroid Ryugu. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has released a 15-frame clip and new photographs taken by the two Minerva-II-1 rovers. The rovers were

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deployed by unmanned spacecraft **Hayabusa2** about 60 metres on to Ryugu's surface after a 3.5 year journey. Ryugu is 280 million km away from Earth.

- This is the world's first moving, robotic observation of an asteroid surface. The rovers can jump upto 15 m across the asteroid's surface and stay airborne for 15 minutes.
- China launched its **Centispace-1-s1 satellite on a Kuaizhou-1A** low-cost solid-fuel carrier rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China. This is the second commercial launch by the Kuaizhou-1A rocket. The Kuaizhou-1A rocket is a low-cost solid-fuel carrier rocket.

ECONOMY

- **India's external debt** declined **2.8** per cent to **USD 514.4 billion** at June-end over the previous quarter on account of a decrease in commercial borrowings, short-term debt and non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits.
 - At end-June 2018, the external debt was placed at USD 514.4 billion, recording a decrease of USD 14.9 billion over its level at end-March 2018.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has appointed **Gita Gopinath** as its **chief economist**. India-born Gopinath will succeed Maurice Obstfeld, who announced in July that he would retire at the end of 2018, as Economic Counsellor and Director of the IMF's Research Department.

AWARDS

- The 2018 Nobel Prize in **Physiology or Medicine** was awarded to **James P. Allison of the United States and Tasuku Honjo of Japan**. It has been given for their work on **unleashing the immune system's ability to attack cancer**, a breakthrough in developing new cancer treatments.
 - Dr. Allison and Dr. Honjo, working separately, showed in the 1990s how certain proteins act as "brakes" on the immune system's T-cells, limiting their ability to attack cancer cells, and that suppressing those proteins could transform the body's ability to fight cancer.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **International Day of Older Persons – 1 October**
 - To create awareness on issues that affect the older persons like health issues and elder abuse. It is also appreciates the contributions of older people to the society, **1st October 2018**, International Day of Older Persons was observed throughout the world.
 - In 1990, the United Nations General Assembly declared 1st October as the International Day of Older Persons. It was first observed in 1991.
 - **Theme:** for International Day of Older Persons 2018 is **“Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions.”**


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