Prelim Bits 25-10-2018

International Arya Mahasammelan

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- The global convention of the Arya Samaj, the International Arya Mahasammelan 2018 was recently inaugurated by the President of India in New Delhi.
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- The convention was started in 2006 and this year convention is the 11th such mahasammelan.
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- It aims to spread a message of human welfare originating from the Vedas, promote universal brotherhood and ensure safeguarding of social morals.
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- The Arya Samaj declared representatives from 32 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and North America will attend this global convention.
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Arya Samaj

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- Arya Samaj was formed in the year 1875 by Swami Dayananda Saraswati.
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- It emphasized on the liberation of the Hindu society.
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- It believes in infallibility of Vedas. Dayananda Saraswati gave the slogan “Go back to the Vedas” to revive the true Vedic religion.
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- It advocated widow remarriage, female education and equal status for women in the society.
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- It strongly opposed idol worship, ritualism, practice of animal-sacrifice, the concept of polytheism, the idea of heaven and hell and fatalism.
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Seoul Peace Prize

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- The Seoul Peace Prize Committee has decided to confer the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize on Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
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- It was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
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- In 24th Olympic games, 160 nations from across the world took part, creating harmony and friendship and a worldwide atmosphere of peace and reconciliation.
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- It has been awarded biennially to those individuals who have made their mark through contributions to the harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and to world peace.
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- Past laureates include former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and renowned international relief organizations like Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.
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Indian Institute of Skills

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- Union Cabinet has recently approved the setting up of Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) at different locations across the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
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- IISs shall augment the global competitiveness of key sectors providing high quality skill training, applied research education.
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- Union government has already setup country’s first Institute of skills at Kanpur.
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- It was setup by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in partnership with the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore.
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MarCO Mission

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- MarCO stands for Mars Cube One and designed by NASA.
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- The mission has twin low-cost cube sats – MarCO A and MarCO B.
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- The two cubesats are boarded in Insights Lander to Mars.
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- The objective of the mission is to find out whether briefcase-sized spacecraft called CubeSats could survive the journey to deep space.
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- By verifying cubesat as a viable technology for interplanetary mission, it could lead to many other applications to explore and study our solar system.
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- It have recently beamed back an image of Mars , visible as a tiny red dot against the dark sky.
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- CubeSats are a class of spacecraft based on a standardized small size and modular use of off-the-shelf technologies.
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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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