



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Tamil Author Sivasankari Conferred Saraswati Samman



- Tamil writer Sivasankari was honoured with the **Saraswati Samman 2022** for her memoir (biography) "**Surya Vamsam.**"
 - "Surya Vamsam" is a two-volume memoir that traces the author's literary journey and societal transformations over seven decades.
- This award is given annually to literary works published in the last 10 years by Indian writers of **22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.**
- The award is presented by the K.K. Birla Foundation includes a citation, plaque, and a prize of Rs. 15 lakh.
- The Saraswati Samman is **among the highest recognitions in the field of Indian literature.** Besides the Saraswati Samman, the **Vyas Samman** and the **Bihari Puraskar** are other literary awards instituted by the foundation.

Read more: [Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.](#)

NASA Finds Carbon and Water in Asteroid Bennu Samples

- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** confirms the **presence of high-carbon content and water-bearing clay minerals** in samples collected from the asteroid **Bennu (formerly 1999 RQ36).**
 - Bennu is a **4.5-billion-year-old** small near-Earth asteroid that **passes close to Earth every six years.** The asteroid was discovered by a team from the **NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999.**
 - The material collected from Bennu **acts as a time capsule from the early days of our solar system** and can help answer questions about the origins of life and the nature of asteroids.
- NASA's **[Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security-Regolith Explorer \(OSIRIS-REx\)](#)**, the first U.S. effort to retrieve an asteroid sample, launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu.
- The mission's success enhances our understanding of asteroids, including those that could pose

threats to Earth.

- Scientists will analyze the samples further over the next two years to unlock insights into our solar system's origins.

Read more: [NASA's OSIRIS-REx Mission](#)

Passport to Earning (P2E) Initiative

UNICEF's global learning-to-earning solution, **Passport to Earning (P2E)**, has skilled and certified **more than one million young people in India** in areas of financial literacy and digital productivity.

- Aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the P2E program offers free access to certificate courses in digital productivity, financial literacy, employability skills, and other in-demand, job-ready skills.
 - Notably, **62% of the beneficiaries of P2E courses in India are adolescent girls and young women.**
- With the goal of providing long-term sustainable skills to 5 million youth in India **aged 14-29 by 2024** and connecting them to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, P2E is a vital contribution to the nation's educational and economic landscape.

Read more: [National Education Policy 2020](#)

INS Sagardhwani



INS Sagardhwani, the oceanographic research vessel of the **Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi under the DRDO**, set sail on the **Sagar Maitri** (SM) Mission-4 from South Jetty, Southern Naval Command (SNC), Kochi.

- INS Sagardhwani's mission includes **scientific deployments in the Northern Arabian Sea** and collaborative research programs with institutions like **Sultan Qaboos University in Oman**, fostering stronger working relationships between Indian and IOR ocean researchers.
- INS Sagardhwani is a **marine acoustic research ship** that is constructed indigenously and was launched in **July 1994**.

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