

Psyche Spacecraft

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Psyche Spacecraft Latest News

Recently, NASA's Psyche spacecraft captured a stunning crescent image of Mars from nearly 5 million kilometres away.

About Psyche Spacecraft

- It was launched on **October 13, 2023 by NASA.**
- It is on a mission to reach the **metal-rich asteroid also named Psyche.**
- Asteroid Psyche's gravity will **capture the spacecraft in late July 2029**, and Psyche will begin its prime mission in August.
- It will **spend about two years orbiting the asteroid** to take pictures, map the surface, and collect data to determine Psyche's composition.

Features of Psyche Spacecraft

- The body of the Psyche spacecraft is about the size of a small van.

- It uses a **solar-electric propulsion system** powered by xenon gas, slowly gaining speed over time as it travels through space.
- Scientific Instruments of **Psyche Spacecraft**
 - **Magnetometer:** It will look for evidence of an ancient **magnetic field at the asteroid Psyche**.
 - **Gamma-ray and neutron spectrometer:** It will help scientists **determine the chemical elements** that make up the asteroid's surface material.
 - **Multispectral Imager:** It consists of a pair of identical cameras equipped with filters and telescopic lenses to photograph the surface of the asteroid in different wavelengths of light.

Source: IT

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