

October - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC) in New Delhi. With this, the Income Tax Department is introducing faceless e-assessment to impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the assessment process.
  - There would be no physical interface between taxpayers and tax officers.
- ❖ The name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, who was killed by JKLF terrorists in 1990, has been added to the National War Memorial after it was approved by the Indian Air Force. Earlier it was accidentally left out.
  - Squadron Leader Khanna and three other IAF personnel were killed in January 1990 in Kashmir allegedly by JKLF founder Yasin Malik.
- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army's Crossed Swords Division organized a "Veer Kutumb Rally" at Tanda, Akhnoor with an aim to reach out to veterans, veer naris, widows and their families.
  - The Rally was organised by the Indian Army as part of its activities to observe 2019 as the 'Year of the Next of Kin'.
- ❖ The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has concluded that Pakistan has not taken sufficient measures to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1267 obligations against Hafiz Saeed and other terrorists associated with Lashkar-e-toiba, Jamat-ud-dawa and other terror groups.

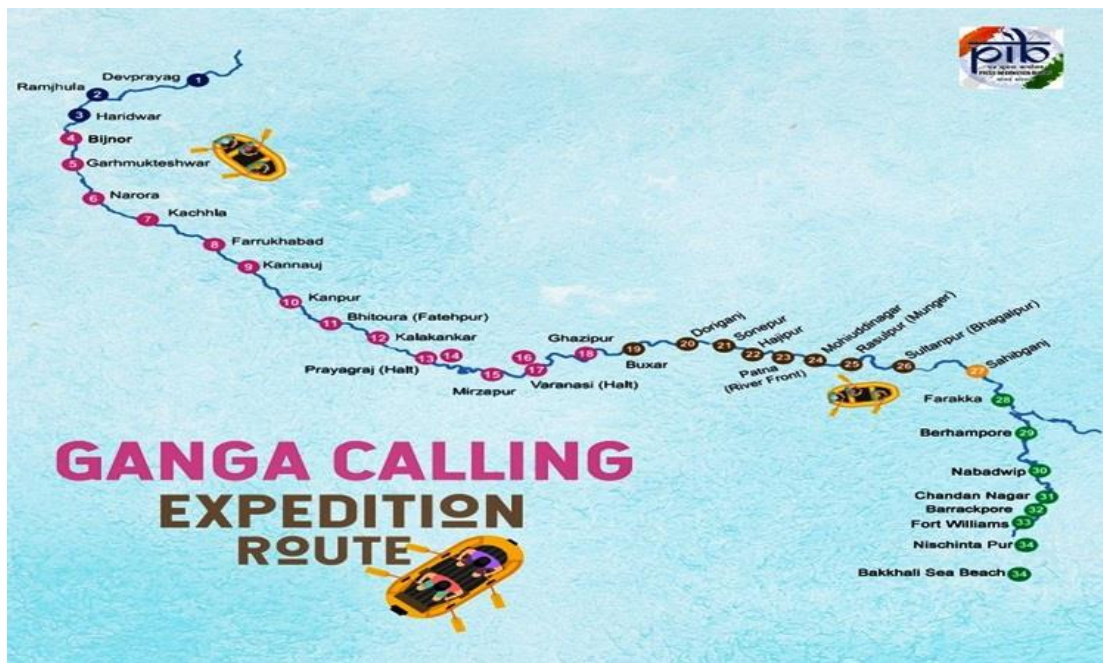
## NATIONAL

### **MOSAIc Arctic Expedition**

- ❖ 32-year-old polar researcher from Kerala Vishnu Nandan will be the only Indian among 300 scientists from across the world to participate in MOSAIc Arctic observatory.
- ❖ MOSAIc (Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) is the largest ever Arctic expedition in history.
- ❖ It will be the first to conduct a large-scale study at the North Pole for an entire year.
- ❖ The main objective of MOSAIc is to study the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world.
- ❖ German Vessel "Polarstern" will participate in the exercise.

## Ganga Amantran Abhiyan Initiative

- ❖ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched a unique initiative called 'Ganga Amantran' to connect with the stakeholders of the river.
- ❖ It is a pioneering exploratory open- water rafting and kayaking expedition on the Ganga river.
- ❖ The expedition will start at Devaprayag and culminate at Ganga Sagar covering the entire stretch of over 25,000 kilometres of the River.
- ❖ This is the first ever effort by National Mission for Clean Ganga to raft across the entire stretch of the river.
- ❖ It is also the longest ever social campaign undertaken through an adventure sporting activity to spread the message of River Rejuvenation and Water Conservation on a massive scale.



## Eco-friendly Crackers of CSIR

- ❖ On 6th October, 2019, Ministry of Science and Technology launched new set of crackers developed by CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) called Eco – friendly crackers.
- ❖ These crackers help to reduce particulate emissions by 30% by producing same level of light and sound.
- ❖ The regular crackers release Barium Nitrate the main pollutant.
- ❖ It is now replaced with Potassium Nitrate.



- ❖ Green crackers reduce the emissions of Nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide and reduces the overall harmful particulate emissions.
- ❖ A Raw Materials Compositional Analysis (RACE) facility has been launched in Sivakasi to facilitate manufacturers for testing their raw materials and chemicals.

### **First Set of Documents from Swiss**

- ❖ India has received the first tranche of details about financial accounts of its residents in Swiss banks.
- ❖ They were procured under a new automatic exchange of information framework (AEOI) between the two countries.
- ❖ This is the first time that India has received details from Switzerland under AEOI framework.
- ❖ AEOI provides for exchange of information on financial accounts that are
  - Currently active
  - Accounts that were closed during 2018
- ❖ The next exchange would take place in September 2020.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Indian Origin Supreme Court Judge of Brunei**



- ❖ An Indian-origin Singaporean judge Kannan Ramesh has been sworn in by Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah as a judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court of the Brunei sultanate.
- ❖ Kannan Ramesh's appointment is for a two-year period.
- ❖ As a judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court of Brunei, he will spend a month each year and decide primarily on commercial cases and certain civil ones.
- ❖ The 54-year-old Justice will also continue to hold his position as a full-time judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore.
- ❖ In the Singapore Supreme Court, Justice Ramesh was appointed judicial commissioner in May 2015.

### **2019 Nobel Prize for Medicine**

- ❖ Britain's Peter Ratcliffe and William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza of US shared the 2019 Nobel Medicine Prize for their work on how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.



- ❖ The team revealed the understanding of how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism.
- ❖ They identified the molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes to varying levels of oxygen.
- ❖ It has paved way to understand the strategies to fight cancer, anaemia and other diseases.
- ❖ Based on their findings pharma companies are now on the path of developing drugs that can interfere with “disease states” by activating or blocking the oxygen – level in the cells.

**Nobel Prize in Medicine**



**William G. Kaelin Jr (USA, right), Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe (UK, centre) and Gregg L. Semenza (USA, left) jointly share the Nobel Prize for their discoveries of how cells respond to varying oxygen levels in the body**

<b>109</b> Nobel Prizes in Medicine awarded from 1901 to 2017	<b>12</b> Women awarded Medicine Prize to date
<b>32</b> Age of youngest laureate, <b>Frederick G. Banting</b> , awarded in 1923 for discovery of insulin	<b>87</b> Age of oldest laureate, <b>Peyton Rous</b> , awarded in 1966 for discovery of tumour-inducing viruses



## STATES

### Drone Delivery of Medicines – Telangana

- ❖ The Telangana government has adopted a framework to use drones for last-mile delivery of essential medical supplies.
- ❖ Supplies such as blood and medical samples will be delivered through drone.
- ❖ Objective: To increase the access to healthcare to communities across the state.

- ❖ The framework has been co-designed by
  - The World Economic Forum (WEF)
  - Apollo Hospitals Group
- ❖ It is a part of the WEF's "Medicine from the Sky" initiative.
- ❖ Telangana government awaits approval for its drone policy from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1<sup>st</sup> World Cotton Day – October 7

- ❖ World Trade Organisation (WTO) hosted the first World Cotton Day (WCD) celebrations in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ This event stems from the request by the Cotton-4 countries to the UN General Assembly for official recognition of a World Cotton Day.
- ❖ Cotton-4 Countries are
  - Benin
  - Burkina Faso
  - Chad
  - Mali
- ❖ Such a day reflects the importance of cotton as a global commodity.

### Objectives

- ❖ WCD celebrates the many advantages of cotton, from its qualities as a natural fibre, to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption.
- ❖ It sheds light on the challenges faced by cotton economies around the world.
- ❖ Cotton is important to least developed, developing and developed economies worldwide.

### Importance

- ❖ A single tonne of cotton provides year-round employment for 5 people on average.
- ❖ It is a drought - resistant crop ideal for arid climates.
- ❖ It occupies just 2.1 per cent of the world's arable land, yet it meets 27 per cent of the world's textiles need.

### India @ the Event

- ❖ Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani represented India in the five-day event.
- ❖ National Awardee weaver Pitta Ramulu provided a demonstration of weaving by charkha.
- ❖ Fabrics which have been given GI tag like Venkatagiri, Chanderi, Maheshwari and Ikkat sarees were displayed at the event along with organic cotton.
- ❖ Natural coloured cotton grown in Dharwad, Karnataka in different colours like dark brown, medium brown, green and cream colours will also be on display.

