

October - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Delhi Tourism in association with Government of Delhi, is organizing the second edition of 'Shahpur Jat Autumn Festival' which celebrating the city's hub of fashion and striking history.
 - Shahpur Jat is of the oldest villages of the city and is home to potters, painters, designers, workshops, boutiques, historical tombs, cafes and many more. It is near the ruins of Alauddin Khilji's medieval Siri Fort.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer of Gujarat cadre Anup Kumar Singh has been appointed as director general of the National Security Guard (NSG).
 - The NSG was raised as the federal contingency force to counter terrorists and hijack-like incidents in 1984. It's 35th raising day was celebrated recently on October 15th at Manesar, Haryana.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ordered the inter-cadre transfer of Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela IAS to Madhya Pradesh without specifying any reason.
 - For more on NRC please go here: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/articles-detail/national-register-of-citizens-nrc>
- ❖ Two Latin American countries – Brazil and Venezuela have won a contested election for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council.
 - The 193-member UN General Assembly elected 14 members to the 47-member Human Rights Council for three-year terms starting January 1, 2020.
 - Under its rules, seats are allocated to regions (Asian, African, Latin American.) to ensure geographical representation.
- ❖ At 6%, China's GDP growth during July-September 2019 quarter has become the lowest-ever growth rate recorded in the last 30 years.
 - The U.S.-China trade war has worsened China's jobs and wage situation and corporations also refrained from making capital investment.

NATIONAL

Asia's oldest bamboo

- ❖ Two fossils dating back 25 million years were found in Makum coalfield in Assam.



- ❖ With over 49,000 plant species reported as of 2018, India holds about 11.5% of all flora in the world.
- ❖ Now, a new fossil record has shown that India is the birthplace of Asian bamboo, and they were formed about 25 million years ago in the north-eastern part of the country.
- ❖ These belonged to the late Oligocene period of about 25 million years ago.
- ❖ Yunnan Province in China now has the highest diversity of bamboo, but the oldest fossil in that region is less than 20 million years old.
- ❖ It is clearly indicating that Asian bamboo was born in India and then migrated there.
- ❖ This finding further strengthens the theory that bamboo came to Asia from India and not from Europe.
- ❖ The European bamboo fossil is about 50 million years old.
- ❖ Bamboo fossils are not very common in India as they are known only from the Siwalik sediments at Himalayas.

Next CJI - Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde

- ❖ Following the rule of seniority to appoint his successor, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi has recommended the name of Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde in a letter to the Union Government.
- ❖ Justice Bobde is the senior most judge in the Supreme Court after CJI Gogoi.
- ❖ Conventionally, the outgoing Chief Justice sends the recommendation for his successor 30 days before he is to demit office, initiating the process of appointing the next CJI.
- ❖ Justice Bobde will be the 47th Chief Justice of India and the second from Maharashtra's Nagpur region after former CJI Mohammad Hidayatullah.

Biodiesel by Zomato

- ❖ Restaurant aggregator and food delivery service Zomato and biodiesel manufacturer BioD Energy have inked a partnership to produce biodiesel from used cooking oil.
- ❖ Zomato will collect used cooking oil (UCO) from restaurants around the country to be processed into biodiesel.
- ❖ India is one of the largest consumers of vegetable oil.
- ❖ It has the potential to convert 220 Cr litre of UCO to produce biodiesel by the year 2022.

- ❖ Repeated use of UCO can cause diseases like hypertension, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's and liver ailments, among others.

Centenary Year of National Institute of Nutrition

- ❖ A special commemorative postal stamp of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad was released by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan.
- ❖ The stamp has been brought out under the “Corporate My stamp” scheme of India Posts.
- ❖ NIN is the oldest Institute under the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
- ❖ The NIN centenary year theme was ‘Empowering the nation through nutrition’.

Father of Nutrition Science in India

- ❖ A one-time award instituted to commemorate NIN's Centenary called the “ICMR-NIN-Centenary Award” was conferred posthumously on Dr.C Gopalan.
- ❖ A native of Salem and an Alumnus of MMC, Chennai Dr. Gopalan is considered as Father of Nutrition Science in India.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2002.
- ❖ His research on the nutrition status of the Indian population laid the foundations for several national nutrition programmes, including those for
 - Anaemia control
 - Vitamin A supplementation
 - Integrated child development services (ICDS)
 - Goitre control through universal salt iodisation





Exercise Eastern Bridge V

- ❖ Indian Air Force is participating in a Bilateral Joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V, scheduled from 17-26 October 2019, at Air Force Base Masirah, Oman.
- ❖ The last exercise, EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017 at Jamnagar.
- ❖ For the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an International Exercise outside India.
- ❖ IAF contingent comprises of MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft.
- ❖ MiG-29 will train along with Royal Air Force Oman's Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and Hawk.

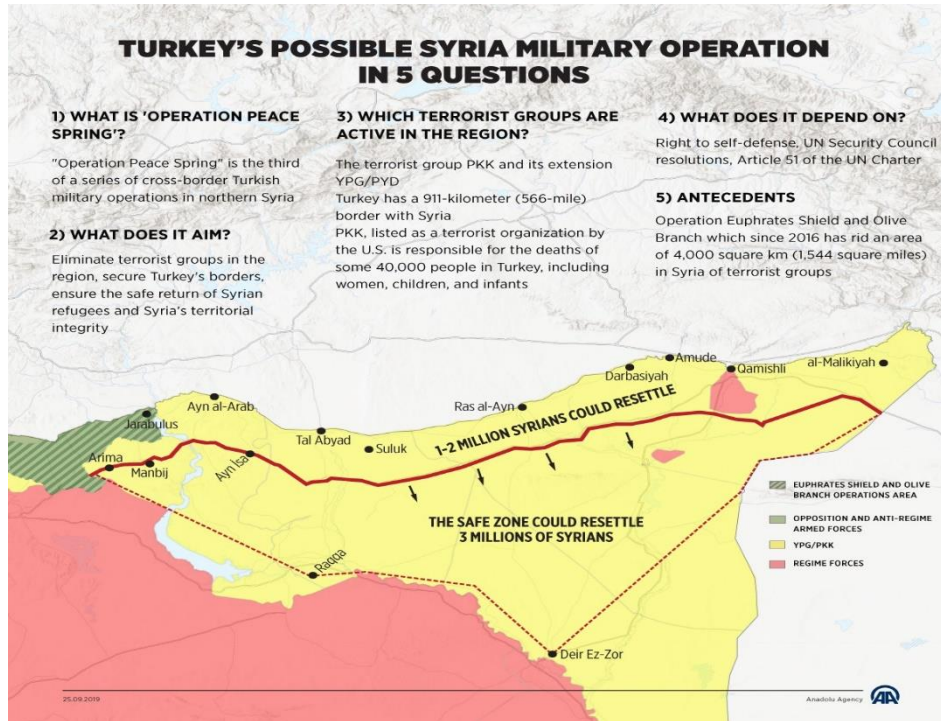
INTERNATIONAL

Operation Peace Spring

- ❖ It is an ongoing military operation conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces and the Syrian National Army against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Syrian Army in northeastern Syria.
- ❖ Recently the USA administration ordered American troops to withdraw from northeast Syria, where the United States had been supporting its Kurdish allies.
- ❖ According to Turkey, the operation is intended to expel the SDF from the border region as well as to create a 30 km-deep (20 mi) "safe zone" in Northern Syria where some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey would resettle.
- ❖ SDF is viewed as a terrorist organization by Turkey due to its ties with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) but SDF is considered an ally by the United States and its allies against ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

About Kurds

- ❖ Kurds are an Iranian ethnic group native to a mountainous region of Western Asia known as Kurdistan, which spans southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, northern Iraq, and northern Syria.
- ❖ Kurds fighting in the Syrian Civil War were able to take control of large sections of northern Syria as government forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, withdrew to fight elsewhere.
- ❖ Having established their own government, they called for autonomy in a federal Syria.



First All Women Spacewalk

- ❖ The world's first all-female spacewalking team made history when they floated out of the International Space Station (ISS) to fix a broken part of the power network.
- ❖ Nasa astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir marked the first time in a half-century of spacewalking that a woman floated out “without a male” crewmate.
- ❖ America's first female spacewalker from 35 years ago, Kathy Sullivan greeted the team.
- ❖ Jessica Meir became the 228th person in the world to conduct a spacewalk and the 15th woman.
- ❖ It was the fourth spacewalk for Koch, who is seven months into an 11-month mission that will be the longest ever by a woman.

