

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 7 & 8, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government – approves DLF Limited to develop a 2.5million sqft IT/ ITES park at Taramani within the next 18 months**
- ✓ DLF Limited, one of India’s largest real estate developers, has successfully resolved a 10-year-old dispute with the state-owned Tidco for developing an IT park on a 26.64-acre prime land in Velachery-Taramani road

**LONG
DRAWN
BATTLE**

How the DLF saga panned out for over a decade



- In 2008, DLF won the bid by offering ₹750 crore for 26.64 acres land parcel in Taramani
- Citing the MRTS railway line passing through its land parcel, DLF asked TN Govt to refund its money
- As the state government refused to return the money, DLF moved Madras high court
- After SEZ stipulations were scaled down by the Centre, on March 7, 2018, DLF requested for approval to implement the SEZ project
- The JV between DLF and Tidco on November 14, 2018 sought state government’s nod to develop it as IT/ITES Park and not as SEZ project
- TN govt approved the request on September 20, 2019

- ✓ The company bagged the tender for a 99-year lease of the land in 2008 by paying ₹750 crore

NATIONAL

◆ Jal Shakti Ministry - has launched 'Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan' on October 7



- ✓ It is a unique open-water rafting and kayaking expedition on river Ganga to create awareness on Ganga rejuvenation and water conservation.
- ✓ The Abhiyan will be held for 33 days starting from October 10 to November 11, 2019.
- ✓ Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat would lead the 9-member teams comprising of personnel from IAF, NDRF, WII and CSIR-IITR, by participating himself in the event
- ✓ During the course of expedition, the CSIR-IITR will be collecting water samples from the river for water testing and the WII members would conduct a flora and fauna census for the year 2019.
- ✓ The expedition will be led by international open-water swimmer Wing Commander Paramvir Singh
- ✓ Paramvir Singh is the only person to have swum across the entire stretch of Ganga from Devprayag to Gangasagar in 2015.
- ✓ Indian Air Force's Paramvir Singh holds 13 world records, 3 Asian records and 7 national records.
- ✓ The expedition marks the first-ever effort by the National Mission for Clean Ganga to raft across the entire river, highlighting the ecological problems faced by the river
- ✓ The expedition will start from Devprayag and conclude at Ganga Sagar, covering the entire stretch of 2500 Km of the Ganga River.
- ✓ Devprayag is the merging point of Bhagirathi and Alaknanda and emerging point of the Ganga.
- ✓ The expedition will cover across five states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

PERSONALITIES

◆ Dr Vishnu Nandan – is chosen as the only Indian among 300 scientists from across the world aboard the Multidisciplinary drifting observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) expedition



- ✓ A native of Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram, the 32-year-old polar scientist is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Manitoba.
- ✓ MOSAiC, the largest ever Arctic expedition in history, is spearheaded by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany
- ✓ It will be the first to conduct a study of this magnitude at the North Pole for an entire year.
- ✓ Previous studies were of shorter duration as the thicker sea ice sheets prevent access in winter.
- ✓ The expedition will be carried out aboard the German research vessel, Polarstern
- ✓ The vessel will be anchored on the thick sheet of sea ice in the Central Arctic during the pitch-black polar winter.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Nasa – announced that the first spacewalk to be conducted entirely by women is scheduled for October 21**



- ✓ The all-female spacewalk, to be undertaken by astronauts Christina Koch and Anne McClain, was earlier cancelled in March because two properly fitted spacesuits were not readily available.
- ✓ However, Koch joined fellow astronaut Nick Hague to conduct a six-hour mission then
- ✓ Koch will now join astronaut Jessica Meir this month on the first all-women venture outside of the International Space Station (ISS) to install lithium-ion batteries to better serve the station's power supply.
- ✓ McClain returned back to Earth in June after orbiting the planet more than 3,000 times in 204 days
- ✓ Koch, who arrived on the space station in March, is on her way to set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman
- ✓ Nasa is planning to conduct around 10 spacewalks in the next three months, a sort of record since the space station was completed in 2011
- ✓ The agency lists 38 active astronauts on its website with 12 being women

AWARDS

- ◆ **William G. Kaelin Jr., Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza – to be honoured with Nobel Prize in Medicine in recognition of their work in discovering how cells adapt to varying oxygen levels.**

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

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

Source: Nobelprize.org Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

- ✓ Their research work has established the foundation of understanding how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism and physiological function
- ✓ The work paves way to devise new strategies in fighting diseases such as cancer and anaemia, as oxygen availability to various cells is the key in curing various diseases
- ✓ William G. Kaelin Jr., is a professor of medicine at Harvard University and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- ✓ Sir Peter J Ratcliffe is the director of clinical research at the Francis Crick Institute in London and the Target Discovery Institute in Oxford
- ✓ Gregg L Semenza is a professor at Johns Hopkins University and the director of the Vascular Research Program at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Cell Engineering.
- ✓ The Nobel Prize in Medicine 2018 was jointly awarded to James P. Allison from the US and Japan's Tasuku Honjo for their pioneering work on immunotherapy, using the body's immune system to attack cancer.

SPORTS

- ◆ **India's ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin - became the joint fastest to take 350 wickets, equalling Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan's feat in his 66th Test**

ASHWIN'S 350 MARCH

R Ashwin joined Muttiah Muralitharan as the second quickest to record 350 Test wickets



Ashwin (c) celebrates his 350th wicket

Bowler	Tests	Time taken
Muttiah Muralitharan (SL)	66	9 years 9 days
Ravichandran Ashwin (India)	66	7 years 330 days
Richard Hadlee (NZ)	69	14 years 38 days
Dale Steyn (SA)	69	9 years 9 days
Dennis Lillee (Aus)	70	12 years 338 days
Glenn McGrath (Aus)	74	7 years 277 days

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

- ✓ Ashwin, who played his first international game since December 2018, took his 27th five-wicket haul in the first innings of the opening Test against South Africa

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **World Cotton Day – October 7**

- ✓ The first-ever World Cotton Day (WCD) will be hosted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva on October 7, 2019



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to highlight the benefits associated with the production, transformation, trade and consumption of Cotton apart from focusing on the challenges faced globally by the cotton economies
- ✓ The WTO announced the World Cotton Day event at the request of four cotton countries- Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad and Mali in recognition of their application to the United Nations
- ✓ Cotton is produced globally in arid climactic conditions with only 2.1% of land share meeting 27% of the requirement of global textile sector
- ✓ On the occasion, the Cotton Corporation of India will be displaying various grades of raw cotton including SUVIN, the finest quality of extra-long staple cotton produced in Tamil Nadu, which has the highest fibre length.
- ✓ The Indian delegation to the meet was represented by the Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani who attended the 5-day event.

- ✓ India pavilion at the World Cotton Day exhibition was designed by fashion institute NIFT.

INDIA'S AIR POWER - REPORT

◆ Defence minister Rajnath Singh - to perform 'Shastra Puja' (worship of weapons) on the occasion of Dussehra after receiving the first of 36 Rafale jets in Bordeaux in France on October 8

- ✓ After performing puja, he will take a sortie in the aircraft to understand the various features of aircraft
- ✓ French Minister of Armed Forces, Florence Parly will also accompany the Minister during the handing-over ceremony
- ✓ The first batch of four aircraft is expected to reach India by May next year
- ✓ India and France had signed an inter-governmental agreement for the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 59,000 crore in September 2016
- ✓ Rafale is a multi-role combat aircraft with twin engines, designed and built by Dassault Aviation of France
- ✓ It is capable of hosting a wide range of weapons and missiles intended at performing air supremacy, in-depth strike and anti-ship strike and also nuclear deterrence missions.

