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A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

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National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

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- Indian Government has recently renamed National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) as “National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research”.
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- NCAOR was formed in 1998 with an objective to conduct expedition to India’s base stations in Antarctica.
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- NCAOR is under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
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- The intent behind the name change is to show that government is refocusing its priorities to Arctic.
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- It is because of the opportunities and challenges posed by climate change in Arctic.
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- Now, India only has one Arctic observation station near Norway.
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- India is already an observer at the Arctic Council.
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Arctic Council

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- It is a forum of countries that decides on managing the region’s resources and popular livelihood in Arctic region.
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- The **Ottawa Declaration** lists the few countries as Members of the Arctic Council.

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- They are Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.

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- **Observer countries** are China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

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- India setup an underground observatory, called IndARC in 2015.

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- It is located at the Kongsfjorden fjord, half way between Norway and the North Pole.

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Samagra Shiksha Scheme

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- Samagra Shiksha is an Integrated Scheme for School Education formulated by the Department of School Education.

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- It is a centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) subsumes 3 erstwhile CSS schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

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- It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII.

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- It aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

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- It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.

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Workshop on Empowering Women

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- The workshop was jointly organised by Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and University of Delhi.

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- WEP was launched by Niti Aayog the occasion of International Women's Day,

2018.

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- The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.

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- The three pillars on which WEP is built:

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1. Ichha Shakti (motivating aspiring entrepreneurs to start their enterprise)
2. Gyaan Shakti (providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship)
3. Karma Shakti (providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting-up and scaling up businesses).

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Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan

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- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has organised “Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan” in Ganga basin states.
- The campaign has been initiated as part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component of Namami Gange programme.
- It aims to bring greater awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding the importance of afforestation for the task of Ganga Rejuvenation
- Afforestation and augmentation of existing forest along the Ganga strengthen the riparian ecosystem thereby contributing to the overarching cause of Ganga Rejuvenation.
- The five states covered are Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

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LIDAR

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- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a remote sensing instrument.
- It is used as a monitoring system for mapping and modelling in -micro-topography, forestry, agriculture, meteorology and environmental pollution.
- LiDAR has been recently deployed at Gulf of Khambhat, off the Gujarat Coast by National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE).
- The objective of the installation is to assess offshore wind resource.

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National Resource Centres

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- The Government has proposed to set up National Resource Centres (NRCs) to prepare online training material.
- The resource centres will focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.
- Under this initiative, all in-service teachers, irrespective of their subject and seniority have an enabling opportunity to keep update of the latest developments in their disciplines through the technology based online refresher course, through **SWAYAM** platform.

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Source: The Hindu, PIB

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