

January - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Claire Polosak of Australia has become the first woman to match official in men's test.
 - She is to take up as the fourth umpire role in the third test of Australia-India series starting at Sydney Cricket Ground.
- ❖ The Central government has decided to form a 10-member committee for the protection of the language, land, and culture of the Ladakh region.
 - The committee by the government will be headed by G Kishan Reddy, the Minister of State for Home.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has rolled out 'Launch Pad Scheme' to make the youth in the state self-reliant.
- ❖ The Bombay High Court recently declared that the advertisement of an article using the name of god and claiming that it has Supernatural qualities is illegal.

NATIONAL

Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)

- ❖ PM inaugurated the 306 km New Rewari-New Madar Section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- ❖ The new stretch will be for commercial operations between Rajasthan's Madar and Haryana's Rewari.
- ❖ During the event, PM Modi also flagged off the 1.5 km long world's first Double Stack Long Haul container train.
- ❖ It is hauled by electric traction from Ateli in Haryana to Kishangarh in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Western Dedicated Freight Corridor starts from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Mumbai in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Corridor passes through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi NCT, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Western DFC meets Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) at Khurja in Uttar Pradesh.



MAKING STRIDES TO TRANSFORM RAIL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

PM Narendra Modi Dedicates to the Nation, Rewari-Madar Section of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor & Flags-off Double Stack Container Train

Push to National Development

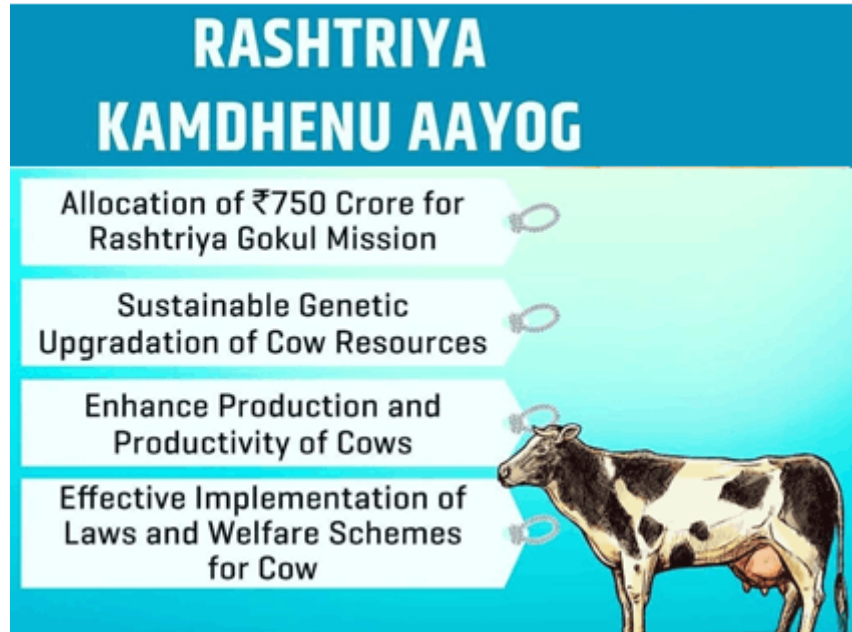
-  Increase in farmers' income through Kisan Rails
-  Boost to export traffic
-  Transforming economic ecosystem

Vertical and Horizontal Reservations

- ❖ Through the Saurav Yadav case, the Supreme Court clarified the position of law on the interplay of vertical and horizontal reservations.
- ❖ The Supreme court has ruled against the Uttar Pradesh government order.
- ❖ Vertical reservation refers to as reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- ❖ Horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.

Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog

- ❖ It is a high powered permanent advisory body.
- ❖ It helps the Central Government to develop programmes for conservation, sustainable development and genetic upgradation of indigenous breeds of cows.
- ❖ It will function as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
- ❖ It is constituted to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds.



INTERNATIONAL

US Capitol riots

- ❖ The supporters of President Donald Trump storming into the building of the US Capitol in Washington DC.
- ❖ The US Capitol houses both the US Senate and the House of Representatives.
- ❖ The Capitol Building, built in 1800, is the meeting place of the United States Congress.
- ❖ The US Congress was set to officially ratify President-elect Joe Biden's electoral victory.
- ❖ Twitter went to lock President Trump's twitter account for 12 hours to stop any further instigation to the already violent protests.
- ❖ Many people have reportedly urged the Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove Trump from the highest office.
- ❖ The 25th Amendment lays down the procedure on how a US President or Vice President can be succeeded or replaced.
- ❖ As per the Amendment, the Vice President becomes President if the sitting President dies, resigns or is removed from the office.
- ❖ The 25th Amendment was proposed by the Congress on July 6, 1965 after the assassination of the 35th President of the United States - John K Kennedy.



Next US President

- ❖ The US Congress has confirmed the victory of Joe Biden as the next United States' President.
- ❖ Biden cleared the desired majority mark of 270 Electoral Votes.
- ❖ 306 were in favour of Joe Biden and 232 were in favour of the current President Donald Trump.
- ❖ Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the next President of the United States of America on January 20, 2021.



ECONOMY

Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)

- ❖ This fund was operationalised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ It is to increase payments acceptance infrastructure by adding 30 lakh touch points every year in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres.
- ❖ There would be special focus on the north-eastern states.
- ❖ An Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo, has been constituted for managing the PIDF.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Stratospheric Warming

- ❖ Sudden stratospheric warming (SSW) event took place January 5, 2021.
- ❖ This would be the reason behind the very cold weather in large parts of the world.
- ❖ It was potentially the most dangerous kind, where the polar vortex split into two smaller 'child' vortices.
- ❖ The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles.



ENVIRONMENT

Human wildlife conflict advisory

- ❖ The National Board of Wildlife recently approved the advisory for management of human wildlife conflict.
- ❖ The advisory envisages to empower the gram panchayats to deal with human wildlife conflict under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The advisory the National Board of Wildlife has also included Caracal into list of critically endangered species.

STATES

New Anubhava Mantapa

- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa laid the foundation stone for the 'New Anubhava Mantapa' in Basavakalyan.
- ❖ It is the place where 12th century poet-philosopher Basavanna lived for most of his life.
- ❖ The building will adopt the Kalyana Chalukya style of architecture.
- ❖ Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka.
- ❖ Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.

