

November - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Every Year the National Journalism Day is celebrated on 17 November in India.
- ❖ Ayodhya's 'Deepotsav' celebrations entered into Guinness World Records.
 - Around 5,84,572 earthen lamps were lit on the banks of river Saryu.
- ❖ The star of Bengali cinema and winner of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award Soumitra Chatterjee recently passed away.
- ❖ The writer Rachna Bisht Rawat recently published her book 'Insomnia: Army Stories'.

NATIONAL

National Database of Unorganised sector

- ❖ The National Database of Unorganised Workers will maintain the database of the workers using their 12-digit Aadhaar number.
- ❖ It will be the first-ever national database for Unorganised workers and migrant workers.
- ❖ It will be maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ❖ The aim is to give a proper platform to migrant labourers.
- ❖ It will also make it easy for the government to implement programmes for the unorganised sector.
- ❖ It can also help in keeping a track of workers' movement in situations like COVID-19.
- ❖ Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 had first mandated that every worker be registered and issued a smart ID card.

India's Longest Road Bridge on River

- ❖ It will be the country's longest road bridge (around 20 KM) to be built over a river.
- ❖ It will be built for the National Highway 127B across the Brahmaputra.
- ❖ The travel distance from Dhubri of Assam to Phulbari of Meghalaya will be cut to 19.2 km from 205 km.
- ❖ L&T is lowest bidder for the construction of this bridge.



INTERNATIONAL

G20 historic debt Deal

- ❖ G20 strikes historic debt pact to help poor Covid-hit countries
- ❖ It is the first time the G20 agreed on a common approach for restructuring government debt
- ❖ It is because the Covid crisis leaves poorer nations at risk of default.
- ❖ The USA would be monitoring its implementation.
- ❖ China accounted for 63% of overall debt owed to G20 countries in 2019.
- ❖ Zambia is on the brink of becoming Africa's first COVID-era sovereign default.
- ❖ The scheme borrows heavily from rules established by Paris Club group.

Paris Club group

- ❖ It was established in 1956.
- ❖ It is an informal grouping that meets on monthly basis at Paris.
- ❖ It is to find workable solutions to payment problems faced by debtor nations.
- ❖ It has 19 member countries.
- ❖ Most of them are Scandinavian countries, European countries, USA and UK.

ECONOMY

Mission COVID Suraksha

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Mission COVID Suraksha.
- ❖ Under the mission, the Government of India has allocated Rs 900 crores to the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines in India.
- ❖ The funds allocated do not cover the cost and distribution of the vaccines.
- ❖ Currently three vaccines are in trial in India.
- ❖ They are COVAXIN, COVISHIELD and the ZyCov-D vaccine.
- ❖ COVAXIN is being developed by Indian Council of Medical Research and Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ COVISHIELD is being developed by Oxford University and Serum Institute of Technology.
- ❖ ZyCov-D is being developed by Zydus Cadila.
- ❖ The Russian Vaccine Sputnik V is also under trials in the country.



India in historic recession

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India published 'nowcast,' first of its kind.
- ❖ It is an estimate based on high-frequency data.
- ❖ India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history
- ❖ According to RBI, India's economy declined for a second straight quarter (July to September).
- ❖ Gross domestic product contracted 8.6 per cent in the quarter ended September.
- ❖ The economy had slumped about 24 per cent in April to June.
- ❖ The term Recession refers to a significant decline in general economic activity.
- ❖ It is recognized as two consecutive quarters of economic decline, as reflected by GDP.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX and NASA

- ❖ NASA has officially certified SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule and the Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ It is making it the first spacecraft certification provided by the space agency.
- ❖ This means SpaceX can now operate regular flights to the space station.

Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles (QRSAM)

- ❖ India test fired all-weather Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles at the Chandipur Test Fire Range in Odisha.
- ❖ It is capable of striking aerial target at a height of 15 km.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Children's Peace Prize 2020

- ❖ Sadat Rahman of Bangladesh was awarded this prize for this year.
- ❖ The prize is an initiative of Marc Dullaert, the founder of the Kids Rights Foundation.
- ❖ It is an international children's aid and advocacy organisation based in the Netherlands.



- ❖ The prize was launched during the 2005 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates at Rome of Italy.
- ❖ Since then, the prize has been presented every year by a Nobel Peace Laureate.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Students Day – November 17

- ❖ On November 17, 1939, the Nazi troops of Germany executed nine student leaders and sent over 1200 students to concentration camps in Czechoslovakia.
- ❖ Since 1941, students from all parts of the world started celebrating November 17 as the International Students Day.
- ❖ Nowadays, November 17 marks a celebration of multiculturalism of international students.
- ❖ It is also a part of the International Students Week.

International Day of Islamic Art – November 18

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of past and contemporary artistic expressions of Islam, and the contribution of culture through Islamic Art to civilization.
- ❖ It was proclaimed at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019.
- ❖ It was proposed by Bahrain.

