

November – 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Shri Ramayana Express, a special tourist train to run on Ramayana circuit to cover major spots related to Hindu epic was flagged off by Indian Railways from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi.
 - The pilgrimage circuit of Shri Ramayana Yatra will have two travel components — one each in India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has announced that the government will pay the salaries for the first 7 of 26 weeks of maternity leave for women earning more than Rs 15,000 month to the employers who hire them.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the second Mega Food Park in Maharashtra, in Wahegaon and Dhangaon village in Paithan taluka of Aurangabad district.
- ❖ T. S. Kanaka, the Asia's first and the World's Third woman Neurosurgeon passed away after a brief illness in Chennai. She was one of the first few Neurosurgeons of the World.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Secretary in Department of Revenue. He would replace Hasmukh Adhia, who retires on November 30.
- ❖ The retired Calcutta High Court Judge Asim Kumar Roy was appointed the Lokayukta of West Bengal for a period of 3 years. He will be the second Lokayukta in the state succeeding Samaresh Banerjee, who had served in the post between 2006 and 2009.

NATIONAL

Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) - Huravee

- ❖ The Indian Navy has successfully completed the refitted Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam and was formally handed over.
- ❖ This initiative was undertaken in furtherance of its diplomatic outreach to friendly foreign navies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- ❖ It was originally commissioned as INS Tillanchang, a Trinkat class patrol vessel built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata in March 2001.
- ❖ It was subsequently gifted to Maldives by Government of India in April 2006.

INTERNATIONAL

UNSC lifted sanctions against Eritrea

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council in a unanimous vote on November 14, 2018 agreed to lift the sanctions imposed against Eritrea, after nine years.
- ❖ The Security Council had imposed an arms embargo, asset freeze and a travel ban on Eritrea.

Background

- ❖ The UN had first imposed restrictions on Eritrea in 2009 after the nation was accused of supporting armed terrorist groups, including Somalia's al-Shabab.
- ❖ The resolution, drafted by the UK, was backed by the US and its allies. However, Eritrea has always denied the accusations.
- ❖ The UN vote comes amid a thaw in relations between Eritrea and its neighbours following the years of conflict.
- ❖ Eritrea agreed on a peace deal with Ethiopia in June 2018 following two decades of animosity.
- ❖ While the leader of Eritrea and the UN-backed government in Somalia recently signed a joint cooperation agreement.
- ❖ Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in the early 1990s, and war broke out later that decade over a border dispute.
- ❖ It is an African nation which is bordered by Sudan in the west, Ethiopia in the south, and Djibouti in the southeast.

Africa's First Ever High-Speed Train Line

- ❖ The Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa was unveiled at Tangier.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by the French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI.

- ❖ During the event the king officially named the high-speed line **Al Boraq**, after a mythical winged creature that transported the prophets.
- ❖ Known as the LGV, a French word for "high speed line", it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

KOOL - Online Open Learning training platform

- ❖ The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has unveiled its Online Open Learning training platform named 'KOOL'.
- ❖ It will enable training to teachers, students and the general public.
- ❖ KOOL has been designed in a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) model.
- ❖ This will help Kerala to become India's first complete digital state in Education.
- ❖ KOOL has been developed as an expansion of 'Samagra', the resource portal of the education department.
- ❖ It will be compulsory for teachers to successfully complete 45 hours of computer course in order to clear their probation.

Kilogram Gets New Definition

- ❖ Representatives from 60 countries voted to redefine the International System of Units (SI) for weight, current, temperature and amount of chemical substance.
- ❖ All the SI units will now be defined in terms of constants that describe the natural world.
- ❖ It will bring an end to the use of physical objects to define measurement units.
- ❖ The new definitions impact four of the seven base units of the SI:
 - The kilogram, ampere, kelvin and mole; and
 - All units derived from them, such as the Volt (V), ohm (Ω) and Joule (J).
- ❖ The definition of the kilogram will now be replaced by the Planck constant – the fundamental constant of quantum physics.
- ❖ Until now, it has been defined as the mass of a platinum-iridium lump, the so-called Grand K, that is kept in a secured vault on the outskirts of Paris.
- ❖ It has been the world's one true kilo, against which all others were measured, since 1889.
- ❖ The decision has been made at the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles, France, which is organised by Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

THE SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL UNITS

UNIT	QUANTITY	HOW IT IS/WILL BE DEFINED
Meter*	Distance	Based on speed of light
Kilogram**	Mass	To be based on Planck constant
Second*	Time	Based on radiation of caesium-133 atom
Ampere**	Current	To be based on an electron's charge
Kelvin**	Temperature	To be based on Boltzmann constant
Mole**	Amount of substance	To be based on Avogadro constant
Candela*	Luminous intensity	From efficacy of light of specific frequency

*Current definition stands **Being redefined

IMPORTANT DAYS

Naturopathy Day – 18 November

- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) celebrated the first Naturopathy Day on 18 November, 2018 throughout India.
- ❖ It aims to promote the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.
- ❖ The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, an autonomous body under the AYUSH Ministry, organised health camps, workshops and exhibitions from 14th to 18th Nov.
- ❖ In Delhi, a community mud bath was organised at Balaji Nirogdham where 700 people took bath simultaneously.
- ❖ This was a World record and has now been registered in the Asia Book of Records.
- ❖ Mud bath is one of the five natural elements of naturopathy treatment.



MISCELLANEOUS

Chief guest - 2019 Republic Day parade of India

- ❖ The South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be the chief guest at the 2019 Republic Day parade of India.
- ❖ With this, Ramaphosa would become the second leader from his country to attend the event.
- ❖ The Former President Nelson Mandela was the chief guest at the 1995 parade.
