

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 20, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- Southern Railways – bagged 2 out of the total 7 awards – at the 16th National Congress of Indian Steam Railway Society – held in New Delhi




- ✓ The two awards were in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the cause of revival of vintage steam locomotives – EIR-21 and X-37392
- ✓ EIR-21, the 163-year old steam locomotive was refurbished by Perumbur Loco Works
- ✓ It has been recommended for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records
- ✓ The century-year old 'X' Class Metre gauge Coal-fired locomotive 'X-37392' was overhauled by the mechanical wing of Southern Railway

- **Chennai Corporation – to inaugurate two biomethanation plants at Perambur**

HOW IT WORKS

- > Existing bio gas plants in the city | 4
- > 2 new ones in final stages of work at Perambur slaughter house

HOW IT WORKS | Cow dung, slaughter waste will be fed into the plant



- > Cow dung will create a culture that will act as a catalyst to produce methane
- > Methane will be stored in balloons
- > 1 tonne waste will produce gas to fill 1.5 cylinders, which is 14.6kgs of LPG gas

- ✓ They are of 5-tonne capacity - sufficient to generate 15 LPG cylinders worth of methane and produce 90-100 kg of manure everyday
- ✓ It will be installed at the slaughterhouse in Perambur to generate energy from meat, bones and blood waste
- ✓ The city already has 4 biomethanation plants at Athipattu, Velangadu, Otteri each of 3 tonne capacity and one at the slaughter house in Pulianthope of 2 tonne capacity
- **Samudra Pehredar, Indian Coast Guard's dedicated Pollution control vessel – arrives at the Kamarajar Port in Ennore**



- ✓ It has arrived to help in the Clean-up operations after the spillage of nearly 2 tonnes of oil into the sea while being transferred from a merchant ship 'MT Coral Stars'

STATES

- **Maharashtra – Central Government to set up a new 'Animation, Gaming and Visual effects Institute' in Mumbai**
- ✓ This was announced by Rajyavardhan Rathore, Information and Broadcasting Minister
- ✓ The setting up of new institute will encourage youth to participate in the field of Film and cinematography

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – launches ‘Ease of Doing Business Grand Challenge’**



- ✓ The challenge is to provide innovative ideas to reform Government processes using cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Blockchain etc.,
- ✓ The platform for the grand challenge will be the Start-up India portal
- ✓ The top 3 teams for each problem statement would be awarded cash prizes worth Rs 1 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3 lakh respectively
- ✓ In the World Bank's Doing Business Report, released on October 31, 2018, India is at 77th position in 2018 among 190 countries (from 100th position in 2017)
- ✓ India also recorded the highest improvement in 2 years by any large country since 2011 by improving its rank by 53 positions

- **Union Government – launches the upgraded version of ‘AirSewa 2.0’ web portal and a Mobile App**



- ✓ It was released by Suresh Prabhu, Civil Aviation Minister and Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation
- ✓ The new web portal allow flyers to register their complaints through social media using the hashtag 'AirSewa'
- ✓ It also provides all relevant information regarding the real-time flight status, flight schedules, assistance available to the disabled apart from the option to provide feedback by the air travelers
- ✓ During the occasion, the Minister presented ‘AirSewa Champion Award’ to ‘Chennai airport’ for 100% grievance redressal in the past year



- ✓ The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched AirSewa web portal and mobile app in November 2016

- **Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal – have withdrawn the ‘General Consent’ for CBI investigation in their states**
- ✓ CBI is governed by Delhi special police Establishment Act and has jurisdiction only over Central Government employees and departments
- ✓ CBI needs the consent of a state government for conducting investigation in cases involving state Government employees or any crime in the state
- ✓ All the states in the country have given such consent
- ✓ Alternatively, National Investigation Agency (NIA) has jurisdiction over the entire country as it is governed by its own NIA Act

- **Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog and Parameswaran Iyer, Sanitation Secretary – participated in the country’s first ever ‘Toilet Parliament’ in Wajidpur village in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh**



- ✓ They have opened a twin pit toilet and cleaned it to end the stigma among masses of how to handle it
- ✓ The initiative marks the celebration of ‘World Toilet Day’ in the country
- **India – to develop a prototype of new ‘Kilogram’ standard within the next 3 years – at a cost of Rs 60 crore**
- ✓ The National Physical Laboratory in association with the Ministry of Consumer affairs will develop one kg prototype
- ✓ Already, USA, UK, Canada and Germany have successfully developed Kibble balance for one kg.
- ✓ Kibble balance is a self-calibrating electromechanical balance which provides the measurement of mass linking to the Planck constant
- ✓ Currently, the International prototype of ‘Kilogram’ is made of 90% platinum and 10% iridium and is a cylinder of 39 mm each of diameter and height
- ✓ It is kept at the International bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France
- ✓ Now, it will be replaced by Planck constant (h), the fundamental constant of quantum physics

COMMITTEES

- **Baba Kalyani-led Committee – submitted its report on India’s SEZ Policy – to Suresh Prabhu, Commerce Minister**



- ✓ Earlier, the Commerce Ministry had constituted a committee in June 2018 under Baba Kalyani, Chairman, Bharat Forge – to make its Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy compatible with World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) rules
- ✓ India’s SEZ Policy was implemented from April 1, 2000
- ✓ Later, the SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on February 10, 2006

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **26th General Conference on Weights & Measures – concludes in Versailles, France during November 13-16, 2018**



- ✓ In the historic Conference, more than 60 nations voted unanimously for a new system to redefine Kilogram, Ampere, the Kelvin and the mole
- ✓ Hereafter, the units will not be based on physical artefacts or arbitrary quantities, but based on fundamental Constants of nature like Planck’s constant
- ✓ The move is due to the minor variation in the Physical standards kept in jars due to the presence of microparticles of dust and variation in atmospheric conditions
- ✓ A kilogram will now be defined with a fundamental value called ‘Planck’s constant’ involving an accurate weighing machine called ‘Kibble balance’

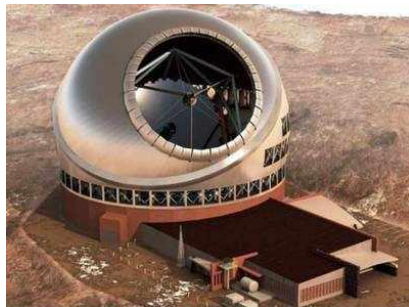
THE DEFINING CONSTANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS			
Defining constant	Symbol	Numerical value	Unit
hyperfine transition frequency of Cs	Δ_{Cs}	9 192 631 770	Hz
speed of light in vacuum	c	299 792 458	m s ⁻¹
Planck constant*	h	6.626 070 15 × 10 ⁻³⁴	J Hz ⁻¹
elementary charge*	e	1.602 176 634 × 10 ⁻¹⁹	C
Boltzmann constant*	k	1.380 658 × 10 ⁻²³	J K ⁻¹
Avogadro constant*	N_A	6.022 140 76 × 10 ²³	mol ⁻¹
luminous efficacy	K_{cd}	683	lm W ⁻¹

*These numbers are from the CODATA 2017 special adjustment. They were calculated from data available before the 1st of July 2017.

- ✓ This redefinition of SI unit is the most significant since the 1967 recalculation of 'second'
- ✓ The SI system was introduced in 1960
- ✓ The new definitions agreed by the countries will come into force on May 20, 2019, World Metrology Day

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The GROWTH-India telescope – has made its first observation of a nova explosion**



- ✓ The 0.7m telescope is located at Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh
- ✓ It is the country's first fully robotic telescope
- ✓ It is part of a multi-country collaborative initiative known as 'Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen' (GROWTH) to observe transient events in the Universe

ECONOMY

- **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) – to launch its own Stock indices - to be designed by its own in-house development team**
- ✓ It has decided to end its ties with S&P Dow Jones, which manages BSE Sensex for the past 5 years
- ✓ The agreement between BSE and S&P Dow Jones expires on December 31, 2018 and it will not be renewed as per BSE
- ✓ Before partnering with BSE, S&P Dow Jones had been a partner of the National Stock Exchange in India
- ✓ Founded in 1875, the Bombay Stock Exchange is the oldest stock exchange in Asia
- ✓ S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC is a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies and it is the world's largest global resource for index-based concepts

AWARDS

- **Vasundhara Raje, Chief Minister of Rajasthan – conferred ‘Universal Acceptance Thought Leader’ Award by UASG (Universal Acceptance Steering Group)**



- ✓ The award recognizes the exemplary work of the Chief Minister and the IT department of the State for launching ‘Rajmail’ email service providing email address for the citizens of Rajasthan in Local ‘Indic’ script
- ✓ The technology for Rajmail was developed by Data XGen Technologies, a Rajasthan based firm
- ✓ Vasundhara Raje was also awarded the ‘Chief Minister of the Year’ award in 2018
- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), leading environment think-tank – awarded Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2018**
- ✓ The award recognizes its pioneering work in the field of environmental education and protection
- ✓ The award was announced by an international jury headed by former president, Pranab Mukherjee
- **Dr Manmohan Singh – was conferred Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, disarmament and Development for the year 2017**



- ✓ He received the prize from former Chief Justice of India TS Thakur
- ✓ The Indira Gandhi peace prize is awarded by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust annually - to organisations and individuals in recognition of creative efforts towards promoting peace and development
- ✓ It was established in 1986

SPORTS

- **Lakshya Sen – wins Bronze in Men’s singles at BWF World Junior Badminton Championships at Markham, Canada**



- ✓ The 17-year old Sen lost to World No 1, Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the Semifinals
 - ✓ This was India’s 5th overall boys singles medal in the World Junior Championships
 - ✓ Earlier, RMV Gurusaidutt (2008), B Sai Praneeth (2010), HS Prannoy (2010) and Sameer Verma (2011) have won bronze medal in the Championships
 - ✓ Siril Verma (2015) was India’s only boys’ singles silver-medallist at World Junior Championships
 - ✓ Saina Nehwal (2008) was the country’s sole gold medallist at BWF World Junior Championships apart from her Silver in 2006 in Girls singles
- **India’s Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi - won their 1st WTA doubles title at Taipei OEC Open Tennis championships**



- ✓ The win will push both within Top 200 in WTA (Women’s Tennis Association) rankings
- ✓ This win by the Pair, playing together for the first time, marks the first WTA title for an Indian player, since Sania Mirza
- ✓ Ankita Raina won a singles Bronze at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games

- **Anjum Moudgil (Punjab) – won her 1st 10m air rifle Gold medal – at the 62nd National shooting championships in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**



- ✓ The victory follows her 50m rifle 3 position victory a day earlier
- **Mehuli Ghosh (West Bengal) – won the Gold in Junior girls category 10m air rifle event**
- ✓ She also bagged gold in the youth girls category

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) – November 19 to 25**
- ✓ The various special days observed during the Ekta Week –
 - ✓ November 19 - National Integration Day
 - ✓ November 20 - Welfare of Minorities day
 - ✓ November 21 - Linguistic Harmony day
 - ✓ November 22 - Weaker Sections day
 - ✓ November 23 - Cultural Unity Day
 - ✓ November 24 - Women's day
 - ✓ November 25 - Conservation day

