

The decennial Census of 2021 has been pushed forward yet again and is unlikely to start till September 2023, at least. According to UN statistics, multiple countries had delayed their census exercises due to the pandemic, but many of them, like the U.S., U.K., China, and Bangladesh, have completed the count by now. Outdated Census information (available from the last Census in 2011) often becomes unreliable and affects those who do and do not receive the benefits of welfare schemes.

In the latest in a series of wild elephant attacks in Kerala, a daily worker was attacked by a rouge elephant at Sulthan Bathery town adjacent to the Wayanad wildlife Sanctuary in the early hours of January 6. An increase in the intrusion of people into wildlife habitats and the change in land use patterns by cultivators have exacerbated these incidents. The only solution for this is mitigation of conflict. For this, both government and society should work together as a single entity and alter perspectives towards wildlife.

3700 dams in India that will lose 26% of their total storage by 2050 due to accumulation of sediments which can undermine water security and power generation, according to the UN. The Central Water Commission said that among 141 dams, one quarter had lost at least 30% of their storage capacity.

₹1,550 crore, the worth of loans disbursed to street vendors, small-scale entrepreneurs and cattle rearers at a credit outreach program in a single day by the government, officials from the Finance Ministry informed. More than 33,000 loan sanction letters were handed over under various central government schemes.

40 percentage by which informal women workers earn lower than their male counterparts in the Indian construction and real estate sector, according to 'Pink Collar Skilling: Unleashing the Women's Power in the Real Estate Sector' report which highlights gender inequality in this sector. The report was released by Primus Partners and World Trade Center.

Supporters of Brazil's far right former President Jair Bolsonaro invaded the country's Congress, presidential palace and Supreme Court on Sunday, in a grim echo of the U.S. Capitol invasion two years ago by fans of former President Donald Trump. Leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who defeated Bolsonaro in an October election, announced a federal security intervention in Brasilia until January 31. Mr. Lula blamed Mr. Bolsonaro for inflaming his supporters after a campaign of baseless allegations of election fraud following the end of his rule marked by divisive nationalist populism.

In an unprecedented face-off, Governor R.N. Ravi on Monday abruptly walked out of the Tamil Nadu Assembly as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin disapproved of his selective deviation from the approved text of the Governor's Address to the House and moved a resolution to take on record only the

**GUJARAT HARAPPAN SITE REVEALS DEATH RITUALS OF 5000 YEARS AGO**

1. Excavations at Juna Khatiya village (Kutch district) found rows of graves with skeletal remains, ceramic pots, beaded jewellery, animal bones etc. These are from 3,200 BCE to 2,600 BCE, (pre-urban Harappan) predating several other Harappan sites in the state.
2. **Key Findings**-Other sites like Dholavira have a cemetery in and around the town, but no major habitation has been discovered here. Site demonstrates transition from earth-mound burials to stone graves. Pottery have features and style similar to those excavated from early Harappan sites in Sindh and Balochistan. Pebbles of local rock, basalt, etc were used for construction, and clay was used to bind them together.
3. **Major burial practises of Indus Valley Civilization (also known as Harappan Civilisation)**- Although varied across sites, there were three known types of burial customs: complete burial, fractional burial, and urn burial (Burial of the ashes after cremation). Most common burial method was placing body with head towards north in a simple pit or brick chamber. Grave goods including food, pottery, tools and ornaments can be found along with the body. Lothal provides evidence of burial of pairs of male and female together.

**AS SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) INCREASES IN GRID, GOVERNMENT EXPLORES STORAGE OPTIONS**

1. India needs to work on developing viable energy storage system (ESS) options to operationally sustain a huge monthly addition (average 1,000 megawatt) from renewables to electricity grid. Nearly 40% (out of India's total installed capacity of 404 GW) comes from non-fossil fuel sources such as wind, solar etc.
2. According to a recent report, India requires 160 GW of ESS by 2030. ESS enables energy from renewables to be stored and then released when needed the most. Some ESS are: Lithium-ion battery, Pumped Storage Hydropower, Thermal Storage, Compressed Air Energy Storage, Mechanical Energy Storage (e.g. Flywheels) etc.
3. Since some RE generation sources are not available all the time, storage becomes an enabling technology to: Improve reliability and resilience of RE by balancing out variability in RE generation. Maximise amount and value of solar and wind power in its electricity system. Reduce environment impacts by improving efficiencies and capabilities for electric grid.
4. **ESS initiatives taken in India**-Granting Legal status for ESS and notification of Energy Storage obligation trajectory till 2029-30. Waiver of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) Charges on Hydro Pumped Storage Projects and Battery Energy Storage System Projects etc.

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MORTH) STREAMLINED NATIONAL HIGHWAY (NH) PROJECT PROPOSALS UNDER GATISHAKTI**

1. With an aim to offer comprehensive operational estimates so that road assets under GatiShakti can be better monetised, revised format for consultations proposal submitted should include features like: Advantages project will accrue to industries and economic activities in the region. How project will contribute to multi-modal connectivity, connect manufacturing and economic zones to infrastructural connectivity.
2. MoRTH informed about the revised format in network planning group (NPG), a group of officials from ministries and departments related to infrastructure that is tasked with unified planning and integration of proposals. NPG also assists empowered group of secretaries (EGoS) on GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP). GatiShakti NMP is an integrated plan which will address the missing gaps to ensure seamless movement of people, goods & services.
3. It aims to enhance ease of living, ease of doing business, minimize disruptions and expedite completion of works with cost efficiencies. It provides comprehensive database of the ongoing & future projects of various Ministries thereby facilitating planning, designing and execution of infrastructure projects with a common vision. Six

transcript distributed to the members. Trouble began after Mr. Ravi skipped a paragraph containing references to national and regional stalwarts and the term “Dravidian model of governance”. Objecting to Mr. Ravi’s action, soon after Speaker M. Appavu read out the Tamil translation of the Governor’s tabled Address, Mr. Stalin moved a resolution to retain on the Assembly records only the printed and approved speech copy given to the members earlier.

₹91,500 crore, the debt capital raised by banks in FY23, according to ICRA Limited. Banks recorded a quantum of bonds, with gross issuances hitting an all-time high of ₹0.915 lakh crore, surpassing the previous high of ₹0.8 lakh crore in FY17. It is also likely to close FY23 with ₹1.4 lakh crore.

140 crore Indians who will benefit from government policies, as the Union government is creating such an ecosystem, the chief of National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) Bharat claimed. He said public policy in the absence of good governance could not achieve its objective.

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Union government time till March 15 to comply with its 2022 judgment upholding the One Rank, One Pension (OROP) scheme for the armed forces after the government said that it had already tabulated the pension for 25 lakh ex-service personnel.

The national efforts towards ‘Make in India’ in defence manufacturing are neither isolationist nor are they just meant for India alone, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday. On India’s G-20 Presidency, he said the endeavour was to build consensus within the G-20, and shape the agenda for a “more secure, prosperous, sustainable and just world.”

The Centre, yet again, sought time in the Supreme Court to clarify its stand on the validity of the Places of Worship Act, which protects the identity and character of religious places as they were on Independence Day. The court has listed the case again on March 21. On November 14, 2022, the court had given the Centre till December 12 to file affidavit clarifying its position after the latter had submitted “detailed consultations” were required at a “particular level”.

- pillars of GatiShakti NMP: Comprehensiveness, Prioritization, Optimization, Synchronization, Analytical and Dynamic.
4. Related News-In a recent meeting of GatiShakti NMP, MoRTH has been directed to: Open newly-constructed National Highway stretches only after conducting road safety audits. Frame a policy for implementation of smooth transition in lane configuration with adequate signage and warnings to reduce accidents. Identify measures and policy required by central and state governments to expedite electrification of all public transport vehicles.

**KEVIN Mc CARTHY ELECTED U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKER**

1. US house of Representatives (lower chamber), along with the Senate (upper chamber), is part of US Congress, i.e., the Legislative Branch. US Vice President serves as presiding officer and President of the Senate by virtue of his/her office. Speaker is the political and parliamentary leader of the House of Representatives.
2. He is simultaneously the House’s presiding officer, party leader, and institution’s administrative head, among other duties. Speaker has always been (but is not required to be) a House Member and is second in line to succeed the President, after Vice President. He is elected by the house every two years.
3. In India, Lok Sabha Speaker is the comparative office to US Speaker as both heads the elected house of the Legislative Branch. But some differences exist between the two. E.g., in India, the speaker: Need to be a Lok Sabha member to be elected. Can be outside the ruling party or coalition, based on instances. Holds office from his/her election till immediately before the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after the dissolution of the one to which he/she was elected.
4. RBI will issue 5-year and 10-year green bonds of Rs 4,000 crore each in current financial year. Green bonds are bonds issued by any sovereign entity, inter-governmental groups or alliances and corporates with the aim that proceeds of bonds are utilised for environmentally sustainable projects.

**RBI TO ISSUE SOVEREIGN GREEN BONDS (SGrBs) IN SPEAKER TWO TRANCHEs OF RS 8000 CRORE EACH**

1. Eligible projects under SGrBs framework include projects of renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, climate change adaptation, sustainable water and waste management, pollution prevention and control, green buildings, and biodiversity conservation.
2. **Significance of Green Bonds**-An important financial instrument to deal with threats of climate change and related challenges. Influence business strategy by offering investors a platform to engage in good practices. Will help India in tapping requisite finance for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing carbon intensity of economy.
3. **Challenges in realising potential of Green Bonds**-Greenwashing due to eligibility of wide range of projects. Lack of robust impact assessment framework to quantify environmental outcomes. Liquidity issues for investors as it is still a small market.
4. SGrBs by RBI will be-Issued through Uniform Price Auction and 5% will be reserved for retail investors. Eligible for Repo and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) purpose. Eligible for trading in the secondary market. Designated as specified securities for investment in Government Securities by non-residents.



“Your better answers are buried under the heap of bad answers. Dig out fast.”

**DR. KHAN**  
(KSG)