

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

27TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A study meant to investigate the cuisines of the Bronze age (approximately from 3000 BCE to 1200 BCE), found that Asian spices such as turmeric and fruits like the banana had already reached the Mediterranean more than 3000 years ago. This shows long distance trade was active even then.
- Botanists have discovered a new species of wild sun rose from the Eastern Ghats in India. The new species, named *Portulaca laljii*, discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh has unique features such as a tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils, a reddish pink flower, prolate shaped fruits, and copper brown seeds without lustre.
- Stellar flares, such as the solar flares of our Sun, which disturb space weather are often viewed as detrimental to life. A new study published in Nature Astronomy shows that these can have creative effects by driving the planets atmospheric composition to a new equilibrium. Some space weather events can help scientists detect signatures of gases that may signify biological processes.
- As the farmers' agitation for the repeal of the three farm laws completed a month, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a joint front of farmer unions, on Saturday accepted the Centre's offer for talks.
- The Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2020, which provides for a prison term of up to 10 years and a fine of ₹1 lakh for conversion through "marriage or by any other fraudulent means" got the State Cabinet's approval.
- Since its launch in August 2019, the Centre's ambitious flagship scheme Jal Jeevan Mission seeks to ensure that every rural household of the country gets assured drinking water supply by 2024, has achieved 32.3% coverage of tap connections in rural India.

ZERO COUPON BONDS(ZCB)

1. Centre has issued Rs.5,500 crore in ZCB for recapitalising the Punjab & Sind Bank.
2. **Bank recapitalisation, means infusing more capital in state-run banks so that they meet capital adequacy norms.**
3. A coupon is a periodic interest received by a bondholder from time of issuance of bond till maturity.
4. **Zero Coupon Bonds are issued at a discount and redeemed at par value or face value.** No interest payment is made on such bonds at periodic intervals before maturity.

DIGIBOXX

1. It is India's first digital asset management platform **launched by NITI Aayog.** It provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location.
2. **It is a digital file storage, sharing, and management SaaS(Software as a Service) product that provides storage options for business as well as individual users.**
3. It can act as potential alternative to Google Drive, Dropbox, and Microsoft One Drive.
4. A free account on DigiBoxx gives up to 20GB of storage space.

SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE

1. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has asked Odisha to submit a status report on the adverse impact of tourism on Satkosia Tiger Reserve.
2. Satkosia Tiger Reserve, **Bhubaneswar** comprises two adjoining sanctuaries of central Odisha named as **Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Baisipalli Sanctuary.**
3. **Lying in a transitional zone extending between the Chhota Nagpur Plateau and the Deccan Plateau,** the tiger reserve exhibits endemic life forms of both biotic provinces.

DATA FROM CHANDRAYAAN-2 RELEASED:ISRO

1. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the first set of data from the country's second mission to the Moon, the Chandrayaan-2, for the general public.
2. The Chandrayaan-2 data is required to be in the Planetary Data System-4 (PDS4) standard.
3. The ISRO Science Data Archive (ISDA) currently holds data sets acquired by Chandrayaan-2 payloads from September-2019 to February-2020 from seven instruments. **ISDA is the long-term archive for ISRO planetary missions.**
4. All experiments have been performing well and the data received **suggests excellent capability to deliver on the pre-launch promises.**

PM-KISAN

1. The Prime Minister has released the next instalment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
2. Rs. 18000 crores have been deposited in the bank account of more than 9 crore farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
3. Under the scheme, **the Centre transfers an amount of Rs. 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of the all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their landholdings.**
4. **The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/UT Governments.**