

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- Using observations made by ChemCam instrument on Curiosity rover at the base of Mount Sharp on Mars, a French-US team of scientists has deduced that water did not disappear from Mars at one go, but that it alternated between dry and wet conditions before drying up completely 3 billion years ago. The rover is scheduled to climb this mountain and study deposited layers.
- New findings from Rutgers University say corals will survive climate change. This is owing to their capacity to form rock hard skeletons, the study finds. Coral reefs protect shores threatened by erosion and also provide habitats for several species of fish. Global warming puts these at risk due to bleaching and disease. Biomineralisation or the process of building reefs, was studied by the scientists.
- Scientists have sequenced the oldest known genomes of Homo sapiens that has been isolated from remains found in caves in Bulgaria and Czech Republic in two studies. The Nature report says these remains are more than 45,000 years old and indicate Homo sapiens interbred with Neanderthals and other extinct relatives. Yet, these individuals are not related to later Europeans.
- A study of African elephant habitat shows that an area of 18 million square kilometres in Africa still has the potential to act as a home of this pachyderm. African elephants' habitat is currently restricted to 17% of what it could be if not for poaching, killing for ivory and other threats from humans. The study published brings both good and bad news for their conservation.
- Fermilab, which houses the American particle accelerator, has released the first results from its 'muon g2' experiment. These results spotlight the anomalous behaviour of the elementary particle called the muon.

## INDIA-SEYCHELLES

1. Recently, a virtual meet was held between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Seychelles.
2. Inaugurated the new magistrates' court building in Mahé and 10 community development projects in Seychelles.
3. India has so far taken up 29 small people-oriented development projects in Seychelles. India handed over a fast patrol vessel (PS Zoroaster) to the island nation.
4. **Seychelles is central to India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). India is honoured to be a partner of Seychelles in the development of its security capabilities** and in meeting its infrastructural and developmental needs.

## MEETING OF EDUCATION MINISTERS OF E9 COUNTRIES

1. Recently, a consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries was held. The meeting was held on the theme 'E9 initiative: **Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards SDG4**'.
2. The United Nations (UN) is spearheading a global initiative on digital learning and skills for all, targeting marginalized children and youth and aiming to close the digital divide and drive rapid change in education systems.
3. **E9 Partnership was first established in 1993, formed to achieve the goals of UNESCO's Education For All (EFA).**
4. **A group of E9 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan)** aims at strengthening political will and collective effort to ensure quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

## US RESTORES AID TO PALESTINE

1. The United States, in a significant reversal to the earlier policy, has **announced the restoration of at least USD 235 million in financial assistance to the Palestinians.**
2. UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) funds would include educational assistance for at least 5,00,000 Palestinian children living in West Asia.
3. The decades-long conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is rooted in competing claims to the Holy Land, and includes disputes over borders, Jerusalem, security, and Palestinian refugees. The Israel-Palestine Conflict can be traced back to 1917.
4. **India recognised Israel in 1950 but it is also the first non-Arab country to recognise Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** as the sole representative of the Palestinian.

## EUs SUPPORT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA: CLIMATE CHANGE

1. The European Union (EU) has earmarked millions of euros for supporting climate friendly development in Southeast Asia.
2. After the EU became a "strategic partner" of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc in December 2020, both blocs pledged to make climate change policy a key area of cooperation.
3. The EU is the largest provider of development assistance to the ASEAN region, and has committed millions of euros.
4. **India's Coordination with Asean on Climate Change: ASEAN-India Green Fund was established in 2007 with USD 5 million for funding pilot projects to promote adaptation and mitigation technologies in the field of climate change.** ASEAN and India are collaborating on several projection Climate Change and biodiversity through partnership with IISc, Bangalore.