

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

18TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- In six expeditions led over the last two decades, researchers led by those from CNRS in Paris have made an estimate of the amount of extraterrestrial dust falling on the Earth every year. In the expeditions, the researchers collected micrometeorites that measure between 30 and 200 micrometres and estimated that 5,200 tonnes of them fall on Earth every year.
- In all, 2.5 billion Tyrannosaurus rex individuals have walked on the Earth, a new study published in Science estimates. Using facts known about T. rex and the relation between body mass and population density observed in living creatures, the study estimates that at any time about 20,000 individuals inhabited the Earth. Multiplied by 1,27,000 generations, this yields the total number.
- The Indian programme to study the Sun and the region between the Sun and the Earth from space – AdityaL1 – is due to be launched next year. It will carry seven payloads which have been developed by various institutions across the country.
- The Tiki Formation in Madhya Pradesh, a treasure trove of vertebrate fossils, has now yielded a new species and two genera of cynodonts, small rat-like animals that lived about 220 million years ago.
- NASA said it has awarded SpaceX a \$2.9 billion contract to build a spacecraft to bring astronauts to the moon as early as 2024, picking it over Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin and defence contractor Dynetics Inc.
- Facing swift blowback from allies and aid groups, the White House said President Joe Biden plans to lift his predecessor's historically low cap on refugees by next month.
- Raul Castro said he is stepping down as head of Cuba's Communist Party, ending an era of formal leadership that began with his brother Fidel Castro and country's 1959 revolution.

CARBON TAX COULD HELP ASIAN COUNTRIES HIT CLIMATE TARGETS

1. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director stated that carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective way to curb emissions.
2. Asian countries account for almost half of the world's carbon emissions. Carbon pricing is a market-based strategy for lowering global warming emissions by putting a price on carbon emissions.
3. **Carbon tax** that directly sets a price on carbon by defining a tax rate on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or on the carbon content fossil fuels.
4. **Emissions trading systems (ETS)** that caps total level of GHG emissions and allow those industries with low emissions to sell their extra allowances to large emitters. Some 40 countries already use carbon pricing mechanisms.

INDIA IN US CURRENCY PRACTICES MONITORING LIST

1. The United States (US) placed 11 countries, including India in the Currency Practices Monitoring List (Currency Manipulators Watch List).
2. **Currency Manipulators:** This is a label given by the US government to countries it feels are engaging in "unfair currency practices" by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar.
3. The practice would mean that the **country in question is artificially lowering the value of its currency to gain an unfair advantage over others.**
4. Inclusion in the list does not subject to any kind of penalty and sanctions but it deteriorates the global financial image of the country in the financial markets in terms of foreign exchange policies including undervaluation of currencies to gain export advantages.

GLOBAL DIABETES COMPACT: WHO

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a Global Diabetes Compact to better fight the disease while marking the centenary of the discovery of insulin.
2. The Global Diabetes Compact has the vision of **reducing the risk of diabetes, and ensuring that all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable and quality treatment and care.**
3. It will also support the prevention of type 2 diabetes from obesity, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity. It will set standards for tackling the diseases in the form of 'global coverage targets' for ensuring a wider reach of diabetes care.
4. Diabetes is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (a hormone that regulates blood sugar, or glucose), or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.

WHITEST EVER PAINT REFLECTS 99% OF SUNLIGHT

1. The newer paint is whiter and keeps the surface areas it is painted on cooler and thus can act as a breakthrough in combating the woes of global warming.
2. The new **ultrawhite white paint reflects 99% of all light that hits it, remaining significantly cooler** than the ambient temperature, even when sitting in full sunlight.
3. Barium Sulphate is used to make photo paper and cosmetics white. Different sized particles of this chemical compound, helps in scattering different amounts of light. This allows for light to scatter in a broad range, resulting in the highest reflectance.
4. The paint could be the closest equivalent to the blackest black paint Vantablack, which is able to absorb 99.9% of visible light.