

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

1ST AUGUST 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Areas with ground temperatures that remain below zero degrees Celsius for more than two years are called permafrost. These are found in mountains as well as high latitude Tundra and Taiga regions. About 13% of such an area on Daisetsu Mountains in Japan, estimated to be approximately 150 square kilometres in 2010, is likely to disappear by 2100, under business as usual scenario.

New research finds that a uniquely shaped brain may be the reason why the ancestors of modern birds escaped the massive extinction 66 million years ago that killed dinosaurs. A 70-million-year-old Ichthyornis fossil with its skull intact sheds a clue to this. By creating 3D replicas of brains, scientists found Ichthyornis brain unlike the birds' had smaller cerebral areas for one. This may have dictated the functions that helped it survive the extinction.

Benefits beyond the pandemic. By preventing viral infections and TB, masks can sharply reduce respiratory diseases, loss of lives, livelihoods.

Stars like our Sun can go through a mid-life crisis, according to new research carried out by scientists from IISER Kolkata. This can lead to dramatic changes in their activity and rotation rates. The study also provides an explanation for the breakdown of the long-established relation between rotation rate and age in middle-aged sunlike stars.

Indian scientists have found a theoretical model explaining a unique kind of motion, called direction reversing active motion, exhibited by some bacteria that feed on other microorganisms, according to a statement released by the Department of Science and Technology.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers were fag-bearers of "Ek Bharat-Shreshth Bharat" and therefore should always keep the mantra of "Nation First, Always First" foremost in their minds.

INDIGO BECOMES FIRST INDIAN AIRLINE TO RELEASE ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE(ESG)

- 1.Indigo became the first Indian carrier to publish an ESG report to showcase its efforts in sustainable aviation.
- 2.**ESG reporting, also known as sustainable reporting, refers to the disclosure of data of an organisation on a set of environmental, social and corporate governance considerations** which create value for the company or impact its ability to execute future strategy.
- 3.It is part of non-financial reporting aiming benefits such as Business Resilience due to enhanced ability to withstand economic transition. Increased access to Capital by attracting growing sustainability funds.
- 4.Within India, 6 ESG themed mutual funds were launched in 2020 only. Comply with regulatory needs of other nations to compete globally. E.g. all companies with more than 500 employees in the EU need ESG disclosure.

INDIA-US RENEW GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP DEAL FOR 5 YEARS

- 1.India and the US renewed a global development partnership agreement that provides for jointly offering assistance to their partner countries.Both sides signed amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles(SGP) on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development, extending the pact's validity up to 2026.
- 2.Feed the Future India Triangular Training Program(FTFITT) for Africa is an example of a project under this. The SGP agreement was initially signed in 2014 and renewed in 2019 in 2019 till 2021.
- 3.Triangular cooperation-**Triangular cooperation involves three actors, one from the South(Facilitating and Beneficiary partner) and one from the North(Pivotal partner)**. The latter can also be an international multilateral organization..
- 4.The division of North and South is used to refer to the social, economic and political differences that exist between developed countries(North) and developing countries(South).

DISCOVERED SMALL FIELDS(DSFs)

- 1.Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched the DSF Round III for international competitive bidding.
- 2.**DSFs are considered as an entry point for India's potential oil and gas barons, by offering small blocks that were surrendered by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation(ONGC) and Oil India(OIL).**
- 3.Government had launched DSF policy in 2015 which was monumental step for awarding discovered acreages and monetize the unmonetized fields.

EUTELSAT QUANTUM SATELLITE

- 1.Eutelsat Quantum, the world's first commercial fully re-programmable satellite lifted off from French Guiana.
- 2.**Unlike conventional models that are designed and hard-wired on Earth and cannot be repurposed once in orbit, Eutelsat Quantum allows users to tailor it almost in real-time.**
- 3.This means the satellite can be used to provide mobile coverage for moving objects such as aircraft and oceangoing vessels, or coverage after a natural disaster or for one-off events.
- 4.It has been developed under an ESA(European Space Agency) partnership project with Airbus.

LEOPARDS

- 1.Odisha plans DNA profiling for leopards which will help to trace the origin of crime in case of leopard deaths. Madhya Pradesh has maximum population of leopard followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- 2.Conservation status-IUCN status-IUCN red list-Vulnerable, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife(Protection) Act 1972.
- 3.**India's conservation efforts-Project Snow leopard. India is a party to Global Leopard and Ecosystem**

India and China held the 12th round of Corps Commander talks at Moldo on the Chinese side. Details of its outcome are not known yet. The focus of the talks has been on concluding an agreement for disengagement at Gogra and Hot Springs as part of the overall disengagement and de-escalation in eastern Ladakh to end the stand-off which began last year.

After months of strain over a number of issues, including the cancelled port project in Colombo, Sri Lanka is preparing to send its High Commissioner-designate to New Delhi, along with a "road map" to restore ties that includes resolving fishermen's issues, building connectivity, trade and investment, as well as promoting religious links, Buddhist exchanges.

The Chief Secretaries of Assam and Nagaland on Saturday signed an agreement to de-escalate the tense situation prevailing at two locations in the Desso Valley forest/Tsurangkong Valley by simultaneously withdrawing security forces within the next 24 hours.

As it begins its month-long presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India is set to hold high-level meetings and briefings to bring focus to its three priorities: maritime security, counterterrorism and peacekeeping, said India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations T.S. Tirumurti.

In a significant shift in policy, the Indian Railways will provide Global Positioning System (GPS) clocks for control offices to enable section controllers coordinate with station masters, loco pilots and other staff directly involved in train operations to ensure uniformity in time.

As early as 1656 after the decline of the Portuguese, the western bank of the river Hooghly was occupied by the Dutch. For nearly two centuries, a Dutch settlement flourished at Chinsurah and started intra-Asian trade in spices, cotton and indigo. However, in 1825 when Dutch Commissioner B.C.D. Bouman surrendered Chinsurah to the British government, most of the monumental architecture of the Dutch was destroyed. The Archeological Survey of India, Kolkata Circle had started the restoration of the Dutch cemetery soon after completing the restoration of Danish cemetery at Serampore.

Protection(GSLEP) Programme since 2013.

KYASANUR FOREST DISEASE(KFD)

1. Overexploitation of edible Roen Olmi mushrooms which grow in a symbiotic relation with termites can result in outbreak of Kyasanur Forest disease(KFD) in Goa.
2. This seasonal mushroom variety is endangered by unrestrained harvesting coupled with destruction of termite hills by land development.
3. About KFD or Monkey Fever-**It is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever, first found in Kyasanur Forest area of Shimoga district, Karnataka.** KFD virus(KFDV) is a member of the genus Flavivirus and family Flaviviridae.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE(AI) FOR ALL INITIATIVE

1. Intel, in collaboration with Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE) and Ministry of Education, launched this initiative to create basic understanding of AI for everyone in India.
2. **It is a 4-hour, self-paced learning programme that describes AI in an inclusive manner and aims to introduce AI to one million citizens.**
3. India's National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes preparing students for an AI driven economy.
4. NITI Aayog's National Strategy for AI is built on philosophy of AI for All and focuses on leveraging AI for inclusive growth.

AYUSH-64

1. The government said that Ayurvedic formulation AYUSH 64 is safe for human beings.
2. About AYUSH-64-It is an Ayurvedic formulation which was developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences(CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, for management of Malaria.
3. **This drug was repurposed as the ingredients showed notable antiviral, Immune-modulator and antipyretic properties.**
4. In the mild, moderate and asymptomatic cases of Covid-19, people benefited with the treatment of AYUSH-64.

MENACE OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

1. The centre has claimed that no deaths due to manual scavenging have been reported in the past five years. However, according to the National Convener of the Safai Karmachari Andolan, 472 manual scavenging deaths across the country were recorded between 2016 and 2020, and 26 so far in 2021.
2. **Safai Karmachari Andolan is a movement for elimination of manual scavenging. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees 'Right to Life' and that also with dignity. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.**
3. Manual Scavenging: Manual scavenging is defined as "the removal of human excrement from public streets and dry latrines, cleaning septic tanks, gutters and sewers".
4. Steps Taken: The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Prevention of Atrocities Act: In 1989, the Prevention of Atrocities Act became an integrated guard for sanitation workers; more than 90% people employed as manual scavengers belonged to the Scheduled Caste. Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge: It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on World Toilet Day (19th November) in 2020.

REFORMS BASED AND RESULTS LINKED SCHEME:DISCOMs

1. The Union cabinet has recently approved a Reforms-based and Results-linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. The scheme requires that DISCOMs (Power Distribution Companies) submit detailed project reports (DPRs) on how they plan to reduce their operational losses to avail of funding.
2. Scheme Objectives: Reduction of AT&C (aggregate technical & commercial) losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% by 2024-25. Reduction of ACS-ARR gap (i.e. between the total cost of electricity and revenues generated from supplying power) to zero by 2024-25.
3. **Developing institutional capabilities for modern discoms. Improvement in the quality, reliability, and affordability of power supply to consumers** through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient Distribution Sector. Implementation of the Scheme would be based on the action plan worked out for

U.S. Navy explosive experts believe a “drone strike” targeted an oil tanker that came under attack off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea, killing two on board, the American military said.

The United States on Friday seized a Singapore-owned oil tanker that was used to make illegal oil deliveries to North Korea, the Justice Department said.

Hunger is expected to rise in 23 global hotspots in the next three months with the highest alerts for “catastrophic” situations in Ethiopia’s embattled Tigray region, southern Madagascar, Yemen, South Sudan and northern Nigeria, two U.N. agencies warned.

each state rather than a “one-size-fits-all” approach.

4. Conditional Financial Assistance: The Scheme seeks to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of all DISCOMs (excluding Private Sector DISCOMs) by providing conditional financial assistance to DISCOMs for strengthening of supply infrastructure.

PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

1. Chepaka Raman Pillai-He was the originator of slogan Jai Hind. During first world war, he formed an International pro-Indian committee in Switzerland.

2. Also, on July 31, 1914, he formed the Indian National Voluntary Corps and urged all Indians to fight for India against British.

3. He formed a provisional government in Kabul and is speculated to be on SMS Emden, a German ship which attacked Chennai.

4. Later, he went on to become Berlin representative of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and inspired Subhash Chandra Bose to start an army.