

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have come up with an innovation that can help protect power grids against sudden, unexpected current surges. An innovative variation of the superconducting fault current limiter (SFCL), this smart SFCL not only shields the grid from large current surges and consequent fire accidents, it can also sense when the current surges will happen and warn the system about it.

For long, scientists have built into their theories, the concept of the Earth's dynamo - a wind driven, electrical generator that spans the space up to nearly a hundred kilometres above the Earth's surface. Now, using observations from NASA's ICON mission, scientists have actually measured it. They find that the dynamo churns in the ionosphere and it is powered by tidal winds faster than cyclones. The study, published in Nature Geosciences, can help us better understand space weather.

Population of the Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazelle*), is decreasing after efforts were made to revive it. In winter, the female seals move towards warmer zones, while the males stay put in the Antarctic. The study published in Scientific Reports, documents an interesting coincidence of the movement of krill towards the north as do the male seals. The male and female seals' differential movements and feeding patterns also leads them to be exposed to different ecological pressures, thus fostering an imbalance.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Saturday formed a five member committee to discuss its remaining demands with the Union Government. The SKM emphasised that these names were not for the MSP committee, as sought by the Government. Instead, a release said the panel had been mandated to discuss the pending demands from the SKM's six point letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week.

Culture mapping of 80 villages associated with noted personalities in history, in particular the freedom movement, unique crafts and festivals has been started as a pilot project, Culture Ministry officials said. From Sempore in Kashmir to Kanjirapally in Kerala, villages with a connection to the freedom

## GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2021

1.The Global Hunger Index 2021 report, prepared by 'Welthungerhilfe' and 'Concern Worldwide,' was released recently. **India's score is 27.5 and it has ranked 101 among 116 countries in the category of having a 'serious' hunger situation. Global Hunger Index is based on four indicators - Undernourishment, Child Stunting, Child Wasting and Child Mortality.**

2.Scoring method - Based on the values of the four indicators, the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

3.The aggregate GHI score is a weighted average of the 4 indicators: 33.33% weight each to components 1 and 4, and giving 16.66% weight each to components 2 and 3. A low score gives a country a higher ranking which implies a better performance (low hunger)

## SWADHAR GREH SCHEME

1.Swadhar Greh Scheme targets the women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. [Difficult circumstances - women and girls rendered homeless due to family discord, crime, violence, mental stress, social ostracism or are being forced into prostitution and are in moral danger.]

2.The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing, health and legal aid as well as economic and social security for these women. The existing Swadhar Greh Scheme is effective from 01.01.2016. It is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Funds to the States/UTs are released in two instalments every year.

3.Allocation is decided considering the number of operational projects, number of new projects likely to be sanctioned in the year and availability of resources. **Beneficiaries - The Scheme is open to all the women above 18 years of age falling under the Scheme criteria due to any reasons, including Covid-19.**

4.Swadhar Greh facilities could also be availed by the children accompanying women in the above categories. Girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of 8 years would be allowed to stay in the Swadhar Greh with their mothers. (Boys of more than 8 years of age need to be shifted to the Children Homes run under JJ Act/ICPS.)

## PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADAYA YOJANA

1.'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)' is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector. Implemented by the Department of Fisheries, PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with two Components namely Central Sector Scheme & Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

2.The objectives of the PMMSY are: Harnessing of fisheries potential in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner.

3.**Enhancing of fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification & utilization of land and water. Modernizing and strengthening of value chain - post-harvest management and quality improvement.**

4.Doubling fishers and fish farmers incomes and employment generation, Enhancing contribution to Agriculture Gross Value Added (GVA) and exports, Social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers, Robust fisheries management and regulatory framework. The Scheme will be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

## FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

1.In 2018-19, the Department of Fisheries launched Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). FIDF aims to achieve a sustainable growth of 8-9%, in a move to augment the country's fish production to the level of 20 million tonnes by 2022-23.

2.The objectives of FIDF includes, Creation and

movement as well as those with their own art practices have been selected for the project, being conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

A team of researchers from Mangalore University, in collaboration with other two institutes, has identified and documented 43,118 butterflies (individuals) belonging to 175 species in Dakshina Kannada. Of them, 22 species are habitat-specific. The butterflies were identified at eight heterogeneous landscapes ranging from coastal sand dunes to agricultural fields to botanical gardens to semi evergreen forests on the foothills of the Western Ghats.

Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's December 6 visit, India and Russia appear to differ on the Indo-Pacific region and its various dimensions. Bilateral focus is expected to be on the ongoing delivery of the S400 missile defence systems and big ticket defence agreements. Russia's position on India's Quad initiative with the U.S., Australia and Japan and the idea of "Indo-Pacific" was countered by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on during the Russia-India-China (RIC) meeting where he favoured the "Asia-Pacific" which he described as more "inclusive". The "IndoPacific", according to Mr. Lavrov, is an unequal partnership.

The right against sexual harassment at workplace is part of the fundamental right to a dignified life and it takes a lot of courage for a subordinate to overcome the fear to speak up against a lewd superior, the Supreme Court has held in a judgment. A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the courts should not be "hypertechnical" while dealing with sexual harassment cases, and be aware of the odds that a survivor has to overcome to bring to light the sexual misconduct.

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday inaugurated the centennial year celebration of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the Central Hall of Parliament. The PAC is one of the most powerful financial committees of Parliament.

Myanmar is keen on reopening the International Border with India to resume legalised border trade, officials said. India had sealed the border following reports of increasing number of COVID19 infected persons at Namphalong and Tamu towns bordering Manipur.

Driven by a pandemic induced shift in consumer awareness about health

**modernization of capture & culture fisheries infrastructure, Marine Aquaculture Infrastructure, and Inland Fisheries Infrastructure, Reduce post-harvest losses** and improve domestic marketing facilities through infrastructure support, To bridge the resource gap and facilitate completion of ongoing infrastructure projects. 3. Duration of FIDF Scheme is 2018-19 to 2022-23 (5 years). Eligible Financial assistance are, Quantum of Loan - The project under FIDF shall be eligible for loan up to 80% of the estimated/actual project cost. Interest Subvention - Up to 3% per annum for development of identified fisheries-based infrastructure facilities.

4. Nodal Implementing Agency - National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad. Nodal Lending Entities - NABARD, NCDC and Scheduled Banks. Lending rate of interest - Not lower than 5% per annum. Period of repayment - 12 years inclusive of moratorium of 2 years on repayment of principal.

### NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION

1. National Nutrition Mission or Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN Abhiyaan) is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in 2018 with the aim of tackling the malnutrition problem prevalent in India.

2. It a comprehensive approach towards raising nutrition level in the country on a war footing. It aims to Improve nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner and Reduce stunting and wasting in children (0-6 years) Reduce anaemia in women, children and adolescent girls.

3. Targets - It targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. Although the target to reduce Stunting is at least 2% p.a., Mission strives to achieve a reduction from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

4. Components under POSHAN Abhiyaan include ICT Application, Convergence, Community Mobilization, Behavioural Change & Jan Andolan, Capacity Building, Incentives and Awards and Innovations.

### WHY HAS THE NORTHEAST MONSOON REMAINED SUBDUED THIS YEAR

1. Faced with the fourth consecutive year of flooding and landslips since 2018, two months of the northeast monsoon alone has caused massive losses in terms of damage to life, property, and crops. The overall estimated damage caused by the rain in October and November alone has been pegged at ₹11,916.3 crore and as per the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms, ₹1,281.92 crore.

2. **What is the Northeast monsoon?** Occurs during October to December, and is a small-scale monsoon compared to South-West Monsoon. It is confined to the Southern peninsula. The rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon is important for Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, north interior Karnataka, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Some South Asian countries such as Maldives, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, too, record rainfall during October to December.

3. **How is La Niña linked with the Northeast monsoon?** While La Niña conditions enhance the rainfall associated with the Southwest monsoon, it has a negative impact on rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon. During La Niña years, the synoptic systems — low pressure or cyclones — formed in the Bay of Bengal remain significantly to the north of their normal position. Besides, instead of moving westwards, these systems recurve. As they lie to the north of their normal position, not much rainfall occurs over southern regions like Tamil Nadu.

### WHAT ARE NEGATIVE YIELD BONDS

1. The amount of bonds circulating with negative debt yields appears to be dissipating in Europe. Global yields have been low for quite some time, and that accelerated when the pandemic struck in 2020 as investors piled into the safety of bonds.

2. **These are debt instruments that offer to pay the investor a maturity amount lower than the purchase price of the bond.** Can be issued by central banks or governments. Here, investors pay interest to the borrower to keep their money with them.

3. Relationship between Bond Price and Yield: A bond's price moves inversely with its yield or interest rate; the higher the

**and fitness, smartwatches are seeing tremendous growth in India. Shipments surged fourfold to a record in the July-September quarter. People are shifting to smartwatches from traditional watches. They are looking for health related features such as tracking steps, SPO2 level, heart rate or their sleep pattern on an ongoing basis this is a triggering factor.**

price of a bond, the lower the yield. The reason for the inverse relationship between price and yield is due, in part, to bonds being fixed-rate investments. Investors might sell their bonds if it's expected that interest rates will rise in the coming months and opt for the higher-rate bonds later on. Conversely, bond investors might buy bonds, driving the prices higher, if they believe interest rates will fall in the future because existing fixed-rate bonds will have a higher rate or yield.