

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

11TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The current rates of plastic emissions across the globe may trigger effects that it may not be possible to reverse, according to a study published in the journal Science. As of 2016, total emission of plastics into water bodies was between 9 and 23 million metric tonnes per year. If things continue as they are, this is expected to double by 2025. Plastic pollution, together with environmental triggers can lead to exacerbation of climate change, ocean biodiversity loss, the study speculates.**
- **A study published in the journal Nature Astronomy analysed data collected by Cassini spacecraft from the giant water plumes erupting from Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons. The study has concluded that these data imply either microbial activity or processes not involving life forms but which are very different from those known to occur on Earth. The study thus holds the tantalising possibility of evidence of microbial life on Enceladus.**
- **Sikkim, the smallest State with less than 1% of India's landmass, is home to 27% of all flowering plants found in the country, reveals a recent publication by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI). Flora of Sikkim – A Pictorial Guide, released earlier this week, lists 4,912 naturally occurring flowering plants in the tiny Himalayan State.**
- **As the claims by the Taliban about taking control of Afghan territory grow, India has decided to temporarily close its consulate in Kandahar, sending an Indian Air Force flight to evacuate about 50 diplomats and personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) back to Delhi, government sources confirmed.**
- **The 2020 Millennium Technology Prize, announced in May, has been awarded to Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman, "for their development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques."**

INDIA NEPAL RAIL SERVICE AGREEMENT(RSA)

1. India and Nepal have signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to the India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA) 2004. It will allow all authorized cargo train operators to utilize the Indian railway network to carry Nepal's container and other freight - both bilateral between Indian and Nepal or third country from Indian ports to Nepal.
2. **The authorized cargo train operators include public and private container trains Operators, automobile freight train operators, special freight train operators or any other operator authorized by Indian Railways.**
3. Benefits of the Latest Agreement: Allow Market Forces to Operate, Reduce Transportation Cost, Enhance Regional Connectivity.
4. The signing of this LoE marks another milestone in India's efforts to enhance regional connectivity under the "Neighbourhood First" policy.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

1. A report 'A Future for All – A Need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence' was recently released by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and UNEP. It examined increasing human-wildlife conflict (HWC).
2. **HWC-related killing affects more than 75% of the world's wild cat species, as well as many other terrestrial and marine carnivore species such as polar bears and Mediterranean monk seals, and large herbivores such as elephants.**
3. Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) refers to struggles that arise when the presence or behaviour of wildlife poses actual or perceived direct, recurring threats to human interests or needs, often leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife.
4. Causes of Human-wildlife Conflict: Lack of Protected Area, Marine and terrestrial protected areas only cover 9.67% globally. In India, 35% tiger ranges currently lie outside protected areas. Other Reasons: Urbanization, Transport Network, Increasing Human Population.

JOINT COMMUNICATION FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

1. A joint communication was signed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change which is aimed at giving more power to the tribal communities in managing the forest resources.
2. **It pertains to more effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 and for harnessing the potential for livelihood improvement of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs).**
3. The lack of recognition of forest rights has left tribal and forest dwelling communities across the country insecure of tenure and fear of eviction from their lands.

HIGH-ALTITUDE YAK

1. The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring the high-altitude yak.
2. **NRCY is a premier research institute exclusively engaged in research and development of yak in India. It was established in 1989 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.**
3. The Yak belong to the Bovini tribe, which also includes bison, buffaloes, and cattle.
4. According to Tibetan legend, the first yaks were domesticated by Tibetan Buddhism founder Guru Rinpoche.