

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- A major challenge in the treatment of neurological disorders is in getting past the blood-brain barrier. Now, in an article published online in Nature, scientists have imaged a transporter protein molecule called MFSD2A which pulls omega-3s across the bloodbrain barrier. Their study suggests that this molecule can, if better understood, help deliver drugs to the brain.
- Supermassive black holes have masses a million or even and billion times our sun. One such is found at the centre of our galaxy and it is about a million solar masses. Since it is believed these existed even in the very early universe, scientists are looking for a mechanism for their formation. New research published in The Astrophysical Journal says that they could have been seeded by the collapse of a dark matter halo.
- By mathematically modelling the changes that happen to a zebra finch's vocal organ – the syrinx – researchers were able to recreate its song, down to the pitch, volume and timbre. This approach, according to the researchers, is easier than mapping the neural activity directly to the songs. The study was published in Current Biology. This can be the first step towards providing vocal prostheses.
- The Finance Ministry has asserted that “there does not appear to be any significant possibility” of an increase in Swiss bank deposits from undeclared incomes of Indians, but has requested Swiss authorities to provide “relevant facts” and “possible reasons” for changes in deposit numbers.
- Taking a pledge to treat the plants as “green members” of their families, 100 women each in 33 village panchayats of Taranagar block in Rajasthan's Churu district planted a total of 5,100 saplings earlier this week to mark the ‘World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought’. The initiative was part of a unique Harit Marubhumi (green desert land) drive.

RISING SEA LEVELS

- 1.A study has projected that sea levels will rise around Lakshadweep Islands due to the impact of global warming. **It will affect airport and residential areas that are quite close to the present coastline.** India's smallest Union Territory, Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km.
- 2.Sea Level Rise (SLR): SLR is an increase in the level of the world's oceans due to the effects of climate change, especially global warming, induced by three primary factors: Thermal Expansion, Melting Glaciers and Loss of Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets.
- 3.Vulnerability of India: India's 7,516-kilometre-long coastline includes 5,422 kilometres of coastline on the mainland and 2,094 kilometres on the islands belonging to nine states and four Union Territories.
- 4.The coastline accounts for 90% of the country's trade and it spans 3,331 coastal villages and 1,382 islands.

PETITION OF POLL RESULTS

- 1.The West Bengal Chief Minister has filed an election petition in the Calcutta High Court challenging the Assembly election result of Nandigram constituency.
- 2.Election Petition: The Election Commission's role ends with the declaration of results, after that, an election petition is the only legal remedy available to a voter or a candidate who believes there has been malpractice in an election.
- 3.Such a person can challenge the result through an election petition submitted to the High Court of the state in which the constituency is located.**Such a petition has to be filed within 45 days from the date of the poll results;** nothing is entertained by courts after that.
- 4.Although the Representative of the People Act (RP Act) of 1951 suggests that the High Court should try to conclude the trial within six months, it usually drags on for much longer, even years.

CREATION OF INTEGRATED TRISERVICE THEATRE COMMANDS

- 1.A high-level committee has been formed for the consultations on the creation of integrated triservice theatre commands.
- 2.The committee will examine all issues and find a way forward before a formal note on their creation is sent to the Cabinet Committee on Security.
- 3.The **move was necessitated due to some aspects like bringing in paramilitary forces (which is under Home Ministry) under the purview of the theatre commands** and financial implications that may arise in the process of integration.
- 4.The proposed Air Defence Command plans to integrate all air assets of the armed forces while the Maritime Theatre Command plans to bring in all assets of Navy, Coast Guard as well as coastal formations of Army and Air Force under one umbrella.

ANTONIO GUTERRES:2ND TERM UN SECRETARY GENERAL

- 1.The United Nations General Assembly appointed Antonio Guterres as the ninth UN Secretary General (UNSG) for a second term beginning 1st January, 2022 and ending on 31st 2026.India had expressed its support for the re-election of Guterres as UN Chief.
- 2.Under the UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. **Each Secretary-General has the option of a second term if they can garner enough support from Member states.**