

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The buyer of a \$70 million digital only artwork was named on Friday by auction house Christie's as a crypto asset investor who goes by the pseudonym "Metakovan."
- The overall death toll for Syria's civil war has reached 3,88,652 since it began a decade ago this month, a war monitor said. The Britain based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the figures includes almost 1,17,388 civilians, among them more than 22,000 children.
- The Centre will allow residents to fill the National Population Register (NPR) form on their own, through the online mode, a month before the doortodoor enumeration by Census officials starts.
- Ahead of the hearing of a petition by Haryana government seeking permission for mining in Aravalis in Gurugram and Faridabad in the Supreme Court, environmentalists and the residents are strongly opposed to mining being legalised and demand that forest cover be increased in the State.
- Almost a year after Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi poked the government for letting "armed gangs" reign and carry out "gunpoint extortions", the State's largest trade body has warned of such groups driving businesses out.
- The Centre has reconstituted an advisory committee to chalk out a plan for studying the mythical Sarasvati river for the next two years, after the earlier panel's term ended in 2019.
- Members who were part of the Commission for Air Quality Management said they were taken aback by the sudden dissolution of the body — constituted last October and via an ordinance. The dissolution happened despite, the nodal Union Environment Ministry submitting the paper work to the Union Cabinet Secretariat, required to give legal backing to the commission.

GENOME MAPPING IN INDIAN OCEAN

- 1.National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) is going to launch the first-of-its-kind project of Genome Mapping in the Indian Ocean.Indian Ocean is the third largest water body in the world, covering about 20% of the Earth's water surface.
- 2.Aim: To gather samples for genome mapping of microorganisms in the Indian Ocean. To understand the biochemistry and the response of the ocean to climate change, nutrient stress and increasing pollution.
- 3.Just like gene mapping is carried out on blood samples collected from humans, the **scientists will map these in the bacteria, microbes found in the ocean.**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ENTERPRISE(E3) CERTIFICATIONS PROGRAMME

- 1.The Ministry of Power has launched "Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3) Certifications Programme for the Brick Manufacturing Sector". The **E3 Certification Scheme is aimed at tapping huge energy efficiency potential in this sector.**
- 2.It is an initiative to recognise burnt clay brick manufacturers who adopt energy-efficient manufacturing and encourage customers to source bricks from such E3 certified manufacturing units.
- 3.It will be awarded to Brick Manufacturing Enterprises that meet the minimum Specific Energy Consumption (SECVol) performance criteria specified in the Scheme.
- 4.The brick manufacturing industry consumes about 45-50 million tonnes of coal equivalent annually, **amounting to 5-15% of the total energy consumption in the country.**

MERA RATION MOBILE APP LAUNCHED

- 1.In order to facilitate the 'One Nation One Ration Card' system in the country, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the 'Mera Ration' mobile app to benefit citizens in identifying the nearest Fair Price Shop (FPS).
- 2.Facilities to the Beneficiaries: **Can identify and locate the nearest fair price shop. Can easily check details of their foodgrain entitlement, recent transactions and the status of Aadhaar seeding.** Can register their migration details. An option to enter suggestions/feedback.
- 3.The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme is being implemented by the Department of Food and Public Distribution for the nation-wide portability of ration cards under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013.
4. The government supplies 5 kg of subsidised food grains to each person per month through 5.4 lakh ration shops. The ONORC was started initially in 4 States in the year 2019 and was rolled out in 32 States/UTs by the end of 2020.

ASTEROID 2001 FO32

- 1.The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has predicted that the **asteroid '2001 FO32'** is the largest to pass by Earth in 2021. It will be at its closest on 21st March.
- 2.It will provide a rare opportunity for astronomers to get a good look at a rocky relic that formed at the dawn of our solar system.
- 3.It was discovered in March 2001 by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) program in Socorro, New Mexico.
- 4.The near-Earth asteroid will make its closest approach at a **distance of about 2 million kilometers or 5 1/4 times the distance from Earth to the Moon.** The distance is close in astronomical terms, that's why it has been designated a **"potentially hazardous asteroid"**.