

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

31ST MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The achievements of women dairy farmers in contributing to India's 'White Revolution' are perhaps the greatest cause for celebrating the Women's History Month in March. That this has happened despite around a majority of dairy farmers owning only small landholdings — typically households with two to five cows — is also a testament to the success of the dairy cooperatives models that were at the heart of Operation Flood.
- In its 2020 Human Rights Report, the U.S. State Department said the harassment and detention of journalists critical of the (Indian) government in their reporting and on social media, has continued, although the government generally respected the freedom of expression. It also said government's requests for user data from Internet companies had increased "dramatically."
- The Manipur government has withdrawn a letter issued last week directing officials to not set up any camps for Myanmar nationals crossing the border into India and to "politely turn away" those seeking refuge. Meanwhile, even though the Union Home Ministry asserted that the refugees should be identified and deported, the Mizoram government is planning to provide them employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee condemned the three farm laws and urged the Central government to revoke them immediately. A resolution condemning the laws was passed SGPC in Amritsar.
- Calling for a "double peace" both inside Afghanistan and in the region, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India supports the Intra-Afghan Negotiations, in a rare direct reference to the Taliban at the 9th Heart of Asia conference in Tajikistan.

NEW RED ALGAL SEAWEED SPECIES

1. Two new red algal seaweed species have been discovered along India's coastline.
2. They grow in the intertidal regions of the coast, namely the area that is submerged during the high tide and exposed during low tides. The genus Hypnea consists of calcareous, erect, branched red seaweeds.
3. Hypnea indica was discovered in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and Somnath Pathan and Sivrajpur in Gujarat. Hypnea bullata was discovered from Kanyakumari and Diu island of Daman and Diu.
4. **Hypnea variants of seaweeds can fetch good monetary value if commercial-scale cultivation is taken up. Hypnea contains Carrageenan, a biomolecule commonly used in the food industry.**

NISAR:JOINT EARTH OBSERVING MISSION OF NASA AND ISRO

1. NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing an SUV-sized satellite called NISAR, which will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.
2. The Name 'NISAR': The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR here refers to the Synthetic Aperture Radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.
3. Primary Goals: **Tracking subtle changes in the Earth's surface, Spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions, Helping to monitor groundwater supplies,** and Tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting.
4. Expected Benefits: NISAR's data can help people worldwide better manage natural resources and hazards, as well as providing information for scientists to better understand the effects and pace of climate change.

INDIA-SOUTH KOREA:FRIENDSHIP PARK

1. Indian Defence Minister and his South Korean counterpart inaugurated the India-Korea Friendship Park in a ceremony at the Delhi Cantonment. Later on both the ministers concluded a bilateral meeting and explored different areas of cooperation.
2. The park's significance is not only because of it being a symbol of strong India-South Korea friendly relations, but **also which participated in Korean war 1950-53, under the aegis of the United Nations.**
3. Issues Discussed at the Meet: Discussed maritime cooperation as part of the Indo-Pacific strategy and also cooperation in the defense industry and future technologies.
4. The two countries have a logistics agreement helping the Indian navy while operating in the Indo-Pacific region.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1. Due to the recent blockage of the Suez Canal, the option of re-routing ships via the Cape of Good Hope was explored.
2. The Cape of Good Hope is a rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula in South Africa. A headland is a narrow piece of land which sticks out from the coast into the sea. The Cape of Good Hope route joins Eastern Asia and Europe to southern parts of Africa.
3. **The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 provided a much shorter route from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean,** making the long trip around Africa inefficient.
4. A common misconception is that the Cape of Good Hope is the southern tip of Africa. **Contemporary geographic knowledge instead states the southernmost point of Africa is Cape Agulhas about 150 km to the east-southeast.**
5. The Cape was originally named the Cape of Storms in 1488 by the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias. It was later renamed to Cape Good Hope to attract more people.