

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- Notwithstanding the usefulness of the The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver, it is not a magic pill. It would work well only if countries simultaneously address the non-Intellectual Property bottlenecks such as technology transfer, production constraints, and other logistical challenges such as inadequacy of supply chains and unavailability of raw materials to manufacture vaccines and medicines.
- Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who heads the Bench hearing the suo motu proceedings regarding oxygen, has clarified that the Court was not usurping the executive's role, but only wanted to facilitate a dialogue among stakeholders. As long as this position is clear, the present intervention need not be seen as a dangerous overreach.
- The amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) enacted last year that among others made it compulsory for NGOs to open a bank account in Delhi has crippled the work of many organisations who are unable to receive foreign funds.
- Green panel allows Great Nicobar plan to advance The Environment Appraisal Committee, which had flagged concerns, has now 'recommended' it 'for grant of terms of reference' for EIA(Environmental Impact Assessment) studies.
- When frequent COVID19 lockdowns brought life to a halt across the country last year, it was business as usual for the mining sector in Odisha, said activists. According to the information obtained through the exercise of the Right to Information, 1,109.86 lakh metric tonnes of iron ore was extracted in the State from January to December 2020.
- Debris from the last stage of China's Long March rocket that had last month carried a key component of its underconstruction space station fell into the waters of the Indian Ocean west of the Maldives.

INDIAN MONSOON RESEMBLED AUSTRALIAN MONSOON

1. According to a recent study based on fossil leaves, Indian monsoon 25 million years ago resembled present day Australia's. Understanding the past dynamics of Indian monsoon will help in climate modelling for future monsoon prediction.
2. The morphological characters of fossil leaves from different geological ages collected from Deccan Volcanic Province, East Garo Hills of Meghalaya, Gurha mine in Rajasthan and Makum Coalfield in Assam were analysed.
3. Plant leaf morphological characters such as apex, base and shape are ecologically tuned with the prevailing climatic conditions to adapt for all the seasons throughout the year.
4. The results indicated that the **fossil leaves from India were adapted to an Australian type of monsoon and not the current Indian monsoon system during its voyage.**

UNIQUE DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION PORTAL

1. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has issued a notification making it mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using UDID (Unique Disability ID) portal
2. The project is being implemented with a view of creating a National Database for persons with disabilities (PwDs), and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card to each PwDs.
3. The project will also help in **stream-lining the tracking of physical and financial progress of beneficiaries at all levels of hierarchy of implementation – from village level, block level, District level, State level and National level.**
4. The project will not only encourage transparency, efficiency and ease of delivering the government benefits to the person with disabilities, but also ensure uniformity.

INDIA'S SOVEREIGN RATING

1. According to the S&P Global Ratings, India's sovereign rating will remain unchanged at the current level of BBB- for the next two years despite the potential adverse impact of surging pandemic on its economy.
2. S&P is one of the largest credit rating agencies, assigning letter grades to companies and countries and the debt they issue on a scale of AAA to D, indicating their degree of investment risk.
3. **A sovereign credit rating is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country or sovereign entity. It can give investors insights into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk.**
4. In addition to issuing bonds in external debt markets, another common motivation for countries to obtain a sovereign credit rating is to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

ECO SENSITIVE ZONE AROUND THANE CREEK FLAMINGO SANCTUARY

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified an Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS, Maharashtra).
2. The ESZ is meant to act as a buffer for protected areas and reduces developmental pressures around a wildlife sanctuary or national park.
3. Thane Creek- **It is an inlet in the shoreline of the Arabian Sea that isolates the city of Mumbai from the Indian mainland.** The creek has been formed due to seismic faults lying below it which runs from Uran to Thane.