

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

26TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- It is imperative for the government to embrace a pragmatic approach by engaging all academic stakeholders and investing generously in online education as suggested by the Fifteenth Finance Commission in its report. Development of massive open online courses (MOOCs), direct to home (DTH) content development, digital classrooms and provision of devices for 25 lakh students belonging to the socially and economically weaker sections of society, especially in state universities, would help.
- One alternative of Palestine solution is to decolonise historical Palestine. Which means that we should aspire to a state for all its citizens all over the country, based on the dismantlement of colonialist institutions, fair redistribution of the country's natural resources, compensation of the victims of the ethnic cleansing and allowing their repatriation.
- Several thousands of people in coastal districts of Odisha are bracing for the impact of the very severe cyclonic storm, Yaas, which is set to hit the coast with wind speeds of 155-165 kmph early on Wednesday morning. The State government has moved over two lakh people from vulnerable areas to safety.
- While the new stricter rules for social media intermediaries such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Google, Twitter and Telegram, come into effect on Wednesday, a majority of platforms are yet to fully comply with 'The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021'.
- The Maharashtra Mangrove Cell has planned to acquire a drone and set up a CCTV camera network across the MMR to keep an eye on mangrove destruction by debris and land mafia.
- Five industry bodies, including the CII, FICCI and the U.S.India Business Council have sought an extension of 612 months for new IT compliance.

PROTECTED PLANET REPORT 2020

- 1.The report, titled Protected Planet Report 2020, underlined the progress the world has made toward the ambitious goals agreed by countries in 2010 at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 2.The reports are released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with support from the National Geographic Society, a global non-profit.
- 3.The 2020 edition provides the final report on the status of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and looks to the future as the world prepares to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- 4.Increase in Protected Area:As many as 82% of countries and territories have increased their share of protected area and coverage of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) since 2010. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs):On an average, 62.6% of KBA either fully or partially overlap with protected areas and OECMs.

SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS SHORTAGE IN VEHICLE MANUFACTURING

- 1.An unusual shortage of inputs, especially semiconductor chips, has made India-based vehicle manufactures (car manufactures and premium bikes) curtail production across categories.
- 2.Semiconductors are materials which have a conductivity between conductors (generally metals) and nonconductors or insulators.
- 3.Reason for Shortage: Covid and Lockdowns: The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns across the world that forced shut crucial chip-making facilities in countries including Japan, South Korea, China and the US.
- 4.Increased Consumption: The number of transistors mounted in IC chips has doubled every two years. Notably, the increase in chip consumption over the last decade is also partly attributable to the rising contribution of electronic components in a car's bill of materials.

INDIA-ISRAEL AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE COOPERATION

- 1.India and Israel have signed "a three-year work program agreement" for development in agriculture cooperation.
- 2.The programme aims to grow existing Centres of Excellence, establish new centers, increase CoE's value chain, bring the Centres of Excellence into the self-sufficient mode, and encourage private sector companies and collaboration.
- 3.Indo-Israeli Agricultural Cooperation Project started in 2008 following the signing of a three-year Action Plan based on a Government to Government Agreement.

WHITEFLIES:THREAT TO AGRICULTURE

- 1.According to a recent study, exotic invasive whiteflies in India are causing direct and indirect yield losses in agriculture, horticulture and forestry crop plants.
- 2.Whiteflies are tiny, sap-sucking insects that may become abundant in vegetable and ornamental plantings, especially during warm weather. They excrete sticky honeydew and cause yellowing or death of leaves.
- 3.Continuous monitoring of the occurrence of invasive species, their host plants and geographical expansion is needed, and if required, import of potential natural enemies for bio-control programmes can also be carried out.