

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The locations of the North and South Poles change as the Earth's axis spins. Global warming and melting glaciers could have redistributed the global water fronts to such an extent that they have redefined the 'polar wander' or the drifting of the Earth's axis, finds a study published in Geophysical Research Letters.
- Astrophysicists using the Gemini telescope have spotted the first 'blow-away' galaxy, in which the hydrogen clouds have been stripped off exposing high-energy light. This finding could give a clue to solving the puzzle of the reionisation of the universe. The research was published in The Astrophysical Journal.
- Snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales *Xylophis deepaki*, first stumbled upon in a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari, is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu and has been sighted in a few locations in the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- Gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax hit a record high of ₹1.41 lakh crore in April, suggesting that economic activity may not yet be as badly affected amid the ongoing second wave of the COVID19 pandemic, as last year.
- The White House says President Joe Biden plans to veer from the approaches of his two most recent predecessors as he tries to stop North Korea's nuclear programme, rejecting both Donald Trump's deeply personal effort to win over Kim Jongun and Barack Obama's more handsoff approach.
- Protesters against military rule marched in Myanmar three months after a coup ended a democratic transition, with several small blasts compounding a sense of crisis that a UN envoy warned could bring state administration to a halt.

POSITRON:THE ANTIMATTER COUNTERPART OF THE ELECTRONS

- 1.Researchers from the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, have **resolved the mystery of the antimatter counterpart of the electrons called Positron and Positron Excess Phenomenon**. RRI is an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology.
- 2.Positron Excess: The excess number of high energy particles of the antimatter counterpart of the electrons, called positrons have intrigued scientists for long.
- 3.For an estimate, this is the energy of a positively charged electron accelerated across a 10,000,000,000 volt battery. Positrons with energy more than 300 GeV, however, are lower in comparison to what astronomers expect.
- 4.This behaviour of positrons between 10 and 300 GeV is what astronomers call the 'positron excess'.

VANDE BHARAT MISSION

- 1.The Vande Bharat Mission (VBM), which started repatriating Indians stranded abroad due to Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns since May 2020, has become one of the largest evacuations of civilians by a country.
- 2.It is the **biggest civilian evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions**. It has surpassed the large-scale airlift of 1,77,000 people in 1990 at the onset of the Gulf War.
- 3.The mission is undergoing its 10th phase and has carried 32 lakh passengers approximately both inbound and outbound. National carrier Air India, alongwith its budget carrier Air India Express (AIE) carried out the bulk of air transfers under the mission.
- 4.AIE used its fleet to lift agricultural products, mainly fruits and vegetables (the most sought-after items among the NRI Indians), to West Asian countries, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

400TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR

- 1.Sri Akhand Path was inaugurated at Gurdwara Guru Ke Mahal, the birthplace of the ninth Sikh guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, to mark the 400th Prakash Purab (birth centenary) of the Guru.
- 2.Guru Tegh Bahadur was the **ninth Sikh Guru, often venerated as the 'Protector of Humanity' (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs**.
- 3.Known as a great teacher, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also an excellent warrior, thinker, and poet, who wrote detailed descriptions of the nature of God, mind, body, and physical attachments among other things spiritual.
4. His writings are housed in the sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns. He was also an avid traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent.

PLACES IN NEWS

- 1.ISRAEL- A stampede at the religious festival(**Lag B`Omer**) attended by thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews in northern Israel killed dozens of people and injured many others.
- 2.Albania-The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation(NATO) recently launched the **joint military exercises in Albania called the DEFENDER-EUROPE 21**.
- 3.Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan-A **cease-fire on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan** held recently after supply between the two ex-Soviet Central Asian neighbours.