

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

30<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- A new map has been published of dark matter in the 'local sheet' - a region spanning the Milky Way and local galaxies, those in the Virgo cluster and the local void (a relatively empty region in the local group). The study published in The Astrophysical Journal, also showed up new structures, including filaments that connect galaxies. Studying these dark matter filaments can shed light on future of the Milky Way.
- With extremely cold winters and pleasant summers, the State of Uttarakhand is home to the Western Himalayan temperate forests which harbour a large number of endemic bird species. A new study that analysed these natural oakdominated forests and modified forests has noted that there was a drastic loss of bird species in all modified landscapes.
- Roundworms (Caenorhabditis elegans) are animals that lack dedicated immune cells. But they are constantly under attack from viruses and fungal parasites called microsporidia.
- For people in the ecologically fragile Sunderbans, life revolves around battling high tides daily and cyclones regularly. But every cyclone throws up new challenges to the Sunderbans and its inhabitants — something the people had not imagined, and policy makers are not prepared for.
- The Philippines has protested China's continuing "illegal presence and activities" near an island in the South China Sea held by the Southeast Asian nation, the Foreign Ministry said. Manila lodged the diplomatic protest on Friday over the "incessant deployment, prolonged presence, and illegal activities of Chinese maritime assets and fishing vessels" in the vicinity of Thitu island.
- Sri Lanka faces an unprecedented pollution crisis as waves of plastic waste from a burning container ship hit the coast.

## DBT FOR MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

- 1.The Ministry of Education has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day-Meal (MDM) Scheme, to all eligible children.
- 2.Implications of DBT for MDM Scheme: With schools closed for months due to Covid-19, this move will give a fillip to the Midday Meal programme.
- 3.It will help safeguard the nutritional levels of children and aid in protecting their immunity during the challenging pandemic times.
- 4.This one time special welfare measure will benefit about 11.8 crore children studying in class I to VIII in the 11.20 lakh Government and Government aided schools across the country.

## JANUARY 30:WORLD NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES DAY

- 1.The ongoing 74th World Health Assembly declared 30th January as 'World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day. The proposal to recognise the day was floated by the United Arab Emirates. It was adopted unanimously by the delegates. The first World NTD Day was celebrated informally in 2020.
- 2.NTDs are a group of infections that are most common among marginalised communities in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and the Americas. They are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms.
- 3.NTDs are especially common in tropical areas where people do not have access to clean water or safe ways to dispose of human waste.
- 4.These diseases generally receive less funding for research and treatment than malaises like tuberculosis, HIV-AIDS and malaria.

## NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT:HEALTH MINISTER'S MEET

- 1.The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually participated in a meeting with Ministers of Health of the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) Countries.
- 2.India's Stand at the Meeting: Vaccine Maitri Initiative: Despite its own needs, during the Covid-19 pandemic, India ensured supply of medicines to 123 partner countries including 59 NAM nations.
- 3.Last Summit: In 2020, the meeting was convened at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev (present chairman until 2022) of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as chair of the Non Aligned Movement.
- 4.It was formed during the Cold War (1945-1991) in 1961 as an organisation of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the USA (Capitalism) or the Soviet Union (Socialism) but sought to remain independent or neutral.

## JAYANTI:NEW SPECIES OF CRICKET

- 1.A new species of Cricket named 'Indimimus jayanti' was found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh. The new species was named after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.
- 2.Significance of the Discovery: It can help in designing hearing aids for humans. The new species may be communicating by beating their abdomen or any other body part on the cave walls.
- 3.About Crickets: Cricket, any of approximately 2,400 species of leaping insects that are worldwide in distribution and known for the musical chirping of the male.