

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

DeepMind, a company owned by Google, announced this week that it had predicted the three dimensional structures of more than 200 million proteins using AlphaFold. AlphaFold is an AI based protein structure prediction tool. It used processes based on “training, learning, retraining and relearning” to predict the structures of the entire 214 million unique protein sequences deposited in the Universal Protein Resource (UniProt) database. The Indian community of structural biology needs to take advantage of the AlphaFold database and learn how to use the structures to design better vaccines and drugs.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to convert the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), a deemed to be university, into the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous Central university. The Bill seeks to expand the scope of the university from beyond just the Railways to cover the entire transport sector and support growth and modernisation in the field.

In the wake of the detection of monkeypox cases in India, the Union government has constituted a task force to monitor and provide guidance on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination against the infection in the country. The team will be headed by V.K. Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog. India has reported six confirmed cases of monkeypox so far — four in Kerala and two in Delhi.

Continuing the series of military exercises with countries in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations, including Quad partners, later this month for Exercise Pitch Black, the biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asserted that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) levies on food items such as curd, lassi and wheat would not burden poor households, and took on States and the Opposition parties for seeking to suggest that the taxes were driven by the Narendra Modi administration when it was a decision taken by the GST Council with all States on board.

₹1.5 lakh crore, the worth of the 5G

LIVING LANDS CHARTER

1. At the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, all 54 Commonwealth members have officially adopted the Living Lands Charter: A Commonwealth Call to action on Living Lands (CALL). All Commonwealth members have agreed to voluntarily dedicate a ‘living land’ in their respective countries to future generations. This Living Lands Charter is in line with the strategy set for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

2. The non-binding ‘Living Lands Charter’ mandates that member countries will Safeguard global land resources Arrest land degradation and Act against climate change, biodiversity loss and towards sustainable management. It will help to encapsulate the combined effort to hold the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. More than a third of land having been degraded in the last two decades and the vulnerabilities of the ecosystems to land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change are closely interrelated.

3. The ‘Living Lands Charter’ aimed to support member countries to effectively deliver their commitments under the three Rio conventions UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

4. Commonwealth-Headquartered in London, the Commonwealth is an international intergovernmental organization of 56 countries. It was established by the London Declaration in 1949. It is headed by the Monarch of the United Kingdom. Membership - The 56 member countries are mostly former territories of the British Empire and dependencies. But today any country can join the modern Commonwealth.

5. The membership is based on free and equal voluntary co-operation. The two African countries, Gabon and Togo, were admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations, as its members at the CHOGM 2022.

ASHADHI BIJ

1. The Prime Minister has greeted everyone on the auspicious occasion of Ashadhi Bij. Ashadhi Beej is an auspicious day for farming communities in North India especially Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and some other places. This is a small festival mainly celebrated to predict the monsoon.

2. **During Ashadhi Bij, the moisture in the atmosphere is checked to predict which crop would do best in the coming monsoon.**

3. Ashadhi Bij is the second day of Shukla paksha of Aashaadha month of the Hindu calendar, which associated with the beginning of rains in the Kutch region. Kutchi community of Gujarat celebrate their new year on this day.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY BOARD

1. The National Road Safety Board (NRSB) was constituted by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) in 2021. The Section 215B of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provided for constitution of National Road Safety Board. It functions as the lead national agency to deal with matters relating to road safety.

2. The proposal for an apex board at the national level for road safety was first mooted in 2007 in the Sundar Committee report. The NRSB is aimed at integrating efforts in collaboration with states to reduce road crashes and improve all aspects of safety.

3. The NRSB advises the Central Government or State Government on all aspects pertaining to road safety and traffic management including, but not limited to, the standards of design, weight, construction, manufacturing process, operation and maintenance of motor vehicles and of safety equipment, and road infrastructure.

4. The registration and licensing of motor vehicles; the promotion of new vehicle technology; programmes for educating and sensitising drivers and other road users; and such other functions as may be prescribed by the Central Government from time to time.

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telecom spectrum sold in a seven-day auction that ended on Monday. The mopup from the 5G spectrum, capable of offering ultrahigh speed mobile internet connectivity, is almost double the ₹77,815 crore worth of 4G airwaves sold last year and triple of ₹50,968 crore garnered from the 3G auction in 2010. Reliance Jio was the top bidder to the airwaves capable of offering speeds about 10 times faster than 4G. It was followed by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) yielded ₹1,48,995 crore in revenues during July, the second highest monthly collections since the launch of the GST regime and the highest in three months.

28 percentage rise in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection at ₹1.49 lakh crore in July on the back of economic recovery and steps taken to curb tax evasion, according to the government. GST collection stood at ₹1,16,393 crore in the same month a year ago. GST, introduced in July 2017, touched a record high of ₹1.68 lakh crore in April 2022. This collection is the second highest. This is the sixth time that the monthly GST collection crossed the ₹1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST, the Ministry said in a statement.

200 number of student and youth bodies, trade unions, teachers' associations and intellectuals to gather at Jantar Mantar on August 16 as part of the weeklong 'Rojgar Andolan' to demand a national employment policy in India. The Rojgar Andolan will be organised under the banner of Sanyukta Rojgar Andolan Samiti (SRAS) and will continue till August 22. The 'National Employment Policy' was prepared by the think tank Desh Ki Baat Foundation, founded by Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai.

In a tragic accident, a MIG21 trainer jet of the IAF crashed in Rajasthan last Thursday killing both the pilots onboard. The MIG21 was inducted into the IAF in the early 1960s. Currently, there are four MIG21 squadrons in service. IAF officials have stated that there is technical life still left in them. The IAF has an authorised strength of 42 fighter squadrons. As time passes, the drawdown is increasing as the total technical life is completed. However, the rate of new inductions is not matching the drawdown, depleting the overall number of fighter

SEEKHO AUR KAMAO SCHEME

1. The 'Seekho Aur Kamao' scheme has met its target of earmarking 33% of the total trained beneficiaries for female beneficiaries. The overall percentage of females trained under the scheme since its inception is 56.59%. This means that the scheme has surpassed the prescribed norm of 33% reservation for female beneficiaries.

2. **The Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn) Scheme is a 100% Central Sector Scheme for "Skill Development of Minorities", which is implemented from 12th Five Year Plan.** The aim of this scheme is to upgrade the skills of minority youth (age group of 14-35 years) and ensure 75% placements, out of which 50% should be in the organized sector. The minimum qualification of trainee should be at least Class V. Post placement support of Rs. 2000/- per month is provided to placed trainees for two months as placement assistance.

3. Objectives of the Scheme - To bring down unemployment rate of minorities during 14th Finance Commission. To conserve and update modern and traditional skills of minorities and establish their linkages with JOB market. To improve employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc, and to generate means of better livelihood for marginalized minorities. The scheme will aim at upgrading the skills of the minority youths in various modern/traditional vocations depending upon the Educational qualification of the minority youths, Present economic trends and The market potential, which can earn them a suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self employment.

4. Implementation - This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been assigned for the implementation of Seekho aur Kamao scheme for union territories of J&K and Ladakh. The pattern of funding and course will be as per the common norms issued by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

5. **Beneficiaries - The scheme will be implemented for the benefit of the 6 notified minority communities under National Commission for Minorities Act 1992. The six minority communities are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.** However, in the States/UTs where some other minority communities notified by respective State/UT Governments exist, they may also be considered but they will not occupy more than 5% of the total seats.

6. The scheme can be taken up anywhere in the country but preference will be given to organizations that impart training and propose the program for identified minority concentration districts/ towns/ blocks.

BLASPHEMY AND HATE SPEECH

1. Difference Experts say that there is a need to treat "blasphemy" and "hate speech" under the Section 295 (A) of the Indian Penal Code. Blasphemy is the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God. Hate Speech is an abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group or an individual, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

2. Laws in India As far as laws in India go, there is no formal legislation against blasphemy. The closest equivalent to a blasphemy law is Section 295(A) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Section 295(A) punishes any speech, writings, or signs that "with premeditated and malicious intent" insult citizens' religion or religious beliefs with a fine and imprisonment for up to 3 years.

3. **Legality - The legality of Section 295(A), which had been challenged in the Ramji Lal Modi case (1957), was affirmed by a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said that while Article 19(2) allows reasonable limits on freedom of speech and expression for the sake of public order,** the punishment under Section 295(A) deals with aggravated form of blasphemy that is committed with the aim of offending the religious sensibilities of any class.

4. In the case of Superintendent, Central Prison, Fatehgarh vs Ram Manohar Lohia (1960), the Supreme Court stated that the link between the speech spoken and any public disorder caused

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squadrons.

Maldives President Ibrahim 'Ibu' Solih arrived in Delhi for a bilateral visit, amid rows within his government over ties with India, the Yoga Day attack, and a bitter row with Maldivian Speaker, former President and party colleague Mohammad Nasheed. During his four day visit, Mr. Solih will also visit Mumbai for two days, and is expected to focus on enhancing trade and connectivity between the two countries.

The first shipment of Ukrainian grain since the Russian invasion in February left the port of Odesa on Monday under a landmark deal to lift Moscow's naval blockade in the Black Sea.

as a result of it should have a close relationship for retrieving Section 295(A) of IPC. By 2011, it concluded that only speech that amounts to "incitement to impending unlawful action" can be punished.

5. Current Situation - The wording of Section 295(A) is considerably too wide. It cannot be stated that deliberate disrespect to religion or religious sensibilities is necessarily tantamount to incitement. As per the data given by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there were only 323 hate speech cases registered in 2014, it had increased to 1,804 cases in 2020. This is because the Section 295(A) is now used to penalise religious dissent, satire, and any comedic content with religious references.