

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has inaugurated the Foodborne Pathogen Survey Network (ICMR FoodNet) in Northeast India. It is the beginning of a unique public health initiative in the region, the Council said on Thursday. The integrated task force coordinates project based activity campaigns, monitors foodborne enteric disease outbreaks, and conducts intensified systematic laboratory based surveillance in four north eastern States, in collaboration with research and medical institutions and food sectors.

A total of 130 cases of "hate news" were reported to social media platforms between the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the latest round of Assembly polls in five States held earlier this year, Law Minister Kiren Rijju informed the Rajya Sabha.

On July 26, the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a private member resolution urging the Centre to cancel allocation of all coal mining blocks in the ecologically sensitive area of Hasdeo Aranya. Underneath the Hasdeo Aranya is a coalfield that comprises of 22 coal blocks. In 2010, the Centre categorised Hasdeo Aranya to be a "no go" zone for mining. However, only a year later, the MoEF granted clearance for the mining. At present, of the 22 blocks, seven blocks have been allotted to different companies.

3.57 lakhs of anganwadis in India running from rented premises, according to the Women and Child Development Ministry. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani gave data according to which there are 13.89 lakh operational anganwadi centres in the country. An Anganwadi centre is a basic rural child care centre. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition.

1,472 number of vacancies in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in various States as of January 1, 2022, while there are 864 vacancies in the Indian Police Service (IPS), according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. He said that in order to ensure optimal intake of directly recruited IAS officers, the government has increased their

RANGANATHITTU BIRD SANCTUARY

1. The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka has been declared a Ramsar site underlining its status as a wetland of international importance. Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is also the first and the only Ramsar site in Karnataka though India's tally of such sites stands at 64. Also known as the Pakshi Kashi of Karnataka, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is situated in Srirangapatna of Mandya district, Karnataka.

2. It is located on the islands of river Cauvery. It is an example of riverine ecosystem. It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) that is identified by Birdlife International and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). It is declared a sanctuary in 1940 at the behest of the famous ornithologist Dr. Salim Ali Climate - There are no extremities of temperature at Ranganathittu Sanctuary.

3. The temperature stays between the 23-29°C range for most parts of the year. In June, when the southwest monsoon peaks throughout Karnataka state, heavy to very heavy rainfall, accompanied by waterlogging and mild flooding, has been reported from the area.

4. Significance - Ranganathittu bird sanctuary supports more than 1% of the world's population of spot-billed pelicans - as against a global population of nearly 17,000. Similarly, it supports a high population of painted storks and mugger crocodiles besides other species of fish. Therefore, the six islands and the water surrounding them would be part of Ramsar site.

ALPHA FOLD

1. Google-owned DeepMind, a company based in London, had predicted the 3D structures of more than 200 million proteins - entire protein universe known to scientists - using AlphaFold. AlphaFold is an AI-based protein structure prediction tool that is based on a computer system called deep neural network. AlphaFold is fed with protein sequences as input.

2. When protein sequences enter through one end, the predicted 3D structures come out through the other. Inspired by the human brain, neural networks use a large amount of input data and provides the desired output exactly like how a human brain would. The real work is done by the black box between the input and the output layers, called the hidden networks. Working - AlphaFold uses processes based on "training, learning, retraining and relearning."

3. The first step uses the available structures of 1,70,000 proteins in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) to train the computer model. Then, it uses the results of that training to learn the structural predictions of proteins not in the PDB. Once that is done, it uses the high-accuracy predictions from the first step to retrain and relearn to gain higher accuracy of the earlier predictions. By using this method, AlphaFold has now predicted the structures of the entire 214 million unique protein sequences deposited in the Universal Protein Resource (UniProt) database.

4. Implications - Proteins are the microscopic mechanisms that drive the behavior of the human body and all other living things. Proteins carry out all the functions inside a living cell. Therefore, knowing protein structure and function is essential to understanding human diseases. Scientists predict protein structures using x-ray crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, or cryogenic electron microscopy.

5. These techniques are time-consuming, and are based mainly on trial-and-error methods. These shortcomings are overcome by the AlphaFold. With this new release, the scientists behind DeepMind hope to speed up research into more obscure organisms and spark a new field called metaproteomics. RoseTTaFold, developed by David Baker at the University of Washington, US, is another protein structure prediction tool. Although less accurate than AlphaFold, it can predict the structure of protein complexes.

DESH BILL 2022

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annual intake to 180 through the civil services examination (CSE) since 2012, on the basis of the recommendations of the Baswan committee.

Kerala once again stares at a flood situation with high intensity rain triggered by strong monsoon winds lashing central Kerala. In addition, a low pressure system is expected to form over the Bay of Bengal by Sunday, which is likely to intensify the rain. The situation is precarious in the State, especially in central Kerala where swollen rivers have started inundating low level areas.

China's military began unprecedented live firing drills in six regions surrounding Taiwan, firing missiles from its eastern coast into waters east of the island and putting in place an effective blockade that disrupted flights and shipping. The drills, which will continue until Sunday, were part of Beijing's response to Wednesday's visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.

4690 number of people arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) between 2018 to 2020 though only 149 were convicted under it in the three year period, according to Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai. Mr. Rai said that 1,321 people were arrested under the UAPA in 2020 while 80 people were convicted that year. The highest number of people arrested under the law during this period was in Uttar Pradesh (1,338).

34,151 number of women who are currently serving in various posts of the central armed police forces (CAPF). Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that it was decided in 2016 that 33% of posts at the constable level were to be reserved for women in CRPF and CISF while 1415% of posts would be reserved for border forces BSF, SSB and ITBP. 9,454 women are serving in CRPF, 7,391 women in BSF, 9,320 in CISF, 2,518 in ITBP, 3,610 in SSB and 1,858 in Assam Rifles.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has written a letter on Thursday to his counterparts across the country to include a chapter on Ahom army general Lachit Borphukan in the textbooks of educational institutions in their respective States. The request is among a series of initiatives undertaken by the government for

1.The government plans to table the Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) Bill in the monsoon session of the Parliament, which will overhaul the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act of 2005. The DESH Bill will overhaul the existing SEZ law of 2005, aiming to revive interest in SEZs and develop more inclusive economic hubs. Through this, the government is seeking to go beyond export-oriented manufacturing and focus on broad-based parameters such as boosting additional economic activity, and integrating various industrial hubs.

2.The new law will allow units to manufacture for both domestic and international markets. Development Hubs - Through this, the SEZs will be revamped and renamed Development Hubs. The developmental hubs will be classified into two types - Enterprise and services hubs. The enterprise hubs will have land-based area requirements and be allowed for both manufacturing and services activities.

3.The services hubs will have built-up area requirements and be allowed for only services-related activities. These hubs, which will come up under the regional boards of states, could be created by Centre or states or jointly by both or by any goods and services provider. These hubs will be free from several laws that currently restrict them.

4.These hubs will facilitate both export-oriented and domestic investment. Criteria - Evaluation based on net foreign exchange and direct tax incentives have been done away with in order to comply with WTO rules. Under the DESH Bill, net positive growth criteria will be used to judge performance. Duty and Tax - The customs duty would only be paid on the inputs used and not on the expensive final goods.

5.An equalisation levy may be imposed on goods or services supplied to the domestic market to bring taxes at par with those provided by units outside.

6.Significance - One of the key aspects of the new DESH Bill is also to promote the expansion of the gambit of service sector units. Currently, only specified services such as IT, ITeS are allowed in special economic zones. The new DESH Bill will be WTO-compliant and will have a single window clearance system.

SHORTCOMINGS OF THE SEZ ACT

1.According to the WTO's dispute settlement panel, India's export-related schemes, including the SEZ Scheme, were inconsistent with WTO rules since they directly linked tax benefits to exports.

2.In its report in 2019, the WTO's dispute settlement panel ruled that India's export-related schemes were in the nature of prohibited subsidies under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

3.The SEZ Act was implemented in 2006 in a bid to create export hubs and boost manufacturing in the country. However, these zones started losing their sheen after the imposition of a minimum alternate tax and the introduction of a sunset clause for the removal of tax incentives.

DIAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE

1.As part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, the Government of India has been supporting the Indian fertiliser companies including those producing Diammonium Phosphate to strengthen their backend supply chain. Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) [(NH₄)₂HPO₄] is the world's most widely used phosphorus fertilizers.

2.It is a preferred fertilizer in India because it contains both Nitrogen (18% N) and Phosphorus [46% P₂O₅ (20% P)] that are primary macronutrients and part of 18 essential plant nutrients. DAP is manufactured by reacting Ammonia with Phosphoric acid under controlled conditions in fertilizer plants. Uses - DAP is an excellent source of P and N for plant nutrition.

3.It is highly soluble and thus dissolves quickly in soil to release plant-available phosphate and ammonium. To prevent the possibility of seedling damage, care should be taken to avoid placing high concentrations of DAP near germinating seeds.

4.DAP is used in many applications as a fire retardant to prevent a forest from burning. It then becomes a nutrient source after the danger of fire has passed. DAP is used in various industrial

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the yearlong celebration of the iconic 17th century military strategist's 400th birth anniversary.

Amid growing number of international reactions to developments in the Taiwan straits and tensions between the U.S. and China, New Delhi chose to maintain a "studied silence" on the unfolding situation, omitting any mention of it even in talks held by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Phnom Penh.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Thursday recommended to the government the name of Justice Uday Umesh Lalit as his successor and the 49th Chief Justice of India.

processes, such as metal finishing. It is commonly added to wine to sustain yeast fermentation and to cheese to support cheese cultures India is the largest agricultural consumer of DAP in the world.