

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

24TH AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The concept of acculturation was coined in 1880 by American geologist John Wesley Powell. Acculturation is defined as the process in which a person or group from one culture comes in contact with another culture, adopting the values and practices of the other while still retaining their own distinct identity. Sociologists understand acculturation as a two-way process, wherein the minority culture adopts aspects of the majority to fit in and the culture of the majority is also influenced by that of the minority. India, with its distinctive fusion of various cultures, has archetypes that present us with a deeper understanding of the concept of acculturation. The Urdu language, a blend of Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hindi, is a beautiful example of the amalgamation and transmutation of cultures.

967 thousands, the number of Ukrainian refugees Germany has registered since Russia invaded its neighbour in February. About 36% of them are children while around 8% are over the age of 64. The UN refugee agency UNHCR says more than 6.6 million Ukrainians have been registered as refugees across Europe since the Russian invasion. Most Ukrainian refugees want to return home as soon as possible, according to a UN survey published in July, but do not expect to do so until the war is over.

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal visited Chabahar on August 20. Mr. Sonowal reviewed the progress in the work on the terminal and handed over six mobile harbour cranes “to improve efficiency”. The Chabahar plan had three main objectives — to build India’s first offshore port; to circumvent trade through Pakistan; and to find an alternative land route to Afghanistan. A fourth strategy has also emerged wherein the government hopes to provide Central Asia with an alternate route to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In what appears to be a hostile takeover bid for news broadcaster NDTV, the media subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, AMG Media Networks Ltd. (AMNL), said on Tuesday that it had indirectly acquired a 29.18% stake in NDTV, triggering an open offer for it to take another 26% stake in the media house.

DIMAPUR-KOHIMA RAIL SECTION

1.The railway as part of connecting each part of the northeast with the other parts of the country has expedited works for the completion of the 85-km-long new Dimapur-Kohima rail project. For the first time, Kohima, the capital city of Nagaland, would be on India’s railway map after the construction of the Dimapur-Kohima rail section.

2.The track will pass through four districts of Nagaland, and its work will finish in three phases. On the entire stretch of this first-of-its-kind rail project passing through the toughest hilly terrain the route will have 8 railway stations and 22 rail bridges in addition to 21 tunnels. One of the 22 rail bridges is being built would be around 51 feet in height.

3.The region not only has a difficult terrain, it is also part of seismic zone 5 making it highly prone to earthquakes. The last railway station of this rail line to connect Kohima first time with rail link would be Zubza, near Kohima city. The rail line will have the country’s longest tunnel of 6.5 km long.

SOFT RELEASE CENTRES

1.Jharkhand forest officials have chalked out plans to set up soft release centres in order to ensure enough food for tigers, which will help in increasing their numbers in the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR). The soft release centres are those where animals are placed in pre-release cages located close to the location where they will be released.

2.**After some time, the animals are allowed to go out, but they have the option of returning to the cage for shelter, water and food. Initially, the PTR had good tiger counts, which came down to three in the 2014 census and zero in the latest report.** PTR officials, however, claimed that the presence of two tigers have recently been confirmed on the basis of the scat found by them in the jungles.

3.The idea is to spread deer population in entire PTR, which currently is concentrated in Betla forests only. The number of deer shrunk to less than 4,000 from 10,000 in the last one decade, resulting in the decrease of tiger count in the PTR.

4.The proposal for two soft release centres has already been approved by the Government of India. Each soft release centres at Baresadh, Lukaiya, Mundu and Dhardharia will be spread over 10 hectares, which will provide an amicable atmosphere for the breeding of deer.

TOMATO FLU

1.Doctors have sounded an alarm over the “emergence of new non-life-threatening” virus called tomato flu among the children below five years of age. Tomato flu or fever is a viral disease. The flu gets its name because of the red blister it causes. The fever is affecting children below the age of five. Symptoms include red rashes, skin irritation and dehydration.

2.It also includes tiredness, joint pain, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, high fever, and body ache. In some cases, it may also change the colour of the legs and the hands. Spread - Like other cases of flu, tomato fever is also contagious. If someone is infected with this flu, they need to be kept in isolation as this could spread rapidly from one person to another.

3.It is essential to prevent children from scratching the blisters caused by the flu. Proper rest and hygiene is also advised. Treatment - Tomato flu is a self-limiting one and there is no specific drug for this. This means that the symptoms will resolve overtime on their own if supportive care is given. Fluid intake would also help counteract dehydration.

TASMANIAN TIGER

1.Scientists are working on a project to reintroduce Tasmanian tiger in its native habitat. Project thylacine of USA and Australia aims to reintroduce thylacine or Tasmanian tiger to its native place Tasmania to revive the region’s lost ecological balance. Tasmanian tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) is the only surviving animal in the Thylacinidae family in modern times. It got its

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Machine-based evaluation for admission to undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) courses offered by colleges and universities is the “best” way to ensure “justice and objectivity” for students as it eliminates human bias, said University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar in response to criticism over the centralised examination format, which has been riddled with technical glitches.

The government amended the Supreme Court Judges Rules to entitle a retired Chief Justice rent-free Type-VII accommodation in Delhi for six months from the date of superannuation. A notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice said the accommodation would be other than the designated official residence. The amended Rules added that a retired Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court shall be entitled to a chauffeur, a secretarial assistant and round-the-clock security cover, in addition to his or her personal security guard for a period of a year from the date of retirement.

84% by which Germany’s gas storage is full, showing steady progress despite a drastic reduction in deliveries from Russia amid the war in Ukraine. Increasing the amount in reserve has been a key focus of the German government since Russia invaded Ukraine to avoid rationing for the industry as demand rises. The country’s storage was about 56% full when Russian energy company Gazprom started cutting supplies through Nord Stream 1. Germany has been hit by reductions in Russian gas supplies since the war started.

In India, Vivo, Xiaomi and Oppo have been broadly accused of tax evasions, discharging illegal remittances, forged identification and incorrect disclosures. Across the world Chinese companies have been disfavoured for providing critical infrastructure for essential telecommunication services. Reuters reported that the Biden administration was investigating Huawei over concerns that cell towers in the country were fitted with gear that could capture sensitive information from military bases. However, an outright ban for Chinese smartphone players is unlikely.

A Court of Inquiry (Col) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) into the accidental

name because of the black stripes along its back.

2.Key features of the species - Marsupial mammal - raises young ones in a pouch. Slow-paced carnivore Hunts alone or in pairs at night. Feeds on kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents, and birds. Geographical Spread – Grass and woodlands of continental Australia extending north to New Guinea and south to Tasmania.

3.Reason for extinction – The animals were reported to have eaten poultry of farmers, and were killed following official authorisation. An official bounty of 1 pound was put on its head. Apart from this, competition with another animal, the Dingo, is also considered a reason for its extinction. The last wild thylacine was killed between 1910 and 1920. Following this, the Australian government declared the thylacine a protected species in July 1936. However the last captive animal, died at the Beaumaris Zoo and was declared extinction in 1980s.

4.Ecological contribution - Being a top predator it played a significant role in balancing the ecosystem and maintaining species diversity. Its disappearance from the food chain resulted in Trophic Downgrading which led to disruption of biogeochemical cycles, wildfires, growth of invasive species, spread of the transmissible diseases and carbon sequestration, among other effects.

5.The resurrection process – Despite being extinction many of its embryos and young specimens of have been preserved. For the de-extinction project genome sequenced from a DNA specimen will be used. This genome will be compared with the closest living animal of the species– the fat tailed dunnart – to identify all the differences. Once the differences are identified, scientists will engineer the DNA of the living species to bring back the extinct species.

6.Following this stem cell and cloning techniques will be used to turn those cells back into a living animal The fat-tailed dunnart is a mouse-like species in the Dasyuridae family in Australia. De-extinction will not be complete until the success of the rewilding process. Concerns raised - One of the challenges of de-extinction is that reintroducing the species to its former habitat may make it an invasive species, which will also impact the balance of the current ecological system.

THE CONTROVERSY AROUND DELHI EXCISE POLICY

1.Context: Recent controversy around, now scrapped, Delhi Excise Policy Understanding the issue: Delhi government introduced a new “New Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22” last year, in order to ensure the complete withdrawal of the government from the liquor business and handing over licences to the private sector. Until the policy was introduced, the liquor business was a state-controlled entity with no private players.

2.Initially, it did help the government increase revenue by 27 per cent to Rs 8,900 crores and removal of the dominance of the liquor mafia. However, issue with the Policy: Location of vends near schools, religious places of new shops.

3.Violations related to non-conforming areas where certain businesses such as liquor retail are not allowed Issues related to discounts and schemes such as 1+1 Surrendering of license: Only 468 of the around 850 liquor vends could actually open. The controversy around Mr Sisodia: He holds the excise portfolio, and is under the lens for allegedly providing “undue financial favours” to liquor licensees.

PANDURANG KHANKHOJE

1.Speaker Om Birla will unveil a statue of the freedom fighter and agricultural scientist during his visit to Mexico. **About: Pandurang Khankhoje (1883-1967) was a Maharashtra-born freedom fighter and agriculturalist. Contribution: Khankhoje was one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party, established by Indians living abroad in 1914, mostly belonging to Punjab.**

2.He was a professor at the National School of Agriculture in Chapingo, near Mexico City. He researched corn, wheat, pulses and rubber, developing frost and drought-resistant varieties, and was part of efforts to bring in the Green Revolution in Mexico. Later on, the American agronomist Dr Norman Borlaug, called the Father of the Green Revolution in India, brought the Mexican

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firing of a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in March, which landed in Pakistan, found that deviation from standard operating procedures (SOP) by three officers led to the incident. Services of the officers have been terminated with immediate effect, the IAF said.

During the hearing in the Supreme Court on a petition challenging “irrational freebies” offered by political parties, Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, observed on Tuesday that the parties were “all on one side and everybody wants freebies” to continue.

wheat variety to Punjab.