

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a way to make bricks from Martian soil with the help of bacteria and urea. These 'space bricks' can be used to construct building like structures on Mars that could facilitate human settlement on the red planet, the IISc said.

As per a study by RMSI, a Noida-based IT consulting firm, on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports for key coastal cities, due to the rising sea levels by 2050, a significant number of population, property, and infrastructure in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram along with four other cities — Mumbai, Chennai, Vizag, Mangaluru — will be under water. The IPCC assessment report indicates that India's sea level will rise significantly by 2050. Sea level rise in the North Indian Ocean (NIO) occurred at a rate of 1.06–1.75 mm per year from 1874 to 2004 and has accelerated to 3.3 mm per year in the past two and a half decades (1993–2017).

Exploration and production major Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has commissioned "India's first 99.999% pure" green hydrogen plant in Assam. Green hydrogen, which has the potential to replace fossil fuels, is the name given to hydrogen gas produced using renewable energy such as wind or solar power that do not entail greenhouse gas emissions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced that a special visa category would be created soon for those who want to travel to the country to avail themselves of AYUSH therapies. "Heal in India", he said, could become a big brand of this decade and wellness centres based on Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and such traditional practices could be very popular and attract people from across the world. Traditional medicine helped Kerala promote tourism, and similarly, every State should promote it, as this power was there in the entire country in every corner.

Arunachal Pradesh and Assam have decided to form district level committees to resolve boundary disputes. The model adopted at a meeting between Assam Chief

GUIDELINES ON CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NBFC'S - UL

1.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues guidelines on capital requirements for NBFCs-Upper Layer (NBFCs-UL). This follows a circular for Scale Based Regulation for NBFCs. This circular is applicable to all NBFCs identified as NBFC-UL, except core investment companies (CICs). The NBFCs-UL must maintain, on an on-going basis, Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of at least 9% of risk weighted assets.

2.Elements of the CET-1 capital will comprise of Paid-up equity share capital issued by the NBFC, Share premium resulting from the issue of equity shares, Capital reserves representing surplus arising out of sale proceeds of assets, Statutory reserves and Revaluation reserves arising out of change in the carrying amount of an NBFC's property, consequent upon its revaluation in accordance with the applicable accounting standards may, at the discretion of the NBFC, will be reckoned as CET1. Other disclosed free reserves, if any. Balance in Statement of Profit & Loss Account after allocations and appropriations i.e. retained earnings at the end of the previous financial year.

3.Accumulated losses shall be reduced from CET 1. Profits in current financial year may be included on a quarterly basis if it has been audited or subject to limited review by the statutory auditors of the NBFC. Loans and advances under ₹5 crore - In a separate set of guidelines on loans and advances by NBFCs, the RBI has spelt out regulatory restrictions for NBFCs in the Middle and Upper Layer.

4.Unless sanctioned by the board of directors or committee of directors, NBFCs shall not grant loans and advances aggregating ₹5 crore and above to the, Directors (including the Chairman/MD); Relatives of directors; Any firm in which any of director or their relative is interested as a partner, manager, employee or guarantor; or Any company in which any director their relative is interested as a major shareholder, director, manager, employee or guarantor.

5.In the real estate sector, while appraising loan proposals, NBFCs must ensure that the borrowers have obtained prior permission for the project from government, local government/ other statutory authorities. To ensure that the loan approval process is not hampered on account of this, The proposals may be sanctioned in normal course, But the disbursements shall be made only after the borrower has obtained requisite clearances from the government or other statutory authorities.

KONGU-CHOLA-ERA HERO STONES

1.Archaeological enthusiasts have recently discovered three hero stones likely from the 11th or 12th Century CE, during the rule of Kongu Cholas, at Annur in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. Of the three hero stones, one is a 'Thalaibali sirpam'. The hero is depicted as sacrificing himself with two swords as part of a ritual. In Tamil Nadu, hero stones are memorials erected for those who lost their lives in the battles and in cattle raids.

2.As cattle were an important source of wealth, raiding cattle owned by adjoining tribes and clans was common practice in a pastoral society. During the Sangam Age, the Mullai landscape followed the pastoral way of life. Tradition of hero stones might have begun in the Iron Age or even before. Sangam literature describes such hero stones as objects of worship. Tholkappiyam describes the procedures for erecting hero stones.

3.Hero stones of the Sangam Age were found with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. Those of the Sangam Age discovered till now do not have images or sculptures. Hero stones of the post-Sangam Age and the Pallava period occur in large numbers in pastoral regions. These hero stones have inscriptions and the images of warriors and names of heroes.

4.Kongu Cholas-There is a hypothesis that the Kongu Cholas were the descendants of Kandaraditya (950-947 A.D.) the son of Parintaka Chola I of the Imperial Chola line. The identification of Kandaraditya with Kokkandan of the Rajakisari Peruvai inscription is the mainstay of this hypothesis. The first Kongu Chola ruler was Vira Chola 1 (942-

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu in Guwahati on Wednesday was similar to the one Assam and Meghalaya had pursued to partially resolve their disputes.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is set to unveil revised ecommerce rules including amendments that would press operators of online marketplaces to ensure “algorithmic fairness” by removing the advantage that many of these entities give to sellers wholly or partially owned by them, and thus provide a level playing field for small businesses.

Indian wheat could offer a cheaper option for top importer Egypt but will have to overcome quality controls set by the African country’s agriculture ministry as well as higher freight costs. Last week, Egypt’s agriculture ministry announced it had approved India as a wheat import origin but has placed several conditions including inspection for pests prior to export and the use of only a specific pesticide.

Russia said on Wednesday it had conducted a first test launch of its Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, a new addition to its nuclear arsenal which President Vladimir Putin said would give Moscow’s enemies something to think about. “It has no analogues in the world and won’t have for a long time to come,” Mr. Putin said.

The International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday that it has asked cash strapped Sri Lanka to “restructure” its huge foreign debt before a bailout programme could be finalised. Sri Lanka opened talks with the IMF in Washington this week after announcing its first ever default on external borrowings.

The sixth and last of the French Scorpene class submarines, INS Vagsheer, was launched into water at the Mazagon Docks in Mumbai.

The ceasefire agreements between the Union government and three Naga groups have been extended by a year, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Wednesday. The agreements are with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland NK, National Socialist Council of Nagaland Reformation and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K-Khango).

65.5% percentage of the capital acquisition budget of the financial year 2021-22, utilised for making procurements from domestic

980 A.D.).

ALLURI SITARAM RAJU

1.The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu recently visited the birthplace of noted freedom fighter and revolutionary, Shri Alluri Sitarama Raju in Pandrangi village near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

2.About Alluri Sitaram Raju: In 1922, Indian revolutionary Alluri Sitaram Raju led the Rampa Rebellion against the British raj for their imposition of the 1882 Madras Forest Act, which severely restricted the free movement of the tribal community within their own forests. Under the implications of this Act, the community was unable to fully carry out the traditional Podu agricultural system, which involved shifting cultivation.

3.The armed struggle came to a violent end in 1924, when Raju was captured by police forces, tied to a tree, and shot by a firing squad. His heroics resulted in him being titled manyam veerudu, or ‘the hero of the jungle’.

4.Rampa Rebellion: The Rampa Rebellion of 1922, also known as the Manyam Rebellion, was a tribal uprising, led by Alluri Sitarama Raju in Godavari Agency of Madras Presidency, British India. It began in August 1922 and lasted until the capture and killing of Raju in May 1924.

OPEC+

1.Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gave a “positive assessment” to their cooperation on the OPEC+ producers group to stabilize the world oil market.

2.What’s the issue? Saudi Arabia and other major Persian Gulf oil producers have so far resisted U.S. calls to increase output as prices have surged amid the crisis in Ukraine and concerns about possible sanctions on Russian exports. So, measures such as these are necessary to set things right.

3.Opec+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017. OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

4.The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization. OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental organization.

BRAHMOS MISSILE

1.BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

2.BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The range of the advanced version of the missile is learnt to have been extended to around 350 km from the original 290 km.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

1.Solomon Islands is a nation in Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea, comprising more than 990 islands. Its capital is Honiara, located on the island of Guadalcanal.

2.The Solomon Islands have been inhabited by Melanesian people for at least 30,000 years. It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia.

3.Context: China said it had signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands, a first-of-its-kind arrangement that could pave the way for further Chinese security deals overseas.

NATPOLREX-VIII

1.It is the 8th edition of the National Level Pollution Response Exercise. Conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Mormugao harbour, Goa. The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.

2.It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

1.World Hemophilia day is celebrated on 17th April every year,

sources, according to the Defence Ministry. The Ministry added that they had earmarked 64% of the capital acquisition budget for domestic industry and were able to 'overachieve' this target. In May 2020, the government announced increasing the foreign direct investments limit from 49% to 74% under the automatic route in the defence sector.

aiming to increase awareness about hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The day is celebrated in the honour of Frank Schnabel, founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF).

2.This year's (2022) theme is "Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy".

3.Hemophilia is a medical condition, mostly inherited, in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced, so that even a minor injury can cause severe bleeding.