

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

India is gripped in the throes of a long spell of heatwaves and there is compelling evidence that a significant portion of it is due to human induced climate change, said scientists who were part of an online webinar on climate change organised as part of the TNQ Janelia Climate Change Summit. Three eminent scientists with expertise in how atmospheric, land and ocean systems were influenced by greenhouse gas emissions, drew upon their decades of research to explain how the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere exacerbated temperatures in the oceans and the land and caused increased glacier melt, heightened sea level rise and led to changes in the biosphere.

Holding that it is the right time to confer juristic status to 'Mother Nature', Justice S. Srimathy of the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court invoked the 'parens patriae jurisdiction', and declared 'Mother Nature' as a 'living being' having the status of a legal entity. Justice S. Srimathy observed that the court is hereby declaring 'Mother Nature' a 'living being' having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person, in order to preserve and conserve it. The court observed that 'Mother Nature' was accorded the rights akin to fundamental rights, legal rights, constitutional rights for its survival, safety, sustenance and resurgence in order to maintain its status and also to promote its health and wellbeing.

Output from India's eight core sectors grew by 4.3% in March, moderately lower than the 6% growth recorded in February, but still reflecting the second highest growth rate over five months.

China will allow some Indian students to return to resume their studies — after a two year pandemic-induced gap — on a "need assessed basis", Indian officials said on Friday. An agreement to allow their return was reached following the meeting of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on March 25 in New Delhi, the Indian Embassy in Beijing said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his government was working to

PLAN BEE

1.The "Plan Bee" of the Indian Railways to keep elephants off the rail tracks seems to have failed to get the desired results with 48 pachyderms and 188 other animals killed by running trains since 2019. The Indian Railways came up with the Plan Bee as a way of getting elephants to buzz off from train tracks.

2.They use speakers that play the sound of bees to scare the jumbos away. The buzzing is played as trains approach vulnerable points and can be heard up to half a mile (600 metres) away. The 'Plan Bee' has won an award for "best innovative idea" from Indian Railways for regional operator Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). Concept - Elephants have long been known to be frightened by the buzzing of bees and stings.

3.Villagers in Kerala have been using "beehive fences" to scare away marauding elephants. When elephants touch the fences, bees inside boxes attached to the fences storm out angrily to defend their colonies.

4.Threats to Elephants - Increasing human population, habitat destruction, increased frequency of fast trains, and neglect on part of authorities. An elephant calf named Bholu is the mascot of Indian Railways.

HATTIS

1.Hatti community of Himachal Pradesh has requested the Union Government for inclusion of their community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The Hattis are a close-knit community who got their name from their tradition of selling homegrown vegetables, crops, meat and wool etc. at small markets called 'haat' in towns.

2.The Hattis are cut off from Sirmaur by two rivers called Giri and Tons. The two clans of the Hattis have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are commonplace. There is a fairly rigid caste system among the Hattis - the Bhat and Khash are the upper castes, while the Badhois are below them. Inter-caste marriages have traditionally remained a strict no-no.

3.Due to topographical disadvantages, the Hattis living in the Kamrau, Sangrah, and Shilliai areas lag behind in education and employment.

4.The Hattis are governed by a traditional council called Khumbli, which like the khaps of Haryana, decide community matters. The Khumbli's power has remained unchallenged despite the establishment of the panchayati raj system.

GARBOLOGY

1.Garbology is the study of modern culture through the analysis of what is thrown away as garbage. As an academic discipline, it was pioneered at the University of Arizona and long directed by William Rathje.

2.It uses colouring books, board games & activity-based learning to drive long-term behavioural change among school students, especially with regard to consumption & waste management.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

1.The Union Education Minister will be launching the Mandate Document of National Curriculum Framework (NCF). The previous National Curriculum Framework was framed in 2005. National Curriculum Framework (NCF) is a system of education that is developed keeping in mind the geographical and cultural diversity as well as social environment.

2.The NCF is being drafted through a collaborative and consultative process, starting from district to state level and then National level. The key goals of the National Curriculum Framework are: To promote a wholesome development of the child encompassing the academic, emotional, physical, and emotional aspects.

3.To enable the students to develop intellectual quotient by providing them varied opportunities. To make the environment conducive to quality learning where the students would be encouraged to participate in various activities. To foster creative thinking skills by facilitating different activities and giving the

create a conducive atmosphere to help people from ordinary backgrounds to become entrepreneurs. In his inaugural address to the Global Patidar Business Summit in Surat, Mr. Modi also asked the community to form groups of entrepreneurs and experts to suggest policy reforms in banking and other sectors, and also point out the shortcomings in current policy.

Amid the possibility of a power crisis due to shortage of coal, the Indian Railways has cancelled around 42 passenger trains so far to ensure faster delivery to and from coal producing regions of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Even though the Railways has said that this is an 'interim measure' and cancellations have mostly taken place in non-priority sectors and less busy routes, many passengers have been left in the lurch ahead of the upcoming summer holiday season.

The Indian economy may take more than a decade to overcome the losses caused by the outbreak of COVID19 pandemic, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Currency and Finance (RCF). "The pandemic is a watershed moment and the structural changes catalysed by the pandemic can potentially alter the growth trajectory in the medium term," the authors observed.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince to "develop" relations in his first visit since the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi drove a wedge between the Sunni powers.

The first known human case of H5 bird flu in the U.S. has appeared in a person in Colorado, the CDC said. The person tested positive for avian influenza A(H5) virus and was involved in the culling of poultry presumed to have had H5N1 bird flu, the CDC said.

Russia confirmed it carried out an air strike on Kyiv during a visit by the UN chief, the first such attack on the Ukrainian capital in nearly two weeks and one that killed a journalist.

Europe's top human rights official says he raised a number of concerns during official meetings in New Delhi with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, including funding restrictions on NGOs, the recent communal violence, the situation in Jammu &

liberty to express individual thoughts within the class. In response to multi-cultural attributes, the schools must ensure no student is discriminated against based on caste or religion, and social status.

4. As per the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, following four NCFs will be developed: National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCFECE), National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE), National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE).

5. In this regard, a comprehensive strategy has been worked out jointly by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and NCERT. As per this strategy, at the State level- all states/UTs will first prepare their State Curriculum Frameworks (SCFs). For providing inputs for the development of the 4 NCFs, 25 themes based on the perspectives of the NEP, 2020 are identified under the three categories, viz., Curriculum and Pedagogy Cross-cutting Issues. Other important areas of NEP, 2020 focussing on systemic changes and reforms.

PERUMBAKKAM WETLAND

1. The Perumbakkam wetland is a feeding habitat for birds in Chennai, India. It is an extension of the Pallikaranai freshwater marsh wetland.

2. Also, this wetland provides a peaceful environment for these birds. Perambakkam wetland is home to 132 species including the white-spotted garden skink, Russell's viper, dwarf gourami, chromide, windowpane oyster, mud crab and mullet.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE(LFPR)

1. LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is asking for a job; it represents the "demand" for jobs in an economy.

2. It includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed. Why in News? In India, the LFPR is not only lower than in the rest of the world but also falling.

3. The world over, LFPR is around 60%. In India, it has been sliding over the last 10 years and has shrunk from 47% in 2016 to just 40% as of December 2021.

WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY 2022

1. To promote awareness on the benefits of reading books, World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day 2022 is observed every year on April 23.

2. The day is celebrated by UNESCO and other related organisations across the world to honour authors, and books, promote the art of reading, etc. In 2022, the World Book Capital is the Mexican city of Guadalajara.

3. The World Book Capital of 2021 was Tbilisi, Georgia. The theme for World Book and Copyright Day 2022 is "Read, so you never feel low". Why was this day chosen? UNESCO has selected 23rd April as World Book Day to pay tribute to great literary figures including William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega who died on this day.

WORLD COAL ASSOCIATION

1. The World Coal Association (WCA) is an international non-profit, non-governmental association based in London, United Kingdom. It was created to represent the global coal industry.

2. The association was formerly called the World Coal Institute (WCI) but changed its name in November 2010. The WCA undertakes lobbying, organises workshops, and provides coal information to decision makers. It is co-author of a report on the future of coal in ASEAN nations.

BHIMA-KOREGAON BATTLE

1. A battle was fought in Bhima Koregaon, a district in Pune with a strong historical Dalit connection, between the Peshwa forces and the British on January 1, 1818. The British army, which comprised mainly of Dalit soldiers, fought the upper caste-dominated Peshwa army. The British troops defeated the Peshwa army.

2. Outcomes of the battle: The victory was seen as a win against caste-based discrimination and oppression. Peshwas were notorious for their oppression and persecution of Mahar dalits. The victory in the battle over Peshwas gave dalits a moral victory a victory against caste-based discrimination and oppression and sense of identity.

Kashmir, and the condition of religious minorities. The concerns were reportedly raised when European Union Special Representative of Human Rights Eamon Gilmore, who was a guest speaker at the MEA's Raisina Dialogue this week, met with the Indian officials along with his delegation.

3. However, the divide and rule policy of the British created multiple fissures in Indian society which is even visible today in the way of excessive caste and religious discrimination which needs to be checked keeping in mind the tenets of the Constitution.

4. Why Bhima Koregaon is seen as a Dalit symbol? The battle has come to be seen as a symbol of Dalit pride because a large number of soldiers in the Company force were the Mahar Dalits. Since the Peshwas, who were Brahmins, were seen as oppressors of Dalits, the victory of the Mahar soldiers over the the Peshwa force is seen as Dalit assertion.

5. On 1 January 1927, B.R. Ambedkar visited the memorial obelisk erected on the spot which bears the names of the dead including nearly two dozen Mahar soldiers. The men who fought in the battle of Koregaon were the Mahars, and the Mahars are Untouchables.