

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Thick orange fumes from the PSLV C52 briefly lit up the predawn dark sky and Pulicat Lake as the workhorse of the Indian Space Research Organisation soared into the skies from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The ISRO's maiden launch of 2022 and the first under its new Chairman, S. Somanath, went off without a glitch, placing all the three satellites into orbit with precision. The PSLV C52 was the 54th flight of the rocket and the 23rd in its XL configuration. The success of the launch was crucial for ISRO that had a very muted 2020 with just two launches, one of which — the GSLV F10 — failed after launch. The PSLV C52 carrying the Earth Observation Satellite, EOS04, the INS2TD, a technology demonstrator from ISRO, and the INSPIRESat1, a student satellite, lifted off.

India's retail inflation accelerated past the 6% mark in January to hit 6.01%, breaching the central bank's tolerance threshold for consumer price inflation for the first time since June 2021. Retail inflation was 5.66% in December 2021. Rural India bore the brunt of the inflation spike as per official data, with the pace of price rise touching 6.12% from 5.36% in December. Inflation in urban India was virtually unchanged at 5.91% in January, from 5.9% a month earlier. The Consumer Food Price Index spiked significantly from 4.05% in December to 5.43% in January, with rural India again reporting a sharper rise.

Jio Platforms has announced that it would invest \$200 million in Glance, a Singaporebased AI-driven Lock Screen platform. The proposed investment is aimed at accelerating Glance's launch in several key international markets outside of Asia such as the U.S., Brazil, Mexico and Russia, Jio said in a statement. Glance is also backed by Google and Silicon Valleybased venture fund Mithril Capital.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is in the process of reviving its underwater archaeology wing that had become defunct over the years, Culture Ministry said. The Ministry has also informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture that the underwater wing would be revived. The standing committee

WHITE CHEEKED MACAQUE

1. Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have found a new mammal species in the country - the White Cheeked Macaque. The White Cheeked Macaque has distinct white cheeks, long and thick hair on the neck and a longer tail than other Macaque species. It is the last mammal to have been discovered in Southeast Asia.

2. While the Macaque was first discovered in China in 2015, its existence was not known in India before this. Its presence has been discovered in the remote Anjaw district in central Arunachal Pradesh. Both the Arunachal macaque as well as the White Cheeked Macaque exist in the same biodiversity hotspot in the eastern Himalayas.

3. Protection Status - This species is not included in the Wildlife Protection Act of India, which presently doesn't cover it simply because we didn't know it existed in India.

Threat - The potential threat to all species of macaques in the landscape is due to hunting by locals for consumption and habitat degradation due to urbanization and infrastructure development.

DHOLES

1. A new study has reported the presence of dholes in the high mountains of Central Asia nearly 30 years after their presence was last recorded. Dholes or Asiatic wild dogs (*Cuon alpinus*) are canid native to Central, South, East Asia, and Southeast Asia.

2. India perhaps supports the largest number of dholes, with key populations found in 3 landscapes - Western Ghats, Central India and Northeast India. **Dholes are the apex social carnivores in the tropical forests of South and South East Asia. It is a highly social animal, living in large clans without rigid dominance hierarchies and containing multiple breeding females.**

3. They hunt in packs and tend to venture into forested landscapes adjoining protected areas. Threats - Anthropogenic factors, which fragment and alter landscapes seriously affects dholes. Other threats are habitat loss, loss of prey, competition with other species, persecution due to livestock predation and disease transfer from domestic dogs.

FAIRBANK'S DISEASE

1. Fairbank's disease or Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia (MED) is a rare genetic disorder which affects the growing ends of bones. It is a group of disorders of cartilage and bone development, primarily affecting the ends of the long bones in the arms & legs (epiphyses). Bones usually elongate by a process that involves the depositing of cartilage at the ends of the bones, called ossification.

2. This cartilage then mineralizes and hardens to become bone. In MED, this process is defective. Two types of MED - They are distinguished by their patterns of inheritance as Autosomal dominant and Autosomal recessive. Causes - Dominant MED is caused by mutations in the COMP, COL9A1, COL9A2, COL9A3, or MATN3 genes (or can be of unknown cause). Recessive MED is caused by mutations in the SLC26A2 gene.

3. Symptoms - Joint pain in the hips and knees; early-onset arthritis; a waddling walk; and mild short stature as adults. Recessive MED may also cause malformations of the hands, feet, and knees; scoliosis; or other abnormalities.

4. Most people are diagnosed during childhood, but mild cases may not be diagnosed until adulthood. MED patient usually requires management of pain and orthopedic procedures, for which facilities are available at tertiary care institutions in India.

ACROMEGALY DISORDER

1. Acromegaly is a hormonal disorder that develops when your pituitary gland produces too much growth hormone during adulthood. When you have too much growth hormone, your bones increase in size. In childhood, this leads to increased height and is called gigantism. But in adulthood, a change in

had highlighted the need for reviving underwater archaeological sites in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Odisha in its report.

The Union Health Ministry said the National Health Authority (NHA) is working to integrate the database of Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 beneficiaries with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) portal so that beneficiaries can seek information regarding their entitlements under the AB PMJAY using their ration card number. The NHA is mandated with the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). The scheme provides health assurance of up to ₹5 lakh for a family a year, for secondary and tertiary care related hospitalisations.

The Centre on Monday banned over 50 new Chinese mobile applications, including Rise of Kingdoms: Lost Crusade, Tencent Xriver, Nice Video baidu and Viva Video Editor, citing concerns over privacy and national security. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had issued interim directions for blocking 54 apps, adding these were allegedly collecting sensitive user data, which were being misused and transmitted to servers outside India.

Making a strong case for banning cryptocurrencies, RBI Deputy Governor Rabi Sankar on Monday said these were worse than Ponzi schemes and threatened the financial sovereignty of a country. Observing that cryptotechnology is underpinned by a philosophy to evade government controls, he said these are specifically developed to bypass the regulated financial system.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday visited the United Arab Emirates for the first time in nearly a decade, to revive relations that were long strained by regional disputes.

Talks to salvage Iran's 2015 nuclear deal are not at a deadend but key outstanding issues require political decisions by the West, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said on Monday. Iran has already taken its political decision by staying in the deal after Washington abandoned it in 2018.

Russia held the door open on Monday to further talks on resolving its standoff with the West and said some of its military drills were ending, signalling a possible easing of the crisis over Ukraine.

height doesn't occur. Instead, the increase in bone size is limited to the bones of your hands, feet and face, and is called acromegaly.

2.Symptoms - Sleeplessness, Excess fatigue, A hoarse voice, Profuse sweating, Frequent headaches, Abnormal weight gain, Develop odour in the body, Enlargement of jaws or tongue etc. As acromegaly is uncommon and the physical changes occur slowly over many years, the condition sometimes takes a long time to recognize.

3.Untreated, high levels of growth hormone can affect other parts of the body, in addition to your bones. This can lead to health problems. But treatment can reduce your risk of complications and significantly improve your symptoms, including the enlargement of your features.

SRI MADHAVACHARYA

1.Shri Madhvacharya was born near Udupi. He was born in 1238, on the auspicious day of Vijayadashami, and he was named Vasudeva. He was the third of the trinity of philosophers who influenced Indian thoughts after the ages of the Vedas and Puranas (the other two being Shankaracharya and Ramanujacharya).

2.He propounded the philosophy of Dvaita or Dualism. It was Achyutapreksha who gave him the title 'Madhva' by which he was more famously known. Literary works: He wrote various texts that detailed his philosophy which he called Tattvavada, or as it is more popularly known, Dvaita. Some of his works were the Gita Bhashya, Brahma Sutra Bhashya, Anu Bhashya, Karma Nirnaya, and Vishnu Tattva Nirnaya.

3.About Dvaita philosophy: The basic tenet of Dvaita philosophy is the refutation of the Mayavada of Sri Shankara. Dvaita emphasizes that the world is real and not just an illusion. The soul is bound to this world through ignorance. The way for the soul to release itself from this bondage is to seek the grace of Sri Hari.

4.To reach Sri Hari, one has to practice Bhakthi, there is no other way. To practice Bhakthi, one needs to meditate. To meditate, one needs to clear the mind and attain detachment by studying the sacred texts.

GEOMAGNETIC STORMS

1.Geomagnetic storms are caused when events such as solar flares can send higher than normal levels of radiation towards Earth. This radiation interacts with the Earth's magnetic field causing a geomagnetic storm. Causes: The disturbance that drives the magnetic storm may be a solar coronal mass ejection (CME) or (much less severely) a co-rotating interaction region (CIR), a high-speed stream of solar wind originating from a coronal hole.

2.Effects of Geomagnetic storms: Effects from the geomagnetic storm can range from the appearance of auroras or the northern and southern lights to disruptions in communications systems due to high radiation. This would make it difficult to communicate with others on Earth.

3.Classification of Geomagnetic storms: Geomagnetic storms are classified according to a scale that measures the effect that storms will have. At its safest level, a G1 storm affects power grids by causing weak fluctuations, minor impacts on satellite operations, and causes the northern and southern lights to occur.

4.At its most extreme, G5, there would be voltage control problems with some grid system collapses or blackouts, radio waves wouldn't be able to travel for one to two days, low-frequency radio would be out for hours, and the auroras would be able to be seen at lower latitudes than usual.

KOALA

1.Australia has designated the koala as an endangered species amid pressure on the marsupials' eucalyptus tree habitats in eastern states of Australia. The koala is an arboreal herbivorous marsupial, native to Australia. It is the only extant representative of Phascolarctidae family.

2.Its closest living relatives are wombats, which are the members of Vombatidae family. The species was classed as vulnerable 10 years ago in Queensland, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

3.Endangered status to koala means, the species and their forest homes should be provided with greater protection in accordance with Australia's national environment law. This would not only

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to go through local laws of States with a finetoothed comb to detect clauses which may harm homebuyers' rights in rules framed under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

protect Koala but many other species living alongside them.

Out of the 1,043 identified waterbodies in the national capital, the government has prepared "brief documents" for 684, while the rest are either encroached upon or their owners are yet to be identified, a Delhi government official told The Hindu. All the 1,043 waterbodies — owned by 16 agencies — were identified and given a unique identification number (UID) by the Wetland Authority of Delhi (WAD).

