

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

43 percentage of the African population, or 600 million people, who lack access to electricity — mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. The number of Africans with access to electricity fell during the COVID pandemic, but \$25 billion in annual investments could bring full coverage by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Africa is facing far more severe effects of climate change than most other parts of the world, despite emitting less energy related carbon dioxide than any other region, the IEA added.

Dragonfly enthusiasts have recorded the presence of a rare dragonfly that was hitherto unseen in Kerala. Afsar Nayakkan and Vibhu Vipanchika spotted the Spiny Horntail, *Burmagomphus chaukulensis* Joshi, Ogale & Sawant, 2022 (or *B. chaukulensis*), during a recent expedition to the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur. The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, along with the Army Training Command (ARTRAC), will establish a 5G test bed at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering in Indore to facilitate the use of 5G technology for the Army along the borders.

An Osaka court ruled that Japan's ban on same sex marriage was not 'unconstitutional', dealing a setback to LGBTQ rights activists in the only Group of Seven nation that doesn't allow people of the same gender to marry.

Normally procured in bulk from neighbouring Tamil Nadu, marigold is hardly a favourite of floriculturists in Kerala. But an onfarm trial carried out by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sadanandapuram, has opened up new prospects for farmers as the flowers have a huge demand during Onam and other festivals.

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued notice to Indian Bank over media reports that it has framed new guidelines preventing women who were more than three months' pregnant from joining service after being selected through due process. "The Commission has learnt that the Bank has allegedly framed rules which state that if a woman candidate is three months'

BIRD STRIKE

1. Recently, bird strike incidents are happening more often. Following these incidents, the aircrafts had to return back to their origin airports and were grounded for maintenance. Bird strikes are among the most common threats to aircraft safety. They typically occur during the take-off or landing phases of a flight. 2. Cases - Typically, when birds collide with an aircraft's airframe, it is unlikely to cause significant problems for the pilots flying. But there are cases where the aircraft engine ingested the birds causing damage to the power plants. This can lead to a loss of thrust for the engine and cause manoeuvrability problems for the crew.

3. Generally, the pilots will declare an emergency and land the plane on the ground at the closest airport. In some cases, bird hits also happen at higher altitudes when a plane is cruising. These are more dangerous than the low-altitude hits given that they can cause rapid depressurisation of cabins. Criticality to air safety - Smaller planes would generally be more susceptible to the dangers of bird strikes than larger ones.

4. As the bird strikes mostly happen during take-offs and landings, these incidents could distract the pilots during what are highly critical phases of a flight that demand the complete attention of the crew. Causes of bird strikes - The presence of birds around an airfield increases the chances of a bird strike. In monsoons, as water puddles emerge in open grounds attracting insects to breed, it increases the presence of birds in these regions.

5. Other reasons for bird activity around an airfield could be the presence of landfills or waste disposal sites that attract a large number of birds. Also, other food sources near airport can contribute to bird strikes. **Solution - A recent study has found that planes painted in dark colours attract more birds, and hence increasing the chances of a bird strike.**

6. The contrasting brighter shade fuselages blend with the sky and help the bird avoid the plane. Another study has found out that planes with eyes drawn at the jet engine spinners could be an efficient way to scare off birds. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have recognized wildlife strikes, including bird and animal hits, to aircraft as one of the "State Safety Priority". The DGCA (aviation regulator) regularly carries out aerodrome inspections that are considered critical with regard to wildlife strikes.

SVADHA

1. The Centre of Excellence for Khadi (COEK) has designed a range of 'Wellness wear' 'Svadha' to showcase the versatility of khadi on International Yoga Day. In Atharva veda, 'Svadha' means ease, comfort or pleasure. This 'Wellness wear' was designed by COEK keeping in view the core ideology of Yoga.

2. **The 'Svadha' range emphasizes the values of mindfulness and perseverance and is aimed to attract all age groups. The wellness wear has used hand-spun khadi in natural hues.** The thread of khadi binds the people globally in true sense towards 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the world is one family.

3. Center of Excellence for Khadi Center of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) has been set up by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of MSME.

4. It is set up at 5 National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campuses as a Hub & Spoke Model (Hub - Delhi; Spoke - Gandhinagar, Kolkata, Shillong and Bengaluru). It has the objective to help Khadi Institutions (KIs) to effectively design, produce and market high quality differentiated khadi products in the Indian and global market. The COEK will be aimed at designing apparel, home furnishing, and accessories for people from different age groups.

WEST SETI HYDRO POWER PROJECT

1. West Seti Hydro Power Project is India's hydropower project in Nepal. Nepal is rich in power sources with around 6,000 rivers and an estimated potential for 83,000 MW. The 750-megawatt (MW) West Seti Hydroelectric Project is proposed in Far-Western

pregnant, then she would be considered as 'temporarily unfit' and would not be given immediate joining upon her selection. This will lead to delay in their joining and subsequently they will lose their seniority," the notice said.

\$ 9.7 billion, airlines' losses globally this year, down from \$52 billion in 2021, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). IATA represents some 290 airlines comprising 83% of global air traffic. The Director General of the IATA said that while the outlook for airlines globally is positive, the business environment remains challenging. The World Bank expects energy prices to soar 50% compared to 2021. Fixing balance sheets of airlines carrying debts of \$650 billion will be a monumental challenge.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that forces inimical to India had constituted "cyber armies" to launch cyberattacks against India but the Home Ministry was ready to thwart any such attempt. The Minister said data privacy and protection of critical infrastructure from cyberattacks were imminent challenges in the wake of the digital revolution in the country and it was a matter of happiness that 80 crore Indians had online presence.

The Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools started by the Rajasthan government with much fanfare three years ago have been a roaring success. From a modest beginning of one school each in the 33 districts, as many as 749 schools have been opened across the State since 2019. There is a slight problem though: the problem of poor language proficiency. Though the State government promised to provide quality education in English medium at these schools, most of their teachers are still unable to converse and teach in the language.

India is facing nearterm challenges in managing its fiscal deficit, sustaining economic growth, reining in inflation and containing the current account deficit but the country is relatively better placed to weather these headwinds compared with other nations, the Finance Ministry said in its monthly economic report. Nearterm challenges need to be managed carefully without sacrificing the hard earned macroeconomic stability, the ministry said .

Exguerrilla Gustavo Petro was elected the first ever left wing president of Colombia on Sunday, after beating millionaire businessman Rodolfo Hernandez in a tense and unpredictable runoff

Development Region (FWDR) in Nepal.

2. Since India was Nepal's power market and it had a 'policy of not buying power from China-executed projects', West Seti is given to India. It will be handled by India's National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC).

3. The West Seti Project is a storage scheme designed to generate and export large quantities of electrical energy to India. It will generate electrical energy throughout the year, storing excess wet season river flows in the reservoir, and using this water to generate energy during peak demand periods in the dry season.

4. In 2018, the CWE Investment Corporation had informed the Nepal Government that it would not be able to execute this project. [The CWE Investment Corporation is a subsidiary of China Three Gorges Corporation.] Other Nepal projects undertaken by India are the Mahakali treaty (1996), the Upper Karnali project, 900-MW Arun Three project in eastern Nepal's Sankhuwa Sabha.

GAIA SPACE MISSION

1. The third set of data was released by the European Space Agency's Gaia mission. It has revealed the surprise phenomena of 'starquakes'. Gaia is an ongoing astronomical observatory mission. It was launched by the European Space Agency (ESA), in 2013, using a Soyuz rocket.

2. It started scientific screening in 2014. **Purpose - Gaia has the objective of creating the most accurate and complete 3D map of the Milky Way by surveying 1% or one billion of the galaxy's 100 billion stars. This information allows astronomers to reconstruct the galaxy's past and future evolution over billions of years.**

3. The almost hat-shaped spacecraft is fitted with two optical telescopes and the largest digital camera in space or the billion-pixel camera, with over 100 electronic detectors.

Station - The spacecraft is strategically stationed 1.5 million km from the Earth, in the opposite direction of the sun' It is located in an orbit around the gravitational parking point in space called the Lagrange 2 or L2.

4. It is from here that Gaia charts the accurate positions, motions, velocity, brightness, temperature, and composition of stars in the galaxy and other celestial objects beyond it. Techniques - In order to study the stars and objects, Gaia is also equipped with screening and imaging systems that employ three techniques - astrometry, photometry, and spectroscopy.

5. Gaia's predecessor, ESA's Hipparcos mission, had mapped the precise positions of 100,000 stars and could gaze 1,600 lightyears away. Gaia, meanwhile, can chart stars and objects as far as 30,000 lightyears.

6. The raw data observed by the Gaia spacecraft is processed into meaningful scientific information by the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium (DPAC), a group of 400 scientists. Data - Gaia's data release was planned in four tranches - 2016, 2018, 2022, 2030. Gaia would have been done mapping the skies in 2025.

STARQUAKES

1. 'Starquakes' are massive tsunami-like movements or massive vibrations on the surface of the stars. These tsunamis on the surface of stars can change their shape.

2. Gaia is opening a goldmine for 'asteroseismology' of massive stars. [Asteroseismology is the study of oscillations in stars.

3. It is the science that studies the internal structure of stars by the interpretation of their frequency spectra.]

PERFECT VICTIM

1. When survivors open up about sexual assault or domestic violence, one of their biggest fears is that they would not live up to the expectations of "perfect victimhood". It is a major reason why survivors do not come forward and seek legal help, and one of the biggest myths about sexual violence.

2. To be the 'perfect victim' means to show that the victim didn't ask for it. When it comes to domestic or sexual violence no one is ever "asking for it", but patriarchal public and legal systems often hold victims responsible for assaults.

3. Victims are expected to have a watertight case and at every step remain "faultless". Believers of perfect victimhood pick apart a victim's personality traits or behaviours that may even be unrelated to the assault in order to disparage the victim and ultimately question their credibility.

election.

The Election Commission on Monday ordered the deletion of 111 registered unrecognised political parties that it found to be “non-existent” and referred three of the parties to the Department of Revenue for legal action for “serious financial impropriety”, an EC statement said. This was the second such action in the recent past against registered parties that have been found violating the Representation of the People Act, 1951. On May 25, the EC deleted 87 non-existent registered unrecognised political parties.

e-EMERGENCY X-MISC VISA

- 1.**To facilitate and fast-track urgent applications for entry to India. e-Emergency X-Misc Visa is granted to foreigners who are not covered in the available categories of visa but need to visit India urgently due to a family emergency.
- 2.**Such a single-entry visa is issued by Indian Missions/Posts for an appropriate period of time.
- 3.**The facility is available to all Afghans irrespective of their religion. The (initial) validity of this visa would be six months.