

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Supreme Court directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries. Environment Ministry guidelines show that the purpose of declaring ESZs around national parks, forests and sanctuaries is to create some kind of a “shock absorber” for the protected areas. These zones would act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to those involving lesser protection.

Ukraine has approached India to become one of the guarantees of post war security of the country together with some other countries, diplomatic sources told as Friday marks 100 days of the war in Ukraine. “We are also expecting that India will participate actively in post war construction. We are also expecting more humanitarian aid, medicines, some technical and financial assistance,” a diplomatic source said.

The S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index for May signalled that the country’s services sector may have recorded its best monthly expansion in more than 11 years, with the survey based PMI gauge rising to 58.9 last month from April’s 57.9. A reading higher than 50 indicates growth. Services providers reported the quickest increase in business activity since April 2011, with new orders rising at the highest rate since July 2011, even as input cost pressures quickened at the fastest pace since the survey started in December 2005.

Over the next five years, Delhi NCR-headquartered Attero Recycling, one of India’s largest electronic waste management companies, expects to invest close to \$1 billion in expanding their electronic waste recycling facilities. More than 70% of it is for setting up operations in Europe, the U.S. and Indonesia to recycle lithiumion batteries premised on the increasing share of electric vehicles in future.

A fresh impetus has been given to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Rajasthan with the appointment of new water and sanitation

## TAMAGOTCHI GENERATION

1.A new book has predicted that by the third quarter of this century, parents will have the choice of having digital offspring, who will only exist in the digital world of metaverse. This will be the ‘Tamagotchi Generation’.

2.The name ‘Tamagotchi’ comes from the digital pet created by the Japanese toy manufacturer Bandai, which was a global rage in the 1990s and early years of this century. The Tamagotchi toy is an egg-shaped video game the size of a keychain, which has a screen and buttons.

3.Once the pet is activated, an egg appears on the screen, and hatches into a pet for the player to raise. What the pet grows up to be depends on how it has been trained and raised by the player. The virtual ‘Tamagotchi’ children of the future can be built to look like their parents.

4.Wearing high-tech gloves while handling the Tamagotchi kid might also reproduce the physical sensations of cuddling, feeding and playing with one’s offspring. It is possible to choose how quickly the children grow up.

5.The average lifespan of a well-cared-for Tamagotchi is a mere 12 days. They will cost next to nothing to bring up, as they will require minimal resources. They could solve the overstated problem of overpopulation.

## PM SHRI SCHOOLS

1.The Centre plans to set up the ‘PM Shri Schools’ that will aim at preparing students for the future. ‘PM Shri Schools’ will be the state-of-the-art schools that will serve as the ‘laboratory of NEP 2020’. They will fully equip the students of the 21st-century knowledge and skills to prepare them for the future.

2.The steps for preparing global citizens of the 21st century are, 5+3+3+4 approach of the NEP covering pre-school to secondary school, Emphasis on Early Childhood Care & Education Program (ECCE), Teacher training & adult education, Integration of skill development with school education and Prioritising learning in the mother tongue.

3.Best practices in education coming from different states and UTs will act as a cumulative force in transforming India's youth as 'Vishwa-Manavs' (global citizens).

## SOLOGAMY

1.A 24-year-old woman from Gujarat is reportedly ready to get married to herself. She claims hers is India’s first sologamy. Also known as ‘autogamy’ or ‘self-marriage’, Sologamy is the act of marrying oneself in a public ceremony.

2.It is a symbolic ceremony of commitment to oneself. It is an act to emphasize their self-love and independence. Such a marriage has no legal sanction or status.

3.Origin - It can be traced back to Linda Baker, a dental hygienist from the US, who married herself in 1993. In 2021, a sologamy divorce was also reported when a Brazilian model, announced she was ending her solo-marriage after just 90 days.

## ASTROSAT

1.Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) announced that AstroSat had detected 500 black hole formations in over 6 years of its operation. Launched in 2015, AstroSat is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission on an Indian Remote Sensing (IRS)-Class satellite in a 650-km, near-equatorial orbit. AstroSat is India’s first dedicated multiwavelength space telescope. It is operated by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

2.It carries 5 instruments onboard the satellite - UV Imaging Telescopes (UVIT), Large Area Xenon Proportional Counters, CZTI, Soft X-ray Telescope and a Scanning Sky Monitor. [The instrument behind the discovery is the Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager (CZTI), one of the 5 gadgets on board of the AstroSat telescope.] It studies the celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously with its 5 X-ray and UV telescopes working in tandem. It enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a

committees at various levels, which will recommend the implementation of works under the mission. The active role of committees will accelerate the task of providing water connection in every household in the rural areas.

India is not a conduit for Russian oil sales to other countries, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday, categorically denying international media reports that suggest Indian private refiners are “profiteering” by buying Russian crude at discounted rates and then selling it to other buyers at much higher prices.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday assured top industrialists of the country that he was willing to carry out the necessary reforms in any sector for the sake of development of Uttar Pradesh and an “Atmanirbhar Bharat.” Industrialist Gautam Adani said he was investing ₹70,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh and this would create 30,000 jobs in the State. The Adani Group and the Uttar Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build south Asia’s largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complex in the Kanpur section of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, the State government said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah held three rounds of meetings on Friday to review various security and development issues related to Jammu and Kashmir. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval also attended the meetings. At the centre of discussion was the upcoming Amarnath Yatra that commences on June 30.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has a “super bad feeling” about the economy and needs to cut about 10% of jobs at the electric carmaker, he said in an email to executives seen by Reuters.

Cash strapped Sri Lanka is seeking urgent United Nations help to build a stockpile of essential foods, the Prime Minister’s office said on Friday. Acute shortages of food, fuel and other essential goods, along with record inflation and rolling blackouts, have inflicted widespread misery in the island nation’s unprecedented economic crisis.

Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers are maintaining close ties with Al Qaida as they consolidate control over the country, and their main military

single satellite.

**3.Objectives of AstroSat mission are: To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes; Estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars; Study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy; Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky; Perform a limited deep field survey of the Universe in the UV region.**

4.The Ground Command and Control Centre for ASTROSAT is located at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bangalore. Related Links - Blue Straggler Stars Gamma-ray Bursts To identify a black hole formation, gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) are to be studied. The GRBs are bright explosions that release gamma-ray light.

5.They are the most energetic form of light, a million times brighter than the sun. But they typically last for only seconds. And so much energy is put out in such a little time. Production - In some gamma bursts, there is a connection with the supernova - a bright explosion happening when a star reaches its end and forms a black hole.

6.GRB also happens when two neutron stars merge. It can occur when a neutron star joins with the black hole also, in principle. At the end of this process, you either have a black hole or in some cases, you may be left with a high-speed, spinning, strongly magnetised neutron star, which goes by the name millisecond magnetar. [Millisecond refers to the spin period, and magnetar means it is very strongly magnetised.]

### INTERNATIONAL LIQUID-MIRROR TELESCOPE

1.The International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT) is commissioned an altitude of 2450 m at the Devasthal Observatory of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Uttarakhand. This telescope is the first liquid mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia.

2.It is designed exclusively for astronomical observations in order to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, etc. Built by astronomers from India, Belgium and Canada, the novel instrument employs a 4-m-diameter rotating mirror made up of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light.

3.A pool of mercury, which is a reflective liquid, is spun so that the surface curved into a parabolic shape which is ideal for focusing light. A thin transparent film of mylar protects the mercury from wind. The reflected light passes through a sophisticated multi-lens optical corrector that produces sharp images over a wide field of view.

4.A large-format electronic camera located at the focus records the images. Liquid mirror technology said that the rotation of the earth causes the images to drift across the camera, but this motion is compensated electronically by the camera. This mode of operation increases observing efficiency and makes the telescope particularly sensitive to faint and diffuse objects.

### INDIA FINALLY HOLDS TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN’S TALIBAN GOVERNMENT

1.For the first time since the Taliban takeover, India has sent an official delegation to Afghanistan, led by J.P. Singh, joint secretary at MEA. Areas of discussion: Resumption of stalled infrastructure projects, activation of diplomatic ties, and restarting the issue of visas for Afghan students and patients.

2.India’s assistance so far: In terms of humanitarian assistance, India has sent 20,000 metric tonnes (MT) of wheat, 13 tonnes of medicines, 500,000 doses of Covid vaccines, and winter clothing for the Afghan people so far. This aid has been distributed through international organisations like the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, and UNICEF because India doesn’t have people on the ground to distribute it.

3.India’s stand on Afghanistan after Taliban takeover: Under India’s presidency, UNSC adopted resolution 2593. It stated that the territory of Afghanistan is not to be used to threaten any country or shelter terrorists. Participated in the UN High-Level Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan held in September. In this meeting, India called for normalisation of regular commercial operations of Kabul airport which could help the flow of relief material to Afghans. India hosted the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in November 2021.

4.Issue-Taliban has taken full control of Afghanistan. People have no jobs and incomes. Over 22 million Afghans will suffer

**threat is coming from the Islamic State extremist group and guerrilla-style attacks by former Afghan government security personnel, UN experts said in a new report. The experts said in the report to the UN Security Council that with the onset of better weather, fighting may escalate as both Islamic State and resistance forces undertake operations against Taliban forces.**

**African Union head Macky Sall urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to take into account the suffering in African countries from food shortages caused by Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine. Mr. Putin hosted Senegalese President Macky Sall, who chairs the African Union, at his Black Sea residence in Sochi with global food shortages and grain supplies stuck in Ukrainian ports high on the agenda.**

food insecurity last winter as a drought driven by climate change adds to their woes. This will force them to choose between migration and starvation.

**5. Why is it imperative now for India to engage with the Taliban? Taliban is now having a significant presence in Afghanistan. India is already having huge investments in Afghanistan. To secure assets worth \$3 billion, India should engage with all parties in Afghanistan. Taliban engaging with Pak deep state will not be in India's best interest.** If India does not engage now Russia, Iran, Pakistan and China will emerge as the shapers of Afghanistan's political and geopolitical destiny, which for sure will be detrimental to Indian interests.