

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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Differences in altitude make a primate species in the same Himalayan habitat choose between flowers and fruits as food options beyond their staple menu of leaves, a new study has revealed. The Himalayan Gray Langur or the Chamba Sacred Langur (Semnopithecus ajax) is a colobine, meaning leaf-eating monkey. It is considered an endangered species globally as its population is estimated to be less than 1,500 mature individuals in 15-20 groups.

Three primatologists studied the diet composition of five such groups in and around the Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh between September and November 2020. They especially concentrated on two groups, one inhabiting the Kalatop forest at an average altitude of 2,396 metres, and the other based in the Khajjiar forest at an average altitude of 2,188 metres.

VV Giri National Labour Institute, the "centre of excellence" in labour research and training under the Union Labour Ministry, has roped in The Art of Living International Centre, Bengaluru, for training officers of the Labour Ministry and its arms in enhancing the quality of work and work relations. The five-day course, beginning on November 28 in Bengaluru, is aimed at empowering the officers with necessary skill sets which will enhance their competencies for personal excellence and behavioural competencies along with "stress management". Trade unions, however, have questioned this and termed the association using public money "shocking".

The Supreme court on Friday lambasted the Centre for withholding names recommended or reiterated by the collegium for judicial appointments, even saying that the government is using silence and inaction as "some sort of device" to force worthy candidates and prominent lawyers to withdraw their consent. The government neither appoints the persons nor communicates its reservation, if any, on the names...Keeping the names pending is something not acceptable, a bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed.

Twitter's relaunched premium service — which grants blue-check "verification" labels to anyone

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES E-WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES, 2022

1. Government notified E-waste (management) Rules, 2022 that will come into force from 1st April 2023. These rules apply to every manufacturer, dismantler and recycler involved in manufacturing, sale, transfer, purchase, refurbishing etc. of e-waste. Rules were notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. Key highlights of new rules Increased the number of items to 106 from 21 that come under e-waste category. Manufacturer, producer, refurbisher or recycler need to compulsorily register under the Extended Producer Responsibility Framework. They may store the e-waste for a period not exceeding 180 and shall maintain a record of e-wastes.

3. Manufacturer shall ensure that end products are recyclable and components made by different manufacturer are compatible with each other Imports or placement in the market for new equipment shall be permitted only for those which are compliant with provisions.

4. Reduce the use of hazardous substances like lead, mercury, cadmium among others in the manufacturing. Central Pollution Control Board shall monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substance.

RESERVES BANK OF INDIA(RBI) RELEASES REPORT ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE

1. Report is compilation and analysis of budget data of 201 Municipal Corporations (MCs) across all states and explores 'Alternative Sources of Financing for MCs'. Key highlights Municipal Finances (MF) are dominated by property tax collections and devolution of taxes and grants from upper tiers of government, resulting in lack of financial autonomy.

2. MCs' expenditure of administrative costs and interest and finance charges is rising, but capital expenditure is minimal. MFs, consisting of tax revenue, non-tax revenue, and transfers - are estimated at 0.61 percent of GDP in 2017-18.

3. non-tax revenue, accounted for 30 % of total revenue receipts of MF. Property tax accounts for 50% of the total tax collections of MF. Recommendations Create Pooled financing mechanism that involves financing through the pooled revenue stream. Develop a Credit rating system that incentivized municipal bodies to undergo reforms.

4. Create a sub-sovereign/municipal debt market for investors. Develop Land-based financing mechanisms such as vacant land tax, land monetization, etc. Municipalities must balance their budgets by law, and any municipal borrowing needs to be approved by State government.

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI RELEASES DYNAMIC GROUND WATER (GW) RESOURCE ASSESSMENT 2022 REPORT

1. The Assessment is carried out at periodical intervals jointly by Central Ground Water Board and States/UTs. Key highlights India is largest user of GW with a fourth of total global withdrawal. Recharge: Total annual GW recharge has increased (437.6 bcm) and rainfall contributes to nearly 61 % in this.

2. Extraction: Stage of GW extraction (percentage of utilisation of groundwater against recharge) saw a decline reaching at 60%. 87% of the GW was extracted for irrigation. GW extraction is very high (100%) in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. Categories: 67% GW units are safe and there was a decline in the number of over-exploited units. 14 % assessment units are 'Overexploited' and 4% are 'Critical'.

3. Initiatives for Groundwater management-Atal Bhujal Yojana: Improve GW management through community participation. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater 2020: Envisages construction of rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge structures. Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme.

4. Key Terms-Overexploited: Ground water extraction exceeding the annually replenishable ground water recharge. Critical:

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willing to pay \$8 a month — was unavailable Friday after the social media platform was flooded by a wave of imposter accounts approved by Twitter. Before billionaire Elon Musk took control of the social media platform two weeks ago the blue check was granted to celebrities, and journalists and verified by the platform — precisely to prevent impersonation. Now, anyone can get one as long as they have a phone, a credit card and \$8 a month.

The Winter Session of Parliament is likely to commence in the first week of December in the old building and conclude by the end of the month, sources said on Friday. There is a proposal to hold the session between December 7 and 29 and a final decision regarding the dates will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, they said. While the session is likely to take place in the old building, the government is also contemplating a symbolic soft inauguration of the new building, being built at an estimated cost of over ₹1,200 crore, by the end of this month or early December, the sources said.

National currencies will find greater use in the near future but they are not likely to replace the American dollar any time soon, according to a veteran Indian diplomat. Addressing an online event organised by Russian media outlet Sputnik on Friday, former Indian ambassador to Russia D. B. Venkatesh Varma said that a “basket of currencies” could also be considered for future usage to deal with economic disruptions. The issue of transacting in national currencies has acquired greater resonance in recent months as India-Russia trade and defence ties are facing payment issues because of sanctions on Russia due to its conflict with Ukraine.

Glaciers are found on every continent except Australia. Most of these are thousands of years old. They are made of layers of compressed snow that move or “flow” due to gravity and the softness of ice relative to rock. But now, a third of the glaciers on the UNESCO World Heritage list are under threat, according to a study conducted by the UN body.

However, the study said, it was still possible to save the other two-thirds. This could be possible if the rise in global temperatures did not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius compared

ground water extraction is between 90-100 % of annual extractable resources available. Safe: Ground water extraction is less than 70%.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) RELEASES GLOBAL VACCINE MARKET REPORT 2022

1. This is the first report to capture the implications of COVID-19 on global vaccine markets. Key highlights: Vaccine supply base remains highly concentrated- ten manufacturers alone provide 70% of vaccine doses (excluding COVID vaccine). Lack of equitable distribution- African Region received just 3% of all COVID-19 vaccine doses. Predictable country demand is key to guiding investments; thus efforts should be focused on enhancing its predictability.

2. Recommendations For government: Establish early, evidence-informed strategic goals. Investing in new vaccine technologies and enabling regulatory harmonization. Ensure transparency in terms of intellectual property rights and circulation of related inputs.

3. For industry: R&D efforts focused on the WHO list of priority pathogens. Ensure transparency along the vaccine value chain. Allow equity-driven allocation of products.

4. For International Organizations: Prioritize global public health as per the Immunization Agenda 2030. Support country-driven initiatives and avoid creation of duplicate efforts. Continue to call for technology transfer and for application of resolutions on market transparency for health products.

FINANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION: SCALING UP INVESTMENT FOR CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT RELEASED

1. Report was prepared by Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance (CF). Group was launched in 2021 by COP26 together with COP27 presidencies and UN Climate Change High-Level Champions. CF refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions.

2. Status of CF-90% of total CF is targeting mitigation activities. Most CFs were raised as debt, of which only 16% was low-cost. Most financing remains in its country of origin. Emerging markets and developing economies, except China, will need \$2 trillion per year by 2030.

3. **Framework for CF Finance from Multilateral Development Banks and Development Finance Instrument systems are to be triple within five years (to \$180 billion).** Expand pool of Special Drawing Rights through regular issuance and utilize it to enhance resilience and sustainability.

4. Carbon markets could provide urgent finance for Nature-based solutions, Engineered removals e.g., Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage, etc. Carbon credits must not displace companies' investment in reducing their own emissions.

ADVERTISING STANDARDS COUNCIL OF INDIA(ASCI) EXTENDS ONLINE ADS CODE

1. ASCI plans to extend the ethics code to, ‘dark patterns’ in online advertising to protect Indian consumers from misleading online messaging.

2. Proposed Dark patterns under 4 heads: Drip Pricing- only part of a product's price and reveal other charges later as customer goes through buying process.

3. Bait and Switch- advertised goods with low prices to substitute with inferior alternatives at the time of purchase. False Urgency- implying that quantities of a particular product are more limited than they are. Disguised Advertising- e.g., fake reviews, influencer posts, etc.

PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2022

1. Report is published by UN Women and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Key findings World is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

2. 380 million women and girls live in extreme poverty. Nearly 1 in 3 women face food insecurity. Unsafe abortion is a leading but

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to the pre-industrial era. UNESCO said that this would be a major challenge facing delegates at the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference in in Egypt's Sharm El Sheik. The UNESCO is also pushing for a new international fund for glacier monitoring and preservation.

Geographically, Kherson is a strategic location for Russia and Ukraine. Situated in the northwest of the Dnipro River, the province shares borders with Donetsk, Crimea, and the Black Sea. What makes Kherson, the Ukrainian city captured by Russia, significant? With Moscow capturing Crimea in 2014, the occupation of Kherson in March 2022 has benefited Russia in transferring its military from Crimea to counter Ukraine. It provides access to Odesa and Black Sea ports in the west and serves as the main route to secure southern Ukraine.

preventable cause of maternal mortality.

3. In India, in a quarter of rural households' women and girls devote more than 50 minutes per day to collecting water.