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from Indian Scientists Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have mapped out the global distribution of sodium on the Moon's surface. They used the CLASS instrument (Chandrayaan2 large area soft Xray spectrometer) carried by the second Indian Moon mission, Chandrayaan-2. This is the first effort to provide global scale measurement a of sodium on the lunar surface using Xray fluorescent spectra. The results have been published in a recent edition of The Astrophysical Journal.

With rising cases of monkeypox, scientists are worried about the virus becoming established in wild animals such as rodents, outside its usual range in West and Central Africa. In such a scenario, animal reservoirs could then transmit the virus back to people. This could pose huge problems as controlling it in wildlife would be difficult. Scientists say the best way to prevent the virus from spilling over into animals is to stop the spread between people.

Australia's government has set the goal of preventing new extinctions of native wildlife, and conserving at least 30% of its land mass by 2030. More mammal species have gone extinct in Australia than on any other continent, and over 1,900 Australian species are listed as threatened. The government's 10year threatened species plan will prioritise the protection of 110 species. The commitment to zero extinction is commendable but there is still no clarity on how the plan will protect nonpriority species.

A heatwave is a period of unusually hot weather with above normal temperatures that typically last three or more days. In India, heatwaves are generally experienced during March-June. On an average, two three heatwave events are expected every season. Heatwaves are predominantly observed over two areas, central and northwest India and another over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, supported by favourable atmospheric conditions.

Total duration of heatwaves has increased by about three days during the last 30 years and a further increase of 1218 days is expected by 2060. In future climate, heatwaves will be spread to new areas including southern parts of India. Climate change is causing heatwaves more frequently, and they are much stronger and can last for more days.

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CHHETAH TASK FORCE CONSTITUTED

1.Forest and Climate Change has constituted a Task Force for monitoring Cheetah introduction in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh and other suitable designated areas.India had reduced 5 female and male cheetahs from Namibia to Madhya Pradesh Kuno National Park.

2.Mandates of Task force includes:Review, progress and monitor the health status of the Cheetah. Monitor hunting skills and adaptation of Cheetahs. Regularly interact with Cheetah Mitras and local communities for raising awareness. NTCA is a statutory body under the MoEFCC and constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3.It will help to stem the degradation and rapid loss of biodiversity. Bringing back a top predator restores historic evolutionary balance resulting in cascading effects on various levels of the eco-system. Will save not only its prey base comprising certain threatened species, but also other endangered species of the grasslands / open forest eco-systems.

PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES (PACS) TO BE SET UP IN ALL PANCHAYATS OF COUNTRY

1.During inauguration of Eastern and North-Eastern Cooperative Dairy Conclave 2022, Union Minister said that PACS will be set up in all Panchayats of the country. PACS account for 41 % of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans given by all entities in the Country and 95 % of these KCC loans through PACS are to the Small and Marginal farmers.

2.Earlier, Cabinet Committee had approved Computerization of PACS with the objective of increasing efficiency of PACS, bringing transparency and accountability in their operations. They constitute the lowest tier of three-tier Short-term cooperative credit in the country comprising of around 13 Cr. farmers as its members.

3.PACS, registered as cooperative societies, provide the following facilities to their members: Currently, there are only 65,000 active PACS in the country. Other two tiers are State Cooperative Banks at state level and District Central Cooperative Banks at district level.

4.PACS are outside the purview of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and hence not regulated by Reserve Bank of India. Input facilities in form of cash or kind component, Agriculture implements on hiring basis, Storage facility.

BSE GETS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SEBI) NOD FOR SOCIAL STOCK EXCHANGE (SSE)

1.SSE is a platform that allows investors to buy shares in a social enterprise that has been vetted by an official exchange.Social enterprises are non-loss, non-dividend-paying companies established to address social problems.

2.Benefits of SSE-Enables public participation in social causes through the equity route. Leverage private sector participation thus complementing government efforts for developmental goals. Will bring together social enterprises and impact investors on a common platform. SSE can enable fund-raising as well as information on operations and financials through standardized reporting.

3.Earlier, in July 2022, SEBI notified rules for Stock Exchange to provide social enterprises with an additional avenue to raise funds.Under this, social enterprises eligible to participate in the SSE will be non-profit organisation and for-profit social enterprises having social intent and impact as their primary goal. Eligible social activities under the rules include, eradicating hunger, empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ communities etc

FAO LAUNCHES REPORT TITLED MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY IN FORESTRY

1.Mainstreaming Biodiversity is the process of embedding biodiversity considerations into policies, strategies, and practices of key public and private actors to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

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The number of fatalities among the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF) in direct attacks is growing, said UN Undersecretary General Jean Pierre Lacroix. He visited Delhi last week to discuss the need for more "robust" mandates and better equipment, training and technology with Indian officials.

1,170 sq km, the land Ukraine has recaptured in the southern Kherson region since launching the start of its counterassault against Russia in late August. While Ukraine achieved lightning success with its offensive in the northeast, its drive in the south to wipe out the Russian foothold has been a long, laboured affair.

5.2 %, India's growth rate projected for FY24 as compared to FY23 by Japanese brokerage Nomura. The brokerage said Indian policymakers were "misplaced" about their optimism on the country's growth prospects. It expects inflation to average at 6.8% in FY23, a tad above the RBI's 6.7% estimate, and the current account deficit to widen.

A revised action plan to fight the serious challenge of air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) has come into force after a sudden dip in air quality in the capital and its neighbouring areas. As per experts, the "finer" version of GRAP could prevent the air quality crisis in Delhi NCR after Diwali. The GRAP for Delhi NCR is divided into four stages of air quality - Stage one for "poor" Air Quality Index (AQI) ranging between 201 and 300, Stage two for "very poor" AQI of 301-400, Stage three for "severe" AQI of 401-450 and Stage four for "severe plus" AQI more than 450. D Along with instructions for authorities, the GRAP includes a graded advisory for the public. The measures include properly tuning engines of their vehicles, ensuring accurate air pressure in tyres and updating PUC (pollution under control) certificates.

Crypto exchanges often rely on smart contracts to run smoothly. A smart contract failure can cause platform outages, and exploitation of the codes could devalue the entire ecosystem. Programming languages help crypto platforms and protocols run effectively. **C++** is programming language associated with Bitcoin. It is also one of the most used programming languages, playing a role in the development of operating systems, gaming devices and platforms, search engines, and

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2.Barriers and threats to biodiversity mainstreaming: Key recommendations Deforestation continues at an alarming rate of 10 million ha per year especially in lower income tropical countries. Illegal forest activities: Illegal timber harvesting is estimated to account for 15–30 percent of global timber production. Low profile of conservation outside protected areas.

3.Insufficient capacity: Developing countries struggle to enforce forest and biodiversity regulations. Lack of Indigenous Peoples and local community participation. Recognizing the forest tenure of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with emphasis on enhancing the equitable sharing of benefits. Preventing the conversion of natural forests into monospecific forest plantations.

4.Ensuring the sustainable management of harvested species to control overharvesting of plants and wildlife. Adopting a multisectoral perspective by mainstreaming biodiversity across other land use sectors.

5.Providing economic incentives, like compensation for reduced production to promote biodiversity benefits; Facilitating market-based instruments like engaging in public–private partnerships to leverage corporate social responsibility commitments.

DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE (DPIIT) NOTIFIES ESTABLISHMENT OF CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR STARTUPS (CGSS)

1.It aims to provide credit guarantees to loans extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to finance eligible Startups.

2.This scheme will complement the existing Schemes under Startup India initiative viz. Fund of Funds for Startups and Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. Credit guarantee cover would be transaction based and umbrella based. Scheme will be operated by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited. Start-up ecosystem in India It was envisaged under Startup India Action Plan launched in 2016.

3.In respect of transaction-based guarantee cover, the guarantee cover is obtained by the lending institutions on single eligible borrower basis. Other programmes under Startup India: Support for Intellectual Property Protection, Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws, Income Tax Exemption for 3 years, Startup India Hub etc. With more than 75000 startups recognised, India has the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups in the world. So far, 7.46 lakh jobs have been created by the Indian start-up ecosystem.

4.Venture debt is a type of loan offered by banks and nonbank lenders that is designed specifically for early-stage, high-growth companies with venture capital backing. AIFs are privately-pooled investment vehicles for investing in non-traditional asset classes such as infrastructure funds, private equity funds, venture capital funds, among others. They allow investors to diversify from conventional asset classes.

RBI RELEASES CONCEPT NOTE ON CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY(CBDC)

1.Earlier, Government of India had announced the launch of a CBDC in its 2022 Union Budget. CBDC is legal tender issued by a central bank in digital form. It will be referred as $e \notin$ (digital Rupee). Its Features include: It is same as a sovereign currency and is exchangeable, convertible one-to-one at par (1:1) with the fiat currency.

2.It appears as a liability on the Reserve Bank of India balance sheet. Must be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender, and a safe store of value by all citizens, enterprises, and government agencies. Fungible legal tender for which holders need not have a bank account. It can be structured as: tokenbased i.e., an instrument like banknotes, or account-based system that involves maintenance of record of balances and transactions of all holders of CBDC.

3.Benefits of e Rupee. Reduction in operational costs involved in physical cash management; Bringing resilience, efficiency, and innovation to the payments system Offline feature in CBDC would also be beneficial in remote locations Bolster digitisation

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even machine learning. D Rust has the unique distinction of being called the "perfect programming language" in 2021 by Twitter cofounder Jack Dorsey. However, developers have complained that Rust is too difficult to learn.

Japan will host the 2022 edition of the Malabar naval exercise consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. in the second week of November, according to official sources. The Indian Navy will also participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) being hosted in the first week of November to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), an official source said.

and to achieve a less cash economy; Support financial inclusion.

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