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A colony of bats was evicted from a Manipur cave system with a Palaeolithic past to make it tourist friendly, a zoological study that recorded new fauna in the State has said. The Khanghui, locally called Khanghui Mangsor, is a natural limestone cave about 15 km from Ukhrul, the headquarters of Ukhrul district. Excavations carried out by Manipur's archaeologists had revealed the cave was home to Stone Age communities. The cave was also used as a shelter by the local people during the Second World War after the Japanese forces advanced to Manipur and the adjoining Nagaland. More importantly for conservationists, the cave housed large roosting populations of bats belonging to the Rhinolophidae and Hipposideridae families.

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) that functions under the Union Environment Ministry has yet again cleared the proposal for commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) mustard. Though the GEAC cleared the proposal in 2017, the Ministry vetoed it and suggested that the panel hold more studies on the GM crop. The GEAC had gone through the details submitted by the applicant, Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), and gave necessary approvals for the cultivation of GM mustard. This will be the second GM crop after GM cotton that can be commercially cultivated in the country now.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on a series of improvements to NavIC, or India's equivalent of the Global Positioning System (GPS), so that more people are motivated to install and use it. Plans are also afoot to give it a global reach, S Somanath, ISRO Chairman, said on the sidelines of the India Space Conference on Wednesday. NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is a constellation of seven satellites akin to the U.S. GPS, the European Galileo and the Russian GLONASS, and can be used to track location.

With discussions on the controversial Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 still pending, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar has given a third extension to the

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (MWCD) ISSUES DETAILED GUIDELINES FOR 'MISSION SHAKTI'

1. 'Mission Shakti', an integrated women empowerment programme, was launched as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women. The mission addresses issues affecting women on a life-cycle continuum basis and will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
2. It seeks to reduce care burden on women and increase female labour force participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to micro-credit etc. Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes - 'Sambal' for safety and security of women, and 'Samarthya' for empowerment of women.
3. Sambal component consist of erstwhile schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with a new component of Nari Adalats - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families. Samarthya component consists of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel have been included with modifications.
4. In addition, the existing schemes of National Creche Scheme and PMMVY under umbrella ICDS have now been included in Samarthya. The existing sub-schemes of Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) and Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) have been discontinued.
5. Under Sambal, 100% funding will be provided by Central Government. Samarthya will be implemented with 60:40 funding between Centre and State Governments and UTs with legislature except North East & Special Category States where ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, 100% funding will be provided by central government.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD (GIB) COUNT FALLS ABYSMALLY

1. The population of GIB is dwindling due to the lack of action to convert the overhead cable to underground power transmission in Gujarat and Rajasthan. In April, 2021, Supreme Court had ordered the power companies in the two states to make the high-tension power lines underground so that GIB do not get caught in the web.
2. However, Centre and Rajasthan government objected to this order stating the order was not feasible as it was ridden with potential safety risks, high cost, adverse implications for the power sector, and energy transition away from fossil fuels.
3. Other Threats to GIB: Hunting, habitat erosion, 'greening' projects that transform arid grasslands to wooded areas, predators preying on the eggs, etc.
4. **Steps taken for GIB Conservation: It is one of the Species for Recovery Programme under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Included under National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).**
5. About the GIB Habitat: Arid and semi-arid grasslands, open country with thorn scrub, tall grass interspersed with cultivation. It avoids irrigated areas. Rajasthan has the highest population and it is endemic to Indian Sub-continent. Important Sites: Desert National Park Sanctuary (Rajasthan), Naliya (Gujarat), Warora (Maharashtra) and Bellary (Karnataka).

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD (GASAB) RELEASED CONCEPT PAPER ON NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNTING (NRA)

1. NRA is an accounting system that deals with stocks and stock changes of natural assets, comprising biota (produced or wild), subsoil assets (proved reserves), water and land with their aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The asset accounts capture details of 34 major minerals, 58 minor minerals and all four fossils fuels. Its aim is to provide information on the state of natural resources and the changes affecting them.

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports which is studying the Bill. The Bill was first referred to the panel in December 2021. It has received an extension of three months. It has so far spoken to a host of stakeholders, including NGOs and religious bodies who had expressed reservations about the Bill.

Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked captains of industry what was holding them back from investing in manufacturing. She said that, "This is the time for India... Capital expenditure by the government is a precursor to private investment but that it would take a sustained trend in public spending, for about half a decade at least, to help kindle enthusiasm in the private sector. D Private companies invest when they are able to estimate profits, and that comes from demand. CMIE's consumer sentiment index is still below pre-pandemic levels but is far higher than what was seen 1218 months ago.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Wednesday pushed the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the State into a legal and political predicament by saying that Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal ceased to enjoy the Governor's pleasure in continuing in office as he had "stoked regionalism and challenged national unity". In a quick response, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan reportedly rejected the "unprecedented gubernatorial fiat", and reasserted his "constitutional right to drop or appoint Ministers".

3,150 number of pending pension-related grievances resolved by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) during the special Swachhata campaign, according to an official statement. The campaign which began on October 2 and is to end on October 31, targeted to resolve 4,200 pending pension grievances.

64 percentage, the reduction in PM2.5 concentration during Deepavali this year, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) reported. The air quality index was 303 the day after Deepavali compared to 462 last year. DPCC said the better air quality was due to the reduction in stubble burning, better meteorological conditions and less

2.Key highlights of the proposed NRA-The format of NRA has been designed in keeping with the prescriptions of System of Environmental-Economic Accounting central framework (SEEA-CF), which allows flexibility to embed country specific needs. Provides for standard operating procedures to ensure automated collection and compilation of data from 2022-23.

3.Calls for bringing private players under the overall framework of NRA by proposing specific reporting requirements. It has also set up short-, medium- and long-term goals that span 10 years (2020-30) and converge with sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the UN General Assembly (2015-30).

4.Significance-Once this report is published, policymakers will get a complete picture of mineral and energy resources in the country and this would help them take informed policy decisions and make appropriate interventions. Enable compilation of physical and monetary values and analysis of revenue vis-à-vis market/export value to assess and review royalty rates and arrest windfall gains and protect state's revenue interest. Help identify alternate resources, both economic and energy, and aid in developing an ecosystem for containing illegal mining.

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2022(GP2022)

1.Recently, the seventh session of the GP2022 was organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in Bali, Indonesia. GP2022 is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.Key takeaways of GP2022 outcomes as summarised in the Bali Agenda for Resilience.

2.There is a need for a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR), ensuring no one is left behind.DRR must be at the core of development and finance policies, legislation and plans to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.A participatory and human rights-based approach in DRR planning and implementation is crucial as people are affected differently by disasters.DRR and climate change adaptation have the common objective of reducing vulnerability and enhancing capacity as well as resilience.

3.About UNDRR:It is the United Nations system's focal point for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress.

4.Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction-It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

WHY IS KERALA PROTESTING SUPREME COURT'S ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ZONES (ESZ) NOTIFICATION

1.Recently, Supreme Court (SC) directed all states to have a mandatory 1-km ESZ from the demarcated boundaries of every protected forest land, national park and wildlife sanctuary. Eco-Sensitive Zones Following it, Kerala State Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to exclude the State's human habitations, farmlands and public institutions from ESZ's purview.

2.If 1-km ESZ is demarcated, around 4 lakh acres of human settlements, including farmlands, would come within that purview, adversely impacting the State's interests besides upsetting lives of millions living near the protected areas.

3.ESZs are created as 'shock absorbers for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the fragile ecosystems by certain human activities, National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) mentioned the land within 10 km (extent of its application can vary) of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ).

ZERO COUPONS, ZERO PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENTS(ZCZP)

1.The Ministry of Finance declared ZCZP as securities, thus included in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.Presently, this list includes shares, scrips, stocks, bonds,

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firecracker bursting.

₹36.56 crore, the amount sanctioned by the Rajasthan government to set up digital libraries in 344 residential schools across the State, according to an official statement. With this, digital libraries will be established in various residential schools, multipurpose hostels and Kasturba Gandhi Schools.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hold a brainstorming session with the Home Ministers of all States on several internal security issues on October 27 and 28, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the delegates on the second day. In most States, the Home portfolio is handled by the Chief Ministers and it is to be seen if the Chief Ministers of non BJP ruled States — Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan or Chhattisgarh — will attend the Chintan Shivir at Faridabad in Haryana.

debentures, etc.

2.ZCZP bonds are the funding instrument for the NGOs projects, on which the NGOs are not required to pay principal or pay interest after completion of the project.

3.Government defines ZCZP as an instrument issued by a not-for-profit organization that shall be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognized stock exchange by the regulations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

4.It will help organizations/corporates utilize their social responsibility funds and support non-profit organizations more transparently.