

## Daily News Decode

06.01.21

### Agri-export body drops 'halal' from meat manual: no role for gov



- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has removed the word from its 'Red Meat Manual'.
- The APEDA also clarified that there was no condition on the part of the Indian government regarding halal meat.
- "It is a requirement by a majority of the importing countries/Importers.
- Halal Certification agencies are accredited directly by respective importing countries. No government agency has any role in this.

### Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar



- Aurangabad was built in 1610 by Malik Amba of the Nijamshahi dynasty.
- It was renamed Aurangabad by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb when he made it his capital.
- Aurangzeb, who lived in Aurangabad until his death, tortured and killed Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, son of the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- In March 2020, the Maharashtra cabinet approved a proposal to rename the Aurangabad airport as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport.
- However, this has not yet got the go-ahead from the Centre.
- Sources said the Divisional Commissioner has sent a report on there naming of Aurangabad city to the government.
- Aurangabad city's population of 11.75 lakh (Census 2011) includes 51% Hindus and 30.8% Muslims.
- A decision to rename the city will resonate in the civic polls, as well as across the state.

## Pangolin Poaching



- Pangolins are trafficked both for their scales and meat, considered by some to be a delicacy.
- The pangolin trade is the illegal poaching, trafficking, and sale of pangolins, parts of pangolins, or pangolin-derived products on the black market.
- Pangolins are believed to be the world's most trafficked mammal, accounting for as much as 20% of all illegal wildlife trade
- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), more than a million pangolins were poached in the decade prior to 2014
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which regulates the international wildlife trade, has placed restrictions on the pangolin market since 1975, and in 2016, it added all eight pangolin species to its Appendix I, reserved for the strictest prohibitions on animals threatened with extinction
- They are also listed on the IUCN Red List, all with decreasing populations and designations ranging from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered

## Kerala on alert after bird flu in two districts



- Bird flu, also called avian influenza, is a viral infection that can infect not only birds, but also humans and other animals.
- Most forms of the virus are restricted to birds.
- H5N1 is the most common form of bird flu.
- It's deadly to birds and can easily affect humans and other animals that come in contact with a carrier.
- According to the World Health Organization Trusted Source, H5N1 was first discovered in humans in 1997 and has killed nearly 60 percent Trusted Source of those infected.

### Symptoms such as:

- ⇒ Cough
- ⇒ Diarrhea
- ⇒ respiratory difficulties
- ⇒ fever (over 100.4°F or 38°C)
- ⇒ headache

- ⇒ muscle aches
- ⇒ Malaise
- ⇒ runny nose
- ⇒ sore throat

Kerala was placed on high alert on Monday after an outbreak of bird flu was confirmed in Kottayam and Alappuzha districts.

## Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary



- Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the places of Andhra Pradesh where Asian Waterbird Census will be conducted
- It is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species.
- It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture.
- The sanctuary is a part of the Godavari estuary and has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest
- About half of the area is the backwater, which includes a sand pit of 18 km length.
- The rivers Coringa and Gaderu and their deltaic branches intersect the region, along with other water channels.
- This forms about 335.7 square km of marsh vegetation
- **Flora:** The Sanctuary in the estuary of river Godavari supports rich mangrove vegetation with species like Rhizophora, Avicennia, Sonneratia, Aegiceros.
- **Fauna:** Otter, Fishing Cat, Jackal, Marine Turtle and Estuarine Crocodile.
- Most common birds are Sea Gulls, Storks, Herons, Snipes, Ducks and Flamingos.
- It is home for the rare, endangered Smooth Indian Otter, Fishing Cat, Estuarine Crocodile



## Govt of India's UJALA and SLNP completes six years of Illuminating India efficiently



- The Government of India's zero subsidy UnnatJyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) marks their sixth anniversary today.
- Both the programmes are being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, Government of India since their inception.
- Under UJALA, EESL has distributed over 36.69 crore LED bulbs across India.
- With SLNP, EESL has installed about 1.14 crore LED streetlights across India.
- UJALA brought a market transformation in energy efficiency sector.
- The switch from inefficient incandescent bulbs to LEDs is helping families reduce their electricity bills while also enabling them to access better brightness in homes.
- The money saved adds to a household's disposable income and lifetime savings, thus improving their quality of life, generating prosperity in local communities, and in expanding energy access to all.
- With the average household electricity bills down by 15 per cent, the annual energy saving is equivalent to a week's average earning.
- The domestic LED market has grown significantly beyond the UJALA programme, with the industry selling over 1.15 billion LEDs, far exceeding the UJALA programme's target of 700 million LED units.

## DRDO Signs MOU with MAHA-METRO for implementation of Advanced Biodigester Mk-II Technology in Metro Rail Network



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Government of India's premier research agency and Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation (MAHA -METRO), a joint venture company of the Gol and Government of Maharashtra are working together to conserve water and protect the environment by installing DRDO's eco-friendly biodigester units (a non-sewered sanitation technology) in its facilities.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was inked on January 5, 2021 between MAHA-METRO and DRDO through which DRDO will render technical support for the implementation of its advanced biodigester Mk-II technology for the treatment of human waste (night soil) in the metro rail network.
- A customized version of this MK-II Biodigester, suitable for treating human waste generated from houseboats in Dal Lake was successfully demonstrated by the DRDO to J&K Administration.
- Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LWDA) of the J&K Administration has initiated the process to procure 100 units of Mk-II Biodigesters for civil habitats around the Dal Lake so as to minimize water pollution.
- The implementation of Biodigester MK-II in Srinagar is being monitored by a committee of experts constituted by the High Court of J&K under the Chairmanship of Dr E Sreedharan, former MD of DMRC. When fully implemented, this green technology will significantly reduce the Dal lake pollution
- This technology is upgraded through improvements in the bio-degradation efficiency, design modification and addition of secondary treatment module.
- The new reactor is designed to provide more path length with increased biological reaction time, thereby enhancing the bio-degradation efficiency of the system.
- This technology was primarily developed for the armed forces in high altitude Himalayan regions, including Leh-Ladakh and Siachen glacier.

## Swasth Vayu Non-invasive Ventilator



- CSIR-NAL scientists along with medical professionals from CSIR-IGIB came forward to address the shortages of ventilators in the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and indigenously designed and developed the non-invasive bi level positive airway pressure ventilator –Swasth Vayu, with additional features to treat Covid-19 patients and make the country self-reliant
- SwasthVayu developed by CSIR-NAL is a micro controller based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible “3D printed manifold and coupler” with HEPA filter (Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter).
- These unique features help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread. It has features like CPAP, Bi-Timed, Spontaneous / AUTO modes with provision to connect Oxygen concentrator or Enrichment unit externally.
- The SwasthVayu has successfully conducted clinical trials at Command Hospital, Bangalore and Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore on 50 Covid-19 patients.

## World Bank Signs \$105 Million Project to Improve Waterways in West Bengal



- The West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development Project will facilitate passenger and freight movement across the Hooghly river; undertake spatial planning to improve accessibility in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area; enhance the quality of life of its residents; and contribute to the growth of the state's logistics sector.
- The project will cover the five most populous districts of southern West Bengal, including its urban agglomeration -- the Kolkata Metropolitan Area (KMA) where around 30 million people or one-third of West Bengal's population live.
- Kolkata's strategic location, the project is also ensuring that the metropolitan area emerges as a transport and logistics hub for the sub-region, leveraging the EDFC and connecting to the north-east and the land-locked countries of Nepal and Bhutan

## Kisan Kalyan Mission



- The program named as "Kisan Kalyan Mission" will cover all assembly constituencies of the state. Under the Kisan Kalyan mission, various programs will be organised across the state UP.

Under the Kisan Kalyan mission:

- Exhibitions of agriculture and Associate sectors will be organised which will include the products of MSME sector units and livelihood missions.
- Farmer meetings will also be organised in which progressive farmers, scientist and workers associated with Agriculture Department will explain the scientific farming and provide information about the schemes of the government.
- Farmers will be given benefit under the various schemes of the agriculture department during these events.
- Under the Kisan Kalyan mission, many departments of state government like agriculture marketing Mandi Parishad, Horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sugarcane food and supply and Panchayati Raj will work together.

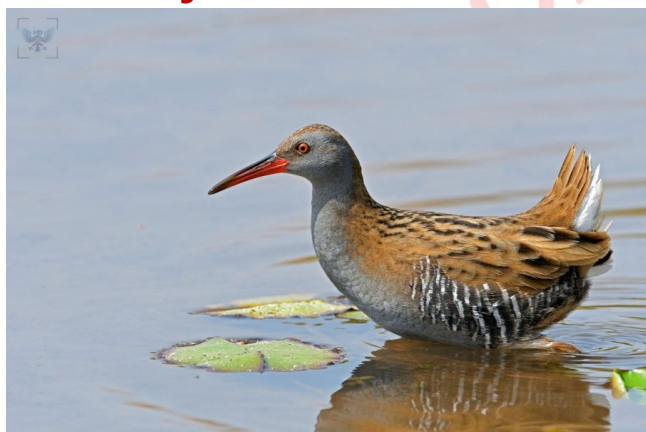


## Gujarat govt to cover 4000 villages under Kisan Suryodaya Yojana by January end



- Indian Prime Minister launched the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana in Gujarat.
- Under the scheme, 16 hours of power supply shall be provided to farmers.
- Gujarat Government has planned to cover all the villages under this scheme by the end of 2022.
- 1 lakh farmers have been covered under this scheme in the first phase while the second phase will cover 1 lakh 90 thousand farmers.
- Under this scheme, the state government is going to install new transmission lines and sub-stations at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 thousand crore in three years.
- The aim of this scheme is to protect the farmers from snakes and other wild animals during the night time.

## Two-day Asian Waterbird Census off to a flying start



- The two-day Asian Waterbird Census-2020 commenced in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday under the aegis of experts from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), covering at least two dozen sites, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolleru Lake and Krishna Sanctuary.

### Kolleru Lake

- Kolleru lake is located between the deltas of the Krishna and Godavari rivers in Andhra Pradesh.
- The lake serves as a natural flood-balancing reservoir for the two rivers.
- It is an important habitat for an estimated 20 million residents and migratory birds like Grey or Spot-billed pelicans.
- It was notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1999 under India's Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- It was declared a wetland of international importance in 2002 under Ramsar convention.

## Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

- Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary located in the coastal plain of Krishna delta, spread across Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- It harbors vast tracts of pristine mangrove forests.
- The estuary of the Krishna River passes through the sanctuary.
- This region potentially holds one of the most significant populations of fishing cats (IUCN status – endangered) in the world.

## Government launches hackathon for toys



- The goal of the “toycathon” is to promote India as a global toy manufacturing hub.
- According to Minister for Human Resource Development though the toy market in India is worth \$1 billion, 80% toys are imported.
- The hackathon is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and All India Council for Technical Education.
- The Toycathon is based on nine themes viz. Indian Culture, History, Knowledge of India and Ethos; Learning, Education and Schooling; Social and human values; Occupations & specific fields; Environment; Divyang ; Fitness and sport; Out of the box, creative and logical thinking and Rediscovering/redesigning traditional Indian toys
- The Toycathon will have 3 variants of tracks of Junior Level, Senior Level and Start up Level and will allow participation of students and teachers from schools, colleges and universities apart from start ups and toy experts.
- Participants will have two options for idea submission; they can either submit ideas for the published problem statements or under novel toy concepts category.
- This is the high time we utilize brightest creative minds and carve out games based on our Indian culture, tradition and heritage and stories of ancient India showcasing the beliefs and traditions of people.



## Gulf leaders sign deal to end years-long dispute



- Gulf leaders signed a “solidarity and stability” deal on Tuesday after leaders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar publicly embraced, bringing Doha back into the regional fold after a three-year-long rift.
- Saudi Arabia had led a coalition of countries in the Gulf and beyond to cut ties and transport links with Qatar in June 2017, charging that it was too close to Iran and backed radical Islamist groups allegations that Doha denied.
- Those countries, along with Oman and Kuwait, which have mediated between the two sides, signed a deal in Al-Ula, after Riyadh overnight re-opened its land, sea and air borders to Doha.

## Outgoing US Ambassador lists trade, Russia, Atmanirbhar as friction points: ‘India must choose



- In an hour-long address at an event organised by the US Embassy and the Observer Research Foundation, Juster, who was appointed Ambassador in 2017, commented on the “growing restrictions” by India on market access for certain US goods and services, “increasing tariffs”, “new limitations” on the free flow of data, and a “less-than predictable regulatory environment for investors

## To ‘educate students on cows’, govt to hold national cow science exam on Feb 25



- The examination – Kamdhenu Gau-Vigyan Prachar Prasar Pareeksha – will be held on February 25, Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)
- The exam will be conducted by RKA, an agency established for protection of cows under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- The exam will be conducted in four categories: primary level (up to class VIII); for students between classes IX and XII; a third category for college and university students; and the fourth will be open to all, in which not only Indian citizens but anyone can appear

## On Nile, a Grand Dam divides African nations



- The Nile has been at the centre of a decade-long dispute involving several countries that depend on its waters.
- At the forefront of the dispute are Ethiopia and Egypt, with Sudan having found itself dragged into the issue.
- Spear headed by Ethiopia, the Grand Renaissance Dam will be Africa's biggest at 145 metres tall.
- Construction began in 2011 on the Blue Nile tributary that runs across one part of Ethiopia.
- The main waterways of the Nile run through Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt, and its drainage basin runs through several countries in East Africa, including Ethiopia where the dam is being built.
- Egypt, which is down stream, has consistently objected to the construction, saying it will impact water flow.
- International observers fear that the dispute may increase conflict between the two nations and spill out in to other countries in the Horn of Africa.
- Given the dam's location, it would potentially allow Ethiopia to gain control of the flow of the river's waters.
- When Ethiopia had announced in 2019 that it planned on generating power using two turbines, Egypt had objected.
- Egypt proposed a longer timeline for the project over concerns that the water level of the Nile could dramatically drop as the reservoir fills with water in the initial stages.
- Sudan's location between Egypt and Ethiopia has caused it to become an in advertent party to this dispute.
- Sudan too is concerned that if Ethiopia were to gain control over the river, it would affect the water levels Sudan receives.

## From CSIR labs, fresh evidence and advice on airborne Covid spread



- A new study by laboratories in Hyderabad and Mohali has found fresh evidence that the risk of airborne transmission of the novel coronavirus is quite low if sufficient physical distance is maintained and prolonged interaction with an infected person is avoided

## Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday announced the operationalisation of the payment infrastructure development fund (PIDF) scheme, which is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier -3 to tier-6 centres, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.
- PIDF scheme, which is intended to subsidise deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 centres, with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.
- The regulator prescribed details of contribution to the fund and sought to incentivise the usage of payment devices.
- An advisory council (AC) under the chairmanship of RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo has been constituted for managing the PIDF.
- The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021 and may be extended for two more years.
- The PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs 345 crore, with Rs 250 crore contributed by the RBI and Rs 95 crore by the major authorised card networks in the country.
- The scheme is on reimbursement basis; accordingly, the claim shall be submitted only after making payment to the vendor
- The implementation of targets shall be monitored by the RBI with assistance from card networks, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Payments Council of India (PCI).
- Acquirers shall submit quarterly reports on the achievement of targets to the RBI.
- Acquirers meeting or exceeding their targets well in time and/or ensuring greater utilisation of acceptance devices in terms of transactions shall be incentivised.
- Those who do not achieve their targets shall be disincentivised, by scaling up or down the extent of reimbursement of subsidy.



## Legal Entity Identifier



# LEI

GLOBAL  
LEGAL  
ENTITY  
IDENTIFIER  
FOUNDATION

- The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions

- Legal entities are organisations such as companies or government entities that participate in financial transactions.
- An individual person may not obtain an LEI.
- The identifier is used in regulatory reporting to financial regulators and all financial companies and funds are required to have an LEI.
- The identifier is formatted as a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- It connects to key information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions.
- In India, LEI code may be obtained from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd (LEIIL), a subsidiary of the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), which has been recognised by the Reserve Bank as issuer of LEI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and is accredited by the GLEIF as the Local Operating Unit (LOU) in India for issuance and management of LEI.

## World Bank sees global output up 4% in 2021



- The global economy is expected to expand 4 per cent in 2021 after shrinking 4.3 percent in 2020, the World Bank said on Tuesday, although it warned that rising Covid infections and delays in vaccine distribution could limit the recovery to just 1.6 per cent this year

## Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme



- The RoDTEP scheme would refund to exporters the embedded Central, State and local duties/taxes that were so far not being rebated/refunded and were, therefore, placing our exports at a disadvantage.
- The refund would be credited in an exporter's ledger account with Customs and used to pay Basic Customs duty on imported goods.

- The credits can also be transferred to other importers.
- The RoDTEP rates would be notified shortly by the Department of Commerce, based on the recommendation of a Committee chaired by Dr. G.K. Pillai, former Commerce and Home Secretary
- The final Report of the Committee is expected shortly.
- An exporter desirous of availing the benefit of the RoDTEP scheme shall be required to declare his intention for each export item in the shipping bill or bill of export.
- The RoDTEP shall be allowed, subject to specified conditions and exclusions.
- A panel to fix ceiling rates under a duty refund scheme RoDTEP for exporters is expected to submit its report in next few weeks, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said

## **Shock treatment will not work in agriculture** (Written by Sarthi Acharya)

- The Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)-mandi policies for agricultural marketing, initiated in the 1960s for a few crops, have outlived their utility
- These laws state that farmers are now free to sell all their products anywhere and to anyone beyond the physical premises of APMC markets.
- Additionally, the laws promote contract farming through establishing partnerships between farmers and food-processing companies, and also permit unlimited hoarding of food except in special circumstances.
- Three main suggestions were put forth by farmers when we recently made enquiries with them: one, their produce prices should be the cost of production plus a reasonable mark-up;
- Two, fluctuations in prices should be minimal;
- Three, there should be little or no interface with legal or administrative officials — they are not comfortable dealing with the “sahibs and the police
- While “malpractices” in mandis are known and local leaders (Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, panchayats) are often brought in to vent farmers’ anger or arbitrate in difficult situations, malpractices in the new systems are neither forecast-able nor is there any authority to report to.
- There are many issues here.
- Traders could reduce the prices on more than one pretext, such as finding faults with the product
- Declining to buy on the pretext of glut (a wait and watch strategy);
- Defaulting on payments.
- The so-far neglected problem of stagnation and high input prices in agriculture can be addressed through a systematic approach proposed in the M.S. Swaminathan Commission and/or the Ashok Dalwai Committee.

- Typical examples are transitions being worked out for farmers to move out of water-soaking paddy crop in Punjab-Haryana to other crops;
- They would reduce the area under paddy by 25-30%, and the loss they incur in the short run, will be compensated for by the government.

UPSC\_HACKS  
[www.upschacks.com](http://www.upschacks.com)