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Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) Celebrated its 6th Annual Day



Central Adoption Resource Authority

Ministry of Women & Child
Development
Government of India

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
- CARA celebrates its Annual Day every year on the 15th January

North Korea unveils new submarine-launched ballistic missile



- North Korea has unveiled a new submarine-launched ballistic missile described by state media as the world's most powerful weapon. Pyongyang unveiled the missile during a military parade yesterday.
- The event did not showcase North Korea's largest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which was unveiled at a much larger military parade in October.

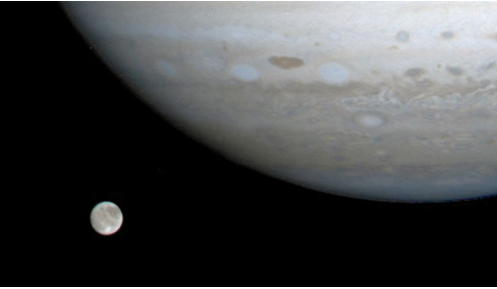
Kite festival Shakrain celebrated in Dhaka



- The traditional festival of Shakrain was celebrated in several parts of Dhaka on Thursday.
- This is a centuries old tradition in several parts of Bangladesh celebrated on the last day of the Bengali month of Paush. People in the old Dhaka city of Shakhari Bazar, Laxmibazar, Bangshal and Sutrapur among others celebrated this festival with great joy.

- The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) organised the festival for the first time this year with the slogan 'Let's Fly a kite, Cherish Tradition'.
- The festival was held in all the 75 wards of DSCC with the Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh inaugurating the festival by flying the kite in the city.

NASA finds FM signal coming from Jupiter's moon Ganymede for the 1st time



- NASA's Juno space probe has discovered an FM signal emanating from Jupiter's moon Ganymede for the first time.
- One of NASA's ambassadors to Utah clarified that it is a "natural function" rather than a sign of extraterrestrial life. "Electrons spiralling in Jupiter's magnetic field are thought to be the cause of the radio noise we hear," NASA said.

Make startups pillar that supports future development: Piyush Goyal to investors



- While addressing Prarambh, an international startup summit, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal urged investors to also focus on startups in the BIMSTEC region.
- "We can truly demonstrate...our collective commitment...to make startups the pillar on which future economic development will...prosper," he said. He said true talent lies in small towns, citing his talks with startups in Varanasi.

DRDO Develops India's First Indigenous Machine Pistol ASMI



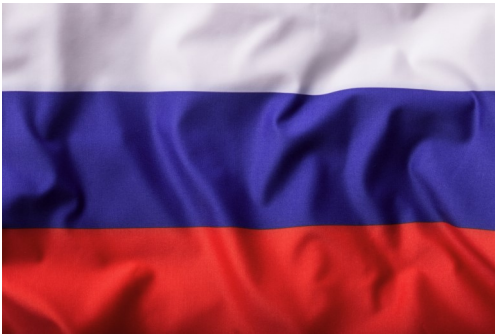
- The pistol which is developed by DRDO along with the help of Indian Army is set to replace the 9mm pistols in the defence forces. It was displayed at an event of the Indian Army.
- The machine pistol can fire at a range of 100 metres and is in the class of the Uzi series guns of Israel.
- The prototype has fired over 300 rounds in the last four months of its development

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS).



- CIBMS is a strong system with three main components. The first is sophisticated devices including sensors, detectors, cameras, radar systems, micro-aerostats, lasers etc.
- The second is dedicated wired and wireless communication system to be followed by centralized command control system.
- The purpose of the CIBMS is to enhance faster surveillance, detection and interception capability of BSF.

Russia announces exit from Open Skies treaty citing U.S. withdrawal



- Russia announced on Friday it was pulling out of the Open Skies treaty, saying that the pact, which allows unarmed surveillance flights over member countries, had been seriously compromised by the withdrawal of the United States.
- The move, announced by Russia's foreign ministry, comes days before U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's Jan. 20 inauguration amid fears of a burgeoning arms race. Moscow's last major nuclear arms pact with Washington is set to expire next month.
- The United States left the Open Skies arms control and verification treaty in November, accusing Russia of violating it.

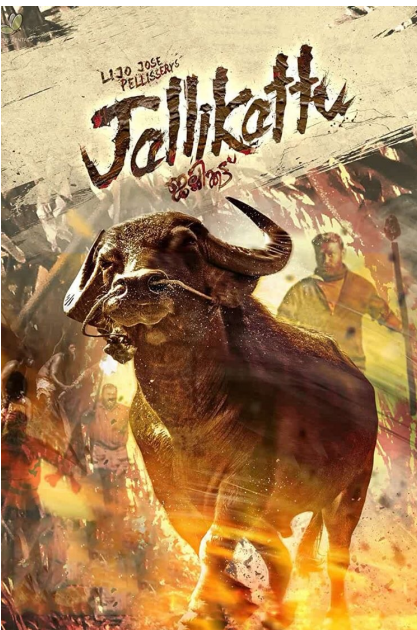
2020 was one of three warmest years on record



- The year 2020 was one of the three warmest on record, and rivalled 2016 for the top spot, according to a consolidation of five leading international datasets by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- A naturally occurring cooling climate phenomenon, La Niña, put a brake on the heat only at the very end of the year.
- The warmest six years have all been since 2015, with 2016, 2019 and 2020 being the top three. The differences in average global temperatures among the three warmest years – 2016, 2019 and 2020 – are indistinguishably small. The average global temperature in 2020 was about 14.9°C, 1.2 (± 0.1) °C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level.

- The exceptional heat of 2020 is despite a La Niña event, which has a temporary cooling effect
- It is remarkable that temperatures in 2020 were virtually on a par with 2016, when we saw one of the strongest El Niño warming events on record. This is a clear indication that the global signal from human-induced climate change is now as powerful as the force of nature
- The La Niña event which began in late 2020 is expected to continue into early to mid -2021. La Niña and El Niño effects on average global temperature are typically strongest in the second year of the event, and the extent to which the continued cooling effects of La Niña in 2021 may temporarily diminish the overall long-term warming trend during this coming year remains to be seen.
- Sustained heat and wildfires in Siberia and low Arctic sea ice extent, as well as the record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season were among the standout features of 2020.
- Temperature is just one of the indicators of climate change. The others are: greenhouse gas concentrations; ocean heat content; ocean pH; global mean sea level; glacial mass; sea ice extent and extreme events.
- As in previous years, there were significant socio-economic impacts in 2020. For instance, the United States reported a record 22 billion-dollar disasters in 2020, which was the nation's fifth warmest year on record.
- The World Meteorological Organization is the United Nations System's authoritative voice on Weather, Climate and Water

Jallikattu



- The bull-taming sport is popular in Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul districts—known as the Jallikattu belt.
 - Jallikattu is celebrated in the second week of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.
 - A tradition over 2,000 years old, Jallikattu is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for fattening.
 - It is a violent sport in which contestants try to tame a bull for a prize; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize
 - Jallikattu is considered a traditional way for the peasant Community to preserve their pure-breed native bull
- Jallikattu is a way to protect these male animals which are otherwise used only for meat if not for ploughing. Kangayam, Pulikulam, Umbalachery, Barugur and Malai Maadu are among the popular native cattle breeds used for Jallikattu. The owners of these premium breeds command respect locally.

The houbara Bustard



- It is a large terrestrial bird found in parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa.
- The North African houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and the Asian houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) are separate species.
- The Asian houbara is related to the critically endangered great Indian bustard native to India.
- After breeding in Central Asia during the spring, Asian houbara bustards migrate south to spend the winter in Pakistan, the Arabian peninsula and nearby South west Asia.
- Some Asian houbara bustards live and breed in parts of Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan
- The main reasons for the decline in the species' population are poaching, unregulated hunting and the degradation of its natural habitat, the IFHC website states.
- For over four decades, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry has been extending yearly invitations to wealthy and powerful Arabs for hunting houbara bustards in the deserts of Balochistan and Punjab, to strengthen the country's relations with Gulf nations.
- Arab hunters first started coming to Pakistan to hunt in the 1960s after the houbara bustard population in the Arabian peninsula began to dwindle.

Kalrav



KALRAV

something innovated for someone

- Bihar's first state-level bird festival 'Kalrav' will be held at the world famous Nagi-Nakti bird sanctuaries in the Jamui district from January 15. The three –day event is expected to draw experts and bird lovers from all over the country
- The Nagi- Nakti Bird Sanctuaries have been the home of a wide variety of indigenous species of birds and of migratory birds that turn up during the winters from places like Eurasia, Central Asia, the Arctic Circle, Russia and Northern China.
- Over 136 species of birds have been spotted at these sanctuaries.
- The Nagi Dam (791 ha) and Nakti Dam (332 ha) are two sanctuaries so close to each other that they can be taken as one bird area. Nagi is c. 7 km from Jhagha in the district Jamui, and Nakti is a further c. 4 km from Nagi, occupying similar habitat.
- These notified sanctuaries are surrounded by rocky hillocks, formed by the damming of streams. Both these waterbodies are quite deep, with a clear watersurface. These dams were built to supply water to local farms. There are cultivable lands adjacent to both the waterbodies.