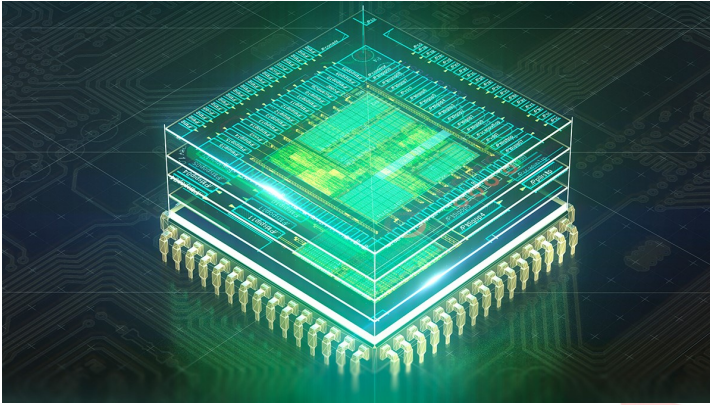


Daily News Decode

20.01.21

Quantum computing



- Quantum computing is an emerging field that harnesses the laws of quantum mechanics to build powerful tools to process information
- It has the potential to solve computational problems that are beyond the reach of classical computers, and lead to new breakthroughs that can transform chemical engineering, material science, drug discovery, financial portfolio optimization, machine learning, and much more.
- Quantum computing has the extraordinary potential to help countries leapfrog technology generations, achieve scientific leadership, and deliver answers to complex economic and social challenges.
- This initiative will augment India's ongoing efforts in developing Quantum Computing Applications
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in India will establish a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in the country, in collaboration with AWS, to accelerate quantum computing-led research and development and enable new scientific discoveries.
- The MeitY Quantum Computing Applications Lab will provide quantum computing as a service to government ministries and departments, researchers, scientists, academia, and developers, to enable advances in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and aerospace engineering.
- The lab is World's first quantum computing applications lab on AWS to support a national government's mission to drive innovation

“PARAKRAM DIWAS”



- 125th birth anniversary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- Year long celebrations to commemorate 125th birth anniversary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to commence on 23rd January
- The 125th Birth Anniversary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will be celebrated in a befitting manner at national and international level.

- 23rd January to be celebrated as “PARAKRAM DIWAS” every year

Madhya Pradesh village celebrates ‘Jal Utsav’ to welcome tap water connection



- Damhedi village of Anuppur District of Madhya Pradesh celebrated ‘Jal Utsav’ to welcome tap water connections in their households on 15th January, 2021
 - The village was decked up with rangolis and flower decorations & villagers were in their finest clothes & tribal accessories.
 - The festivities included tribal songs, dance & music which filled the whole atmosphere with the spirit of joy.
 - The village which mostly comprises of tribal population has suffered paucity of potable water in their area since ever.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the flagship programme of Union Government is ensuring safe drinking water to every rural household of the country.
 - Jal Jeevan Mission envisages adoption of participatory approach for ensuring safe and sustainable rural water supply for every household.
 - Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisions that every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities.

Ex Desert Knight-21



- Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force will conduct a bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21 at Air Force Station Jodhpur from today. The Air exercise will be till 24th January.
- French side will participate with Rafale, Airbus A-330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT), A-400M Tactical Transport aircraft and approximately 175 personnel.
- The Indian Air Force aircraft participating in the exercise will include Mirage 2000, Su-30 MKI, Rafale, IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft, AWACS and AEW&C aircraft.
- The exercise marks an important milestone in the series of engagements between the two Air forces.
- It is unique as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides and is indicative of the growing interaction between the two premier Air Forces.

354th birth anniversary of Guru Govind Singh



- In Bihar, 354th birth anniversary of tenth Sikh Guru Govind Singh, Prakashotsava is being celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety.
- The main function is organised at Takhat Sri Harmandir Sahib Gurdwara, Patna Sahib, the birth place of Guru Gobind Singh, where thousands of pilgrims across the country are offering prayers.
- Special langars are also being organised.
- Born at Patna Sahib in 1666, Guru Govind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru. He succeeded his father Guru Tegh Bahadur ji as leader of Sikhs at the age of just nine.

Chabahar port



- India delivers 1st batch of heavy cranes to bolster operations at Chabahar port
- Chabahar port located in the Gulf of Oman is a seaport in southeastern Iran.
- Chabahar port agreement is a trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan to develop railroad connectivity linking Chabahar port of Iran to Zahedan, across afghan borders.
- The project was conceived in 2003 during the prime ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- However, the project did not materialise due to U.S sanctions on Iran.

Is Chabahar port important for India?

- India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan.
- It will also boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.
- It also helps India counter Chinese presence in the Arabian Sea which China is trying to ensure by helping Pakistan develop the Gwadar port. Gwadar port is less than 400 km from Chabahar by road and 100 km by sea.
- With Chabahar port being developed and operated by India, Iran also becomes a military ally to India. Chabahar could be used in case China decides to flex its navy muscles by stationing ships in Gwadar port to reckon its upper hand in the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf and Middle East.
- With Chabahar port becoming functional, there will be a significant boost in the import of iron ore, sugar and rice to India. The import cost of oil to India will also see a considerable decline. India has already increased its crude purchase from Iran since the West imposed ban on Iran was lifted.
- Chabahar port could be used as a point from where humanitarian operations could be coordinated.

Somnath Temple



- Prime Minister was elected new chairman of the Shree Somnath Trust (SKT), the religious body which manages and maintains the famous Somnath temple near Veraval in Gujarat.
- The Somnath temple (also known as the Deo Patan) located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat, India is believed to be the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- The temples in India stand for their architectural marvel, craftsmanship and showcases rich culture and heritage.
- The present structure was built by the Sompura Salat community in Kailash Mahameru Prasad Style or the Chalukya style.
- The main spire of the temple is 150 foot high and has a flag post of 27 foot tall. A kalash of weight 10 tons was put on the top of the spire.
- The Baan-Stambh or the arrow-pillar located on the sea-protection wall indicates that the point is the first point on land in the north to the south-pole on that particular longitude.
- The Tirthambh located at the temple indicates that the nearest landmark (South Pole or the Antarctica) is located at about 9936 km away indicating the geographical wisdom of ancient India.

- The silver doors, intricate carvings and a fabulous nandi are worth seeing inside the temple.
- The sea is visible from a side door inside the temple which gives you the most scenic view and worth watching for hours.
- The temple attracts huge crowds during the Mahashivaratri festival and every Kartik Purnima is grandly celebrated here.

Mealworms for Human consumption



- European Food Safety Agency/Authority (EFSA) has approved 'yellow grub' or mealworms as edible human food recently
- Mealworms are the larval form of the mealworm beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, a species of darkling beetle. Like all holometabolic insects, they go through four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.
- Mealworms are typically used as a pet food for captive reptiles, fish, and birds. They are also provided to wild birds in bird feeders, particularly during the nesting season. They are also used as fishing bait.
- European Food Safety Agency/Authority (EFSA) has approved 'yellow grub' or mealworms as edible human food.
- As per the EFSA report, these worms are going to be the first of many insects to feature on European plates in the coming years.
- As per EFSA, the delicacies may not be advisable for everyone, however. Those with prawn and dustmite allergies are likely to suffer a reaction to the *Tenebrio molitor* larvae, whether eaten in powder form as part of a recipe or as a crunchy snack, perhaps dipped in chocolate.
- EU states including Finland, Belgium and the Netherlands — already permit sales of bug-containing foods in shops.
- People in Africa, Australia and New Zealand are already enjoying such insects
Mealworms have historically been consumed in many Asian countries, particularly in Southeast Asia
- Mealworms are useful for their high protein, fat and fibre content
- Mealworm larvae contain levels of potassium, copper, sodium, selenium, iron and zinc that rival that of beef. Mealworms contain essential linoleic acids as well.
- They also have greater vitamin content by weight compared to beef, B12 not included

India begins vaccine diplomacy, first doses in Bhutan, Maldives



- Bhutan and Maldives will be the first to get the vaccines from Wednesday, followed by Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles. Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius will also get doses once they give necessary regulatory approvals.

- New Delhi wants to portray this exercise as yet another testament to its Neighbourhood First policy-- the government is going to brand it "Vaccine Maitri".
- Pakistan has not been named as a neighbouring country

Biden, Harris enter office today



- President Elect Joe Biden, who will take charge Wednesday along with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, plans to unveil a sweeping immigration bill on Day One of his administration, hoping to provide an eight-year path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people living in the US without legal status, a massive reversal from the Trump administration's harsh immigration policies.

GI tag sought for India's costliest mushroom



- A geographical indication (GI) tag has been sought for one of the costliest mushrooms in the world that grows in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.
- It is locally called Gucho, or Morel, the mushroom, priced at over ₹20,000 a kg, is a forest produce collected by local farmers and tribals.
- It is said to have medicinal and anti-inflammatory properties.
- It is found in the temperate forests.
- A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)

Limited Liability Partnership



- Govt. to amend LLP Act to spur ease of business.
- A Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is a partnership in which some or all partners have limited liability. It therefore exhibits elements of partnerships and corporations.

Salient features :

- An LLP is a body corporate and legal entity separate from its partners. It has perpetual succession.
- Being the separate legislation (i.e. LLP Act, 2008), the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932 are not applicable to an LLP and it is regulated by the contractual agreement between the partners.
- Every Limited Liability Partnership shall use the words "Limited Liability Partnership" or its acronym "LLP" as the last words of its name.
- Every LLP shall have at least two designated partners being individuals, at least one of them being resident in India and all the partners shall be the agent of the Limited Liability Partnership but not of other partners.

Indian Railways renames Howrah-Kalka Mail as Netaji Express



- Days ahead of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary, Indian Railways decided to pay tribute to him by renaming Howrah-Kalka Mail as Netaji Express.
- "Indian Railways is happy to announce the naming of 12311/12312 Howrah-Kalka Express as 'Netaji Express'," the Railway Ministry tweeted.

Dragon fruit renamed as 'Kamalam' by Gujarat govt



- The Gujarat government has decided to rename dragon fruit as 'Kamalam', which means lotus in Sanskrit, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced "The word 'dragon' is not graceful and people associate it with China
- The outer shape of the fruit resembles a lotus," Rupani said
- Farmers in Gujarat's Kutch district had requested the government to rename the fruit.