

11.02.21

## Govt to launch website of India Toy Fair- 2021



- The government is all set to launch the website of the India Toy Fair, 2021.
- The website will be launched on February 11, 2021.
- It will be launched by the Minister of Textiles, Education Minister Ramesh and Commerce and Industry Minister in New Delhi
- India's first ever toy fair (Indian Toy Fair) will be held from February 27 to March 2, 2021.
- The fair is being organised by the Ministry of Textiles in association with the Ministry of Education and the ministry of commerce and industry.
- It is a virtual event that will be organised with the aim of providing a joyful learning for the children.
- The fair would engage the children in teaching, learning and promoting the indigenous toy industry.
- Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) has developed over 200 toys to showcase in fair.

### Centre for Creative Learning (CCL)

- CCL was established in April 2017. It comprises of a team of 10 that nurture the scientific temper and creativity in students and teachers.
- CCL has created over 200 toys and models to showcase in the virtual event. It is also playing a role of an expert group for the content provider for the toy fair.

## New Start Treaty



- The New START Treaty is a treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation.
- It contains measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.
- The treaty is the last remaining nuclear arms control between Russia and the USA.
- It was signed by US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in 2010
- The New START entered into force on February 5, 2011, and was expected to last at least until February 5, 2021, unless superseded by a subsequent agreement.

- The two parties are allowed to extend the treaty for a period of no more than five years.
- The United States and Russia have formally extended the New START Treaty until at least February 5, 2026.
- New START replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT), which was to expire in December 2012
- It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.
- The New START treaty is the successor to the START I. The START II was signed, but not ratified. The START III negotiating process was not successful.

#### Importance of the extension of New START

- The treaty is the last remaining nuclear arms control between Russia and USA.
- The extension of the New START contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security
- It will promote dialogue and cooperation to help address international non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

### Smart Wall for Indian Borders



- United States President Joe Biden has halted the construction of the much-publicised 'border wall' between the United States and Mexico.
- However, an alternative 'Smart wall' has been proposed to replace the physical and armed patrolling with advanced surveillance technology.
- At present, there's no single definition for the 'Smart Wall'.
- A smart wall will use technologies such as scanners, sensors and radars to prevent illicit entry, smuggling and other border threats.
- The smart wall will empower border officials and enhance situational awareness to prevent illicit activities.
- It will incorporate Internet-of-Things (IoT) technologies (such as sensors, security cameras, software solutions) to distinguish between animals, humans and vehicles.
- An alert will be sent to the officers in case of border breaches by humans.
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- Smart Wall will enhance critical security establishments across long boundaries of India and complement existing fencing and walls.
- If deployed along the Indian borders, will provide the security forces present at the border with an advantage over enemies and border infiltration can be effectively countered.
- The problem of cross-border terrorism and smuggling in India could be reduced effectively.

## National Beekeeping & Honey Mission



- Accordingly, a new Central Sector Scheme “National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)” for overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping and production of quality honey .
- The scheme will be implemented through the National Bee Board as a Central Sector Scheme (100% funded by Central Govt.).

The NBHM will have following sub-schemes/ three Mini Missions:

- Mini Mission-I: Under this Mission, thrust will be given on production & productivity improvement of various crops through pollination assisted by adoption of scientific beekeeping;
- Mini Mission-II: This Mission will concentrate on post-harvest management of beekeeping/ beehive products including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition,
- Mini Mission-III: This Mission will concentrate on Research & Technology generation for different Regions/ States/ Agro-Climatic and Socio-Economic conditions.
- The NBHM will work in coordination with other Governmental programs / schemes relating to promotion of beekeeping, viz.; MIDH, RKVY, Honey Mission of KVIC, MSME, NLRM/ SLRM, M/o Rural Development, M/o EF&CC, M/o Tribal Affairs, M/o Commerce & Industry, AYUSH, ICAR, etc., for overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country.
- The NBHM will provide technical guidance/ advice and administrative support to the implementing agencies at the National & State level for effective & smooth implementation of the scheme.



- The main objectives of NBHM
- Promoting holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation, providing livelihood support to farm and non-farm households and to enhance agriculture/ horticulture production;
- Developing additional infrastructural facilities for developing quality nucleus stock of honeybees, multiplication of stock by bee breeders, setting up of disease diagnostic labs, Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres (IBDCs)/ Centres of Excellence (CoEs) on Beekeeping, beekeeping equipment manufacturing units, etc. and post-harvest and marketing infrastructures, including honey processing plants, storages/ cold storages, collection, branding, marketing, etc. centre, etc.;
- Setting up of State of the Art Quality Control Labs for testing of honey & other beehive products at Regional Levels and Mini / Satellite Labs at Distt. Levels in main honey producing Districts/ States;
- To develop blockchain/ traceability system for traceability of source of honey & other beehive products and using IT tools in beekeeping, including online registration, etc.;
- To develop and facilitate Honey Corridors in potential areas;
- To promote agri- entrepreneurs & agri- startup for their involvement in beekeeping/ Honey production;
- To promote trade- agreements between beekeepers & traders/ honey processors/ exporters, etc.;
- To promote, develop and disseminate latest and State of the Art Technologies and skill development in beekeeping industry for production of honey & other high value beehive products;
- Empowerment of Women through Beekeeping;
- To maximize, economic, ecological and social benefits by diversification through beekeeping by production of higher quantity and good quality of honey and other high value beehive products, viz.; bee wax, bee pollen, propolis, royal jelly, comb honey, bee venom, etc. for domestic and export market;
- To strengthen beekeepers by developing institutional framework through collective approach viz.; formation of SHGs/ FPOs/ Beekeepers Cooperatives/ Federations, etc

## **Bengaluru scientists develop new marigold variety**



- The new variety of marigold developed by the Hessarghatta- based Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) are of value even if they get spoilt after full bloom as they can be used for extraction of crude carotene.
- The Arka Shubha variety of marigold has high carotene content of 2.8% which is the highest content from plant source

- These flowers could be sold for ornamental purpose too like other marigold varieties. But there is also an option of using them for extracting crude carotene, she pointed out.
- As carotene is mainly used in pharmaceutical sector, there is always a high demand for it. Presently, India imports most of its carotene from other countries, including China

## Brookesia nana- Nano-chameleon', dubbed as world's smallest reptile



- The nano-chameleon was found in the mountains of northern Madagascar during a 2012 expedition.
- Nano-chameleon is about the size of a sunflower seed, fits on the tip of a finger
- the body of the male specimen appeared to be just 13.5-millimetres-long (a little more than a 1/2-inch.)
- That's at least 1.5 millimetres smaller than the previous record-holder, another member of the Brookesia family.
- For the male, the researchers took a close look at its "well-developed" genitals, which in chameleons come in pairs known as hemipenes.
- They found that the genitals of the Brookesia nana specimen were almost one-fifth of its body size, possibly to allow it to mate with the larger female.
- Chameleons are threatened by deforestation on Madagascar, which is home to numerous species.

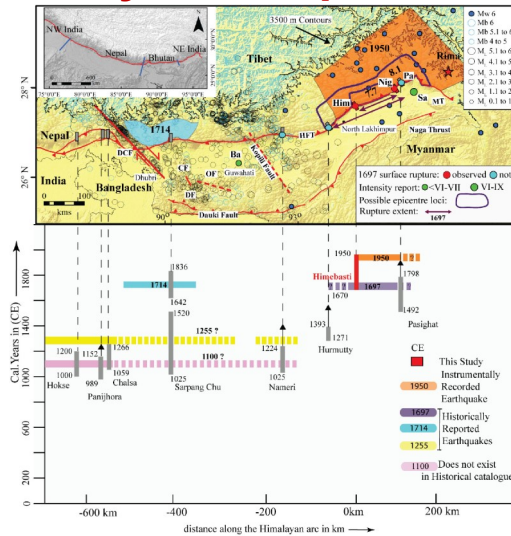
## Dhauliganga River



- Dhauliganga is a turbulent Himalayan river, which rises in the border regions of India and China, flows south into Garhwal region in Uttarakhand, India. It joins the Alaknanda, the major source stream of the Ganges river.
- Dhauliganga rises in the vicinity of the Niti Pass in the border regions between Garhwal and southwestern Tibet
- It flows 50 km (30 mi) southwards until it meets the Rishiganga on its left bank at Rini, in the vicinity of Tapovan in Chamoli district.
- It then flows 20 km (10 mi) westwards until it meets the Alaknanda at Vishnuprayag and terminates—the confluence just upstream of the city of Joshimath
- The upper Dhauliganga valley parts the East-West Himalayan axis, with Nanda Devi and its subsidiary peaks to its left and Kamet and its subsidiary peaks to its right

- On 7 February 2021 a part of Nanda Devi Glacier, a Himalayan glacier in the Nanda Devi National Park, broke away and caused water levels in the Rishiganga and Dhauliganga rivers to rise.
- The Dhauliganga Dam at the Dhauliganga hydropower project at Reni village (30.485°N 79.691°E) was destroyed and another suffered a partial collapse.
- Initial reports said nine people were dead and 140 missing. Water levels on the Alaknanda also rose

## Sadiya earthquake



- The 'Sadiya earthquake' in 1697 is said to have flattened most of Sadiya town and the region around it, including Himebasti
- The new finding could contribute to a seismic hazard map of eastern Himalaya and facilitate construction and planning in the region
- Known as the 'Sadiya earthquake' in historical references, the quake is said to have flattened most of Sadiya town in Assam and the region around it, including Himebasti
- Himebasti is said to be the epicentre of the Sadiya earthquake and scientists followed up the excavation with analysis using modern geological techniques.
- The focus was to find imprints of the 1697 event and record it scientifically.
- Scientists found the first geological surface rupture signatures in the form of exposed deposits associated with rivers and streams, deformed by a thrust fault along a Northeast dipping fault zone.
- They also found large tree trunks embedded in the youngest flood deposits at the exit of the Subansiri River (Sadiya town is located roughly 145 km southeast of Subansiri river), suggesting the post-seismic aggradation of the river, following an array of aftershocks till six months in an abortive fashion.
- This work has been recently published in the journal nature.com, under the 'Scientific Reports' category. Sadiya town is located roughly 145 km southeast of the Subansiri river.



## Sessa Orchid Sanctuary

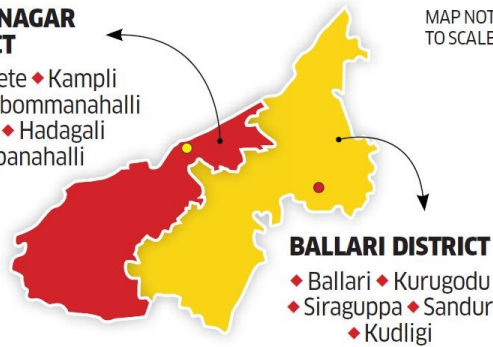


- Sessa Orchid Sanctuary is a 100 km<sup>2</sup> protected area of India in the Himalayan foothills in Bhalukpong Forest Division of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- It conjoins Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary to the southwest. It is a part of the Kameng Protected Area Complex (KPAC), which is an Elephant Reserve. See map.
- The department of Environment & Forests has developed trekking routes for visitors to enjoy the natural habitats of orchids.
- There are deep gorges and valleys, high peaks and rugged terrain that are rewarding for nature lovers and adventure tourists.
- A nursery includes representative specimens of various orchid species of the sanctuary and a demonstration farm of Cymbidium hybrids for cut-flower production.
- Most of Sessa has traditionally been claimed by the Bugun tribe as part of their territory.
- Sessa is noted for the occurrence of more than 200 orchid species with 5 new and endemic species.
- Sub-tropical types include the genera Dendrobium, Bulbophyllum, Coelogyne, Eria, Phaius and Liparis.
- The sanctuary is unique in having 7 endemic species of saprotrophic orchids.
- 12 rare species of different families were found in one study of the area.
- The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a consortium of major international and regional organizations, has identified the Eastern Himalayan region around Arunachal Pradesh (Nepal, Bhutan and all of North-East India) as a critical global biodiversity rich area deserving of conservation focus.
- They identified the North-Bank Landscape (i.e. north bank of Brahmaputra, extending up the Eaglenest and Sessa slopes) and the Tawang region as worthy of particular focus.
- Sessa is within the Conservation International Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot area.
- BirdLife International has designated Sessa and Eaglenest Sanctuaries as an Important Bird Area (IBA IN344), with Blyth's tragopan identified as a vulnerable species of the area

## Vijayanagara becomes 31st district in Karnataka

### VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT

- ◆ Hosapete ◆ Kampli
- ◆ Hagaribommanahalli
- ◆ Kottur ◆ Hadagali
- ◆ Harappanahalli



### BALLARI DISTRICT

- ◆ Ballari ◆ Kurugodu
- ◆ Siraguppa ◆ Sandur
- ◆ Kudligi

- The new district will have six taluks and Hosapete will be its headquarters, while Kudligi, Hagaribommana Halli, Kotturu, Hoovina Hadagali, and Harapanahalli are the other five taluks will be part of the new district.
- The iconic cluster of monuments at Hampi or Hampe, a UNESCO world heritage site, will be part of the new district, Vijayanagara

## 'Foreign Destructive Ideology', 'Andolanjeevi'



- India needs to be saved from new FDI or Foreign Destructive Ideology': PM Modi in RS
- The PM said that India needs to be cautioned against deleterious influences from abroad that he referred to as "foreign destructive ideology"
- PM Modi used the term in the context of the ongoing farmers' protest in the country that has, of late, received support from several global celebrities
- Modi labelled those protesting 'andolanjeevi', which means someone who protests for a livelihood.
- "There is a new crop of 'andolanjeevi'. They live for protests. They look for ways to start a new movement. The country needs to be aware of these andolanjeevis,"

## FSSAI sets norms limiting use of industrial trans-fats by 2022



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has restricted the permissible amount of industrial Trans Fatty Acid (TFA) in food products to 2 per cent.
- The latest amendment will come into effect from January 01, 2022.
- Currently, the permissible limit for trans fats in food products in 2021 is 3 per cent, cut down from the previous limit of 5 per cent.
- FSSAI has amended the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 to put into effect the new Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2021.

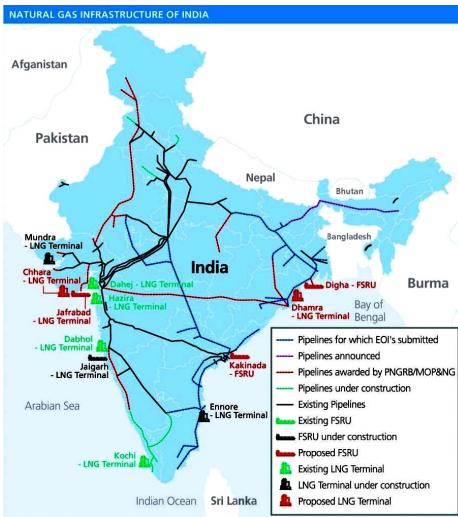


- As per the new rule, the food products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall not contain industrial trans fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product, starting from January 01, 2022.

### The Trans Fat:

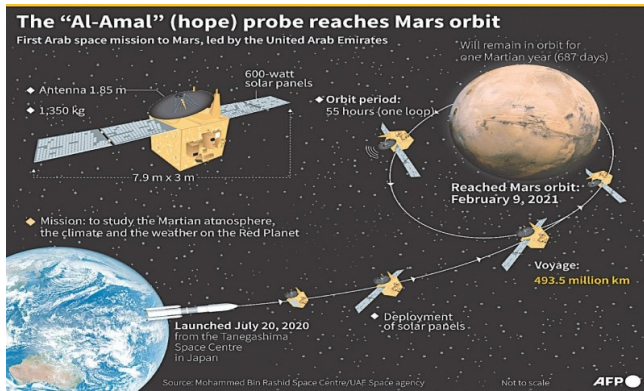
- Trans fat regulation, that aims to limit the amount of “trans fat”, fat-containing trans fatty acids — in industrial food products, has been enacted in many countries.
- These regulations were motivated by numerous studies that pointed to significant negative health effects of trans fat.
- Trans fats are associated with increased risk of heart attacks and death from coronary heart disease.

## One Nation, One Gas Grid



- The Indian Power system for planning and operational purposes is divided into five regional grids.
- One Nation, One Gas Grid refers to the integration of these regional grids thus establishing a National Grid for providing energy produced by natural gas to various stakeholders like the central government, the state governments, the public and the private sectors.
- One nation, one gas grid which will help emerge India as a gas based economy.
- It will not only lead to robust development in the economy but also encourage a clean environment.
- To increase the share of natural gas, the government has announced the expansion of the natural gas grid from the previous 17,500 kilometers to 34,500 kilometers. To which, 450 kms have already been added making it approx 18000.
- The next 16000 kms is expected to be achieved in the next 4-6 years.
- Primarily, as a grid, the north and west part of India were already connected via LNG terminal.
- In the last 4 years, efforts have also been made to connect eastern India with North via the Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline which is a PM Urja Ganga Project which is in its final stages and will also add around 3000 kms to the grid.
- The southern part of India is also being looked upon and is expected to add about 1500 kms to the grid.

## What is the objective of UAE's Mars mission that entered into the planet's orbit?



- The UAE's first mission to Mars has entered the planet's orbit seven months after the Emirati-built 'Hope Probe' was launched from Japan
- The mission primarily aims to study Martian weather dynamics
- By measuring how much hydrogen and oxygen is spilling into space, scientists will be able to look into why Mars lost its early atmosphere and liquid water.

## Uttarakhand government starts preparing for Char Dham Yatra



- The Char Dham (meaning: four abodes) is a set of four pilgrimage sites in India.
- It is believed that visiting these sites helps achieve moksha (salvation).
- The four Dhams are, Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri and Rameswaram. It is believed that every Hindu should visit the char dhams during one's lifetime.
- The Char Dham as defined by Adi Shankaracharya consists of four Hindu pilgrimage sites.
- Another small circuit in Uttarakhand of four pilgrimage sites-Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath is referred to as Chota Char Dham.
- Badrinath came to be known as the first Dham.
- The second place, Rameswaram, got its importance in the Treta Yuga when Lord Rama built a Shiva-Lingam here and worshiped it to get the blessings of Lord Shiva. The name Rameswaram means "God of Ram".
- The third, Dham Dwarka, got its importance in the Dvapara Yuga when Lord Krishna made Dwarka His residence instead of Mathura, His birthplace.
- At the fourth, Puri Dham, Lord Vishnu is worshiped as Jagannath, his Avtar for Kali Yuga.
- The four Shankaracharya Peeth (Seats) at the Char Dham school of Hinduism, created at least four Hindu monastic institutions.
- He organised the Hindu practitioners under four Mathas, with the headquarters at Dvarakā in the West, Jagannatha Puri in the East, Sringeri Sharada Peetham in the South and Badrikashrama in the North

## Bolder climate action could save millions of Indian lives each year: Study



- A new research has said that adopting policies that are in line with goals in Paris Agreement could save millions of lives annually by 2040 across nine countries, including India.
- The countries considered in the study form half of the world's population and 70% of the world's emissions.
- The Paris Agreement is aimed at limiting the rise of global temperature.

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