

## DIVYA-DRISHTI 2021



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

- Indian Army National Seminar-cum-Webinar, named as “Divya-Drishti 2021” on Multi-Domain Operations: Future of Conflicts organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), on 11 February 2021.
- “Divya-Drishti 2021”, meaning divine or cognitive perception required for an informed vision, aimed to bring together national and international experts and practitioners to deliberate on the complex and emerging subject on multi-domain operations (MDO).

## New corridor between Delhi and Dehradun will cut travel time to just 2.5 hours



- The Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Economic corridor, work on which is underway, will reduce the distance between the two cities from 235 kilometres to 210 kilometres, and travel time from 6.5 hours as of now, to just 2.5 hours, once it is completed.
- This will be the country’s first highway where there will be a 12-kilometer long elevated corridor for protection of wildlife. It has been decided to execute the project under EPC mode.
- The entire corridor is designed for driving with a minimum 100 Kmph speed.
- Wayside amenities every 25-30 km have been provisioned for enhancing the road user experience. Closed toll mechanism would be adopted to enable pay toll only to the extent of highway used.
- The development of this corridor is expected to boost the economy of the region being served by the highway, especially boosting the tourism in Uttarakhand.

## Over one crore MSMEs registered in country over period of 5 years



- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry has informed that more than one crore two lakh MSMEs were registered in the country within five years.
- In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Nitin Gadkari said that as per Udyog Aadhaar Portal a total of one crore two lakh 32 thousand 468 MSMEs were registered between 2015 to June 2020.
- Ministry has implemented various other schemes for the growth and development of MSME sector in the country.

## India's first ever CNG Tractor to be launched tomorrow



- India's first ever CNG Tractor will be launched tomorrow. This will help farmers increase their income, by lowering costs and help to create job opportunities in rural India.
- The most important benefit for the farmer will be to save more than one lakh rupees annually on fuel costs, which will help them to improve their livelihood.
- It will also help farmers to save up to 50 per cent on the fuel cost as the current Diesel prices are around 77 rupees per litre whereas CNG is only 42 rupees per kilogram.

## Radio Jockey turned juice seller generates zero waste by serving juice in shells of fruits in Bengaluru



- A Juice Centre in Malleshwaram in Bengaluru generates zero waste by serving juice in the shells of muskmelon, watermelon and pineapple.
- This Juice Centre is run by Anand Raj who gave up his twelve year-old career as a radio jockey and took over his father's business in 2018.
- Eat Raja juice shop in Malleshwaram stands out as a champion of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. No plastic cups, straws, tissue paper or water bottles, the shop serves musk melon, water melon, cucumber or chilly guava juice in the scrapped out empty shells of fruits. The leftover peels of fruits are made into bio enzymes useful for surface cleaners.

# National Child Labour Project SCHEME



- Government had initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 1988 to rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country.
- This is the major Central Sector Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour.

- The Scheme seeks to adopt a sequential approach with focus on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations & processes in the first instance.
- Under the Scheme, survey of child labour engaged in hazardous occupations & processes has been conducted.
- The identified children are to be withdrawn from these occupations & processes and then put into special schools in order to enable them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system.
- Project Societies at the district level are fully funded for opening up of special schools/Rehabilitation Centres for the rehabilitation of child labour.

The special schools/Rehabilitation Centres provide:

- Non-formal/bridge education
- Skilled/vocational training
- Mid Day Meal
- Stipend @ Rs.150/- per child per month.
- Health care facilities through a doctor appointed for a group of 20 schools.

## PENCIL Portal

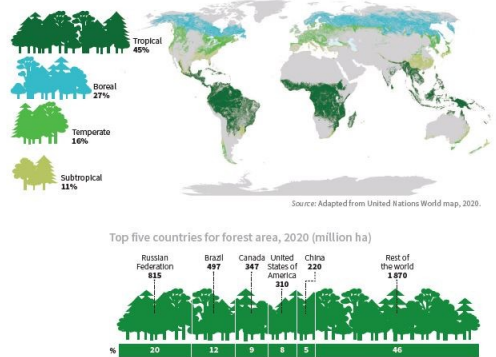


- The Union Home Minister launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The PENCIL is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.



# Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

Proportion and distribution of global forest area by climatic domain, 2020



- The latest digital report contains the main findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020).
- FRA 2020 examines the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.
- It is led by the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- The FRA reports the extent of the world's forest area as well as other variables, including land tenure and access rights, sustainable forest management (SFM), legal and institutional frameworks for forest conservation, and sustainable use.
- FRA 2020 data were collected using commonly agreed terms and definitions through a transparent, traceable reporting process and a well-established network of officially nominated national correspondents that covers 187 countries and territories.
- More than 700 people were directly involved in this process.
- The rate of forest loss in 2015-2020 declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 million hectares (mha) in 2010-2015, according to the FRA 2020.
- The FRA 2020 has examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.
- The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya, according to the report.
- However, the rate of net forest loss decreased substantially during 1990–2020 due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increases in the forest area in others through afforestation.
- The largest proportion of the world's forests were tropical (45 per cent), followed by boreal, temperate and subtropical.

## World Sustainable Development Summit 2021



- This year's theme 20th edition is Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all
- It is the flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Marking 20 years in its journey of making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal, the Summit series brings together governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and the civil society in the fight against climate change.

- With its focus on bringing the voices of youth and women to the forefront, the Summit intends to carry forward these vital discussions from the Global South to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow.

## Furnace oil



- Furnace oil from Titanium factory spills into sea
- Fuel oil, also called furnace oil, fuel consisting mainly of residues from crude-oil distillation.
- It is used primarily for steam boilers in power plants, aboard ships, and in industrial plants.
- Commercial fuel oils usually are blended with other petroleum fractions to produce the desired viscosity and flash point.

## INS Viraat



- After the Supreme Court ordered a “status quo” with regard to the dismantling of India’s decommissioned aircraft carrier, INS Viraat, the shipbreaker has halted all breaking activities at the Alang shipbreaking yard in Gujarat.
- INS Viraat was a Centaur-class aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy.
- INS Viraat was the flagship of the Indian Navy before INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in 2013.
- The ship was completed and commissioned in 1959 as the Royal Navy’s HMS Hermes, and decommissioned in 1984.
- It was sold to India in 1987. INS Viraat was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 12 May 1987, and served for almost 30 years.
- On 28 September, Viraat was beached at Alang.
- At the end of September, a private Mumbai-registered company, Envitech Marine Consultants Private Limited, offered to purchase the ship from Shree Ram Shipping and preserve her as a museum and tourist centre, to be provisionally berthed at Goa.
- The Goa state government gave its support provided the project was approved by the Ministry of Defence, the necessary clearances were obtained and the state would incur no financial obligations.
- Shree Ram Shipping offered to sell Viraat to Envitech for ₹100 crore (US\$14 million), provided the firm receive the clearances and assume all cost and risk. SC orders matters

## High diversity of birds, many rarely seen in Delhi, in Mangar area: Study



- THE MANGAR landscape of the Aravalli is in Faridabad has a "high diversity" of bird species, with 219 species in a 17.13 sq km area, reflecting its "high conservation value", reveals a study of the birds by the Centre for Ecology Development And Res

- According to the study, the 219 species found in the Mangar landscape include 130 resident species, 53 winter migrants, 12 summer migrants, and 16 passage migrant
- Among the species found, several are "rare" in Delhi, including the common rose finch, black breasted weaver, and red munia.
- Five "nationally endangered species", including king vulture and Egyptian vulture, as well as six bird species that have been showing a "national-level decline", including the yellow crowned wood pecker and shorttoed Snake Eagle, were also found to be "thriving" in the Mangar landscape, states the study.

## Pangong disengagement: what it entails



- As of now, the disengagement process is restricted to the north and south banks of Pangong Tso.
- Sources in the Indian security establishment have said the process has started with pulling back of certain columns of tanks from the south bank region by both sides.
- Further, thinning of troops from some of the face-off positions on the two banks, from the heights they are positioned on, has started.
- But they have not yet vacated the heights.
- According to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement in Rajya Sabha, "both sides will remove the forward deployment in a phased, coordinated and verified manner"
- The north and south banks of Pangong Tso are among the most sensitive regions in the stand off that began in May 2020.
- Clashes here marked the beginning of the stand off, and it is one of the areas where Chinese troops came around 8 km deep east of India's perception of the Line of Actual Control.
- China had positioned its troops on the ridge line connecting Fingers 3 and 4, while according to India the LAC passes through Finger 8.
- Further, it is on the south bank that Indian forces in an action in late August had gained a strategic advantage by occupying certain peaks, outwitting the Chinese.



## A resilient future for Uttarakhand (A. Nambi Appadurai )

- Uttarakhand is located in the midst of young and unstable mountains, and is subject to intense rainfall.
- But these natural characteristics can't be solely responsible for devastations the State has witnessed in the past decade
- For years geologists, glaciologists and climate experts have voiced their fears about an impending disaster due to climate change, rapid and indiscriminate construction activities, and the subsequent ecological destruction in the region.
- The occurrence of the current glacier burst was loosely attributed to erosion, a build-up of water pressure, an avalanche of snow or rocks, landslides or an earthquake under the ice.
- According to the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, a rock mass, weakened from years of freezing and thawing of snow, may have led to the creation of a weak zone and fractures leading to a collapse that resulted in flash floods.
- Experts also identified large-scale human settlements and expansion of agricultural activities leading to massive deforestation, as a possible trigger.
- Studies have shown that widespread settlements, farming, cattle grazing and other anthropogenic activities could destroy the natural barriers that control avalanches and floods, thereby enhancing the possibilities of a glacial lake outburst flood.
- The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Report (2019) had pointed out that one-third of the Hindu Kush Himalaya's glaciers would melt by 2100 and potentially destabilise the river regime in Asia, even if all the countries in the region fulfilled their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

A few immediate steps include:

- I. investing in resilience planning, especially in flood prevention and rapid response;
- II. climate proofing the infrastructure such as by applying road stabilisation technologies for fragile road networks and strengthening existing structures like bridges, culverts and tunnels;
- III. strengthening embankments with adequate scientific know-how;
- IV. reassessing development of hydropower and other public infrastructure;
- V. investing in a robust monitoring and early warning system;
- VI. establishing implementable policies and regulatory guidelines to restrict detrimental human activities, including responsible eco- and religious tourism policies; and
- VII. investing in training and capacity building to educate and empower local communities to prevent and manage risks effectively.

## Tender cut

- The government's statement about bringing in a law on cryptocurrencies is welcome, as it could put an end to the existing ambiguity over the legality of these currencies in India.
- fact that such currencies are highly volatile, used for illicit Internet transactions, and wholly outside the ambit of the state — into any sort of regulation
- In 2018, the RBI did send a circular to banks directing them not to provide services for those trading in cryptocurrencies.
- But this was eventually set aside by the Supreme Court, which found the circular to be “disproportionate,” given that the central bank had consistently maintained that virtual currencies were not banned in India.
- This legal ambivalence has not, however, been able to prevent cryptocurrencies from having a growing clientele in India.
- Their attraction may only grow now, given that the most well-known of them as also the most valuable, Bitcoin, has hit new peaks in price and is gaining influential followers such as Tesla founder Elon Musk.
- Cryptocurrency exchanges, which have sprung up, are reportedly lobbying with the government to make sure these currencies are regulated rather than banned outright

## The agonising cost of ham-handed development

(Nachiket Chanchani, Ann Arbor)

- Artefacts found in the Himalayan foothills that are datable to the period extending from 300 BCE and 600 CE include an Ashokan rock edict, brick altars for conducting ashvamedha yagnas, coin hoards, and sculptures.
- The forms of these artefacts and their find-spots indicate deepening contact between communities living in the Gangetic plains and in the foothills.
- These very developments fostered the growth of Haridwar and Kalsi as cosmopolitan towns and as “gateways” into the Himalayas.
- Initially, mendicants in search of retreats, merchants eager to enlarge trading networks, adventurous princes
- In time, the development of a distinctive architectural tradition, increases in the priestly population, greater availability of skilled craftsmen, and the emergence of small principalities, helped further alter the status of this borderland and perceptions of it.
- By the twelfth century, architects, master-masons, and sculptors from lands as far away as Gujarat travelled to Uttarakhand to build temples in elaborate typologies associated with their homelands
- Demographic, political, social and economic shifts that have occurred in the past six decades have led to an increase in the number of pilgrims visiting sacred centres in Uttarakhand.



- After 1962, the Indian government recognised that the world's highest and loftiest mountain range no longer served as an insurmountable wall
- To safeguard against future incursions, a massive development programme along the country's mountainous northern border was launched.
- Agencies such as the Border Roads Organisation, the Indo Tibetan Border Police, and the THDC India Limited (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited) were established.

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