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DOLPHINS



- The population of dolphins in Chilika, India's largest brackish water lake, and along the Odisha coast has doubled this year compared with last year.
- The State Environment Department released the final data on the dolphin census conducted in January and February this year, indicating a spectacular growth in numbers.
- Three species were recorded during the census, with 544 Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins sighted this year, compared with 233 last year.
- The endangered Irrawaddy dolphins is mostly found in Chilika lake. Few were also sighted in the Rajnagar mangrove division.
- The highest growth has been noticed in the case of humpback dolphins with a population of 281.
- These humpback dolphins were not part of any riverine systems, so they cannot be identified as residential mammals.
- They were spotted travelling along the Odisha coast and the number is likely to fluctuate in the next census.

OPEC



- The price of Brent crude has fallen under \$63 per barrel from a high of \$70 per barrel in early March.
- A recent resurgence in Covid-19 infections coupled with a decision by OPEC+ (a keep producers' block) to increase crude oil production has contributed to a fall in crude oil prices.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 13 countries.
- It was founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela).
- Since 1965, it is headquartered in Vienna, Austria, although Austria is not an OPEC member state.

- The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- A larger group called OPEC+ was formed in late 2016 to have more control on the global crude oil market.
- The stated mission of the organization is to "coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets".

ADVANCED ANTIQUITIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AAMS)



- The Directorate of Archives and Archaeology (DAA) of the Goa government inaugurated the Advanced Antiquities Management System on March 30 that it claimed was the first such system in the country for storage of antiquities.
- The system that catalogues 83 antiquities at present is aimed at providing quick information about an antiquity linked to the software, saving storage space and ensuring improved preservation of the objects of historical significance.
- The Advanced Antiquities Management System (AAMS) is a software-driven automated storage used for the storage of various objects.
- So far it has been used for storage of industrial equipment but the decision of Goa's DAA to use it for storing valuable antiquities is the first such in the country.
- The AAMS will ensure safety of antiquities, clean storage space, access control and data management and also enhance utilisation of space.
- The AAMS is placed at Goa's DAA in Panaji.

WORLD HOMOEOPATHY DAY (WHD)



- The Convention was organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous apex research organization under Ministry of AYUSH to celebrate the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day.
- The World Homoeopathy Day (WHD) is observed every year on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann.

- A unique digital initiative of CCRH, the Homoeopathic Clinical Case Repository (HCCR) portal aimed at providing homoeopathic clinicians, researchers, medical students etc. a user platform for entering homoeopathic clinical cases through a predefined standardized template was launched on the occasion.

Sociable Lapwing



- The sociable lapwing or sociable plover (*Vanellus gregarius*) is a critically endangered wader in the lapwing family of birds.
- Critically endangered — IUCN This medium-sized lapwing has longish black legs and a short black bill.
- Summer adults have grey backs and breast, dark belly and white undertail.
- The head has a striking pattern, with a black crown and eyestripe, the latter being bordered above and below with white.
- Its longish black legs, white tail with a black terminal band and distinctive brown, white and grey wings make it almost unmistakable in flight. Length is 27–30 cm (11–12 in).
- The current IUCN classification is CR A3bc—meaning that the population is expected to decline in the next decade or so by 80%.
- Sociable lapwing found in these Countries Kazakhstan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, India, Pakistan and Oman In India, It is restricted to the north and north-west of the country.

Archaeologists discover 3,000-yr-old 'lost golden city' in Egypt



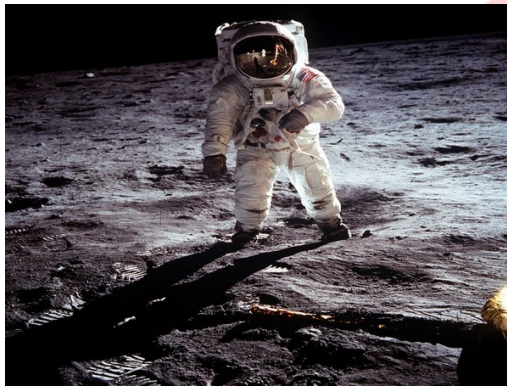
- Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass, who is overseeing the excavations, announced the discovery of an about 3,000-year-old city which was built during the reign of King Amenhotep III near Luxor, dubbed as 'lost golden city'.
- "[It's] second most important archaeological discovery since tomb of Tutankhamun," US Egyptologist Betsy Bryan said. It's believed to be the largest city ever found in Egypt.

Which 28 countries can Indians fly to as per its air bubble agreement?



- India established a bilateral air bubble arrangement with Sri Lanka, government said today.
- All eligible passengers will be able to travel between the two countries in the near future.
- India already has air bubble agreements with 27 other countries including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Maldives, Nepal and the Netherlands.

NASA to land 1st person of colour on Moon under Artemis mission



- NASA will be landing the first person of colour on the Moon, along with the first woman, under the Artemis programme.
- NASA said that President Joe Biden's budget request includes \$24.7 billion for NASA.
- Indian-American astronaut Raja Chari was among the 18 astronauts who were earlier selected to begin training for the Artemis mission.

Bird spotted in Arunachal becomes India's 1,340th species



- A bird spotted in Arunachal Pradesh has become the 1,340th species of the bird family in India.
- The three-banded rosefinch was spotted and photographed by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) scientists on February 8.
- Scientists spotted a male and a female three-banded rosefinch at Sela mountain pass at an altitude of 3,852 metres above sea level.

United Arab Emirates names its first female astronaut



- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday named Noura Al Matrooshi as the country's first female astronaut.
- Matrooshi and her male counterpart Mohammed Al Mulla were shortlisted from more than 4,000 applicants, UAE's Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said.
- The two will undergo training at NASA's Johnson Space Center in US' Houston, he added.

Guneet Monga to be conferred with 2nd highest civilian French honour



- Filmmaker Guneet Monga will be conferred with the honour of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters, the second-highest civilian French honour.
- She'll be felicitated at a ceremony in Delhi on April 13 by the Ambassador of France to India.
- Indian celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Nandita Das have also been felicitated with the honour

World's 1st living donor lung transplant to a COVID-19 patient performed in Japan



- A woman in Japan has become world's first COVID-19 patient to receive a living donor lung transplant.
- She received lung segments from her son and husband after her lungs failed because of damage caused by coronavirus.
- The procedure at Kyoto University Hospital took around 11 hours to perform, with doctors saying that the donors and patient are in stable condition.

Union power ministry proposes to relax rooftop solar rules



- The government on Friday released a draft amendment to the Rights of Consumer rules to allow rooftop solar installations with a capacity of upto 500 kilowatt (kW) to be billed under 'net metering'.
- As a result, those with rooftop solar panels will receive higher tariffs from power distribution companies for surplus power sold to them.

Fossil of mammal that lived 74 mn yrs ago found in Chile: Scientists



- A fossil of a skunk-like mammal that lived around 72-74 million years ago has been discovered in Chile, scientists said.
- A part of the creature's fossilised jawbone with five teeth attached was discovered close to the Torres del Paine national park.
- University of Chile's Sergio Soto said Chile's southern tip has a lot of potential in terms of palaeontology.