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AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020 on women empowerment



- The award has been named after the 12th century book called “Lilavati”.
- The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.
- Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II.
- It is AICTE's (All India Council for Technical Education) Innovative education program to empower women.
- All the stakeholders (especially the girl students) in AICTE approved institutions would get an opportunity to present a solution to the prevalent issues of gender discrimination, such as illiteracy, unemployment, economic and nutritional disparities, maternal mortality, human rights, etc.
- Based on the theme 'Women Empowerment', AICTE finalized the winners from a total of 456 entries who competed across 6 sub themes, which include, Women's Health, Self-Defense, Sanitation and Hygiene, Literacy, Women Entrepreneurship and Legal Awareness.
- Objective is To create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women.
- In each sub-category, the top three winners will be awarded with certificates as well as prize money. The first prize winner will get Rs 1 lakh, the second winner will get Rs 75,000 and the third winner will get Rs 50,000.

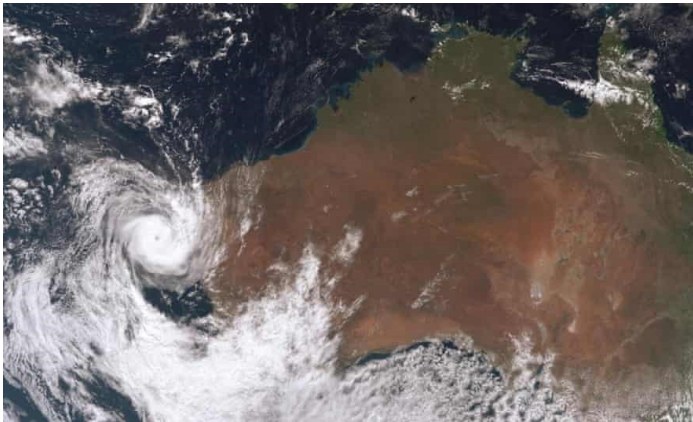
Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' to be launched in Bangladesh today



- A Sanskrit learning app will be launched in Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India today.
- The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.

- The Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' is based on an interactive platform which will make Sanskrit learning easy, entertaining and fun.
- This app will help people who are already learning Sanskrit or those who are desirous to learn Sanskrit to do so in an easy manner based on games, competition, rewards, peer to peer interactions, etc.
- This App combines education with entertainment
- ICCR has been receiving a large number of requests from across the world from people interested in learning Sanskrit.
- Many of the Buddhist, Jain and other religious texts are in Sanskrit.
- There has been a great demand from such countries for assistance in learning the language.
- Several universities across the world where Sanskrit is taught have shown keen interest in an App which would help the students in these universities and others who wish to pursue learning of Sanskrit.

Cyclone Seroja



- Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja is a currently active tropical cyclone that has had devastating impacts in portions of southern Indonesia, East Timor, and Western Australia's Mid West region.
- The twenty-second tropical low, seventh tropical cyclone, and third severe tropical cyclone of the 2020–21 Australian region cyclone season, the precursor of Seroja formed off the south coast of Timor island as Tropical Low 22U at 18:00 UTC on 3 April 2021
- The tropical low moved very slowly near the island, while the system's thunderstorms increased in organization.
- The low intensified into Tropical Cyclone Seroja by 4 April, while it was passing north of Rote Island, while continuing its slow strengthening trend.
- The name Seroja means lotus in Indonesian.
- Due to the presence of Tropical Cyclone Odette in Seroja's vicinity, interaction was anticipated as the storm moved away from Indonesia and East Timor.
- Its intensity fluctuated as it moved southwest, with its strengthening being highly hindered due to interaction with Odette.
- This caused the system to weaken as Seroja moved closer to it, due to a phenomenon known as the Fujiwhara effect. Eventually, Seroja began to restrengthen and weaken Odette, as the system began to absorb Odette, with Seroja absorbing Odette into its circulation on 10 April.

- Due to Odette, Seroja was steered to the southeast towards Australia, before strengthening. At around 8 p.m. local time on 11 April, Seroja made landfall on the western coastline of Western Australia as a Category 3 severe tropical cyclone, slightly south of the coastal town of Kalbarri, bringing heavy rain and hurricane-force winds (about 170kph).
- Later that day, Seroja transitioned into an extratropical cyclone, while accelerating south eastward.

The Thwaites Glacier



- Researchers at Sweden's University of Gothenburg are now saying that fears related to the melting of Antarctica's Thwaites Glacier are worse than previously thought, owing to the supply of warm water flowing underneath at a rate underestimated in the past.
- The Thwaites Glacier is 120 km wide at its broadest, fast-moving, and melting fast over the years.
- Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre. Studies have found the amount of ice flowing out of it has nearly doubled over the past 30 years.
- Today, Thwaites's melting already contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year.
- It is estimated that it would collapse into the sea in 200-900 years.
- Thwaites is important for Antarctica as it slows the ice behind it from freely flowing into the ocean.
- Because of the risk it faces — and poses — Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.
- The grounding line is the place below a glacier at which the ice transitions between resting fully on bedrock and floating on the ocean as an ice shelf.
- The location of the line is a pointer to the rate of retreat of a glacier.

UMNGOT RIVER



- Stiff resistance from at least 12 villages in Meghalaya has cast a cloud on a 210 MW hydroelectric project on Umngot, considered India's clearest river.
- Umngot flows through Dawki, a town in West Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya.
- The river is the natural boundary between Ri Pnar (of Jaintia Hills) with Hima Khyrim (of Khasi Hills).

- Dawki Bridge, is a suspension bridge over the Umngot River.
- The villages are near the border with Bangladesh in East Khasi Hills district but the dam is proposed upstream in the adjoining West Jaintia Hills district.
- The project is to be executed by the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited.
- People of 13 villages along the Umngot are likely to lose 296 hectares of land due to submergence if the dam comes up.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME



- Iran has started up advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges in a breach of its undertakings under a troubled 2015 nuclear deal, days after the start of talks on rescuing the accord.
- President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the three cascades of 164 IR-6 centrifuges, 30 IR-5 and another 30 IR-6 devices at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant.
- Iran's latest move to step up uranium enrichment follows an opening round of talks in Vienna (Austria's capital) with representatives of the remaining parties to the nuclear deal on bringing the U.S. back into it.
- Former President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 but his successor Joe Biden has said he is ready to return, arguing the deal had been successful in dramatically scaling back Iran's nuclear activities.

Vienna Talks

- The Vienna talks are focused not only on lifting crippling economic sanctions Trump reimposed, but also on bringing Iran back into compliance after it responded by suspending several of its own commitments.
- Iran has demanded that the U.S. first lift all sanctions imposed by Trump, which include a sweeping unilateral ban on its oil exports, before it falls back in line with obligations it suspended.
- USA has demanded movement from Tehran in return.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE



- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has divested Rakesh Kumar, Director, National Environment Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI) in Nagpur of his post and transferred him to its headquarters in Delhi after allegations of corruption surfaced against him.

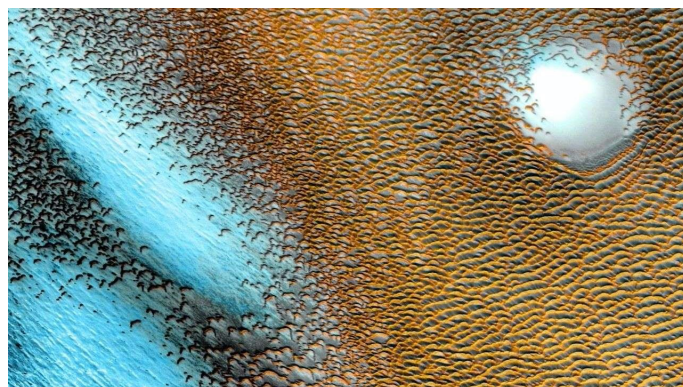
- NEERI is a part of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and falls under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.
- NEERI is a pioneer laboratory in the field of environmental science and engineering with special focus on water supply, sewage disposal, communicable diseases and to some extent on industrial pollution.
- The NEERI is an important partner organisation in India's POPs national implementation plan (NIP).
- The Institute is operating a nation-wide air quality monitoring network since 1978.
- The programme sponsored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- It also works in technology developments such as making “green firecrackers”, under the directives of the Supreme Court to improve Delhi’s air quality, and specialised air purifiers.

60th Anniversary of Yuri Gagarin’s First Human Space Expedition



- April 12, 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin’s historic Vostok 1 mission, which gave him the honour of becoming the first human to venture into space.
- A former fighter pilot, Gagarin’s mission in space lasted for one hour and 48 minutes
- His capsule was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome (now in Kazakhstan) and it re-entered the earth’s orbit near the City of Engels in Western Russia, with Gagarin jumping out of the capsule with a parachute.

NASA shares pic of a sea of dunes sculpted by wind on Mars



- NASA has shared a picture of a sea of dunes surrounding Mars' northern polar cap.
- The false-color image showed areas with cooler temperatures in bluer tints, while warmer features were depicted in yellows and oranges.
- It combines images taken during the period from December 2002 to November 2004 by the Thermal Emission Imaging System instrument on the Mars Odyssey orbiter.

How did archaeologists discover a 3000-year-old 'lost golden city' in Egypt?



- Egypt on Thursday announced the discovery of a 3,000-year-old "lost golden city" complete with mud-brick houses, artefacts and tools from pharaonic times.
- The discovery, touted as the most important find since King Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed a century ago, was made by archaeologists excavating for the King's mortuary temple.
- However, they ended up finding the well-preserved city instead.

Nepal's rhino population increased by 107 since 2015 census



- The population of Nepal's one-horned rhinoceros has grown by more than 100 since the last census in 2015, officials said.
- From 645 in 2015 across four national parks, the population rose to 752 in the latest count, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation said.
- Nepal's Chitwan National Park has the highest number of rhinos at 694

Which are the world's 10 most expensive cities to live in for the rich?



- Shanghai is the world's most expensive city to live in for the rich people, according to Julius Baer's Global Wealth and Lifestyle Report 2021.
- It is followed by Tokyo, Hong Kong, Monaco, Taipei, Zurich, Paris, London, Singapore and New York.
- The most expensive cities on Earth continue to be in Asia, the report said, which featured Mumbai on 22nd spot.