

## Himalayan Brown Bear



- Recently, a study Zoological Survey of India on the Himalayan brown bear has predicted a significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors of the Himalayan brown bear due to climate change.
- North-western and central Himalaya, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China and Bhutan.
- High altitude open valleys and pastures. During the summer months the bears move up as high as the snow-line at around 5,500 metres and then descend into the valleys in the autumn.
- Himalayan brown bears seem to be arguably the least arboreal of all the bear subspecies.
- Himalayan brown bears are diurnal and, except during mating and for mothers with cubs, are solitary.
- Mating takes place during May and June with cubs being born in the winter den in December and January.
- The bears go into hibernation in a cave or dug-out den around October, emerging in April or May
- IUCN Red List: Critically endangered.
- CITES: Appendix I
- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule 1

## SPUTNIK V



- Russia's COVID-19 vaccine — Sputnik V — has been recommended for emergency use authorisation in India following a meeting of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC).
- If approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Sputnik V would be the third vaccine to be made available in India after the Serum Institute of India's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

- Sputnik V, developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, claims to be one of the three vaccines in the world with efficacy of over 90%.
- The vaccine supplies for the global market will be produced by the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) international partners in India, Brazil, China, South Korea and other countries.

## AAHAAR KRANT



### Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India

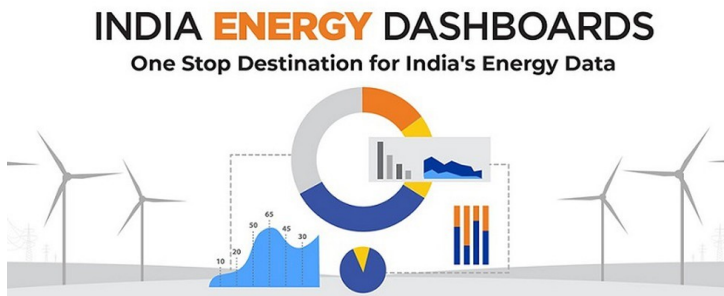
- Union Health Minister, will launch a new mission called 'Aahaar Kranti'.
- The mission is aimed to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of accessible to all local fruits and vegetables.
- Vijnana Bharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST) have come together to launch the mission with the motto of 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'.
- The 'Aahaar Kranti' movement is designed to address the problem of 'hunger and diseases in abundance'.
- Union Ministry of Science and Technology's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)'s Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (Prabhaas) is collaborating, and various central and state government ministries and agencies are involved.
- The programme will focus on training teachers, who, in turn, will pass on the message to the multitudes of students, and through them to their families and finally the society at large.
- Such a strategy was adopted for the eradication of Polio and it turned out to be a grand success.
- Studies estimate that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories that it consumes. However, many in the country are still malnourished.
- The root cause of this strange phenomenon is a lack of nutritional awareness in all sections of our society.
- The United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, which vibes very well with Aahaar Kranti. Fruits and vegetables make a large part of a balanced diet.
- Further, UN sustainable goal # 3 that emphasizes on human well-being reads, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."
- This goal too makes Aahaar Kranti more meaningful. Diet and well-being are inseparable partners.

## e-Courts



- Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairperson, e-Committee of the Supreme Court inaugurated a Judgments and Orders Portal and an e-Filing 3.0 module.
- The Judgments and Orders search portal is a repository of judgments pronounced by various High Courts in the country.
- It provides facility to search judgements and final orders based on multiple search criteria.
- The e-filing 3.0 module, introduced by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court, allows electronic filing of court documents.
- With the introduction of the new module, there will be no need for lawyers or clients to visit the court premises for filing of a case.
- The eCourts project has played a sustained role in ensuring citizen centric justice and in recognition of this exemplary work, this project has been conferred the Excellence in Digital Governance Award in 2020 by Government of India.

## INDIA ENERGY DASHBOARDS (IED)



- India Energy Dashboards (IED) is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.
- Energy data published/provided by Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller's Organisation, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is compiled in the Dashboards.
- NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.
- The IED provides time series data from FY 2005-06 until FY 2019-20;
- Enhanced data download – It enables easy downloading of data into convenient spreadsheet formats in a cleaner, more intuitive way;
- IED provides data at sub-yearly frequencies as well.
- This includes monthly data and API linked data from some portals maintained by the government agencies.
- The monthly data is sourced from the monthly reports that are regularly published for the electricity, petroleum and natural gas sectors.
- API linked data from Saubhagya, UJALA, PRAAPTI, and Vidyut PRAVAH has been incorporated in the portal.

## DGFT 'TRADE FACILITATION' MOBILE APP



- Union Commerce & Industry Minister launched DGFT 'Trade Facilitation' Mobile App for promoting ease of doing business and providing quick access to information to importers/exporters.
- It has been developed by the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), as per the directions of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- Trade facilitation App is READY for Industry 4.0, as it provides Real-time trade policy updates, notifications, application status alert, tracking help requests
- Explore item-wise Export-Import policy & statistics, Track IEC Portfolio
- AI-based 24\*7 assistance for trade queries
- DGFT services made accessible to all
- Your Trade Dashboard accessible anytime & anywhere

## Aral Sea



- The Aral Sea was an endorheic lake lying between Kazakhstan (Aktobe and Kyzylorda Regions) in the north and Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan autonomous region) in the south.
- Began shrinking in the 1960s and had largely dried up by the 2010s.
- The name roughly translates as "Sea of Islands", referring to over 1,100 islands that once dotted its waters; in the Turkic languages aral means "island, archipelago".
- The Aral Sea depression was formed toward the end of the Neogene Period (which lasted from about 23 to 2.6 million years ago).
- In the early and middle parts of the Pleistocene Epoch (about 2,600,000 to 11,700 years ago), the region appears to have dried up, only to be inundated again sometime between the end of the Pleistocene and the early Holocene Epoch (i.e., after about 11,700 years ago)—the latter instance being the first time by the Amu Darya, which had temporarily changed its course from the Caspian to the Aral Sea.

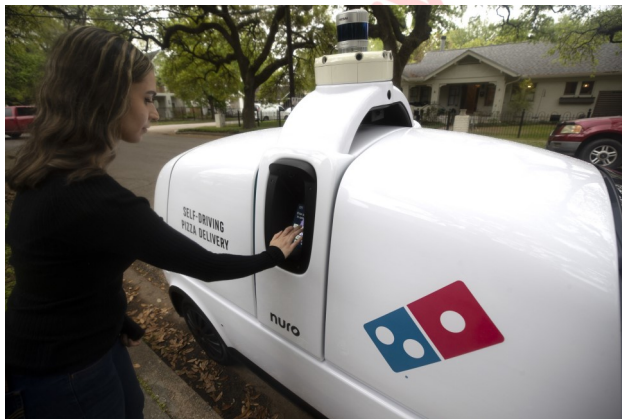
- After that, except for some relatively brief dry spells between the 3rd and 1st centuries BCE, the two rivers' combined flows generally maintained a high water level in the sea until the 1960s.
- The Aral Sea drainage basin encompasses Uzbekistan and parts of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Iran.
- The shallow Aral Sea was the world's fourth-largest saline lake, spanning 63,000 square kilometers
- Its catchment area is approximately 1.5 million square miles and drains Uzbekistan and portions of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Kyrgyzstan.

## **NZ introduces climate change law for finance sector in world first**



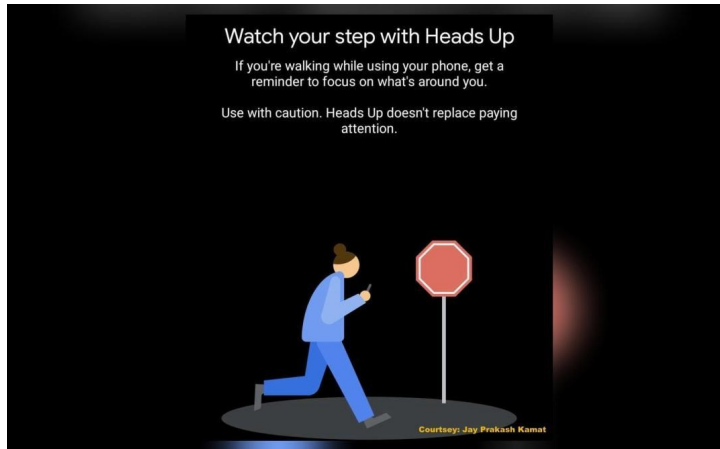
- New Zealand on Tuesday became the first country to introduce a legislation that will require banks, insurers and investment managers to disclose impacts of climate change on their business.
- "This law will bring climate risks and resilience into the heart of financial and business decision making," Climate Change Minister James Shaw said.
- Around 200 companies will come under the legislation.

## **Domino's, Nuro to deliver pizzas via robots in US**



- Domino's and Nuro will launch a robotic pizza delivery service in Houston, Texas this week.
- On select days, customers will be able to place a prepaid order and opt for it to be delivered by Nuro's R2 robot.
- A PIN will be sent to them which will then have to be entered via the robot's touchscreen to receive their order.

# Google rolls out 'Heads Up' tool to stop distracted walking: Reports



- Google rolls out 'Heads Up' tool to stop distracted walking: Reports short by Aishwarya Awasthi / 05:12 pm on 12 Apr 2021, Monday
- Google has started rolling out the 'Heads Up' feature in the Digital Wellbeing app that reminds users to stop staring at their smartphones while walking, media reports said.
- The feature is currently being rolled out to Google Pixel users with the latest Digital Wellbeing beta update.
- The 'Heads Up' mode is entirely optional and can be enabled or disabled.

## Dolphin boom in Odisha's Chilika lake:



- 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.
- Three species were recorded during the census, with 544 Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins sighted this year, compared with 233 last year.
- The rise in the Irrawaddy dolphin population in Chilika can be attributed to the eviction of illegal fish enclosures.
- Found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia, and in three rivers: the Irrawaddy (Myanmar), the Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo) and the Mekong (China).
- They are 'Endangered' as per the IUCN Red List.

Indo- Pacific Bottlenose dolphins:

- Lives in the waters around India, northern Australia, South China, the Red Sea, and the eastern coast of Africa.

IUCN status: Near Threatened

- Indian Ocean Humpback dolphins:
- The Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin occurs within the Indian Ocean from South Africa to India.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorizes the Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin as Endangered (Source: Wiki).

- In India, Dolphins are endangered cetacean species, protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Indian Humpback Dolphin is listed in Appendix I of The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

## Shantir Ogrosena



- The 10 day long multinational military exercise named 'Shantir Ogrosena' culminated in Bangladesh on Monday, April 12 at the Bangabandhu Senanibas in Dhaka.
- Troops from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka participated in the exercise with observers from the USA, UK, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.
- The exercise was organised to pay tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his birth centenary and celebrate the golden jubilee of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- The aim of the exercise was to strengthen defence ties and enhance interoperability amongst neighbourhood countries to ensure effective peacekeeping operations.
- The participating armies shared their experiences and enhanced their situational awareness through robust information exchange platforms
- The exercise culminated with a validation phase and closing ceremony organised on the theme of 'Robust Peacekeeping Operations' jointly undertaken by contingents of the four participating countries.