

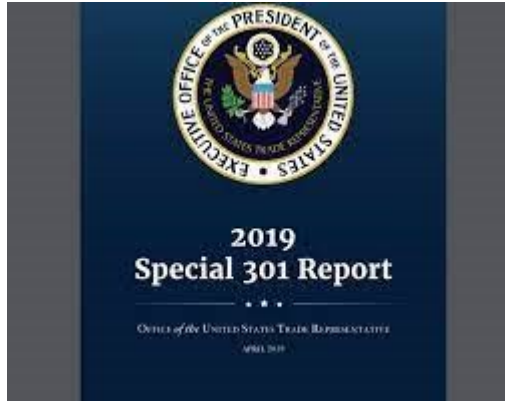
03.05.21

Global Forest Goals Report 2021



- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) recently published the Global Forest Goals Report 2021.
- To combat the challenges of COVID-19, climate change, and the biodiversity crisis facing forests, the study recommended a potential course of action that included greater sustainability and a greener, more inclusive economy.
- 252 million people living in forests and savannas are expected to earn less than US\$1.25 a day, which was the World Bank's poverty line calculation until 2015.
- Nearly 18 percent of the world's forests were legally protected areas in 2020, compared to just over 14 percent in 2000.
- Between 2010 and 2020, the global area of protected forests increased by approximately three million hectares per year, with increases in every country.
- Currently, 73 percent of the world's forests are owned by the government, 22 percent by private individuals, and the rest is classified as "unknown" or "other".
- It is the first assessment of where the world stands in terms of meeting the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.
- It is based on 52 voluntary national reports and 19 voluntary national contributions that constitute 75% of the world's forests.
- It was created by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and its United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS).
- It is based on global quantitative and biophysical evidence, primarily from the Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020.
- It gives an initial assessment of progress toward achieving the six Global Forest Goals and the 26 related priorities outlined in the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.
- United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF)-

Special 301 report



- The United States has placed India and eight other countries on the Priority Watch List for IP protection and enforcement.
- Out of 100 trading partners being reviewed for this year's "Special 301 Report" by USTR, eight have been placed on Priority Watch List and 23 on the Watch List.
- Seven other countries on the Priority Watch list are Argentina, Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela.
- The 23 trading partners on the Watch List are Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.
- According to the report, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement.
- Though India's enforcement of IP in the online sphere has gradually improved, a lack of concrete benefits for innovators and creators persists, which continues to undermine their efforts.
- The potential threat of patent revocations, lack of presumption of patent validity and the narrow patentability criteria under the India Patents Act burdens companies across different sectors.

World's largest plane completes 3-hour test flight



- American aerospace company Stratolaunch successfully completed the second test flight of the world's largest airplane above the Mojave desert in the US.
- The aircraft, with a 385-foot wingspan that's longer than an American football field, flew for three hours at a maximum altitude of 14,000 ft.
- The aircraft is designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.

Rabi Sankar appointed RBI Deputy Governor



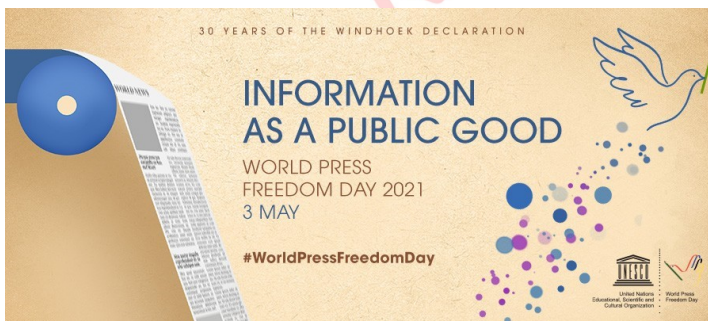
- The government has approved the appointment of T Rabi Sankar as a Deputy Governor at the Reserve Bank of India.
- Sankar, an executive director at RBI, will hold the post for three years and will succeed BP Kanungo who retired last month.
- Sankar now joins Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Patra and Rajeshwar Rao as RBI's fourth Deputy Governor.

137 black, red handprints discovered in ancient Maya cave in Mexico



- Around 137 black and red handprints discovered on cave walls in Mexico are believed to be associated with a coming-of-age ritual of ancient Maya civilisation, according to archaeologist Sergio Grosjean.
- The prints are over 1,200 years old, dating them near the peak of Maya civilisation.
- A carved face and six painted relief sculptures were also found in the cave.

World Press Freedom Day



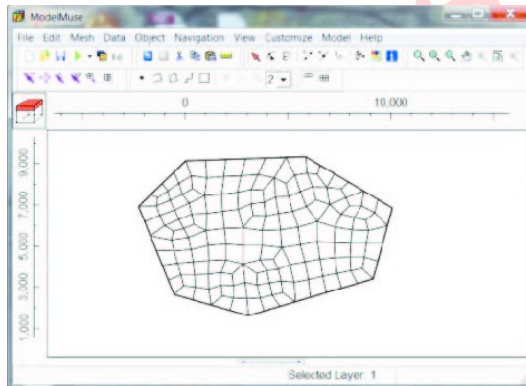
- World Press Freedom Day is being observed today.
- This day is celebrated on the 3rd of May every year. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Information as a Public Good" serves as a call to affirm the importance of cherishing information as a public good.

India-UK Virtual Summit



- Prime Minister will hold a Virtual Summit with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson on 4 May 2021.
- India and UK enjoy a Strategic Partnership since 2004. It has been marked by regular high level exchanges and growing convergences in diverse areas.
- The Summit will be an important opportunity to elevate our multi-faceted strategic ties and enhance cooperation on regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- Both leaders will also discuss Covid19 cooperation and the global efforts to fight the pandemic.
- A comprehensive Roadmap 2030 will be launched during the Summit, which will pave the way for further expanding and deepening India-UK cooperation over the next decade across five key areas, namely people-to-people relationship, trade and prosperity, defence and security, climate action and healthcare.

SUTRA model



- Scientists working on the SUTRA model have rejected media reports claiming that they had cautioned the Government regarding the second wave of the corona pandemic in March this year.
- SUTRA model is used for charting the trajectory of COVID-19 in the country.
- In a media statement, group of scientists working on the model stated that a mathematical model can only predict future with some certainty so long as virus dynamics and its transmissibility don't change substantially over time.
- They added that in the case of COVID-19, the nature of the virus has been changing very rapidly.
- The scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur and Hyderabad applied the Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach' (SUTRA) model to predict that active cases would go up further by over 10 lakh by mid-May.

Women's Prize for Fiction



- The Women's Prize for Fiction (previously with sponsor names Orange Prize for Fiction (1996–2006 and 2009–12), Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction (2007–08) and Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction (2014–2017)) is one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious literary prizes.
- It is awarded annually to a female author of any nationality for the best original full-length novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year.
- The winner of the most recent, 2020, Women's Prize for Fiction was Maggie O'Farrell for her book Hamnet.

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