

Daily News Decode

17.05.21

Winchcombe meteorite



- A piece of the Winchcombe meteorite that fell in the town of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire in the UK in February 2021 is set to be displayed at the National History Museum.
- The piece of meteorite is a 103 gram fragment of black rock resembling coal.
- It dates back to the birth of the solar system nearly 4.5 billion years ago.
- Examining it may offer scientists and researchers clues about the beginning of the solar system and maybe even the Earth.
- Winchcombe is also significant because it is the meteorite to have fallen and recovered from the UK in about 30 years.
- This type of meteorite is known as a carbonaceous meteorite.
- Out of about 65,000 known meteorite types, only about 1,000 are of this particular type.

Mongolian Kanjur



- The Ministry of Culture is likely to complete reprinting of about 100 sets of sacred Mongolian Kanjur (108 volumes each) by 2022 for distribution in the main centers of Buddhism in Mongolia.
- It is the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes and considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'– the words of Lord Buddha in particular.
- It is held in high esteem by the Mongolian Buddhists and they worship the Kanjur at temples and recite the lines of Kanjur in daily life as a sacred ritual.
- The Kanjur are kept in almost every monastery in Mongolia.
- It has been translated from Tibetan and the language of the Kanjur is Classical Mongolian.
- During 1956-58, Professor Raghu Vira obtained a microfilm copy of the rare Kanjur manuscripts and brought them to India.
- The Mongolian Kanjur in 108 volumes was published in India in 1970s by Prof. Lokesh Chandra, former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).

- Now, the present edition which is being published will have a list of contents indicating the original title of the sutra in Mongolian.
- The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- This work is being carried out under the supervision of eminent Scholar Prof. Lokesh Chandra.
- The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the NMM was presented to the President of India on the occasion of Guru Purnima, also known as Dharma Chakra Day, on 4th July 2020.
- A set was then handed over to His Excellency Mr. Gonching Ganbold, Ambassador of Mongolia to India.
- The NMM was launched in February 2003 by the Government of India, with the mandate of documenting, conserving and disseminating the knowledge preserved in the manuscripts.

HELMAND



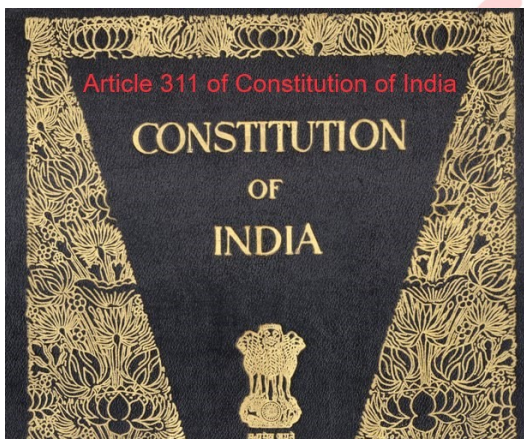
- Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces resumed in the restive southern province of Helmand, ending a three-day ceasefire agreed by the warring sides to mark the Id-ul-Fitr holiday.
 - Helmand is also known as Hillmand or Helman and, in ancient times, as Hermand and Hethumand.
- It is one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan, in the south of the country.
 - It is the largest province by area. The province contains 13 districts.
 - Lashkargah serves as the provincial capital. The Helmand River flows through the mainly desert region of the province, providing water used for irrigation.
 - The Kajaki Dam, which is one of Afghanistan's major reservoirs, is located in the Kajaki district.
 - Helmand is believed to be one of the world's largest opium-producing regions, responsible for around 42% of the world's total production.
 - Since the 2001 War in Afghanistan, Helmand Province has been a hotbed of insurgent activities. It has been considered to be Afghanistan's "most dangerous" province.

DOOMSDAY SCROLLING



- As Covid-19 has struck back to ravage our surroundings, most of us find ourselves continuously scrolling through pandemic-related news and social media feed — almost compulsively. That is what is called “doomscrolling” or “doomsday scrolling”.
- Doomsday Surfing refers to the tendency to continue to surf or scroll through bad news, even though that news is saddening or depressing.
- Many people are finding themselves continuously reading bad news about Covid-19 without being able to stop, even sacrificing their crucial sleep time or working hours in the process.
- while it may keep us updated and also help us mobilise resources, it also nudges us towards an exaggerated sense of gloom and doom.
- The term has been gaining momentum lately.

ARTICLE 311



- Suspended police officer Sachin Waze, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the Mukesh Ambani terror scare case, was dismissed from service by Mumbai Police Commissioner under Article 311 (2) (b) of the Indian Constitution without a departmental enquiry.
- Article 311 says that no government employee either of an all India service or a state government shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the own that appointed him/her.
- Section 2 of the article says that no civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

The process of a departmental enquiry:

- In a departmental enquiry, after an enquiry officer is appointed, the civil servant is given a formal chargesheet of the charges. The civil servant can represent himself/herself or choose to have a lawyer.
- Witnesses can be called during the departmental enquiry following which the enquiry officer can prepare a report and submit it to the government for further action.
- As per Article 311 subclause 2 provision a, if a government employee is convicted in a criminal case, he can be dismissed without DE.
- Apart from this, under 311 (2) (c), a government employee can be dismissed when the President or the Governor, as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interest of the security of state it is not expedient to hold such an enquiry, the employee can be dismissed without DE.

COMMON CRANE

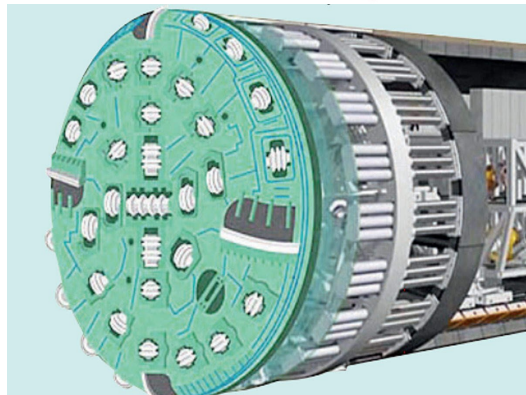


- More than three centuries after it disappeared from Ireland, the common crane, a bird that is part of its folklore and was a popular pet during medieval times, has returned to the island nation.
- A pair of cranes was spotted last year on a restored peat bog –a type of wetland that is mostly found in northern latitude countries.
- The birds are in Ireland’s Midlands region, but their exact location has been kept secret to protect them.
- Cranes stand at 4 feet tall with a wingspan of over 7 feet, and used to be the largest birds in Ireland. Although they were once common, the destruction of their habitat saw them disappear around the 16th and 17th century.

BOGS:

- Bogs (also called quagmires) are soft, spongy wetlands that accumulate peat– a fossil fuel that is used for heating homes and businesses in northern Europe.
- They are formed in northern climates, and take thousands of years to develop.
- Bogs also act as carbon sinks, sequestering around 200 million tons of carbon from the environment in Siberia and Scandinavia.
- For centuries, however, they have been drained for extracting peat or for development, leading to the destruction of their delicate ecosystems, including damage to species such as cranes that breed here.

The tunneling work gets completed by Tunnel Boring Machine



- The tunneling work gets completed by Tunnel Boring Machine [TBM] in East West Metro Corridor with the breakthrough of “Urvi” at Bowbazar, Kolkata on 15.05.2021.
- With this breakthrough the entire TBM tunneling for the Kolkata East-West Metro Project is completed.
- The Tunnel Boring Machine ‘Urvi’ which had earlier completed East Bound tunnel from Esplanade to Sealdah on 09.10.2020 was relaunched from Sealdah after necessary refurbishment and inspection on 09.01.2021 to complete the balance 800 m tunneling work in West Bound tunnel from Sealdah to Bowbazar.

MyGov launches innovation challenge for creating Indian Language Learning App



- MyGov, the citizen engagement platform of the Government of India, in partnership with Department of Higher Education has launched an Innovation Challenge for creating an Indian Language Learning App.
- This Innovation Challenge has been launched to take forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of celebrating India's cultural diversity through greater interaction among its constituent parts.
- MyGov has launched the Innovation Challenge to create an app that will enable individuals to learn simple sentences of any Indian language and acquire working knowledge of a language.
- The objective of this challenge is to create an app that will promote regional language literacy, thereby creating greater cultural understanding within the country.
- The key parameters that will be looked into will include ease of use, simplicity, Graphical User Interface, gamification features, UI, UX and superior content, that makes it easy and fun to learn an Indian language.
- The Innovation Challenge is open to Indian individuals, startups and companies.
- MyGov envisions the app to be multi-modular, with the capacity to teach through the written word, voice and video/visuals.
- App developers can propose multiple interfaces for engagement of learners.
- The top 3 will receive funding of INR 20, 10 and 5 lakhs to make the apps better.
- The solutions would be evaluated based on broad parameters such as Innovation, Scalability, Usability, Interoperability, Ease of deployment/roll-out and Campaign.

6th UN Global Road Safety Week: 17-23 May 2021



- The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week, which this year is celebrated between 17 and 23 May, call for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide.
- UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW) is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.
- Each UNGRSW has an advocacy theme. The theme for the 6th UNGRSW is Streets for Life, under the tagline #Love30. It brings together individuals, governments, NGOs, corporations, and other organizations from around the world to raise awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths.

Ayush Ghar-Dwar' program



- Himachal Government has launched the 'Ayush Ghar-Dwar' program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.
- This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation.
- Yoga Bharti's instructors would provide their services in the program.
- During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
- Under the program, approximately 1000 virtual groups on social media platforms like zoom, WhatsApp and Google meet will be formed to connect with COVID positive patients in home isolation.
- The initiative intends to provide a holistic healthcare approach through AYUSH to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.

Andrea Meza crowned 69th Miss Universe 2020



- Miss Mexico Andrea Meza has been crowned as the 69th Miss Universe 2020.
- On the other hand, Miss India's Adline Quadros Castelino made it to the Top 4
- Brazil's Julia Gama is the first runner-up, Peru's Janick Maceta is the second runner-up while India's Adline Castelino and Dominican Republic's Kimberly Perez are third runner-up and fourth runner-up, respectively.
- This year, the pageant is being held in Miami, Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood.
- Zozibini Tunzi of South Africa crowns her successor in the event.

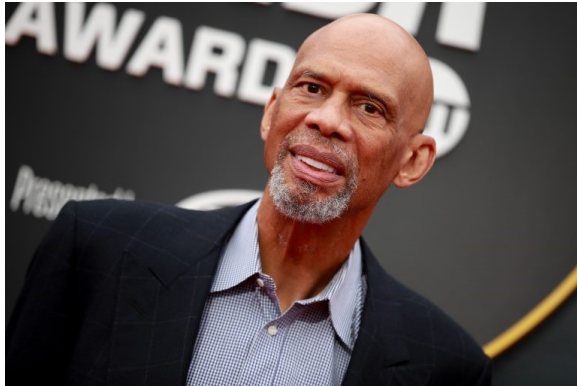
Indian-American Neera Tanden appointed as White House senior adviser



- Indian-American Neera Tanden has been appointed senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden.
- She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).
- She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.

- Ms Tanden previously served as a senior adviser for health reforms at the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- She worked with Congress and stakeholders on particular provisions of former President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act.

NBA creates social justice award, named for Abdul-Jabbar



- The National Basketball Association (NBA) has announced the creation of a new award — the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award, to recognise players who are making strides in the fight for social justice.
- Each NBA team will nominate one player for consideration; from there, five finalists will be selected and ultimately one winner.
- The winning player will receive \$100,000 for the charity of his choice.
- Abdul-Jabbar won three consecutive NCAA championships (1967 to 1969) while at UCLA.
- In between them, he, alongside famed sociologist Harry Edwards, helped organize a boycott of the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City due to the then-recent assassinations of civil rights leaders Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., and the continued mistreatment of Black people in America.

World Hypertension Day: 17 May



- World Hypertension Day (WHD) is celebrated on 17 May worldwide to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer.
- The day was held for the first time in May 2005.
- World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension.
- The theme for World Hypertension Day 2021 is Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.

India launches anti-dumping probe against China, Thailand & Vietnam



- The Commerce Ministry has launched an anti-dumping investigation against the import of solar cells from China, Thailand and Vietnam.
- This comes after domestic manufacturers wrote an application to the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- Evidence of dumping was found against the mentioned product of the above countries, leading to injury to the domestic industry, DGTR said.

'Extinct fossil fish' thought to have lived 420 mn years ago found alive in Madagascar



- A fossil fish that predates dinosaurs and was thought to have gone extinct has been found alive in Indian Ocean off the coast of Madagascar.
- The fish, named coelacanth, was accidentally rediscovered by a group of South African shark hunters, according to reports.
- It's believed the rediscovery came in the wake of ongoing increased demand for shark fins and oil.

Working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard: WHO



- Maria Neira, director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, said that working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard.
- Long working hours led to 7,45,000 deaths from stroke and ischemic heart disease in 2016, a 29% increase since 2000, the WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) said.

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