

Daily News Decode

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Centre invites applications for citizenship from Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who have taken shelter in India



- Centre has invited Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians belonging to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan and residing in 13 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab to apply for Indian citizenship.
- The Union Home Ministry issued a notification in this regard yesterday for immediate implementation of the order under the Citizenship Act 1955.
- People who are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship are those currently living in the districts of Morbi, Rajkot, Patan and Vadodara of Gujarat, Durg and Balodabazar in Chhattisgarh, Jalore, Udaipur, Pali, Barmer and Sirohi in Rajasthan, Faridabad in Haryana and Jalandhar in Punjab.

International Everest Day 2021 being celebrated today



- International Everest Day 2021 being celebrated today AIR International Everest Day 2021 is being celebrated today.
- This day is observed in the memory of the first summit of Mount Everest by New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa that took place on 29th of May 1953.
- History was created on this day 68 years ago when both of them climbed Mount Everest, 29,029 feet above sea level.
- They were the first humans to scale the height of Mount Everest. To commemorate their achievement, in the year 2008, Nepal decided to celebrate International Everest Day every year on 29th of May.
- Since then, every year, Mount Everest Day is celebrated with processions, memorial and special events in Kathmandu, Nepal and the Everest region.
- The day was observed for the first time in 2008, the year Edmund Hillary died.
- Mount Everest attracts climbers, including highly experienced mountaineers, every year from across the globe.

- The British named it Mount Everest after Sir George Everest, a 19th-century British surveyor of South Asia

3 Indian peacekeepers to be honoured with UN's prestigious medal



- Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav are among those to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.
- Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) while civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.
- Moolchand Yadav was associated with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI).
- Three Indian peacekeepers, who laid down their lives while serving in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions last year, are among 129 military, police and civilian personnel honoured with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty
- India is the fifth-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping with more than 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations in Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan and Western Sahara, according to the UN.

Louvre gets its first female leader in 228 years



- Historian Laurence des Cars becomes the first female president of Musée du Louvre, the world's largest museum in Paris, France in 228 years.
- She was appointed as the first female president of Musée du Louvre by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.
- Laurence des Cars, 54, is currently heading the Musée d'Orsay, the Paris landmark museum which is dedicated to 19th-century art.
- On September 1, 2021, she will replace the current president, Jean-Luc Martinez, who had been heading the Orsay museum for the past eight years.

RBI Annual Report 2021



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has published its annual report and highlights “asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters”.
- In its annual report, the central bank said the country’s growth prospects now essentially depend on how fast India can arrest the second wave of COVID-19 infections.

Highlights;

- RBI in its semi-annual financial stability report earlier highlighted bad loan ratio of banks could rise to 13.5% under the baseline stress scenario by September 2021.
- The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5 % by December 2020, because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%.
- In its report, RBI cautioned “banks being lenders will have to provide a true picture of bad loans after Supreme Court lifted the interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA) in March 2021.
- According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for a moratorium during March-August 2020 would put stress on the financial health of banks.
- The Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020.
- The Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from 6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020.
- The capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 to 23.7% in March.
- Frauds reported by banks fell by 25% in value terms in just one year to Rs 1.38 lakh crore at the end of fiscal year ended March 2021, data released by the RBI as part of its annual report showed.
- The Reserve Bank of India on 27th May said banknotes in circulation witnessed a higher than the average increase during 2020-21, on account of precautionary holding of cash by people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and its prolonged continuance.
- Value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by 16.8% and 7.2% respectively in 2020-21.

UK launches plan for 'Global Pandemic Radar'



- The United Kingdom will develop an advanced international pathogen surveillance network to identify Covid-19 variants and emerging diseases.
- This Global Pandemic Radar will ensure the early detection of new variants and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed.
- Prime minister Boris Johnson announced the plans, ahead of the Global Health Summit hosted by Italy and the European Union (EU).
- The radar is expected to be fully up and running with a network of surveillance hubs before the end of 2021, with the aim of significantly improving global health security going into next year.
- WHO will lead an implementation group, supported by global health charity the Wellcome Trust, to launch the new international partnership to identify, track and share data on new coronavirus variants and monitor vaccine resistance in populations.

National Mission on Cultural Mapping and Roadmap



राष्ट्रीय सांस्कृतिक मानचित्रण मिशन NATIONAL MISSION ON CULTURAL MAPPING

- Indian culture is unique in the world.
- This country is known more by its cultural history than geography.
- It is imperative to understand and preserve the threads of India's art and cultural heritage.
- However, the official boasting about India being a cultural powerhouse rapidly disintegrates when one examines facts.
- National Mission on Cultural Mapping is a mission mode project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- It is aimed to address the necessity of preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage, convert vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective Cultural Mapping while creating a strong "Cultural Vibrancy" throughout the nation.
- It can create a database that anybody can plug into, thus becoming a resource for the media, researchers and funders.
- Born in 2015, the National Mission on Cultural Mapping was created with an outlay of ₹3,000 crore
- It will identify, collect and record cultural assets and resources. It correlates this to planning and strategizing.
- A portal and a database listing organisations, spaces, facilities, festivals and events will be created.

- This database can be used to preserve culture and provide or ameliorate livelihoods.

Under this Mission, at broad-level, there are three important objectives as follows:

- National Cultural Awareness Abhiyan: Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan Abhiyan (Our Culture Our Identity)
- Nationwide Artist Talent Hunt/Scouting Programme: Sanskritik Pratibha Khoj Abhiyan
National Cultural Workplace: Centralised Transactional Web Portal with database and demography of cultural assets and resources including all art forms and artists.
- To envision and address the necessity of preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage.
- To Convert vast and widespread cultural canvass of India into an objective Cultural Mapping.
- To Design a mechanism to fulfill the aspirations of the whole artist community of the nation.
- To Preserve the rich cultural heritage of this country for future generations.
- To create a strong “cultural vibrancy” throughout the nation.

Revival and safeguarding of oral traditions:

- Oral traditions usually are not a profession but a part of people’s lives and traditional knowledge (for example local medicinal practices) do not come under any practicing art form.
- To find methods and set processes so that their practitioners are recognised and these art forms/oral traditions are passed on, as many of these are also dying practices.
- Art of “Musical instruments-making”, costumes and make-up (for e.g. Kathakali), mask-making (e.g. for Chhau), cooking etc. also counted under art forms.

Fostering Cultural Awareness:

- Awareness about the long standing heritage and rich culture of this country is reducing day by day resulting in (i) weak linkage between cultural legacy and our day to day life and (ii) feeble binding force within the society.
- Cultural heritage and legacy is connected to the livelihood of the artists’ community also.

Cultural Preservation:

- The huge cultural footprint of the country is currently fragmented and narrowed down to the individual aspirations like State, language, cast urban/rural, etc.
- Many arts forms are becoming extinct because of non-existence/channelisation of resources for the promotion of arts and culture.

Sustainable Employment:

- Culture & Creative Industries employs 45-48% and all other industries together employ around 17-20% of the total workforce.
- Main challenge in the growth and promotion of cultural industries lies in developing a revenue-generation model which could be self-sustainable

Optimal Resource Allocation and Utilization:

- There is no centralised comprehensive cultural mapping data of the country and whatever database of artistes is available that is totally based on personal contacts etc.
- In the absence of comprehensive data, the resource utilisation is non-optimal and outcome is dismal.
- There is no relationship between processes for cultural development and the grant allocation for the same.
- There is a need to change policy for ensuring optimal utilisation of scarce government resources.

Objective Database for inclusive growth of cultural heritage:

- There are various schemes /programmes which are not linked with the objective database for inclusive growth of the national cultural heritage.
- The process of government grants is based on the application called or proposal received and not supported by any objective database information which results in missing rational approach while processing the proposal of various grants.
- Government funds and resources are not allotted in a way which is conducive for integration of cultural policy with tourism.

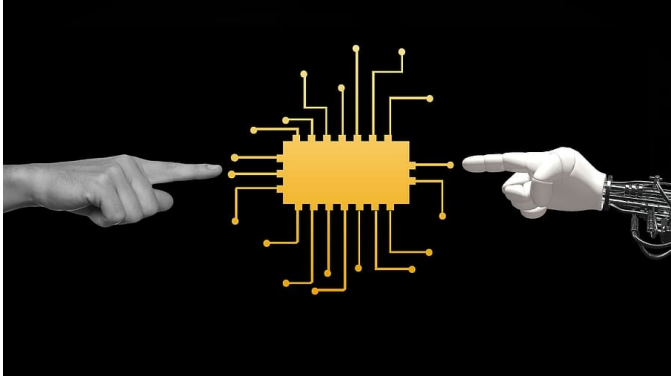
Louvre museum



- Art historian and curator Laurence des Cars has become the first woman to be appointed the president of Louvre art museum in its 228-year history.
- In 1994, she joined Musee d'Orsay, another iconic Paris museum, as curator and, in 2017, became its first woman director.
- The Louvre is the world's most visited museum and is the world's largest art museum and a historic monument in Paris, France.
- It is located on the right bank of the River Seine.
- It was established in 1793.
- The museum is housed in the Louvre Palace, originally built in the late 12th to 13th century under Philip II.
- Due to urban expansion, the fortress eventually lost its defensive function, and in 1546 Francis I converted it into the primary residence of the French Kings.
- In 1682, Louis XIV chose the Palace of Versailles for his household, leaving the Louvre primarily as a place to display the royal collection.
- During the French Revolution, the National Assembly decreed that the Louvre should be used as a museum to display the nation's masterpieces and it was opened on 10 August 1793 with an exhibition of 537 paintings.

- The collection was increased under Napoleon and the museum was renamed Musee Napoleon.
- The collection is divided among eight curatorial departments: Egyptian Antiquities; Near Eastern Antiquities; Greek, Etruscan, and Roman Antiquities; Islamic Art; Sculpture; Decorative Arts; Paintings; Prints and Drawings.
- It is home to the Mona Lisa, the iconic Leonardo da Vinci painting.

INDIAai- National AI portal



- The 'National AI Portal'- INDIAai, celebrated its first anniversary on May 28, 2021, in a virtual event. It was launched on May 30, 2020.
- It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
- It is the single central knowledge hub on artificial intelligence and allied fields for aspiring entrepreneurs, students, professionals, academics, and everyone else.
- The portal focuses on creating and nurturing a unified AI ecosystem for driving excellence and leadership in India's AI journey, to foster economic growth and improve lives through it.

Blackbuck



- According to the latest population census released recently by the Chief conservator of forest (wildlife), Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years.
- The census was carried out by the state forest department in February, 2021 in Ganjam district only where Blackbucks are found in Odisha.
- It used to be sighted in the Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary in Puri district till 2012-13, but now has vanished from the area.
- The antelopes numbered 7,358, out of which 4,196 are females, 1,712 are males and 1,450 young.
- The numbers were 6,875 in 2020, 4,082 in 2018, 3,806 in 2015 and 2,194 in 2011.
- The blackbuck is known in Odisha as Krushnasara Mruga.
- Improvement of habitats, protection given by the local people and forest staff are said to be some of the reasons for the increase of the population of the blackbuck.

- The blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) is also known as the Indian antelope.
- It is a Schedule-1 animal according to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and is considered as 'Vulnerable' according to the IUCN Red Data Book.
- It inhabits grassy plains and lightly forested areas with perennial water sources.
- It is the sole living member of the genus *Antelope* and was scientifically described by Carl Linnaeus in 1758.
- Males have 35–75 cm long, ringed horns, though females may develop horns as well.
- The white fur on the chin and around the eyes is in sharp contrast with the black stripes on the face.
- The coats of males show a two-tone colouration – while the upper parts and outsides of the legs are dark brown to black, the underparts and the insides of the legs are white.
- It is a herbivore and grazes on low grasses.
- In India, hunting of blackbuck is prohibited under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- The antelope is native to and found mainly in India, while it is extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- In Nepal, the last surviving blackbuck population inhabits the Blackbuck Conservation Area south of Bardia National Park.
- A few blackbucks are present in the Indian Institute of Technology Madras campus.
- It might have been a source of food in the Indus Valley civilization, whose bone remains have been discovered in sites such as Dholavira and Mehrgarh.
- It is routinely depicted in miniature paintings of the Mughal era.
- It is considered to be the vehicle of Vayu (the wind god), Soma (the divine drink) and Chandra (the moon god).
- In Tamil Nadu, the blackbuck is considered to be the vehicle of the Hindu goddess Korraivai.
- In Rajasthan, the goddess Karni Mata is believed to protect the blackbuck

Climate breakthroughs summit



- The virtual summit of Climate Breakthroughs Summit, 2021 took place recently.
- It is a collaboration between the World Economic Forum, Mission Possible Partnership, the United Nations Climate Champions, and the United Kingdom Climate Change Conference (COP26) Presidency.
- Climate leaders at the summit discussed progress in critical sectors of the global economy, including steel, shipping, green hydrogen and nature.

- One of its key campaigns is the 'Race to Zero' campaign that mobilises support of 708 cities, 24 regions, 2,360 businesses, 163 investors, and 624 higher education institutions to move towards zero-carbon recovery for a sustainable future.
- It is committing to halving their emissions by 2030 in line with achieving the long-term goal of full decarbonization under the Paris Agreement.
- Maersk, the world's largest container shipping line and vessel operator was among the major new joiners of the campaign.
- The announcement came in the backdrop of the World Meteorological Organization report that there is about a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C in at least one of the next five years.
- There is a 90% likelihood of at least one year between 2021-2025 becoming the warmest on record.
- The event coincided with the publication of a report 'Nature and Net Zero' which reveals that natural climate solutions have the potential to provide one-third of the climate mitigation to reach a 1.5- or 2-degree pathway by 2030.
- The report is written by the World Economic Forum, in collaboration with McKinsey & Company and it sets out six actions to accelerate the scale-up of high-quality implementation of natural climate solutions.

The 43rd GST Council met under the Chairmanship of Union Finance Minister.



- As a COVID-19 relief measure, a number of specified COVID-19 related goods such as medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and other oxygen storage and transportation equipment, certain diagnostic markers test kits and COVID-19 vaccines, etc., have been recommended for full exemption from IGST.
- In view of rising Black Fungus cases, the above exemption from IGST has been extended to Amphotericin B.
- To support the Lymphatic Filaris (an endemic) elimination programme being conducted in collaboration with WHO, the GST rate on Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) tablets has been recommended for reduction to 5% (from 12%).
- GST on MRO services in respect of ships/vessels shall be reduced to 5% (from 18%).
- The Finance Minister also announced an amnesty scheme for small GST taxpayers, allowing filing of returns with reduced late fees.
- the GST Council will hold a special session to discuss extending paying compensation to states beyond 2022.
- Annual return filing has also been simplified. The Council has recommended amending the CGST Act to allow for self-certification of reconciliation statements, instead of getting it certified by Chartered Accountants.

Jayanti - the twelfth subgenus, or species, of cricket



- Found in the Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh in April 2021, the new subgenus was named Jayanti after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country.
- Arachnomimus is the genus name given by Swiss Entomologist Henri Louis Frédéric de Saussure in 1878 to crickets that resembled spiders.
- This is apt because crickets of this group are commonly called spider crickets because of their smaller body size and long legs
- The newly discovered subgenus, Indimimus, is different from the two subgenera, Arachnomimus and Euarachnomimus, because of the male genitalia structure.
- Crickets are noticeable for their loud calls, especially at night. Male crickets produce this sound by rubbing their wings against each other to attract females.
- The females listen to these calls using ears located on their legs and approach the males for mating and reproduction.
- Interestingly, males of the new Jayanti subgenus cannot produce sound and their females don't have ears.
- The crickets were found on the walls of the Kurra caves which don't have light inside.
- They may be communicating by beating their abdomen or any other body part on the cave walls.

NEAR ISOTHERMAL FORGING TECHNOLOGY



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established the near isothermal forging technology to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressors (HPC) discs out of difficult-to-deform titanium alloy using its unique 2000 MT isothermal forge press.
- The technology has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier metallurgical laboratory of DRDO at Hyderabad.
- This is a crucial technology for establishing self-reliance in aeroengine technology.
- With this development, India has joined the league of limited global engine developers to have the manufacturing capabilities of such critical aero engine components.
- To meet the bulk production requirements, DMRL technology was transferred to M/s MIDHANI through a licensing agreement for technology transfer (LATO T).

What are the symptoms of low oxygen level in body?



- Amid COVID-19 pandemic, the government has asked people to be alert to the symptoms of low oxygen level, which include difficulty in breathing, confusion, difficulty in waking up and bluish lips or face.
- "Adults may develop chest pain," it added. Meanwhile, children may experience flaring up of nostrils, grunting while breathing or inability to drink or eat, the government stated.

Scientist discovers 'chocolate frog' species in New Guinea swamps



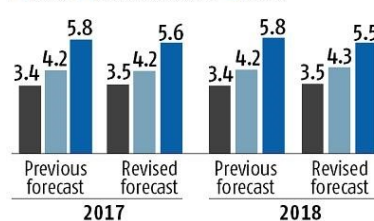
- An Australian scientist has discovered a new species of 'chocolate-coloured' frog in rainforest swamps of New Guinea.
- Steve Richards, a frog specialist at the South Australian Museum, first spotted the frog in 2016. "We named this new Litoria frog species 'Mira', which means surprised or strange in Latin," Dr Paul Oliver from Queensland Museum said.

India's unemployment rate jumped to a multi decade high in 2020: ILO

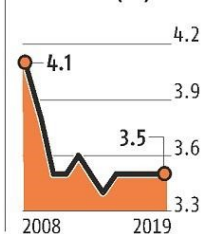
WORKING AT IT

Unemployment rate (%)

■ India ■ Asia and Pacific ■ World



Unemployment rate in India over a decade (%)



Source: ILO's World Employment Social Outlook Report - Trends 2018

India's unemployment rate rose to 7.11% during the pandemic hit-2020 to reach the highest level in at least three decades, according to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) ILOSTAT database.

In 2020, the unemployment rate in Bangladesh was 5.3%, 4.48% in Sri Lanka, 4.65% in Pakistan, 4.44% in Nepal and 3.74% in Bhutan, ILO said.