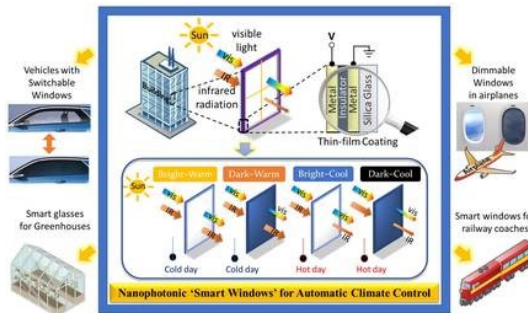


## Daily News Decode

01.06.21

### IIT Guwahati researchers design “smart windows” to cut carbon emissions



- IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a “Smart Window” material that can effectively control the amount of heat and light passing through it in response to an applied voltage.
- This material can help in developing automatic climate control systems in buildings. Such materials can help develop efficient automatic climate control systems in buildings, the scientists claimed.
- This study was recently published in the journal- ‘Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells.
- However, achieving such a target is made easier by innovation by Debabrata Sikdar, an assistant professor at IIT’s Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, and his research student Ashish Kumar Chowdhary.

### World’s first ‘Nano Urea’



- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has introduced the world’s first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers across the world.
- According to an official statement issued by IFFCO, the world’s first Nano Urea Liquid was introduced in its 50th annual general body meeting held in the online-offline mode in India.
- The Nano Urea Liquid has been indigenously developed after many years of research by its scientists and engineers through a proprietary technology developed at Nano Biotechnology Research Centre, Kalol, in line with ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Krishi’.
- The Nano Urea Liquid has been found effective and efficient for plant nutrition which increases the production with improved nutritional quality.
- It will also have a huge positive impact on the quality of underground water, very significant reduction in global warming with an impact on climate change and sustainable deve

## NSA Doval commissions Indian Coast Guard's ship Sajag



- National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag, which has been constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Sajag is the third in a series of five offshore patrol vessels indigenously designed in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' vision.
- The indigenously-built ship is fitted with advanced technology equipment, weapon and sensors capable to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats.
- NATO Conduct Steadfast Defender 21 war Games

## North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)



- North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is organising "Steadfast Defender 21 war games" military exercises in Europe as tensions with Russia increases.
- These war games are being organised with the aim of simulating the response of a 30-nation military organisation for the attack on any one of its members.
- It seeks to test the ability of NATO to deploy troops from America.
- Top NATO brass insists that the military exercises, involving some 9,000 troops from 20 nations, are not aimed at Russia specifically, but they focus on the Black Sea region, where Russia stands accused of blocking the free navigation of ships.

## 'Ankur' scheme



- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister has launched a scheme named 'Ankur' under which citizens will be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.
- Citizens taking part in this initiative will be given the Pranvayu Award, to ensure public participation in the programme.
- A sapling plantation campaign will be carried out during the monsoon.
- Participants will have to upload a picture while planting the sapling and then upload another photograph after taking care of the sapling for 30 days.
- The winners will then be selected from each district, following a verification, to get the Pranvayu Award.

- Citizens can participate in the tree plantation drive by registering themselves on the Vayudoot app, which has been launched by the state for managing the activities of the “Ankur” program.

## World Milk Day celebrated on 01st June

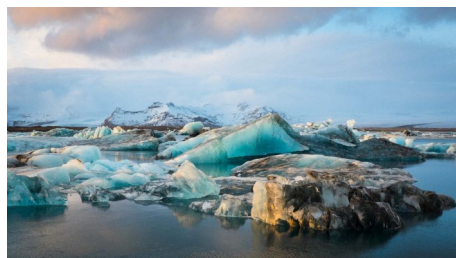
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations celebrates World Milk Day every year on 01st June to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.
- It aims to encourage people to talk about the advantages of dairy with regards to health including nutrition, accessibility and affordability.
- This year, our theme will focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics. In doing so we will re-introduce dairy farming to the world.
- In 2001, World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.
- Each year since, the benefits of milk and dairy products have been actively promoted around the world, including how dairy supports the livelihoods of one billion people.

## Why did WHO choose Greek alphabets as names for COVID-19 variants?



- WHO chose Greek alphabets as COVID-19 variants' names after months of deliberations on possibilities such as names of Greek Gods and pseudo-classical names, bacteriologist Mark Pallen said.
- Idea to refer variants of concern as VOC1, VOC2 was scrapped after he pointed out it resembled English swear words.
- WHO stated the variants have been named to simplify pronunciation and avoid stigma.

## Iceland's glaciers lost 750 sq km of surface in 20 years: Study



- Iceland's glaciers have lost around 750 square kilometres, or 7% of their surface, in the last 20 years due to global warming, a study in the Icelandic scientific journal Jokull showed.
- The glaciers shrank in 2019 to 10,400 square kilometres, the study stated. Since 1890, the land covered by glaciers has decreased by 18%, researchers said.



## What are the new names given to COVID-19 variants by WHO?



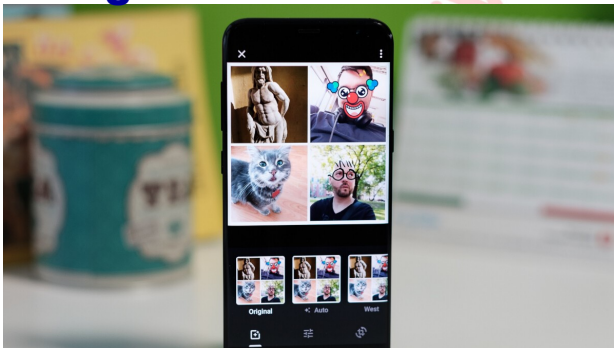
- WHO labelled COVID-19's four variants of concern (VOC) and six variants of interest (VOI) using Greek alphabets.
- For VOC, WHO named the variant first identified in UK as 'Alpha', variant first identified in South Africa as 'Beta', variant identified in Brazil as 'Gamma' and variant first identified in India as 'Delta'. Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Theta, Iota and Kappa are VOI.

## China confirms world's first human case of H10N3 bird flu



- A man in China has been confirmed as the world's first case of human infection with the H10N3 strain of bird flu, the country's National Health Commission said.
- The 41-year-old man from Jiangsu province was hospitalised on April 28 after developing a fever and other symptoms.
- The man is now stable and ready to be discharged from hospital, it stated.

## Google Photos' free unlimited storage ends today



- Google Photos will no longer provide free unlimited storage for high-quality pictures from June 1, 2021, according to a policy announced by the company six months ago.
- Under the earlier policy, Google offered 15GB of free storage space divided across Gmail, Google Drive, and Photos. From June 1, photos will count towards the 15GB free quota.

## Japan plans to send transformable robot to the Moon in 2022



- Japan is planning to send a transformable robot to the Moon to gather information on the lunar surface.
- The robot is being jointly developed by JAXA, TOMY Company, Sony and Doshisha University.
- It will be transported to the lunar surface by Japan-based ispace's lunar lander, which is to be launched in 2022.

## Bhitarkanika National park



- Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park which is India's second-largest mangrove forest, was ravaged by Cyclone Yaas recently
- Bhitarkanika National Park is a 145 km<sup>2</sup> (56 sq mi) large national park in northeast Kendrapara district in Odisha in eastern India.
- It was designated on 16 September 1998 and obtained the status of a Ramsar site on 19 August 2002.
- It is the second Ramsar site of the State after the Chilika Lake
- It is surrounded by Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary
- The national park and wildlife sanctuary is inundated by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, Pathsala.
- The Gahirmatha Beach which forms the boundary of the sanctuary in the east is the largest colony of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.
- It hosts many mangrove species, and is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India. It is home to Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), Indian python, king cobra, black ibis, darters and many other species of flora and fauna

## AmbiTAG



- Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device – AmbiTag.
- It records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines, vegetables, meat, body organs, blood, dairy products as well as animal semen.
- The recorded temperature helps to know whether that particular item transported from anywhere in the world is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.
- It is shaped like a USB device that continuously records the temperature of its immediate surroundings from -40 to +80 degrees in any time zone for a full 90 days on a single charge.
- Similar devices that are available at present record data only for a duration of 30- 60 days.
- It has a range of inbuilt features to customise logging intervals, time zone and alarms.
- The device generates an alert when the temperature goes beyond a pre-set limit.
- The recorded data can be retrieved by connecting the USB with any computer.

- The device has been developed under Technology Innovation Hub – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) and its Startup ScratchNest.
- So far, such devices are being imported by India from other countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Ireland, and China.

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