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Microsoft launches the first ever Asia-Pacific cybersecurity council



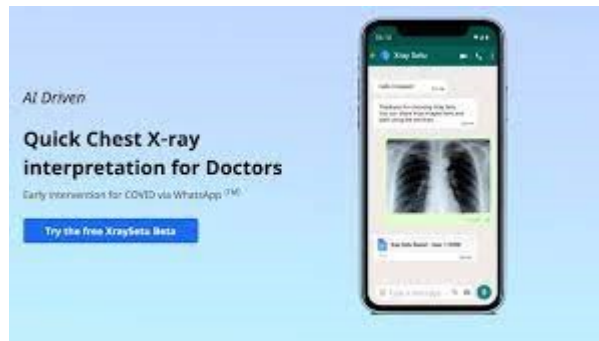
- The first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council has been launched by Microsoft.
- It consists of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The council aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and share threat intelligence.
- The council will meet virtually on a quarterly basis.
- As part of the council, government agencies and state leaders will join a forum.
- The forum includes Microsoft and its cybersecurity industry advisors.
- Encounter rates for malware and ransomware attacks are higher than average in the case of APAC. APAC means Asia-Pacic (A-sia PAC-ic).

UN Sustainable Transport Conference will take place in China



- The second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held from 14-16 October 2021 in Beijing, China.
- It will provide an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.
- The conference will follow up on the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and is expected to indicate a way forward for sustainable transport to help achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change

XraySetu



- A new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' has been developed to help in the early detection of COVID 19, with the help of Chest X-ray.
- The solution will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas, where RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.
- XraySetu will operate through WhatsApp.
- It will identify COVID positive patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images sent over Whatsapp-based Chatbot.
- The solution has been developed by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), a not-for-profit foundation established by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GOI, in collaboration with Bangalore based HealthTech startup Niramai and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- The doctor will need to visit www.xraysetu.com and click on the 'Try the Free XraySetu Beta' button.
- They will then be redirected to another page, from where they can choose to engage with the WhatsApp-based chatbot either through the web or smartphone application.
- Alternatively, the doctor can even send a WhatsApp message to the phone number +91 8046163838 to start the XraySetu service.
- After this, they just need to click the picture of the patient's X-ray and upload it on the chatbot, from where they will obtain the 2-page automated diagnostics with annotated images in a few minutes

World Bicycle Day celebrated on 3rd June



- United Nations celebrates World Bicycle Day every year on 3rd June to advance the use of the bicycle as a means of fostering sustainable development.
- The day aims to strengthen education for children and young people, preventing disease, promoting health, promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitating social inclusion and a culture of peace.
- The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018.
- World Bicycle Day is being observed every year to encourage member nations to give particular attention to the bicycle in cross-cutting development strategies and to improve road safety and integrate it into sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure planning and design.
- It also aims to promote the bicycle among all members of society.

- Nanorod based oxygen sensor working at room temperature can save lives in places like underground mines, higher altitudes

Indian Scientists have developed a nanorods-based oxygen sensor



- Indian Scientists have developed a nanorods-based oxygen sensor which works at room temperature with assistance of UV irradiation and can detect oxygen gas concentrations in places such as underground mines, at higher altitudes, inside aeroplanes and research labs.
- Monitoring O₂ concentration in very low ppm-level is of paramount importance, and a fast and selective oxygen sensor working at room temperature can save lives in places like underground mines, higher altitudes and improve the accuracy of numerous experiments being conducted in research labs.
- The team showed that the sensor gives the best sensitivity with low power consumption and works at room temperature.
- The fabricated sensors exhibited response and recovery times of around 3 sec and 10 sec, respectively, at 1000 ppm. The sensor works in oxygen concentrations ranging from 25 ppm to 10 lakh ppm (100%) with good stability.
- The superior sensing property is attributed to the enhanced electrical conductivity, excitons (combination of an electron and a positive hole) created, and desorption of water molecules (released through surface) from the sensor surface by UV irradiation, facilitating increased interaction of oxygen molecules with chromium incorporated in titanium dioxide slanted nanorods array present in the sensor.
- The CeNS team is further working on miniaturising the sensor and its electronics interfacing with other gas sensors to fabricate a suitable electronic nose.

Pandav Leni Buddhist caves



- Three new small caves have been discovered by an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) employee at the PandavLeni cave complex in Nashik.
- The age of the new caves may be determined after their study is completed and documentation is carried out.
- The caves are also known as Pandu Caves/ Trirashmi Buddhist Caves.
- It is a group of 25 caves that were carved out of Trirashmi Hill between the 2nd century BC and 6th century AD.

- The name is derived from the word “Tiranhu” which is inscribed in the Caves which means “rays of sunlight”.
- The caves complex was documented in 1823 by Captain James Delamaine.
- These caves were carved and donated by various kings that ruled Nashik – the Satavahanas, the Nahapanas, the Abhirs to the Buddhist monks.
- Some caves are intricately connected by stone-cut ladders that join them to the other caves. These rock-cut caves served as viharas or monasteries for the disciples to meet and hear sermons.
- Chaityas were used for chanting and meditation.
- The caves have images of Buddha, Bodhisattva, sculptures representing the King, farmers, merchants and rich iconography depicting a beautiful amalgamation of Indo – Greek architecture.
- The site has an excellent ancient water management system with several attractive water tanks.
- Inscriptions in caves 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20 are legible.
- Since the caves were inhabited by the Mahayana as well as the Hinayana sects of Buddhism, a nice confluence of structural and carvings can be seen.

Model Tenancy Act



- The cabinet gave acceptance to the Model Tenancy Act (MTA). The government had first released the draft of the MTA in 2019.
- It aims to bridge the trust deficit between tenants and landlords by clearly delineating their obligations.
- It will balance the interest and rights of both the owner and tenant in an accountable and transparent manner.
- The Act will encourage the growth of rental housing as it is a preferred option for different segments including migrant workers, professionals, and students.
- It will provide a model for urban and rural properties, as well as a template for residential and commercial properties.
- It would take people from informal to specific contract arrangements between landlord and tenant.
- In case of dispute between landlord and tenant, a rent authority, or a rent court would be available for speedy resolution.
- Within two months of executing the rental agreement both landowner and tenant are required to intimate to the Rent Authority about the agreement and within seven days a unique identification number will be issued by the Rent Authority to both the parties.

- A tenant will have to submit a security deposit of two months for residential premises and for commercial property, a tenant will have to pay six-month rent.
- The tenant cannot sublet a part of or the whole property to someone else.
- A digital platform will be set up in the local vernacular language of the State for submitting tenancy agreement and other documents.
- If a landlord has fulfilled all the conditions stated in the rent agreement and the tenant fails to vacate the premises on the expiration of the period of tenancy or termination of tenancy, the landlord is entitled to double the monthly rent for two months and four times after that.
- The landowner would give a notice in writing three months before revising rent and the landlord cannot hike the rent in the middle of the tenure.
- A landowner cannot cut power and water supply in case of a dispute with the tenant.
- The Act states that a landowner cannot enter the rented premises without 24-hour prior notice to carry out repairs or replacement.
- Landlord will be responsible to repair structural damages and undertake measures like whitewashing walls and painting doors and windows.

National Agriculture Geo Hub



- Ministry of Agriculture signed the MoU with four institutions to promote digital services related to agriculture
- Ministry of Agriculture signed the MoU with following institutions
 - ⇒ Patanjali Organic Research Institute
 - ⇒ Amazon Web Services (AWS)
 - ⇒ ESRI India Pvt. Ltd.
 - ⇒ Agribazar India Pvt. Ltd
- The MoUs have been signed with these organizations for pilot project using Kisan Database as adhaar within a period of one year:
- With ESRI for setting up and launching of “National Agriculture Geo Hub”
- With Amazon Web Services for creation of digital services and innovation ecosystem linked with digital agriculture in the agricultural value chain
- With Agribazar to collaborate with Department of Agriculture for pilot project in 3 States (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan) to promote digital agriculture and An MoU has been signed with Patanjali for agricultural management and farmer service in 3 districts (Haridwar- Uttarakhand, Hamirpur- Uttar Pradesh and Morena- Madhya Pradesh).

State of Finance for Nature report



- The State of Finance for Nature report was jointly released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Economics of Land Degradation.
- Nature-based solutions (NbS) refer to sustainable management and use of nature to tackle socio-environmental challenges, which range from disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss to food and water security as well as human health.
- Agriculture, food and beverages and construction are the largest sectors that are dependent on nature.
- Out of \$133 billion investment that currently flows into NbS annually (using 2020 as base year), public funds make up 86 percent and private finance 14 percent of these investments.
- These comprise about 0.10 per cent of global GDP.
- Public sector spending for the same is dominated by the United States and China, followed by Japan, Germany and Australia.
- NbS finance is much smaller in scale than climate finance.
- Annual investments in NbS will have to be tripled by 2030 and increase four-fold by 2050 from the current level of investments.
- By 2050, total investment of natural needs will amount to \$8.1 trillion, while annual investment should reach \$536 billion annually by 2050.
- Forest-based solutions alone would amount to \$203 billion per year.
- The report did not cover all types of NbS, notably those in the marine environment were excluded.
- However, it called for a comprehensive system and framework for labelling, tracking, reporting and verifying the state of finance for NbS.

Seed Minikit Programme



- The Seed Minikit Programme was launched by the Union Agriculture Minister by distributing Seed Minikits (higher yielding varieties of seeds) to farmers recently.
- The mini kits are being provided by the Central Agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), NAFED and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation and wholly funded by the Government of India through the National Food Security Mission.
- The distribution of seeds will continue till 15th June 2021 so that the seeds reach the farmers before the Kharif sowing commences.

- 20,27,318 Seed Minikits of pulses, about 10 times more than last year, and more than 8 lakh Soybean seed mini kits and 74 thousand Groundnut mini kits are to be provided free of cost directly to the farmers under the National Food Security Mission alongwith free distribution of soybean seeds for intercropping and in high potential districts in 41 and 73 districts respectively.

Kerala retains 1st spot on NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals Index



- Kerala retained its rank as top state in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2020-21, while Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh shared the second spot, according to data released on Thursday.
- Bihar was the worst performer, followed by Jharkhand and Assam.
- The SDG Index evaluates the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.

Remembering the Tulsa race massacre 100 years later



- It is one of the worst incidents of violent racial hate in the US' modern history.
- It involved widespread killings in Tulsa, Oklahoma, targeting relatively well-to-do African Americans, and the extensive damage to their property by white mobs.
- Tulsa was especially known for being an unofficial sanctuary city for African Americans suffering the consequences of harsh segregation or Jim Crow laws in pre-civil rights America.
- It was also called as the "Black Wall Street" of the U.S.

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