

Daily News Decode

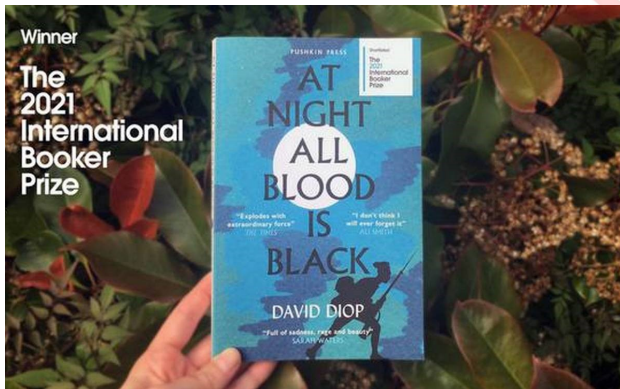
05.06.21

World's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden



- HeidelbergCement, the world's second-largest cement maker, plans to turn its Swedish factory in Slite into the world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030 via carbon capture technology.
- Following the planned retrofit, which will cost at least 100 million euros (\$122 million), the plant will be able to capture up to 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

David Diop wins International Booker 2021



- David Diop has become the first French novelist to win the International Booker prize for translated fiction with At Night All Blood Is Black, his first novel translated into English.
- Diop, the author of two novels, and his translator Anna Moschovakis split the £50,000 annual prize, which goes to the best author and translator of a work translated into English.
- The International Booker Prize, formerly known as the Man Booker International Prize, has been awarded since 2005 when it was won by Albanian writer Ismail Kadare.
- It is a sister prize to the Booker Prize, awarded to a novel written in English.

NCPDR devises online portal 'Bal Swaraj' for children affected by Covid-19



- In view of the growing problem related to children affected by COVID-19, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has devised an online tracking portal "Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care link)" for children in need of care and protection.
- The children who have lost family support or are without any ostensible means of subsistence are children in need of care and protection under Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and all procedures given under the Act for such children must be followed to ensure the well-being and best interest of children.

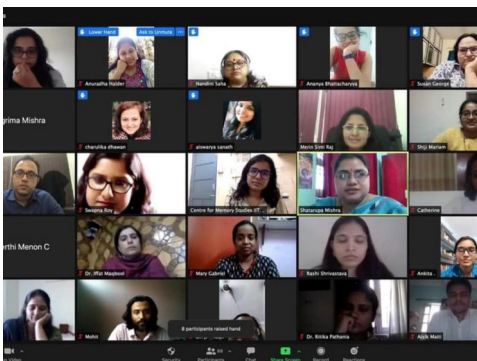
- The portal has been created with the purpose of tracking and monitoring children who need care and protection in real-time, digitally.
- The portal will also be used to track children who have lost both their parents during COVID-19.
- The “COVID-Care” link on the portal has been provided for the concerned officer or department to upload the data of such children.

Gujarat's Vishwamitri river project gets National Green Tribunal nod



- The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently directed the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), Gujarat and other authorities to implement the Vishwamitri River Action Plan, including preparation for demarcation, plantation and maintaining the integrity of the river.
- The crocodiles, turtles & highly protected species have been breeding in the stretches of the river.
- In its order, the NGT has observed that the river consists of catchments, floodplains, tributaries, ponds, river-bed and adjoining ravines which, along with the soils and vegetation on both sides, is the river's natural mechanism to retain the additional water, prevent floods and provide habitat for various species.
- The NGT has observed that the Vishwamitri River in Vadodara is among the 351 polluted river stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the restoration of such stretches has also been “exhaustively considered” by the Tribunal in another hearing of a petition by the same applicants.

IIT Madras hosts Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop



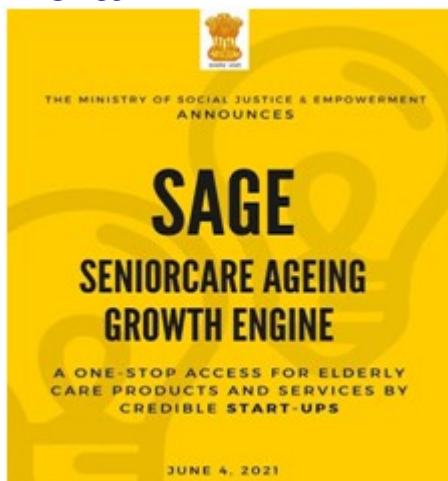
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras' Centre for Memory Studies recently hosted virtually Asia's first International Memory Studies Workshop.
- Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), the first national network in the field in Asia under the aegis of the International Memory Studies Association, Amsterdam.
- This international workshop on Memory Studies, the first of its kind in Asia, precedes the official launch of the Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS).
- The launch of the INMS will take place in mid-June 2021 through a virtual event at IIT Madras.

- The international Memory Studies Workshop also proved to be a promising platform that brought together academics from Kashmir, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Jharkhand among others as well as from the University of Warwick and Leeds Beckett University, UK.

Key objectives:

- To provide a pioneering scholarly platform to train and mentor doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in Memory Studies.
- To align interests from different disciplinary locations and identify research convergences to foster institute-level collaborations in India as well as internationally.
- To facilitate the emergence of research methods and innovative, interactive, immersive tools in Memory Studies with the aid of digital technologies.
- To facilitate the formation of research clusters and networks academically as well as with industry partners.

SAGE (Senior care Aging Growth Engine) Programme and Portal



- The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, virtually launched an initiative called, SAGE (Senior care Aging Growth Engine) on June 04, 2021, and also the SAGE portal to support India's elderly persons.
- The SAGE portal will act as a "one-stop access" of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- The start-ups will be selected under SAGE on the basis of innovative products and services, which they should be able to provide across sectors such as health, housing, care centres, apart from technological access linked to finances, food and wealth management, and legal guidance.
- The basic aim of this initiative is to involve youth for elderly care by way of start-ups and their innovative ideas to make elderly care a national movement than just a government programme.

Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan



- The Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra has taken up a holistic initiative, Majhi Vasundhara (My Earth), to make citizen aware of the impacts of climate change and environmental issues and to encourage them to make a conscious effort towards the improvement of the environment.
- This initiative will also support the state in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

- It is a unique integrated first-ever exercise in India by the department, focusing on all five elements of nature i.e. “Panchamahabhuta” comprises Bhumi (Earth), Jala (Water), Vayu (Air), Agni (Energy), Akash (Enhancement) to ensure sustainable development for the state

Anoop Satpathy committee



- This is the second expert committee on minimum wages formed by the government within the last two years.
- The earlier panel, headed by Anoop Satpathy, Fellow, VV Giri National Labour Institute, was set up by the ministry on January 17, 2018, to determine methodology for fixing national minimum wage.
- The recommendations, which weren't accepted by the Centre, included setting the national floor wage at Rs 375 per day (Rs 9,750 per month) as per July 2018 prices.

HISAB KI KITAAB



- Hisab Ki Kitaab is a series of 6 short films/modules of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).
- It has been developed by CSC eGov as a part of their training tool.
- There are 6 short films/ modules of 5 minutes duration each highlighting the importance of budget, saving, importance of Insurance schemes, various social security schemes of the government etc. thus promoting Financial literacy.

STARTUPS



- As on June 3, 2021, 50,000 startups across have been recognized as startups by DPIIT, of which 19,896 have been recognized since April 1, 2020.
- With the launch of the Startup India initiative, recognized startups have now spread across 623 districts. Each State and UT has at least one startup.
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have the greatest number of startups.
- Over 16,000 startups were recognized in the year 2020-2021.
- 5 Lakh jobs were reported by 48,093 startups with an average number of 11 employees per startup.

- About 1.7 lakh jobs were created by recognized startups in the 2020-2021 period alone.
- The sectors that had the maximum registered startups were 'Food Processing', 'Product Development', 'Application Development', 'IT Consulting' and 'Business Support Services'.
- The leadership teams of 45% startups have a women entrepreneur.
- Funding opportunities to startups have been enhanced through the Fund of Funds Scheme with an overlay of INR 10,000 crore and the recently launched Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) with an outlay of INR 945 crores.
- Multiple programs are conceived and implemented by DPIIT -National Startup Awards, State Ranking Framework, Global VC Summit, Prarambh: Startup India International Summit.

SDG INDIA INDEX AND DASHBOARD 2020–21



- The third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 was released by NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Dr Rajiv Kumar launched the report titled, SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action.
- The country's overall SDG score improved by 6 points—from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020–21.
- This improvement is largely driven by exemplary country-wide performance in Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), where the composite Goal scores are 83 and 92, respectively.
- India saw significant improvement in the SDGs related to clean energy, urban development, Health, eradication of poverty and hunger in 2020.
- However, there has been a major decline in the areas of industry, innovation and infrastructure as well as decent work and economic growth.
- The country's score on the SDG related to industry and infrastructure dropped 10 points to 55, while the scores on decent work dropped three points to 61.
- The Clean Water and Sanitation SDG also saw a five-point drop.
- States rankings
- Currently, there are no states in the aspirant and achiever category; 15 states/UTs are in the performer category and 22 states/UTs in the front runner category.
- Among states, Kerala retained its position at the top of the rankings in the third edition of the index, with a score of 75, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, both scoring 72.
- At the other end of the scale, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing States.
- Chandigarh maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 79, followed by Delhi (68).
- Mizoram, Haryana, and Uttarakhand are the top gainers in 2020–21 in terms of improvement in score from 2019, with an increase of 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively.

Devika river project



- Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions reviewed the progress of Devika River Project of Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir
- The work on the Rs.190 Crore project under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) started in March 2019.
- Under the project, bathing “ghats” (places) on the banks of the Devika River will be developed, encroachments will be removed, natural water bodies will be restored and catchment areas will be developed along with cremation ground.
- The project includes the construction of three sewage treatment plants of 8 MLD, 4 MLD and 1.6 MLD capacity, sewerage network of 129.27 km, development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants.
- On completion of the project, the rivers will see reduction in pollution and improvement in water quality.
- The river has its origin at near Sudhmahadev and at Venisung it merges with Suryaputri Tawi and this confluence is a place of pilgrimage, where a fair is organised on the eve of Baisakhi every year.
- It again appears near Gangera in Udhampur, whose ancient name is believed to be Gauraan.
- Devika manifests itself in the form of small rivulet at Sudhmahadev, Udhampur, Jindrah, Purmandal and Uttarvehni after which it merges with Basantar.
- As it appears and disappears at many places, Devika is also known as Gupt Ganga.

Model Panchayat Citizens Charter



- A Model Panchayat Citizens Charter/ framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)
- The charter would ensure transparent and effective delivery of public services for sustainable development
- It would ensure enhanced citizen service experiences
- It would deepen inclusive and accountable Local Self Governments by incorporating diverse views while designing and delivering services.

- Adopting this will help in making the citizens aware of their rights on the one hand, and to make the Panchayats and their elected representatives directly accountable to the people, on the other hand.
- It is expected that the Panchayats will utilise this framework to draw up a Citizens Charter and adopt it through a resolution of the Gram Sabha by 15th August, 2021.
- It is expected that the Panchayats utilising this framework, and with the due approval of Gram Sabha, would draw up a Citizens Charter, detailing the different categories of services rendered to the citizen by the Panchayat, the conditions for such service and also the time limit for such service.
- Aim: To provide services to the people in a time bound manner, redressing their grievances and improving their lives

What is global minimum corporate tax of at least 15% that G7 nations have agreed on?



- G7 nations' ministers have pledged to commit to global minimum corporate tax of at least 15% and take measures to ensure taxes were paid in countries where businesses operate.
- It's aimed at ending a decades-long "race", wherein countries competed to attract MNCs with low tax rates.
- If companies pay lower rates in a country, their governments could "top-up" their taxes.

Bengaluru airport achieves net energy neutral goal



- Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru has achieved its net energy neutral status goal in the financial year of 2020-21, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) announced on Saturday.
- BIAL made the announcement on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- It added that they've saved nearly 22 lakh units of energy, which is "enough to power nearly 9,000 houses for a month".

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