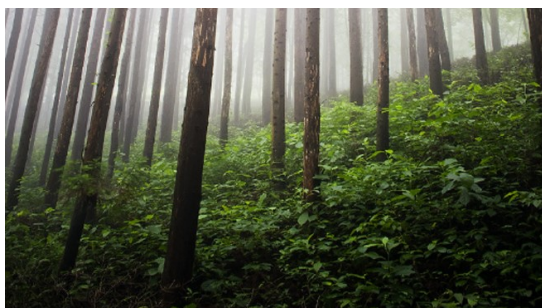


Daily News Decode

09.06.21

'Oxi-van'



- Chief Minister of Haryana,, announced to create of 80 acres of 'Oxi-van' (a forest) in the Karnal district.
- It was announced on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2021. Oxi-van will consist of 10 types of forests.
- On the occasion, highlighting the importance of trees and encouraging promotion, protection, planting of trees Haryana Government launched four important schemes:

Panchavati Plantation in Haryana:

- Under this initiative, the plantation will be done in name of Panchvati across the villages in Haryana. It will promote the process of getting natural oxygen from trees.
- Agroforestry will also be promoted on vacant land under the initiative. Thus, it will increase the income of Panchayats in rural areas.

Oxy-Van in Karnal:

- Oxy Forest was launched on Forest Department land in Mughal Canal, Karnal.
- Panchavati, trees of Bel, Amla, Ashoka, Banyan and Peepal were planted. It will be built on 80 acres area.

Oxy-Van in Panchkula:

- It will be established in Bir Ghaggar on the area of one hundred acres in a bid to create Mother Nature's green lungs, for residents of Panchkula, to get in fresh oxygen.
- Rs One crore has been sanctioned for this initiative.

India's first International Maritime Cluster to come up at GIFT City



- Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) will set up the country's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City.
- The maritime cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity — GIFT City. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.
- This will be a first-of-its-kind commercial maritime services cluster in India, which has been conceptualised to enhance the competitiveness and self-sufficiency of India in the maritime sector and provide a one-stop solution for the entire maritime fraternity.

- The cluster looks to host maritime industry players including regulators, government agencies, maritime/shipping industry associations and businesses, intermediate service providers, such as shipping finance, marine insurance, maritime arbitrators, maritime law firms, among others, and support services providers, such as maritime education institutes.

World Accreditation Day 2021 celebrated on 9th June



- World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on 9 June to promote the role of accreditation in trade & the economy.
- The theme for WAD 2021 is “Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
- It provides the opportunity for ILAC and IAF members to share examples with stakeholders, regulators and consumers of how accreditation may be applied to meet objectives such as increasing trade, addressing environment and health and safety concerns, and improving the general overall quality of output in an economy.
- WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.

Anup Chandra Pandey appointed as election commissioner



- The Union government has appointed Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh cadre, as Election Commissioner.
- In the Election Commission, Pandey will have a little under three years in office and will retire in February 2024.
- Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar are the other two members of the panel. This restores the three-member commission to its full strength

Himachal jumps to third spot in Anemia Mukta Bharat Index



- Himachal Pradesh has climbed to the third spot in the Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2020-21 national ranking with a score of 57.1.
- Himachal Pradesh was at rank 18 in the year 2018-19, but with consistent efforts of the government and the field functionaries, the state was able to achieve the third spot.

- Madhya Pradesh is in the first position with a score of 64.1 followed by Odisha with a score of 59.3.
- The prevalence of soil-transmitted helminths had decreased from 29% to 0.3% in a short span of three years.
- Anemia remains a major public health issue with high prevalence across the country irrespective of gender, age and geography.
- India is one of the countries with anemia as a serious public health concern today.
- Almost 50% of the pregnant women, 59% of children fewer than five years of age, 54% of adolescent girls and 53% of non-pregnant non-lactating women in India are anemic.

LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION



- China is hosting Foreign Ministers from the 10 ASEAN countries. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi will also chair a meeting of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Lancang-Mekong Cooperation is a multilateral format established in 2016 for cooperation between the riparian states of the Lancang River and Mekong River.
- The Lancang is the part of the Mekong that flows through China.
- Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand are five downstream countries of the Mekong River.

RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE (RAMP) PROGRAM



- The World Bank has approved a USD 500 million program to help boost India's MSME sector.
- The USD 500 million Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP) Program is the World Bank's second intervention in this sector.
- The first being the USD 750 million MSME Emergency Response Program, approved in July 2020 to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of millions of viable MSMEs severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The programme targets improvements in the performance of 5.5 lakh MSMEs and is expected to mobilise financing of USD 15.5 billion, as part of the government's USD 3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness - A Post-COVID Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRRP).

- The RAMP program will provide better access to finance and working capital for MSMEs by strengthening the receivable financing markets.
- It will also scale up online dispute resolution mechanisms to address the problem of delayed payments.
- The USD 500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 18.5 years including a 5.5-year grace period.

RATLE HYDRO POWER PROJECT



- NHPC limited, India's premier hydropower company under Ministry of Power has formed a joint venture company, "Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited" for the implementation of 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project.
- The JVC has been incorporated on 01.06.2021 with NHPC and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC) holding equity share of 51% and 49% respectively.
- Ratle Hydroelectric Project (850 MW), is a Run of River Scheme located on River Chenab, Kishtwar district, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- In January 2021, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for the investment of Rs.5281.94 crore for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project.
- It shall be commissioned within a span of 5 years

ARAVALLI



- The Supreme Court ordered the Haryana government and the Faridabad Municipal Corporation to take "all essential measures" to remove encroachments, including about 10,000 residential constructions, in the ecologically fragile Aravali forest land near Lakarpur Khori village.
- The Aravalli Range (also spelled Aravali) is a mountain range in North western India.
- It runs approximately 670 km (430 mi) in a south-west direction, starting near Delhi, passing through southern Haryana and Rajasthan, and ending in Gujarat.
- The highest peak is Guru Shikhar at 1,722 metres (5,650 ft). Guru Shikhar is a peak in the Arbuda Mountains of Rajasthan. It is 15 km from Mount Abu.
- Three major rivers and their tributaries flow from the Aravalli, namely Banas and Sahibi rivers which are tributaries of Yamuna, as well as Luni River which flows into the Rann of Kutch.

E-100 project



- Prime Minister launched the E-100 pilot project in Pune to mark the World Environment Day.
- The theme for this year's event is 'promotion of biofuels for a better environment'.
- The 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025' was released.
- It aims to set up a network for production and distribution of ethanol across the nation.
- Government has resolved to meet the target of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025.
- Earlier the resolve was to achieve the target by 2030 which is now preponed by 5 years. Till now, on an average, 8.5 percent of ethanol could be blended in India.
- Most of the ethanol manufacturing units are mostly concentrated in 4-5 sugar producing states and hence now foodgrain-based distilleries are being established to expand ethanol production.

Sea Snot in Turkey



- Turkey has launched a campaign to clean up sea snot in the Sea of Marmara
- The thick slimy layer of organic matter, which looks like a viscous, brown and foamy substance, has spread through the sea south of Istanbul and also blanketed harbours and shorelines.
- The current outbreak in the Sea of Marmara is by far the biggest in the country's history.
- 'Sea snot' is marine mucilage that is formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients as a result of water pollution combined with the effects of climate change.
- Phytoplankton thrive in warmer and nutrient-rich waters, and then discharge the snotty substance.

The causes:

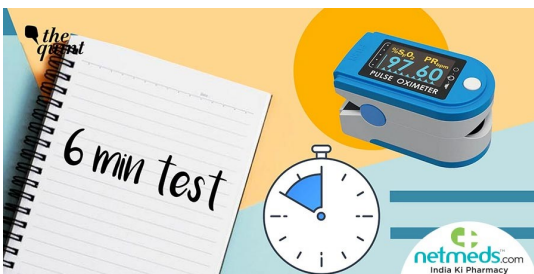
- The nutrient overload occurs when algae feast on warm weather caused by global warming.
- According to environmental experts, overproduction of phytoplankton caused by climate change and the uncontrolled dumping of household and industrial waste into the seas has led to the present crisis.
- Dumping of sewage in the sea along with rising temperatures is causing the crisis.

India's GI tagged mangoes rule the world



- India is a net exporter of agricultural products worldwide with a high share of primary commodity exports like tea, rice, bovine meat, sugar, spices, etc.
- The demand for India's exclusive GI-tagged fruits and vegetables worldwide has further accelerated agricultural exports and provided a much-needed boost to India's forex reserves.
- Geographical Indication (GI) tag is proof of where the product is born or produced.
- This product can be natural, agricultural or manufactured.
- The use of GI, as an indication of the product's origin, acts as a certification that the product has exclusive qualities, is made/produced according to traditional methods, or has a good reputation due to its geographical origin.
- India houses 1500 varieties of the 'king of fruit':
- Mango is rightly postulated as the 'king of fruit' for its distinctive taste and manifold health benefits. India houses about 1500 varieties of mango, each unique in its taste, color, and shape.
- These different species of mangoes are found in different corners of the country, mostly in the summer months starting from April to August.
- The king of Indian mangoes, the Alphonso mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and adjoining areas in Maharashtra, had already acquired the GI tag October 3, 2018 from the government.
- It is grown across the 200-kilometre-long Konkan coastline in Devgad and Ratnagiri.
- Malihabadi Dashehari mango got the GI tag in September 2009.
- Many Indian mangoes have GI tags. , Kesar of Gir (Gujarat) and Marathwada, Bangnapalli in Andhra Pradesh, Zardalu of Bhagalpur, Appamidi of Karnataka, Himsagar of Malda (West Bengal), Laxman Bhog and Fazli, among others, have attained this distinction

What is 6-minute walk test to check if a person has low oxygen level in body?



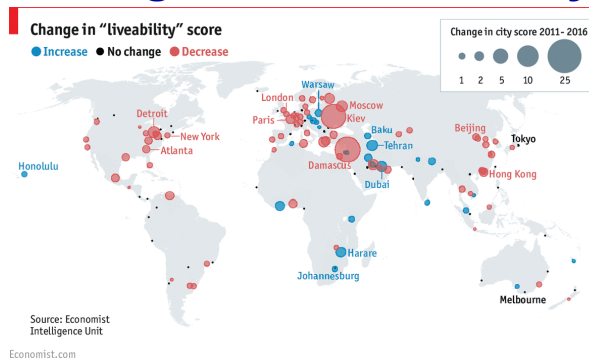
- Government has recommended the six-minute walk test for mild and moderate COVID-19 patients to check if they've low oxygen level.
- Patients are advised to walk around their room for six minutes with an oximeter attached to their finger.
- If the patient's oxygen saturation drops below 94% or he/she feels unwell during or after the test, they should consult a doctor.

QS World University Rankings 2022 out; IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi & IISc in top 200



- The QS World University Rankings 2022 has been topped by MIT, followed by the University of Oxford at the second position, and both Stanford University and University of Cambridge tied for the third position.
- India's IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and IISc Bangalore were ranked among the top 200 universities.
- IISc got a perfect 100/100 score for citations per faculty metric.

Which are the 10 most liveable cities as per Economist Intelligence Unit's survey?



- As per Economist Intelligence Unit's The Global Liveability Index 2021, New Zealand's Auckland has been ranked as the most liveable city owing to its ability to contain the coronavirus pandemic faster than other cities around the world.
- Auckland is followed by Japan's Osaka, Australia's Adelaide and New Zealand's Wellington. As many as four Australian cities feature in the top 10.

Dying supermassive black hole discovered: Scientists



- Tohoku University researchers may have discovered a supermassive black hole, or an AGN, towards the end of its life span by accident after catching a signal from the Arp 187 galaxy.
- Researchers found a jet lobe, but observed no signal from the nucleus.
- They found all the small-scale AGN indicators to be silent, while the large-scale ones were bright.

U.N. Security Council endorses Guterres for second term as Secretary-General



- Estonia's U.N. Ambassador Sven Jurgenson, who is serving as Security Council president for the month of June, announced the endorsement after a private meeting of the council.
- The endorsement greenlights the U.N. General Assembly to appoint Guterres for a second five-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

New blue whales population found in Indian Ocean via bomb detectors data



- UNSW Sydney-led scientists claim to have found a new population of pygmy blue whales in the Indian Ocean using bomb detectors data.
- They used data from the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and found "an unusually strong signal", a whale song that had previously been identified in recordings.
- Scientists believe the number of whales in the group is "enormous".

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