

Daily News Decode

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India's Nagraj Adiga elected in International Association of Ultrarunners Council



- India's Nagraj Adiga has been elected as the Asia-Oceania Representative at the recently concluded 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress at which the IAU council elections were held.
- Adiga works closely with the Athletics Federation of India and with various Government bodies to promote health, fitness, and encourage budding sportspersons.

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report



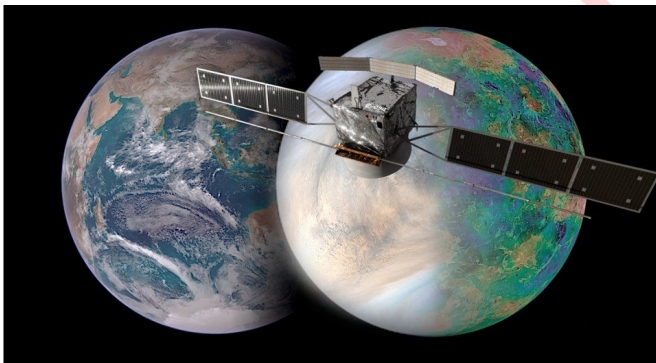
- AISHE 2019-20 report released by Union Education Minister
- As per AISHE in the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), student enrolment has grown by 11.4%. As per AISHE, female enrolment in Higher Education has increased by 18.2% from 2015-16 to 2019-20. AISHE 2019-20 is the 10 in the series of All India Survey on Higher Education.
- Department of Higher Education releases it annually.
- Key features of AISHE 2019-20 are given below:
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- Total Enrolment in Higher Education: It stands at 3.85 crores in 2019-20.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): It is defined as the percentage of students belonging to the eligible age group enrolled in Higher Education. It is 27.1% in 2019-20.
- Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education: It stands at 1.01 in 2019-20. It shows improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males.
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Higher Education: It is 26 in 2019-20.
- The number of students pursuing PhD: It is 2.03 lakh in 2019-20.

Kavach Personal Loan



- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a collateral-free “Kavach Personal Loan” to enable its customers to meet medical expenses of self and family members for Covid treatment.
- Under this scheme, customers can avail of loans up to ₹5 lakhs at an effective interest rate of 8.5 per cent per annum for 60 months, which is inclusive of three months moratorium.
- This loan product will also be part of the Covid loan book being created by banks as per the Reserve Bank of India’s Covid relief measures.
- The loan will also cover reimbursement of Covid related medical expenses already incurred.

EnVision mission to Venus



- The European Space Agency (ESA) has selected EnVision as its next orbiter that will visit Venus in the 2030s.
- EnVision is an ESA led mission with contributions from NASA.
- The earliest launch opportunity for EnVision is 2031, followed by 2032 and 2033.
- Once launched on an Ariane 6 rocket, the spacecraft will take about 15 months to reach Venus and will take 16 more months to achieve orbit circularisation.
- The spacecraft will carry a range of instruments to study the planet’s atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition.
- NASA has provided VenSAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar), that will help to image and map the surface as well as Deep Space Network support.
- The radio science experiment is led by institutes in France and Germany.
- The new mission will follow another ESA-led mission to Venus called ‘Venus Express’ (2005-2014).
- At the core of the mission is the question of how Earth and Venus evolved so differently from each other considering that they are roughly of the same size and composition.

Protection of heritage trees in Maharashtra



- The Maharashtra government is set to make amendments to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act of 1975, to introduce provisions for the protection of 'heritage trees'.
- Under the proposed amendment, a tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a heritage tree.
- It may belong to specific species, which will be notified from time to time.
- Experts believe that in addition to the age, the Maharashtra state climate change department will be implementing the Tree Act.
- Maharashtra Tree Authority in local civic bodies and councils will be formed which will take all decisions regarding the protection of trees.
- The local Tree Authority will have to ensure tree census to be carried out every five years along with counting of heritage trees.
- A proposal to cut more than 200 trees of age 5 years or more, will be referred to the state tree authority.
- The tree's age will determine the number of trees to be planted as part of the compensatory plantation- as per the amendment, the number of trees planted will be equal to the age of the heritage tree that is cut.
- The organization planting the compensation trees will also have to ensure the survival of the plantation for seven years and geo-tag the trees.
- Such plantations can be carried out either in the same plot or a common amenity plot.
- In case compensatory plantation is not possible, the tree feller has to pay compensation for the economic valuation of the trees being felled (the amount of oxygen that a tree releases into the environment should determine its economic value).
- The fine for illegal felling of trees from a maximum of Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh per tree.

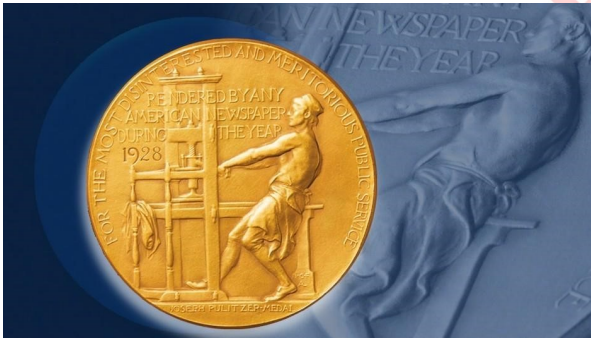
Argostemma quarantena



- A new plant species belonging to the coffee family is spotted in the Vagamon hills in Kerala.
- It is a delicate herbaceous species from the family Rubiaceae.
- It has been named Argostemma quarantena to commemorate the millions who have died in the COVID-19 pandemic.

- It is a perennial herb which grows to a height of 3-7cm and is characterised by striking white flowers.
- It is very sensitive to microclimatic changes and is found in wet rocks in shaded, undisturbed habitats, notably along streams in evergreen forests.
- The new species sports similarities with two south Indian endemics, *Argostemma anupama* and *Argostemma courtallense*.
- However, it differs in attributes like the stem, leaves and stipules.
- As it is known only from its type locality at Vagamon, the species has been classified Data Deficient (DD) under IUCN standards as extensive field surveys are required to assign an appropriate category.
- It is the fifth species discovered from Vagamon by research teams and the others include- *Eriocaulon meenachilense*, a new tuberous species and *Litsea manilaliana*, named after botanist K.S. Manilal.

Pulitzer Prize, 2021



- The 105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners in Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced on June 11
- Pulitzer Prize, any of a series of annual prizes awarded by Columbia University, New York City. It is awarded for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature and musical composition within the United States.
- It was started by Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher. The first prizes were given in 1917 for work done in 1916.
- Each year, 22 prizes are awarded.
- This year's recipients will constitute the 105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners

NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER



- The New Atlantic Charter is an agreement that was signed by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson and the President of the United States Joe Biden on 10 June 2021.
- The agreement was signed at the first face-to-face meeting between Johnson and Biden at the 2021 G7 Summit in Cornwall, England.
- The agreement is a new version of the Atlantic Charter, signed by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941.

The Atlantic charter:

- It was a declaration signed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1941.
- It set out common goals for the world after the Second World War that included freer trade, disarmament and the right to self-determination of all people.
- The Charter made it clear that the United States supported Britain in the war.
- A fundamental aim was to focus on the peace that would follow, not specific American involvement and war strategy.
- The charter's adherents signed the Declaration by the United Nations on 1 January 1942, which was the basis for the modern United Nations.
- The dismantling of the British Empire, the formation of NATO, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) all were derived from the Atlantic Charter

NANJUNDESHWARA TEMPLE



- After noticing that B.Y. Vijayendra, son of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, has admitted to entering Sri Nanjundeswara temple in Nanjangud recently, the Karnataka High Court asked the State government why then even ordinary citizens are not allowed to enter temples like him despite a ban imposed in view of COVID-19 lockdown.
- The Nanjundeswara Temple is also called Srikanteshwara Temple.
- It is an ancient temple in the Hindu pilgrimage town of Nanjanagodu in the Karnataka.
- it is dedicated to god Nanjundeswara (another name for the god Shiva, also known as Nanjundeswara).
- Nanju in Kannada means poison; the name Nanjundeswara means the "God who Drank the Poison" (halahala), a word that has its origins in the legend of the Great Churning of the Ocean of Milk; thus the town got the name 'Nanjangudu' which means "the abode of the god Nanjundeswara".

India, Kuwait sign pact to protect rights of Indian domestic workers



- India and Kuwait have signed an agreement to streamline the recruitment of Indian domestic workers in Kuwait and provide them with protection of law.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) also introduces an employment contract ensuring the rights and obligations of employers and workers.
- The MoU for cooperation was signed during External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar's visit to the country.

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