

Daily News Decode

14.06.21

Weyan village in Bandipora, India's first to inoculate all adults



- Weyan, a village in district Bandipora (J&K) has become the first village in the country, where the entire population above 18 years has been vaccinated.
- The vaccination in Weyan village was covered under the J&K model, a 10-point strategy to inoculate everyone who is eligible for the shots at a faster pace.
- The Union territory also achieved 70 per cent vaccination for those in the 45+ age group despite the initial vaccine hesitancy, almost double the national average.
- The village is located only 28 kilometres away from Bandipora district headquarters, but a distance of 18 kilometres has to be covered by foot as there is no motorable road.

Israel will become the World's First Mask-Free Country from June 15



- Israel will become the world's first mask-free country in the Corona period.
- Here the rule of applying masks in closed places will end from June 15.
- This was announced by Israel's Health Minister Yuli Edelstein.
- The rule of applying masks outside has already been abolished in the country.
- However, most restrictions related to foreign travel have not yet been lifted.
- For example, travel to nine countries is still banned.
- There is a rule of quarantine for travellers coming from these countries.
- His corona test is also being done.

IIT Roorkee prof bags NSG award for 'blast-resistant' helmet



- Shailesh Govind Ganpule, an assistant professor at the mechanical and industrial engineering department (MIED), was conferred the award with the 'NSG Counter-IED and Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award 2021' for developing a "blast-resistant" helmet.
- This was the second edition of the annual award by NSG.
- Ceremony held at the National Security Guard (NSG) campus in Maneswar, near Gurgaon.
- The 'Blast-Resistant Helmet' designed by Prof. Shailesh Ganpule is an advanced version of conventional helmets to protect military personnel from IED-induced blast waves with a technology readiness of 4.
- The 'NSG Counter-IED & Counter-Terrorism Innovator Award' is instituted by National Security Guard for deserving innovators who have made an outstanding contribution towards innovation in Counter IED and Counter-Terrorism fields to safeguard national security.

India ranks 67th in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021



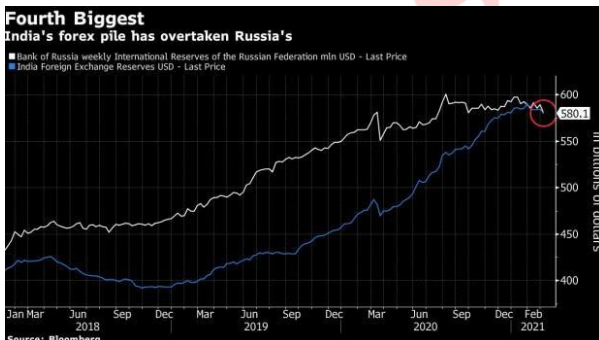
- As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked 67th overall globally.
- The report reveals that, overall, India ranks 67th globally, with 38 per cent proficiency, with mid-rankings in each domain, 55th in business and 66th in both technology and data science.
- Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills.
- Improvement is needed in digital skills because in Data Analysis and Statistical programming, ranked only at 25% and 15% skills proficiency.
- But, Indians trail behind in data skills and need to focus on that.
- The report is based on performance data of about 77 million learners (from across 100 countries) on the platform collected since the onset of the pandemic.
- It benchmarks skills proficiency across 3 categories – Business, Technology and data science.

Ministry of Ayush Launches 'Namaste Yoga' App



- The Ministry of Ayush organised a curtain raiser event for the 7th International Day of Yoga.
- The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).
- The event brought together several Yoga Gurus and experienced Yoga exponents on the virtual platform, to appeal to the world community to adopt Yoga in their daily life for the betterment of both the individual self and mankind.
- The event underlined the importance of the central theme of IDY 2021 "Be With Yoga, Be At Home".
- As a part of the event, a mobile application devoted to Yoga named "Namaste Yoga", was also launched.
- The "Namaste Yoga" app has been designed as an information platform for the public, with the aim to raise awareness about yoga and make it accessible for the larger community.

India ties with Russia as 4th largest forex reserves holder



- As per Reserve Bank of India's data, the foreign exchange reserves of India has crossed \$600 billion marks for the first time.
- The Forex reserve of India increased by USD 6.842 billion to \$605.008 billion in the week ended June 04, 2021.
- This is the lifetime high of India's foreign asset.
- With this, India has tied with Russia as the fourth largest reserve holder in the world.
- The forex reserve of Russia is calculated to be \$605.2 billion.

BHARITALASUCHUS TAPANI



- In the mid 20th century, researchers from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, carried out extensive studies on rocks of the Yerrapalli Formation in what is now Telangana, uncovering several fossils.
- By studying some of these specimens stored at the Institute, an international team has now thrown light on a carnivorous reptile that lived 240 million years ago.
- They named it Bharitalasuchus tapani.
- In the Telugu language, Bhari means huge, Tala means head, and Suchus is the name of the Egyptian crocodile-headed deity.

- The species is named after paleontologist Tapan Roy Chowdhury in honour of his extensive work on the Yerrapalli Formation tetrapod fauna.
- This reptile belonged to a family of extinct reptiles named Erythrosuchidae.
- *Bharitalasuchus tapani* were robust animals with big heads and large teeth, and these probably predated other smaller reptiles.
- They were approximately the size of an adult male lion and might have been the largest predators in their ecosystems.
- The Yerrapalli Formation is a Triassic rock formation consisting primarily of mudstones that outcrops in the Pranhita–Godavari Basin in Telangana.

UMLING LA



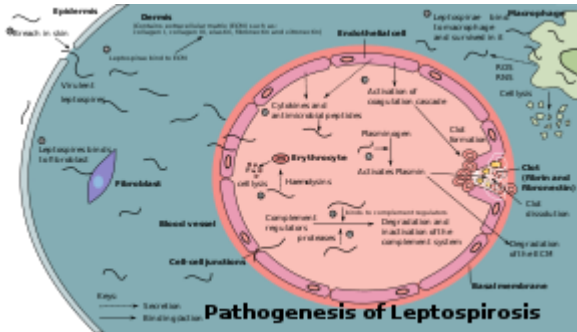
- Raksha Mantri flagged off the first ever Solo Woman Motorcycle Expedition by Ms Kanchan Ugursandi to Umling La Pass, Ladakh and back.
- Umling La Pass, located at an altitude of 19,300ft, has overtaken Khardung La Pass to become the highest motorable road in the world.
- The construction of this road has been achieved by the BRO (Border Road Organization) as part of “Project Himank”
- Umling La Pass, stretching to a distance of almost 86km, connects Chisumle and Demchok villages.
- Both these villages lie in close proximity to the Indo-China border in the eastern sector.

NORTHERN IRELAND PROTOCOL



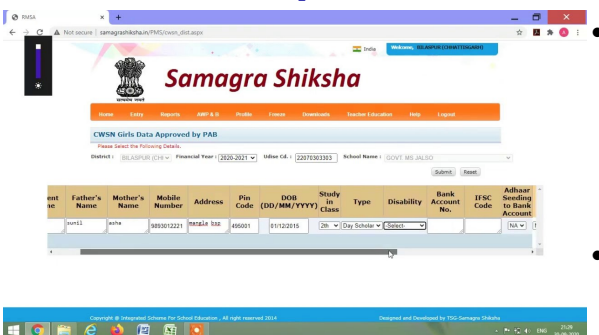
- Britain and the EU are locked in an escalating diplomatic feud over Northern Ireland, the only part of the U.K. that borders the 27-nation bloc.
- The EU says Britain must fully implement the agreement, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, that the two sides agreed and ratified.
- It came into force on 1 January 2021, and is now part of international law.
- Under the protocol, both sides agreed that, even though Northern Ireland was no longer part of the EU, it would continue to follow many of its rules.
- This would enable lorries to continue driving across the land border without being inspected.
- Meanwhile, England, Scotland and Wales are no longer following those rules - leading to a new "regulatory" border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- New checks on goods now need to be carried out when they enter Northern Ireland from England, Scotland or Wales.
- Inspections take place at Northern Ireland ports, and customs documents have to be filled in

Leptospirosis



- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) recently issued an advisory warning about leptospirosis, following heavy rainfall in Mumbai.
- Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and animals.
- It is caused by bacteria of the genus Leptospira.
- Cattle, pigs, horses, dogs, rodents and wild animals carry the bacterium and these infected animals may have no symptoms of the disease.
- Humans can become infected through contact with urine (or other body fluids, except saliva) from infected animals, contact with water, soil, or food contaminated with the urine of infected animals.
- The bacteria can enter the body through skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth), especially if the skin is broken from a cut or scratch.
- Outbreaks of leptospirosis are usually caused by exposure to contaminated water, such as floodwaters.
- Person to person transmission is rare.
- The common symptoms of leptospirosis include fever, rash, body ache, and vomiting and can be treated with antibiotics.
- Without treatment, Leptospirosis can lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress, and even death.
- In India, the outbreaks of Leptospirosis are increasingly being reported from states such as Kerala, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Government of India launched the Programme for Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis (PPCL) during 12th Five year plan in the endemic states and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation of Programme.

PRABANDH portal



The screenshot shows the Samagra Shiksha PRABANDH portal. The page title is "Samagra Shiksha" and the sub-heading is "CWSN Girls Data Approved by PAR". The form requires the following details:

District: BELGAUM (CHV) | Financial Year: 2020-2021 | Other C.E.: 0227930393 | School Name: GOVT. ME. JALSI

Sl. No.	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Mobile Number	Address	Pin Code	DOR (DD/MM/YYYY)	Study in Class	Type	Disability	Bank Account No.	IFSC Code	Adhaar Sending to Bank Account
1	pratik	pratik	989012221	PRABHA 338	456001	01/12/2015	10	Day Scholar	None			

The Ministry of Education has developed an online module for compiling the data of out-of-school children identified by each state/UT and their mapping with special training centres (STC) on the PRABANDH portal.

- With this online module, they will facilitate age appropriate admissions of children in the age group of 6-14 years and those belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

- For out of school children in the 16-18 years age group, financial assistance will be provided for the first time in the current session 2021-22, to continue their education through open/distance learning mode.
- The child-wise information of the identified out of school children and STCs will be uploaded at block level under the supervision of block source coordinator of the certain block research centre (BRC).
- The information regarding out of school children, STCs and their progress, as uploaded by the BRC is validated by the District Magistrate or an appropriate officer as authorised by the DM/DC.
- A quarterly progress report and a user manual are shared on the portal
- PRABANDH means PProject Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System
- It is the portal of Dept of School Education of Ministry of Education under Samagra Shiksha

Objectives:

- To obviate the need for submitting hard copies, except where it is mandated otherwise.
- To have transparency and accuracy in the System w.r.t Approvals, Releases, Financial Status.
- To streamline the Financial Management System, to enable more accurate assessment of actual requirement of funds for implementation.
- For efficient decision- making.

Naftali Bennett, the new Prime Minister of Israel



- Benjamin Netanyahu lost his 12-year-old grip on power as the Knesset approved Naftali Bennett as Israel's new Prime Minister
- The new Prime Minister is a former aide to Netanyahu and is considered to the right of the outgoing leader.
- The centrist Yair Lapid, 57, will replace Bennett as PM after two years, if their fragile government survives till then.
- Bennett, a 49-year-old politician with American parents is a former tech entrepreneur who made millions before switching to, and getting deeply involved in, rightwing politics and a religious-nationalist political position.
- Bennett has recently called for the annexation of occupied West Bank. Observers of his political career have noted that this has, in fact, been his stance broadly ever since he burst into Israel's political scene in 2013.
- Bennett worked for Netanyahu as a senior aide between 2006 and 2008. He left Netanyahu's Likud party, however, after his relationship with the former Prime Minister soured.

Astronaut shares collage of Suez Canal made with 100 images taken from space



- Astronaut Thomas Pesquet took to Twitter to share a collage of the Suez Canal created using 100 images taken from space.
- The 100 pictures, taken on May 29, 2021, were digitally rotated and assembled into the collage.
- "Yes, you should be able to see the Ever Given," he tweeted, referring to the ship that got stuck in the Suez Canal.

Pune-based start-up firm comes up with 3D-printed masks coated with anti-viral agents



- A Pune-based start-up firm has come up with 3D-printed masks coated with anti-viral agents.
- The firm Thincr Technologies India Private Limited Said the mask is more effective than N-95, 3-ply and cloth masks.
- An integration of 3D printing and pharmaceuticals has resulted in a novel type of mask which attacks the virus when viral particles come in contact with it.
- The masks are coated with anti-viral agents known otherwise as virucides.
- The virucidal mask project is among the earliest projects to have been selected for commercialization, by Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- The project received financial support from TDB as part of its search for novel solutions to fight COVID-19, in May 2020.
- Founder Director Dr. Shitalkumar Zambad said, most masks which were then available and within the reach of common people were homemade and of relatively low quality.
- The coating is seen to inactivate the SARS-COV-2 virus.
- The material used for coating on the mask is a solution based on sodium olefin sulfonate.
- It is a soap forming agent with hydrophilic and hydrophobic properties.
- In contact with enveloped viruses, it disrupts the outer membrane of the virus. Dr Zambad Saïd, The ingredients used are found to be stable at room temperature and are widely used in cosmetics.
- The firm has applied for a patent for this product.
- The firm which has already commenced commercial scale manufacturing has already distributed 6,000 virucidal masks to four government hospitals in Nandurbar, Nashik and Bengaluru as well as a girls' school and college in Bengaluru through an NGO.

21 copper plate inscriptions found in Srisailam



- Copper plate inscriptions dating back to the 14th or 16th century were found near Ghanta Matham of Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Srisailam on Sunday.
- Initially, workers found 18 inscriptions while digging the ground as part of the renovation works.
- Three more inscriptions were unearthed later.
- The inscriptions are in Sanskrit and Telugu.
- A total of 35 inscriptions have been found during the renovation works till now.

“Pyrostria laljii” – A New Species of Coffee family Discovered in Andaman and Nicobar



- A 15-meter-tall tree that belongs to the genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered from the Andaman Islands by a team of researchers from India and the Philippines.
- The new species, *Pyrostria laljii*, is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India, the researchers said.
- Plants belonging to genus *Pyrostria* are usually found in Madagascar but the recently discovered species is new to science.
- The tree is distinguished by a long stem with a whitish coating on the trunk, and oblong-obovate leaves with a cuneate base, and was first reported from South Andaman's Wandoor forest.
- The other places in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the tree could be located are the Tirur forest near the Jarawa Reserve Forest and the Chidia Tapu (Munda Pahar) forest.
- *Pyrostria laljii* has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria
- The A&N Islands is a group of 572 islands and islets that are rich and unique in terms of plant diversity in India.
- The total number of listed flora on the islands is approximately 3,410 plant species under 1,281 genera and 303 families belonging to Angiosperms, Gymnosperms, Pteridophytes, Bryophytes, and Lichens.

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