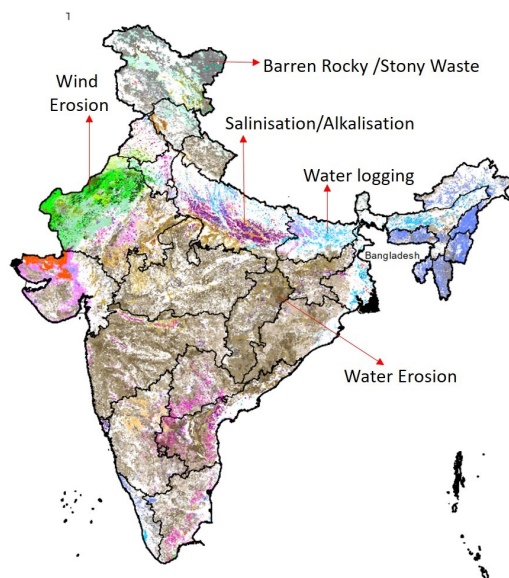


## Daily News Decode

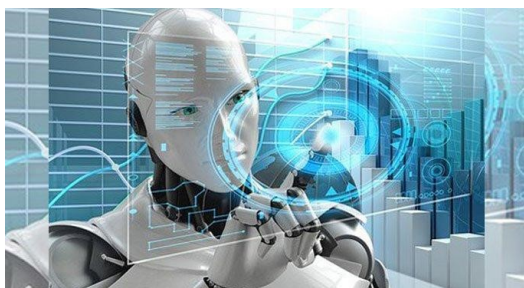
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### Government releases Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India



- The Desertification and Drought day was commemorated by the Ministry, with an aim to generate large scale awareness towards understanding the key role of land in all environmental and economic concerns, that world, as well as India is facing now-a days.
- The salient findings of this Atlas are not only useful as a ready reference, but, will also be helpful in strengthening the envisaged National Action Plan for achieving land restoration targets by providing important baseline and temporal data and technical inputs.
- India hosted the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP 14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.
- India is striving towards achieving the national commitments of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and restoration of 26 Million ha of degraded land by 2030 which focus on sustainable and optimum utilisation of land resources.
- India has been at the forefront of bringing the issue of land degradation to the core of relevant international alliances for protection and conservation of environment.
- The government of India has adopted collective approach for making progress towards achieving the national commitments related to land restoration.

### Telangana AI Mission launched ‘Revv Up’



- Telangana government has launched the Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) powered by Nasscom and as part of the T-AIM, an accelerator programme called “Revv Up” has been launched to enable and empower AI startups.
- The programme that will begin its first cohort in July is another step towards making Telangana and Hyderabad a global destination for AI and other emerging technologies.
- The accelerator programme, exclusively designed for growth-stage AI startups, will cover various sectors.

- Telangana Industries and IT principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan stated, “Telangana is committed to its vision of positioning the State as the leader in AI.
- After becoming the first state in India to launch an actionable policy framework for Artificial Intelligence in June 2020, now set in motion the first edition of the Revv Up accelerator programme to hone innovative AI ideas under T-AIM.

## “Project O2 for India”



- The government of India has launched ‘Project O2 for India’ to step up production of medical oxygen to meet the potential increase in demand due to further waves of the pandemic.
- ‘Project O2 for India’, an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI), aims to help stakeholders working to augment the country’s ability to meet the rise in demand for medical oxygen.
- Under the project, a ‘National Consortium of Oxygen’ is enabling the supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.
- Besides, the consortium is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

## Cabinet approves Deep Ocean Mission of Ministry of Earth Sciences



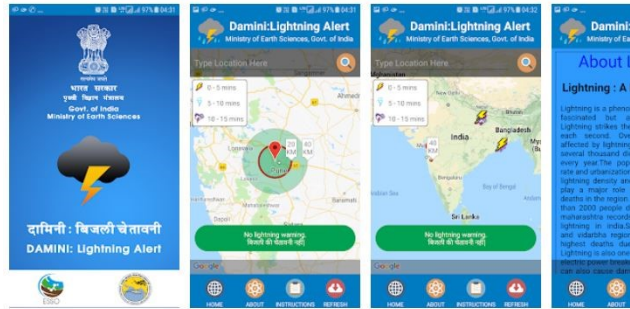
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of “Deep Ocean Mission”.
- This mission is proposed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
- The 5 year Mission will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 4077 crore in a phase-wise manner.
- The first phase will be carried during 2021-2024, at an estimated cost of Rs. 2823.4 crore.
- The main objective of the Deep Ocean Mission is to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry for implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission.

The Deep Ocean Mission consists of the following six major components:

- Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, and Manned Submersible
- Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services

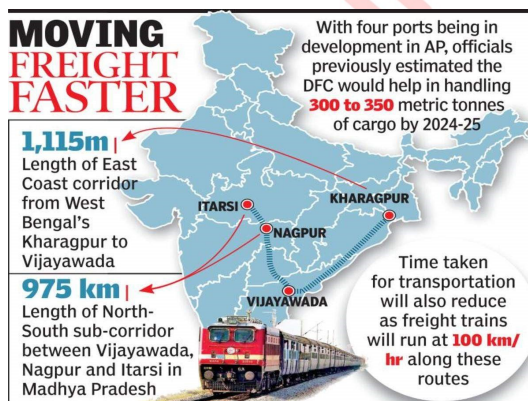
- Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity
- Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration
- Energy and freshwater from the Ocean
- Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology

## The Damini app



- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah called for giving maximum publicity to various mobile apps related to weather forecasting like 'Umang', 'Rain Alarm' and 'Damini'.
- The Damini app monitors the lightning occurrence all over India and alerts the user of lightning near them by a GPS notification under 20km and 40km.
- Damini app triggers warning about lightning strikes three hours in advance which can help reduce losses to life and property.
- Developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM-Pune) and Earth System Science Organization(ESSO) under ministry of earth sciences,
- Launched in 2020.

## DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR (DFC)



- The Indian Army has successfully conducted trial runs of military trains loaded with vehicles and equipment on the dedicated freight corridor.
- It ferried heavy equipment from New Rewari station in Haryana to New Phulera in Rajasthan.
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India is constructing the Western DFC (1506 Route km) and Eastern DFC (1875 route km including Sonnagar-Dankuni PPP Section).
- The EDFC starting from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) will pass through the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal.
- The Western Corridor connecting Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai will traverse through the states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra of WDFC.
- The following two (2) sections of DFC have been commissioned and dedicated to the nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India:-
- Bhaupur to Khurja (351 km) of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) on January 29, 2020.
- Rewari to Madar (306km) of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) on January 7, 2021.

## Jalgaon banana



- consignment of fibre and mineral rich GI CERTIFIED Jalgaon banana has been exported to Dubai from Tandalwadi village, Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.
- In 2016, Jalgaon Banana got GI certification which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Jalgaon.
- Jalgaon district of Maharashtra is a banana cluster identified under Agri Export Policy.
- The banana is fibre and mineral rich.
- In 2016, it got GI certification which was registered with Nisargraja Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jalgaon.
- Jalgaon is known as the 'banana hub' of Maharashtra and accounts for about 50 per cent of the State's 90,000 hectares of banana plantation.
- India is the world's leading producer of bananas with a share of around 25% in total output.
- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh contribute more than 70% of the country's banana production.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce, India's banana export has been rising sharply because of the adoption of farm practices in line with global standards.

## ADMM +



- Defence Minister addresses ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus through video conferencing; says terrorism & radicalization gravest threats to peace and security in world.
- The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a forum comprising 10 ASEAN member countries and 8 dialogue partner nations including India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.
- The 15th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting is being hosted by Brunei as it is the chair of the ASEAN grouping this year.
- The ADMM-Plus forum aims to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability and development in the region.
- The inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2010.

## SEA TURTLE

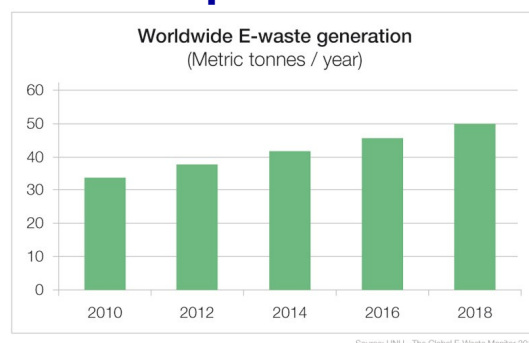


- World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated on 16 June, every year to educate people on the need to conserve the world's Sea turtles and their habitats.
- Turtles are the world's oldest reptile groups in existence, across the world found even before lizards and snakes.
- The first few years of a marine turtle's life are often referred to as the 'lost years'.
  - That's because the time between when the hatchlings emerge until they return to coastal shallow waters to forage is incredibly difficult to study.
  - The lost years they spend at sea – which can be up to 20 years – largely remain a mystery to humans.
  - The seven species of sea turtle are Loggerhead, Green, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Kemp's Ridley, and Flatback.
  - Out of these seven, two species, Hawksbill and Kemp's Ridley are considered critically endangered.

### Sea turtles of India:

- Turtles are found in India, in the coastal states of Odisha, Chennai, and Maharashtra.
- The country is home to five exquisite varieties of turtles, namely:
  - Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
  - Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
  - Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*)
  - Leathery Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
  - Eastern Mud turtle (*Kinosternun subrubum subrubum*)
- India's famous Green Sea turtles are the largest hard-shelled sea turtles and are about 120 cms in length and 136-159 kgs in weight.

## WHO report on e-waste



- WHO report titled 'Children and Digital Dumpsites' underlined the risk children working in the informal processing faced due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste.
- According to the report, more than 18 million children, adolescents and 12 million women working at e-waste dumpsites in low- and middle-income countries are potentially at the risk of severe health hazards.

- This e-waste is dismantled and recycled by children.
- It contains over 1,000 precious metals and other substances like gold, copper, mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
- The processing is done in low-income countries, which do not have proper safeguarding regulation and which makes the process even more dangerous.
- Children are given preference because of their small and dexterous hands.
- About 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste was generated in 2019.
- Only 17.4 percent of this e-waste was processed in formal recycling facilities.
- The rest of it was dumped in low- or middle-income countries for illegal processing by informal workers.
- Processing e-waste exposes women as well as their children to these toxins, which can lead to premature births and stillbirth.
- The hazardous impact of working at such sites is also experienced by families and communities that reside in the vicinity of these e-waste dumpsites.
- Children working at these 'digital dumpsites' are more prone to improper lung function, deoxyribonucleic acid damage and increased risk of chronic diseases like cancer and cardiovascular disease.
- E-waste typically includes discarded electronic devices such as computers, televisions, mobile phones, tablets and other video and voice recorders, as well as electrical appliances, both heavy and light. About 95 per cent of India's e-waste is recycled in the informal sector and in a crude manner. India's 1st e-waste clinic was opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

## **Centers of Excellence established under Indo-Israel Agriculture project**



- Three Centres of Excellence were inaugurated in Karnataka under the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project.
- Centers of Excellence (CoE) are advanced/intensive agriculture farms for knowledge transfer of Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to the local conditions.
- CoE aims to benefit farmers with a focus on selected key crops.
- Each CoE will comprise Nursery management, Best practices Cultivation techniques, Irrigation & fertigation.
- The CoE acts as a meeting point and working environment for Academy, Government and farmers to cooperate towards fruitful achievements.
- Under Government to Government cooperation 29 Centers of Excellence are to be set up in 12 states in India. Out of these, three Centers were launched virtually in Karnataka.

### Key features of three centres of Excellence

- The Centres of Excellence in Kolar, Bagalkote and Dharwad in Karnataka will implement advanced Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to local conditions.
- Kolar will work on Mango, Bagalkote on Pomegranate and Dharwad center on vegetables.
- The work will be towards demonstrating best practices and training farmers in Precision Agriculture through satellite imaging, advanced fertigation and beneficial demonstration of super Bhagwa canopy management techniques.
- Villages of Excellence
- Under the Indo-Israel Agricultural project, Villages of Excellence will also be set in eight states across India.
- Karnataka will get 10 such villages linked to Bagalkote and Kolar Centres of Excellence. Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence will focus on establishing modern agriculture infrastructure, support farmers with capacity building activities and enhance market linkages to optimise profitability of the farmers.

### About Indo-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP)

- India and Israel have a strategic cooperation on the G2G level in the field of agriculture.
- This partnership evolved into the INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project, based on a MOU signed in 2006.
- The project is aiming at introducing crop diversity, increasing productivity & optimizing water use efficiency.
- IIAP implemented via establishment of Centers of Excellence (CoE), in which Israeli Ag-Technologies and knowledge disseminated and tailored to local Indian conditions.
- Applied Research, Transfer of knowledge and Sustainability are three pillars of IIAP.

## Shenzhou-12



- China launched the crewed spacecraft Shenzhou-12 in historic mission
- The flight marks the seventh crewed Chinese spaceflight and the seventh crewed flight of the Shenzhou program.
- The recently launched spacecraft is carrying three astronauts to part of a space station still under construction for the longest stay in low Earth orbit by any Chinese national.
- These astronauts are to work and stay on Tianhe, the living quarters of the future space station, for three months.
- The three men will test the module's technologies including its life-support system.
- A Long March 2F rocket is transporting the Shenzhou-12, or Divine Vessel.

- Shenzhou-12 is the third of 11 missions – four of which will be crewed – needed to complete China's first full-fledged space station.
- Construction of the space station began in April with the launch of Tianhe, the first and largest of the three modules.

## World Bank rejects El Salvador's request for implementation of Bitcoin



- The World Bank has rejected a request from El Salvador to help with the implementation of Bitcoin as legal tender.
- The bank said that it can't assist the country in Bitcoin's implementation due to its "environmental and transparency shortcomings".
- Meanwhile, El Salvador's Finance Minister Alejandro Zelaya said that ongoing negotiations with the International Monetary Fund had been successful.

## 500-yr-old bridge made using weaving technique being re-weaved after collapse in Peru



- Peruvians from Huinchiri community in Cusco region are rebuilding a 500-year-old Inca hanging bridge, made using traditional weaving technique.
- The Q'eswachaka bridge spanning Apurimac river collapsed in March as it wasn't strengthened because of COVID-19.
- In 2013, UNESCO recognised skills and traditions associated with reconstruction of the bridge as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## Diamond believed to be world's 3rd largest found in Botswana



- A 1,098 carat diamond believed to be the third largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined, has been discovered in Botswana.
- The stone was presented to President Mokgweetsi Masisi on Wednesday by the Debswana Diamond Company.
- The world's largest diamond is the 3,106 carat Cullinan stone found in 1905, while the second largest was found in Botswana in 2015.



## Autistic Pride Day 18 June



- Every year it is observed on 18 June to represent diversity and infinite possibilities.
- This is a day for the patients suffering from autism to come together with their families or caregivers.
- A day to promote awareness, acceptance and autonomy.
- The theme for the World Autistic Pride Day 2021 as shared by the United Nations(UN) is "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World."

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