

## Daily News Decode

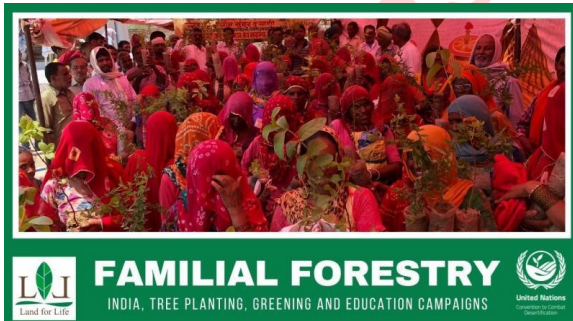
19.06.21

### India maintains 43rd rank on IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021



- India maintained 43rd rank on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) that examined the impact of COVID-19 on economies around the world this year.
- The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking ranks 64 economies and assesses the extent to which a country promotes the prosperity of its people by measuring economic well-being through hard data and survey responses from executives.

### Environmental Organisation 'Familial Forestry' wins prestigious UN Award



- The 2021 Land for Life Award has been won by Familial Forestry of Rajasthan, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member."
- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organises the Land for Life Award every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.
- The theme for the 2021 Award is "Healthy Land, Healthy Lives".
- The Land for Life Award was launched at the UNCCD COP (Conference of Parties) 10 in 2011. and is considered as the world's highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration.
- Familial Forestry is an environment conservation concept by climate-activist Shyam Sunder Jyani, an Associate Professor for Sociology in Rajasthan, who has been campaigning for Familial Forestry for over 15 years.
- Familial Forestry means transferring the care of the tree and environment in the family so that a tree becomes a part of the family's consciousness.
- More than a million families from more than 15,000 villages of desert-prone northwest Rajasthan in over 2.5 million saplings have been planted in the past 15 years, with the active participation of students and desert dwellers."

## PUC (POLLUTION UNDER CONTROL) CERTIFICATE

MAHARASHTRA MOTOR VEHICLES DEPARTMENT	
POLLUTION TEST CERTIFICATE FOR 3/4 WHEELER & HEAVY PETROL / C.M.S. / L.P.G.	
Motor Vehicle No.	MH.01
Date of Issue	20/05/2013
Date of Expiry	25/11/2013
Serial Number	3792649
M. P. 4W-A	
Emission Test Result	
Co Monoxide	
Hydro Carbon	
Non-Methane HC	
Reactive HC	

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Notifies Common Format for Issuance of PUC (Pollution under Control) Certificate Across the Country, under Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989.

The salient features of the PUC are as under:

- Introduction of uniform Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) format across the country and linking the PUC database with the National Register.
- The concept of Rejection slip is being introduced for the first time.
- This document can be shown at the service centre for getting the vehicle serviced or can be used, in case the PUC centre device is not working properly when tested at another centre.
- There will be confidentiality of information viz. (i) Vehicle owner's mobile number, name and address (ii) engine number and chassis number (only the last four digits to be visible, the other digits shall be masked)
- The owner's mobile number has been made mandatory, on which an SMS alert will be sent for validation and fee.
- Enforcement would be IT-enabled and would help in better control over polluting vehicles.
- The QR code shall be printed on the form. It will contain the complete information about the PUC Centre.

## IN-EUNAVFOR naval exercise



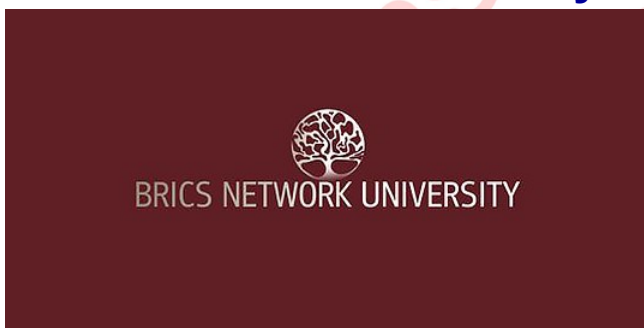
- For the first time, the Indian Navy participated in the IN – EUNAVFOR joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Aden recently.
- Indian Naval Ship Trikand, a mission deployed for Anti-Piracy Operations, participated in this maiden joint naval exercise.
- A total of five warships from four navies have participated in the exercise on 18th and 19th June 2021.
- Other warships include Italian Navy Ship ITS Carabiniere, Spanish Navy Ship ESPS Navarra, and two French Navy Ships FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf.
- The two day exercise included advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, cross deck helicopter operations, tactical manoeuvres, boarding operations, underway replenishment, Search & Rescue, Man Overboard drills, and other maritime security operations.
- Concurrently, a virtual "Information sharing Exercise" is also being conducted between the Indian Navy Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region and Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa on 18 June 21.

- The European Union Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR) – Operation ATALANTA was launched on 8th December 2008 in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council’s resolutions to deter, prevent and repress piracy and to protect vulnerable vessels and humanitarian shipments off the coast of Somalia.

The Operation has been extended by the European Council until December 2016 and has the following objectives:

- Protects vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) and other vulnerable shipping.
- Deters and disrupts piracy and armed robbery at sea.
- Monitors fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.
- Supports other EU missions and international organisations working to strengthen maritime security and capacity in the region.
- The Operational Headquarters of EU NAVFOR Somalia is located in Rota (Spain).
- EU NAVFOR operates in an Area of Operations covering the Southern Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and a large part of the Indian Ocean, including the Seychelles, Mauritius and Comoros.
- The Area of Operations also includes the Somali coastal territory, as well as its territorial and internal waters.

## BRICS network university



- A three-day virtual conference of BRICS Network Universities on the theme of electric mobility was conducted virtually at IIT Bombay.
- The conference is part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream as chair of the 13th BRICS Summit this year.
- Experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa talked about various aspects of electric mobility like traffic management, hydrogen technology, hybrid vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and linkage between e-mobility and livelihoods.
- BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) is a union of higher education institutions of the five BRICS member countries, formed with the objective of enhancing educational cooperation in general, and especially in the realm of research and innovation.
- IIT Bombay is the leading institution of India for the BRICS NU.

The main activities of the BRICS NU are:

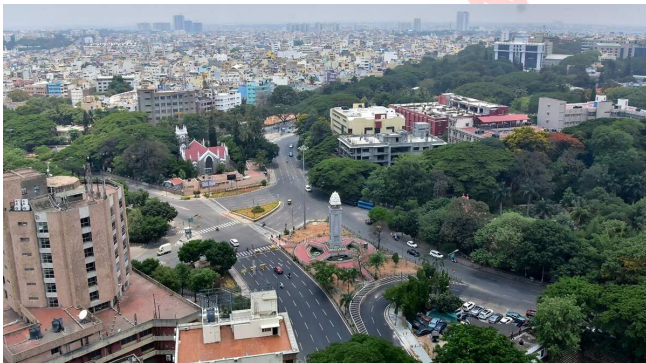
- Offering in conformity with own laws Masters and PhD. programmes;
- short-term training and modular courses;
- Development and implementation of joint research projects, innovative activity within the frames of educational programmes;
- Organization of the academic mobility of students, the university faculty and staff of the BRICS NU participants.

## ADI PRASHIKSHAN Portal



- The Tribal Affairs Ministry has developed the portal in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.
- Its aim is to provide comprehensive information on training programmes held across the country.
- It is an initiative to reach the remotest area using information technology so that tribal communities are able to have access to their rights and benefits.
- It would act as a Central Repository of all training programs conducted by
  - Tribal Research Institutes.
  - Different divisions of the Ministry.
  - National Society for Education of Tribal Students.
  - Centre of Excellences funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and
  - National Tribal Research Institute.
- It will also catalyze and improve the processes of conducting training by making it online and accessible to all.
- Unified open platform will give users access to authentic knowledge products.

## Bengaluru tops list of most liveable cities in India: CSE report



- Bengaluru has been named the most liveable city in a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
- Indian cities were ranked based on four parameters- quality of life, economic ability, sustainability and citizens' perceptions- for the ease of living index.
- Bengaluru scored 66.7 on the index, while Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai scored 62.61 taking the second spot.

## Iron ore becomes the world's most volatile commodity



- Iron ore has become the most volatile commodity in the world as it collapsed into a bear market and then returned to a bull market within a month.
- This comes amid confusion over how government policy will affect demand from steel mills in top consumer China.
- China wants to cut steel production but control prices, an analyst reportedly said.

## Giant rhino fossils found in China show new species was 'taller than giraffe'



- Researchers in north-western China have discovered fossil evidence of a new species of giant rhinoceros that were "taller than a giraffe".
- The Paraceratherium linxiaense, which lived some 26.5 million years ago, weighed 21,000 kg - the equivalent of four large African elephants.
- The hornless creature's head could reach 23ft to graze treetops.

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