

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Researchers observed water vapour in the thin atmosphere of Mars, offering new clues as to whether it could have once hosted life. The traces of ancient valleys and river channels suggest liquid water once flowed across its surface.
- NGC 6397 is a cluster of stars, which at 7,800 light years lies in the Ara constellation and is among the closest globular clusters to the earth. Hubble space telescope looked at this expecting to see an intermediate mass black hole at its centre but instead found that there were many small black holes there.
- A study published in Science of the Total Environment gives a mechanism linking climate change and emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which gave rise to the pandemic. Global greenhouse gas emissions have made southern China a hotspot of bat-borne coronaviruses by driving forest habitats liked by bats.
- The Centre should incentivise States to come clean on their fiscal deficit positions, bring off-budget liabilities above board and take up their own strategic disinvestment programmes for State-owned public sector enterprises, Fifteenth Finance Commission Chairperson N.K. Singh said.
- The Supreme Court has decided to examine a contempt petition filed by a lawyer against Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and leaders of prominent political parties for not fully adhering to the Supreme court order against allowing “dreaded criminals” contest in the Bihar Assembly polls.
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence plans to visit the Galwan Valley and the Pangong lake in the eastern Ladakh which has witnessed a violent stand-off between the troops of India and China.

INDIA RATED AS BEST ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION FOR FIRMS RELOCATING FROM CHINA

1. According to a recent report, **India, along with Vietnam, is rated as the best alternative options** for companies to relocate their operations out of China.
2. US-China trade war made companies, especially those in US, to reduce their dependence on China.
3. Major advantages of India include-**strong logistics system, rising foreign investment developed ecosystem for certain sectors**(Pharmaceuticals, automobile etc.), skilled workforce, huge domestic market with growing disposable incomes, relatively low labour cost etc.

ISRO TESTS SATELLITES DEVELOPED BY PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE FIRST TIME

1. Satellites from companies and academia are being tested at ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre. Till now, ISRO has only taken help in manufacturing and fabrication of various parts of satellites and rockets from Indian industry.
2. Earlier, under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, role for private sector in space programmes was announced including in satellites, launches and space based services.
3. Advantages of private sector participation-**Cater India specific needs, Diffusion of space technology and boost space economy**, ISRO can focus on core research, deep-space missions etc. Capacity building, getting cutting-edge technology.

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2021

1. The World Sustainable Development Summit, the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) was held. The theme of the 2021 Summit was 'Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all'.
2. India's Stand at the Event: **Emphasis on Climate Justice:** "Climate justice" is a term, and more than that a movement that acknowledges climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations.
3. As per India, '**climate justice**' is inspired by a vision of **trusteeship** - where growth comes with greater compassion to the poorest. It also means giving the developing countries enough space to grow.

GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION:CFS

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has endorsed the first-ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) which aim to support countries to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by utilizing a food systems approach.
2. Food Systems Approach: The **Guidelines highlight the complex and multidimensional interlinkages between sustainable food systems and healthy diets.**
3. Seven Policy Areas: **Transparent, democratic and accountable governance. Sustainable food supply chains.** Equitable access to healthy diets. Food safety. People-centred nutrition knowledge. Gender equality and Resilient food systems.
4. India's Scenario State of Hunger and Malnutrition: .189.2 million people are undernourished in India. 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic. 34.7% of the children aged under five are stunted while 20% suffer from wasting. India ranked 94th among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2020.