

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The study observed that local communities are the strongest allies in conservation. Lists of 'chemicals of concern' in toys focus on a few such as phthalates. A study published in Environment International finds that out of 419 chemicals found in plastic toys, the study found 126 to be potentially harmful. The chemicals list included butyrate TXIB and citrate ATBC which are used as phthalate substitutes.
- Like Lego blocks can be rearranged, genetic elements can be shuffled to form new genes, a study published in Science finds. Researchers found that the so-called jumping genes or transposons were added to the genetic mix during evolution to rustle up new genes through a process called exon shuffling which generates new genes.
- Storing and retrieving memories allows organisms with a central nervous system to function smartly. New research published in PNAS shows how the slime mould Physarum polycephalum stores and retrieves memories even though it has no brain. This organism's body consists of a single cell that may stretch to even metres. It weaves its memories into its network like body.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon Channapatna(Mysuru) toymakers to explore the possibility of emarketing their traditional wares across the country and the world.
- The Army's Northern Commander Lt. Gen. Y.K. Joshi said the agreement between India and Pakistan to strictly adhere to the ceasefire pact along the Line of Control would have no bearing on the counterterrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Dreams fade for kids of migrants. Pandemic has led to school drop outs.

## CARACAL

- 1.National Board for Wildlife included caracal in the list of **critically endangered species**. It is medium-sized wildcat found in parts of Rajasthan and Gujrat.
- 2.Its earliest evidence in subcontinent comes from a fossil dating back to Indus Valley civilization.
- 3.It is also found in Africa,Middle East, Central and South Asia. While it flourishes in parts of Africa, its numbers in Asia are declining.
- 4.It finds **mention in Abul Fazl's Akbarnama**, as a hunting animal in the time of Akbar. IUCN lists Caracals under Least concern due to large numbers in Africa.

## TASK FORCE ON INTERLINKING OF RIVERS(ILR) OKAYS MAHANADI(BARMUL)-GODAVARI(DOWLAISWARAM) LINK

- 1.The decision, considered a major foot forward on the **interlinking of rivers involving Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**.
- 2.Mahanadi Godavari link is the first and critical link of nine system of **Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cuvery-Vaigai-Gundar** under Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan(NPP).
- 3.Under NPP prepared by Ministry of Jal Shakti,National Water Development Agency has identified 14 links under Himalayan Rivers Component for inter basin transfer of water for transferring water from water surplus basins to water-deficit basins.

## CARBON WATCH

- 1.**Chandigarh** became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch. **Carbon Watch is a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual**.
- 2.A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases(including carbon dioxide and methane) that are generated by our actions.
- 3.It aims to make the people **Climate-Smart Citizens** while making them capable of accessing their carbon footprint, along with providing them with steps to reduce it.

## GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AS IMPORTED FOOD CROPS

- 1.The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in a recent order has set 1% threshold for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in food crops imported into India.
- 2.Earlier in August 2020, FSSAI had issued the order that **24 food crops the country imports would need a 'non-GM-origin-cum-GM-free certificate'** issued by a competent authority.
- 3.Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs): These are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering.
- 4.Genetically Modified Crops:Conventional plant breeding involves crossing of species of the same genus to provide the offspring with the desired traits of both parents.

## SARAS AAJEEVIKA MELA 2021

- 1.The Union Minister for Rural Development inaugurated Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 at Noida Haat. **More than 300 rural self-help groups and craftsmen from 27 states are participating in the Mela**.
- 2.It is a programme to transform rural India in general and the lives of rural women in particular. During the Mela, workshops on product packaging and design, communication skills, social media publicity and Business to Business marketing will be organised to educate the rural self-help groups and craftsmen.