

## **Bihar govt launches `Pyaar ka Paudha` campaign to promote the practice of planting trees**

- The state Government of Bihar's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched `Pyaar ka Paudha` (a plant of love) drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign with an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.

### **Key Points:**

- As a part of this initiative, the environment department has appealed to the people to gift the plant of love to their close ones as it will be alive for years & also stalls of Patna plants have been planted for this purpose.
- If this experiment is successful, it will be implemented in other areas of the state as well.

### **The Nobel Prize in Physics 2020**

- The Nobel Prize in Physics 2020 was awarded to one half to **Roger Penrose** "For the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity", the other half jointly to **Andrea Ghez** and **Reinhard Genzel** "For the discovery of a super massive compact object at the centre of our galaxy."

### **Gujarat Government announces Digital Seva Setu Programme for rural areas.**

- The villages of Gujarat will be connected with a 100 MBPS optical fibre network under the Digital Seva Setu programme.
- The citizens can get various documents like duplicate ration card, income certificate, senior citizen certificate, caste certificate at their doorstep under this programme.

- **Note:** The Digital Seva Setu has been initiated under the Bharat Net Project. Bharat Net Project is the world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fiber. It is implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) – a special purpose vehicle under the Telecom Ministry.

### **Delhi Government adopts "Bio-Decomposer" Spraying to Counter Stubble Burning**

- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, PUSA, found "Bio-Decomposer" Spraying which is a low-cost, effective technique to deal with the problem of stubble burning.
- Bio-Decomposer capsules which are used to prepare a liquid formulation. The solution, when sprayed in the fields, can decompose crop residue and turn it into manure. The solution reduces the use of fertilizers and increases soil fertility.

### **C-DAC to commission India's fastest HPC-AI Supercomputer 'PARAM Siddhi – AI' with NVIDIA**

- The supercomputer will have 210 AI Petaflops (6.5 Petaflops Peak DP).
- PARAM Siddhi – AI, a large-scale HPC-AI scalable infrastructure will be established under NSM at C-DAC, with support from Niti Aayog, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Department of Science and Technology, and the central government. It will use NVIDIA Next Generation technology, C-DAC software stack and Cloud platform.
- “It will play a important role in developing a vibrant ecosystem for research and innovation in science and engineering. With three decades of expertise in AI and augmenting the AI and Language Computing Mission Mode Program of C-DAC, this infrastructure will accelerate experiments and outcomes for India specific grand challenge problems in Health Care, Education, Energy, Cyber Security, Space, Automotive and Agriculture.

## **ISLRTC and NCERT sign MoU to convert educational materials into Indian Sign Language**

- A MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between ISLRTC (Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center) and NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) to make educational materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication.
- This MoU is a step as availability of NCERT textbooks in Indian Sign Language will ensure that Hearing Impaired children can also now access educational resources in Indian Sign Language. This MoU is a step towards achieving the common goal of fulfilling needs of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and New Education Policy, 2020.
- **Note:** The total population of deaf persons in India numbered about 50 lakh as per the 2011 Census. Obsolete training methodology and teaching systems need urgent attention. Indian Sign Language (ISL) is used in the deaf community all over India.

## **Famous Chilli “Dalle Khursani” of Sikkim gets GI Tag.**

- The red cherry pepper chilli of Sikkim which is locally known as the “Dalle Khursani” has got the geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.
- **Note:** GI (Geographical Indication) is a sign or name used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (a town, region, or country).

## **PM Narendra Modi addresses International webinar on textile traditions organized by ICCR.**

- The theme is "**Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions.**"
- The Prime Minister praised ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) and Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design for their hard work in bringing people from different countries to participate in the webinar. This Program is organized in the context of Gandhi ji's 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations. Naturally coloured cotton and silk has a long and glorious history in India. The diversity in our textiles shows the richness of our culture.

## **Union Minister Piyush Goyal to release results of 1st edition of National Startup Awards**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has conceived the first-ever National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions. Applications of the first edition awards have been invited from 12 sectors which were further sub-classified into a total of 35 categories.
- The winning Startups will get 5 lakh rupees cash prizes of each, along with opportunities to present their solutions to relevant public corporates and authorities.

## **‘Back to Village’ programme emerges as a ray of hope for rural people in Jammu and Kashmir.**

- The ‘Back to Village’ programme in the Union Territory of J&K, has emerged as a ray of hope for rural people turning their dreams into reality. Under the programme, Visiting Officers are reaching the unreachable and tough terrains of

the Union Territory with a sole motive of empowering the underprivileged segments of the society.

### **Scientists discover a new family of bony fish in the Western Ghats**

- A new family of bony fish has been found from the Western Ghats and named it '**Aenigmachannidae**'.
- **Note:** Western Ghats: A chain of mountains running parallel to India's **western** coast, approximately 30-50 km inland, the **Ghats** traverse the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight hot-spots of biological diversity in the world.

### **Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune discover two new species of pipeworts from the Western Ghats of Maharashtra & Karnataka.**

- First is from Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra was named as ***Eriocaulon parvicephalum*** (due to its minute inflorescence size).
- Second from Kumta, Karnataka was named as ***Eriocaulon karaavalense*** (named after *Karaavali* = Coastal Karnataka region).
- **Note:** Two new species of a plant group for their varied medicinal properties have been discovered. The plant group is known as **pipeworts** (*Eriocaulon*), which completes their life cycle within a small period during monsoon, exhibits great diversity in the Western Ghats.