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STUDENT EDITION
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WEB EDITION

GREENLAND ICE melting past 'tipping point': Study

The melting of Greenland's ice cap has gone so far that it is now irreversible, with snowfall no longer able to compensate for the loss of ice, even if global warming were to end today, according to researchers.

■ Eighty-five per cent of the surface of Greenland, an island of two million square kilometres, or four times the size of France, is covered in ice. ■ In the 1980s and 1990s, the ice cap lost around 450 billion tons of ice per year, which was compensated by snowfall, the scientists said, after analysing 40 years of data. ■ But the ice melt has accelerated this century, climbing to 500 billion tons, and it is no longer sufficiently replenished with snow. ■ The Greenland ice sheet is losing mass at accelerated rates in the 21st century, making it the largest single contributor to the rising sea levels.



THE IMPACT

➤ The melting ice actually causes more ice to melt, as the meltwater that collects on the ice sheet absorbs more of the sun's radiative force than snow and ice do – snow and ice reflect sunlight back into the space. ➤ In addition, the loss of ice exposes the permafrost, or frozen soil, which when thawed, releases powerful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, trapping heat. ➤ Therefore, the melting ice is not just a symptom of global warming, it is also becoming a driver of global warming.



THE IMPACT

A latest study has shown that the ongoing accumulation of toxins associated with plastics poses a risk to our food safety and public health. However, the levels of plastics and associated chemicals we are exposed to in our diet, compared with other everyday activities has not been assessed

Join the campaign

Think big to fight the small

Tell us how you can reduce your plastic use; Please share your views, posters, videos or any other ways that can drive the campaign at toinie175@gmail.com

SHOCKING FACTS

- 1 We have been consuming plastics through our food, water or even breathing
- 2 Studies have shown that people eat, drink and breathe a minimum of 50,000 microplastic particles in a year
- 3 At least 300 million tons of plastic waste is produced every year, as per the data from 'Plastic Oceans'

Now, microplastics found in HUMAN ORGANS

Researchers have now found microplastic particles and even smaller nanoplastic particles in human organs, in the samples of lungs, spleen, liver and kidneys that were examined. Though the exact impact microplastics have on the human body is not fully-understood, the new findings are cer-

tainly a cause of concern. Studies had established that the particles can be ingested by humans and animals, such as via drinking water, and pass through the gastrointestinal tract. The latest findings, however, are the first to show that they can also ACCUMULATE WITHIN HUMAN ORGANS, INCLUDING THE KIDNEYS, LIVER AND LUNGS.

- Microplastics are typically less than 0.2 inches (5 mm) across, but the so-called nanoplastic particles can be as small as a fiftieth of the width of a human hair
- Microplastics are found in many products, including synthetic clothing, plastic and cosmetics. These products easily enter the environment as waste, and add to the already existing plastic pollution



Share your thoughts with PM Modi

PM Narendra Modi has invited you to share your ideas on the topics, themes or issues you want him to address on the 68th episode of Mann Ki Baat. You may share your ideas at www.mygov.in; or dial the toll-free number 1800-11-7800 and record your message for the Prime Minister in either Hindi or English. You can also give a missed call on 1922, and follow the link received in SMS to directly give your suggestions to the Prime Minister.

The deadline to submit views is August 29, 2020. Mann Ki Baat airs on 11:00 am on August 30, 2020

WORD WATCH

BRAGGADOCIO:

Means empty boasting; a person given to arrogant boasting; arrogant pretension

The English poet Edmund Spenser originally created Braggadocio as a personification of boasting in his epic poem, 'The Faerie Queene'. As early as 1594, about four years after the poem was published, English speakers began using the name as a general term for any blustering blowhard.

BOOK LAUNCH

WE THE PEOPLE: ESTABLISHING RIGHTS AND DEEPENING DEMOCRACY by Nikhil Dey, Aruna Roy and Rakshita Swamy

We the People, the fourth volume in the Rethinking India series, published by Penguin, brings together a collection of essays that explores the process of germination and growth of the undisputed universal rights, enshrined in the Constitution of India.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA THRILLED TO SEE PRINTED PAGES OF HER MEMOIR 'UNFINISHED'

Actor Priyanka Chopra has announced that her much-anticipated memoir, titled 'Unfinished', has been printed, and will soon be released. 'The Sky is Pink' actor took to Twitter to share the news and expressed her excitement after seeing pages from the memoir printed on paper for the first time. "Finished. What an amazing feeling seeing these pages printed on paper for the first time! #Unfinished... coming soon! @penguinrandom." Chopra tweeted. Earlier, the 38-year-old had noted that every word from it comes from a place of "introspection and reflection" into her life.



BOOK

'Unfinished' will be a collection of personal essays, stories and observations by the actor, producer, singer, and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Chopra

ZTE TO LAUNCH THE WORLD'S FIRST 5G SMARTPHONE

ZTE Corporation has announced that it will launch ZTE Axon 20 5G in China on September 1, 2020. The device will be the world's first mass-produced 5G smartphone, featuring under-display camera. The so-called 'under-display' camera is concealed entirely behind the phone's screen, with no need for any notches or small round 'hole-punches'. The design increases the amount of space on the smartphone display, which is usually taken up by the black spot at the top that houses the camera.

The new ZTE Axon 20 5G is rumoured to run on Android 10 and will come with a 6.92-inch (1,080x2,460 pixels) OLED display, according to a leak on a Chinese regulatory body, TENAA



NEWS IN BRIEF

FACTOID 1.6 Crore

New debit cards have been issued by the banks between April and June of 2020, during the lockdown period. It is the second-highest over a quarter, since banks initiated the replacement exercise in 2018, said a report citing an analysis of the RBI data over the last two years



Death Valley is no stranger to heat. Sitting 282 feet below sea level in the Mojave Desert in the southeastern California, near the Nevada border, it is the lowest, driest and hottest location in the United States. It is sparsely-populated, with just 576 residents, according to the most recent census.

Death Valley hits 55 degrees celsius, one of the highest temperatures recorded on Earth

In the popular imagination, Death Valley in Southern California, is the hottest place on the Earth. On Aug 16, it lived up to that reputation, when the temperature at the aptly-named, Furnace Creek reached 131 degrees Fahrenheit (55 degrees C), according to the NOAA weather prediction centre

'Aquaman' sequel will have elements of horror, confirms director James Wan



Director James Wan has said that 'Aquaman 2', starring Jason Momoa, will feature a "little bit" of his love for horror. The 43-year-old filmmaker, who made his directorial debut with the horror film, 'Saw', further said, he will save the big scares for the DC film spin-off, 'The Trench'. In an interaction with his fans, ahead of his appearance at the DC FanDome, Wan said, "Just like the first movie had a touch of my horror sensibility in it, for the 'Trench' sequence, I would say, there will be a little bit of that in this one as well."

➤ Introduced in 2018, 'Aquaman, The Trench' are aquatic abominations, who tormented Aquaman and Mera (Amber Heard) during one of the most intense sequences in the film. Wan, also known for 'The Conjuring' franchise, will produce an animated 'Aquaman' mini-series for HBO Max

A PERMANENT SEAT FOR MS AT WANKHEDE?

Remember the towering six at the Wankhede Stadium in the 2011 World Cup final by MS Dhoni, which eventually made India the World Champions? Well, if reports are to go by, the seat where the famous sixer landed, is all set to be named after the man, who created history. In a letter to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) apex council member, Ajinkya Naik said, a permanent seat in the Wankhede stadium would be a "tribute" and an "act of gratitude" to the former captain's contribution to Indian cricket. Naik suggested that the particular spot, where the ball landed, can be identified and dedicated to Dhoni. The former Indian captain announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15.

Several Indian cricketers are commemorated at the stadium, including Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Merchant, who have stands named after them.

■ Back in 1993, a seat at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), was painted yellow to commemorate Simon O'Donnell's 122-metre six for Victoria over New South Wales

■ In 2018, Ethihad Stadium in Melbourne painted the seat red to honour Brad Hodge, who smashed a 96-metre six, in his last match

■ New Zealand's Grant Elliot too has a seat named after him, when he hit Dale Steyn for a six, after the Kiwis entered the final of the World Cup in 2015



Aston Martin unveils 007 Editions of its Vantage and DBS Superleggera

Taking advantage of its close connection to the James Bond franchise, Aston Martin is set to launch two new limited edition cars to celebrate the curtain raiser of the latest 007 movie later this year. According to Daily Mail, Aston Martin's own 'Q' division, named after the famed gadget branch of Britain's secret service in the films, has created 007 Editions of the Vantage and DBS Superleggera to mark the release of 'No Time To Die' in November. Priced between £161,000 (₹1,59,69,307) and £279,025 (₹2,76,74,603) respectively, having a touch of Bond on your Aston Martin comes with a price rise of over 25 per cent.

