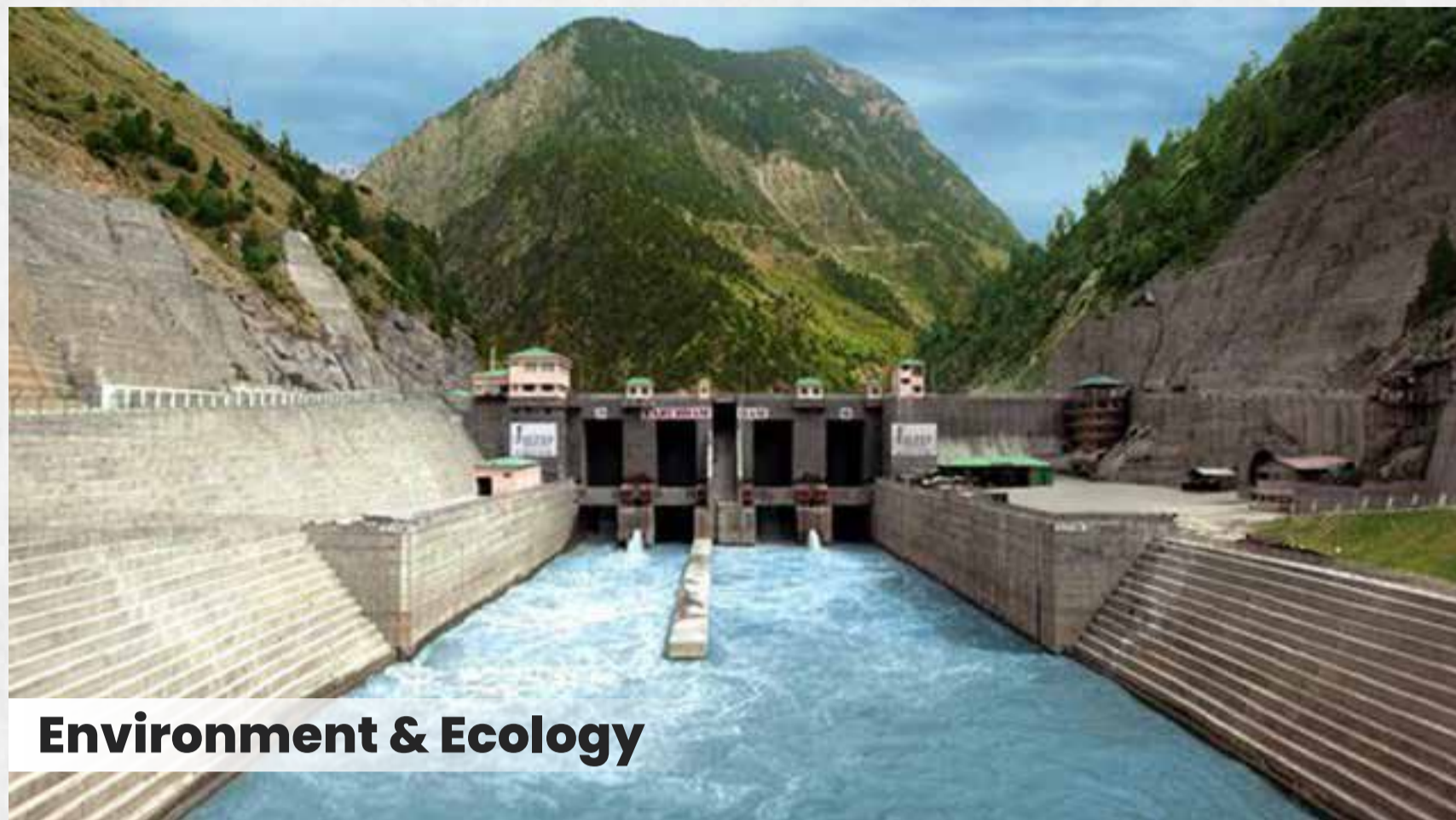


The Lukmaan Newslines

All You Need for UPSC in One Page.

Supreme Court Panel Approves 5 Ganga Hydropower Projects



Environment & Ecology

A Supreme Court panel has approved five hydropower projects on the Ganga in Uttarakhand, despite concerns from the Environment and Jal Shakti Ministries about landslides and ecological risks.

The cleared projects are:

1. Bowala Nandprayag (300 MW, Alaknanda River)
2. Devasri (252 MW, Pinder River)
3. Bhyundar Ganga (24.3 MW)
4. Jhalakoti (12.5 MW)
5. Urgam-II (7.5 MW)

Fifteen other projects were rejected due to high-risk zones or environmental impact. The government will finalize its decision in eight weeks.

Source: The Indian Express

Stricter Bus Safety Norms in Bengal

West Bengal's Transport Department introduced SOPs for bus safety, including



driver checks, real-time tracking, and traffic rule compliance. The Yatri Sathi app enables digital ticketing, reducing cash use and improving public transport efficiency, aligning with sustainable development goals.

Source: The Indian Express

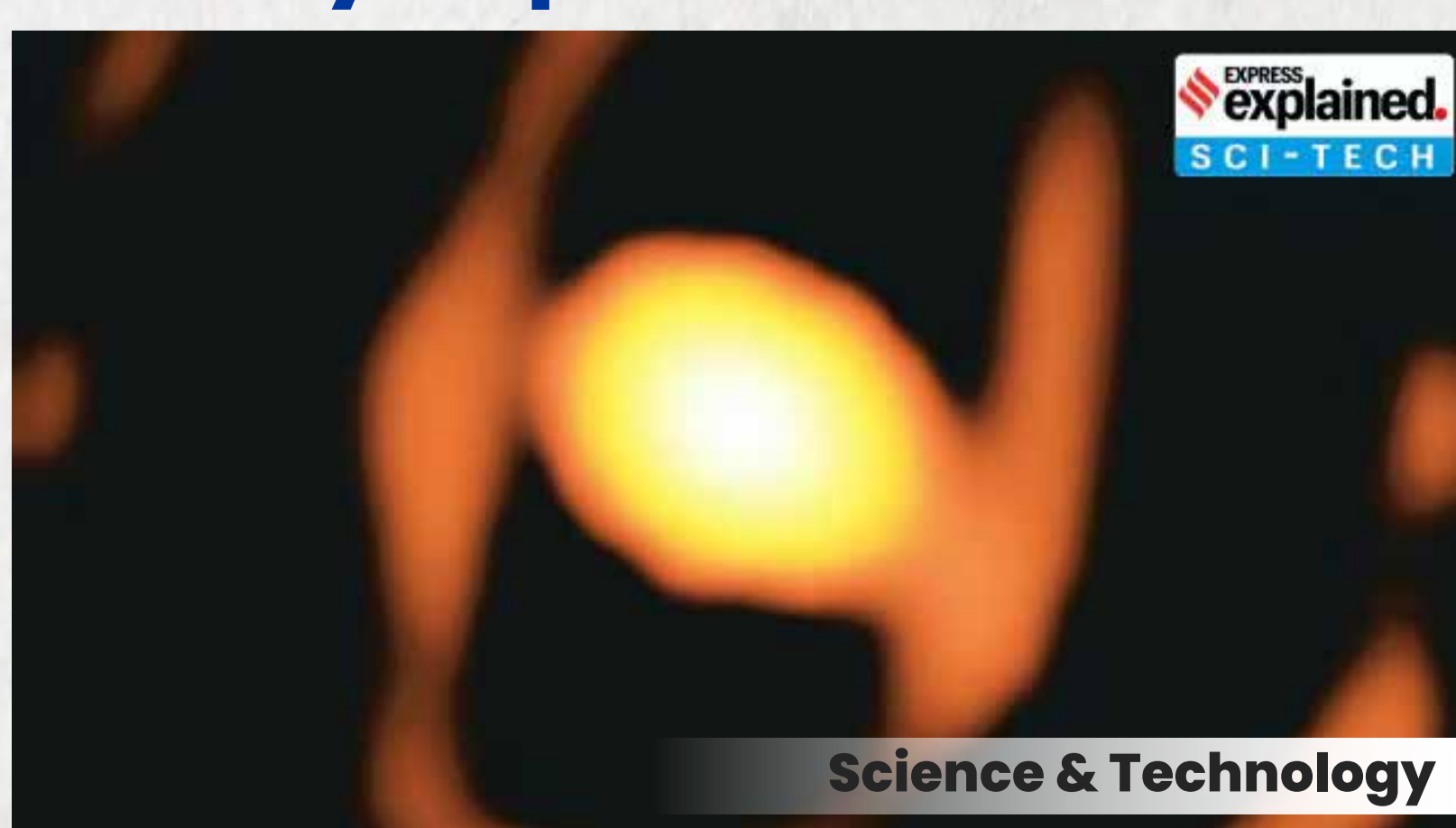


Draft Plastic Treaty Criticized for Gaps

Nations led by the EU and Pacific states criticized the Global Plastics Treaty draft for weak measures on production limits and health risks from plastics. Key producers like India opposed binding targets.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Zoomed-In Image of Star Outside Galaxy Captured



Science & Technology

India's Q2 GDP Falls to 5.4%

Downward trend

India's real GDP slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July-September 2024 quarter



India's GDP growth dropped to 5.4% in Q2, marking a seven-quarter low, primarily due to weak corporate earnings and sluggish manufacturing. Agriculture and services grew, but mining contracted. Economists warn this threatens RBI's full-year growth target of 7.2%.

Core Industries See October Growth

Economy

India's core industries grew by 3.1% in October, driven by recovery in coal, cement, and steel sectors. This marks the best performance in three months, reflecting a slight industrial recovery.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Environment

Cyclone Fengal Nears Tamil Nadu Coast

Cyclone Fengal is expected to hit Puducherry today with heavy rainfall and winds up to 90 km/h. Coastal districts are on red alert for severe weather.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Experts Call for Overhaul of India's Seeds Bill

At the National Seed Congress, experts urged revising the Seeds Bill, 2004, and Seeds Policy, 2002, to enhance seed quality, meet modern farming challenges, and empower farmers. These reforms aim to align India's seed industry with global standards and ensure agricultural sustainability.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Gaganyaan Astronauts Finish US Training

Science & Technology

Two Indian astronauts completed the initial training phase for the Axiom-4 mission to the ISS, including SpaceX procedures and emergency drills.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



UPSC Essentials

Greenwashing is when companies, organizations, or countries make exaggerated, dubious, or false claims about their environmental or climate-friendly practices. This tactic aims to appear environmentally responsible while masking harmful actions.

Example: The 2015 Volkswagen scandal involved falsified emissions tests for diesel cars marketed as eco-friendly.

How it Affects the Carbon Market

- Greenwashing can undermine carbon trading mechanisms.
- Carbon credits represent emissions reduced or avoided. Entities often exaggerate efforts or use questionable methodologies to generate these credits, leading to reduced trust in the system.

Recent Developments:

India's Guidelines to Prevent Greenwashing

India's Consumer Affairs Ministry has issued guidelines to curb misleading environmental claims. Key points include:

1. Misleading terms like "eco-friendly" or "natural" are allowed only if substantiated with evidence.
2. Technical jargon like "ecological footprint" must be explained clearly for consumer understanding.
3. Advertisers, manufacturers, and endorsers are subject to these rules.

Types of Greenwashing

1. **Greenhushing:** Withholding information about sustainability efforts.
2. **Green-crowding:** Hiding unsustainable practices in a group.
3. **Greenshifting:** Shifting responsibility for sustainability to consumers.
4. **Greenlighting:** Highlighting one sustainable initiative to distract from harmful activities.
5. **Greenlabelling:** Misleading claims about product sustainability.

BEYOND THE NUGGET:

Understanding Carbon Credit Trading

- **How it Works:** Industrial units outperforming emission standards earn credits; those falling short can buy these credits to meet regulations.
- **Value:** One carbon credit equals one tonne of CO₂ (or equivalent greenhouse gases) reduced or avoided.
- **Concerns:** The process is often questioned for greenwashing due to unverifiable claims about emission reductions.

By addressing greenwashing, the guidelines aim to ensure accountability, build trust in carbon markets, and encourage genuine sustainability efforts.

Source: The Indian Express

Sitharaman Advocates Boosting Credit for Women SHGs

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged states to help banks increase credit flow to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). She called for collaboration with NABARD and SIDBI to develop SHGs into enterprises, emphasizing financial inclusion through schemes like PMJDY and PMJJBY. She also visited Darbhanga to distribute ₹1,388 crore in loans under various programs.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

For the first time, scientists have captured a detailed image of WOH G64, a red supergiant star in the Large Magellanic Cloud, 160,000 light-years away. Using the Very Large Telescope Interferometer in Chile, they revealed the star's egg-shaped cocoon and signs of its imminent death. WOH G64, 2,000 times the Sun's size, is shedding layers and may collapse into a black hole or explode as a supernova.

Source: The Indian Express

Note:- The Lukmaan Newslines provides curated UPSC-relevant current affairs from trusted sources like The Hindu, The Indian Express, and PIB. Our concise summaries align with the syllabus, helping you stay informed and focused.