



ANUSHKA LAS

D.N.A.

**DAILY NEWS
ANALYSIS**

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STRONTIUM (THE HINDU)**COVERED IN GS : 3 (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)****NEWS**

On April 7, Microsoft said it had disrupted cyberattacks from a Russian nation-state hacking group. The group called 'Strontium' by the software company targeted Ukrainian firms, media organisations, government bodies, and think tanks in the U.S. and the EU.

ABOUT

- ❖ Strontium is also known as Fancy Bear, Tsar Team, Pawn Storm, Sofacy, Sednit or Advanced Persistent Threat 28 (APT28) group.
- ❖ It is a highly active and prolific cyber-espionage group. It is one of the most active APT groups and has been operating since at least the mid-2000s
- ❖ The group is said to be connected to the GRU, the Russian Armed Forces' main military intelligence wing.



- ❖ He also inaugurated the Banihal-Qazigund Road Tunnel, built at a cost of over 3100 crore rupees. The 8.45 Km long tunnel will reduce the road distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 km, and reduce journey time by around one and a half hours.
- ❖ He laid the foundation stones for the 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project and 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project to be constructed on the Chenab river in Kishtwar District.

M. VIJAYAN (THE HINDU)**COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)****NEWS**

Eminent structural biologist M. Vijayan, DAE Homi Bhabha Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 80.

About:

- ❖ According to the Molecular Biophysics Unit (MBU), IISc, He was instrumental in the development of macromolecular crystallography in India.
- ❖ His main research areas covered protein structures, lectins, and interactions of mycobacterial proteins.
- ❖ He was the Associate Director of IISc from 2000 to 2004.
- ❖ He had played a role in Kerala's higher education sector. He chaired the Higher Education Commission that designed the choice-based credit and semester system in Kerala in 2010.



- ❖ The results will include separate data sets for rural and urban parts, and also splice spending patterns for each State and Union Territory, as well as different socio-economic groups.

FOODGRAINS EXPORT BY INDIA(THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)

NEWS :

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO), is looking into resolving WTO rules that are making it difficult for India to export foodgrains to meet shortages in other countries, caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

About:

- ❖ The difficulties included WTO rules around the export of food by a country that had also procured food on a Minimum Support Price basis.
- ❖ At the IMF Plenary meeting on Thursday, Ms. Okonjo-Iweala said the WTO was “looking at it [food export issues] positively,” as per the Finance Minister, who expressed optimism that the issue could be resolved.



India has reached out to more than 20 countries regarding exporting wheat, and is targeting a record 15 million tonnes of wheat for export this year, as per a Bloomberg report. India is expected to have a surplus this year, producing more than 111 million tonnes of the crop.

BLUE STRAGGLER STARS (THE INDIAN EXPRESS)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ENVIRONMENT)

NEWS :

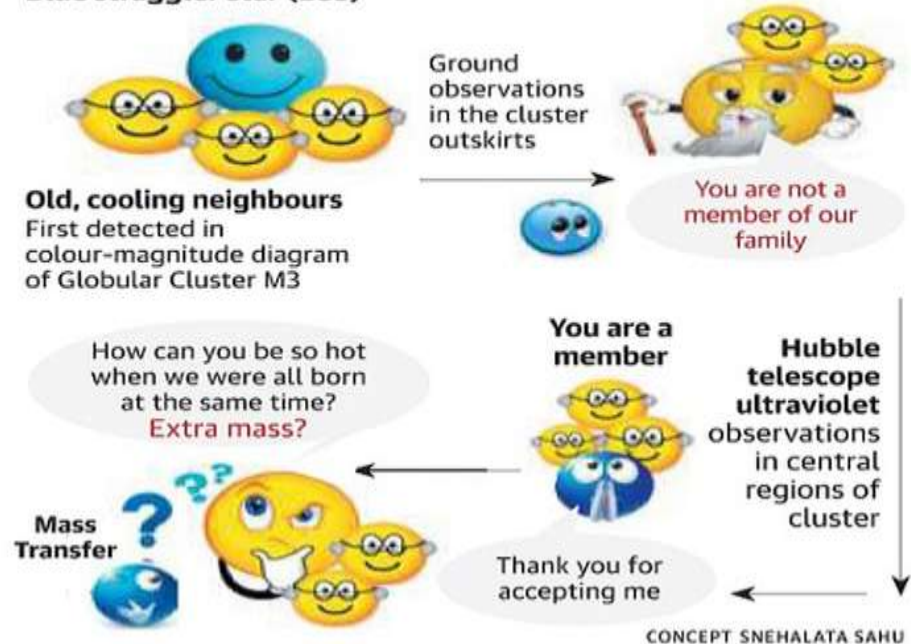
Blue stragglers, is a particular type of star seen in clusters and also, sometimes, alone. Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru conducted a study on their aberrant behaviour.

About:

- ❖ For this, the researchers also made use of the observations by the UVIT instrument (Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope) of ASTROSAT, India's first science observatory in space.
- ❖ A blue straggler is a main-sequence star in an open or globular cluster that is more luminous and bluer than stars at the main sequence turnoff point for the cluster.

The puzzle posed by blue stragglers

Blue straggler star (BSS)



- ❑ Blue stragglers were first discovered by Allan Sandage in 1953 while performing photometry of the stars in the globular cluster M3.

COAL SHORTAGE (THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)

NEWS :

The India Energy Outlook 2021 report of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said energy use in India has doubled since 2000, with 80% of demand still being met by coal, oil and solid biomass.

About:

- ❖ Pandemic-related disruptions, however, prevented the stock-up of coal. Mining operations were halted to curb the spread of the virus. Despite the gradual easing into operations, mining activities were hampered during the monsoons, delaying arrival of stocks.
- ❖ With household demand for power picking up and the arrival of summer, combined with the sudden acceleration in economic activity, it has resulted in a demand-supply mismatch.



- ❖ It will be a landmark legislation to force big Internet companies to act against disinformation and illegal and harmful content, and to “provide better protection for Internet users and their fundamental rights”.
- ❖ The proposed Act will work in conjunction with the EU’s Digital Markets Act (DMA), which was approved last month.

GOVERNMENT ORDER (GO) 111 (THE INDIAN EXPRESS)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)

NEWS :

Environmentalists are criticising the Telangana government for withdrawing an over 25-year-old government order protecting the historic Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs in Hyderabad, which they say will destroy the fragile surrounding ecosystem.

About:

- ❖ On March 8, 1996, the government of erstwhile (undivided) Andhra Pradesh had issued 'Government Order (GO) 111' prohibiting development or construction works in the catchment area of the Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar lakes up to a radius of 10 km.

Ramoorthy P

NGT ORDERED STATUS QUO ON GO 111

OBSERVATIONS OF NGT JUDGMENT IN 2018

- It asked the state to ensure that the high power committee deliberates on the issue soon
- Submit recommendations within six months
- It directed state to maintain status quo on GO 111 until it takes a decision on the recommendations submitted by panel
- Prohibited all constructions/activities in under GO 111 until a decision is taken by the government



Towering commercial establishments and apartments seen along Gandipet lake

The GO prohibited the setting up of industries, residential colonies, hotels, etc. which cause pollution. The aim of the restrictions was to protect the catchment area, and to keep the reservoirs pollution-free.