



April -23

NATIONAL

Meghalaya Landscapes Management Project

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Finance has signed Loan Agreement with IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) loan of US \$48 million for Meghalaya Community – Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP).
- ❖ The project aims to strengthen community-led landscapes management in selected landscapes in Meghalaya by 2023.
- ❖ The project consists of three components,
 - Strengthening knowledge and capacity for natural resource management.
 - Community-led landscape planning and implementation.
 - Project management and governance.
- ❖ The Restoration of degraded and highly degraded landscapes under the project will increase water for local communities and improve soil productivity which will in turn increase incomes and reduce poverty.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- ❖ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is an international financial institution that offers loans to middle-income developing countries.
- ❖ The IBRD is the first of five member institutions that compose the World Bank Group.
- ❖ It was established in 1944 with the mission of financing the reconstruction of European nations devastated by World War II.

INTERNATIONAL

Soft Drinks Sugar tax - UK

- ❖ The Soft Drinks Industry Levy also known as soft drinks sugar tax or sin tax or sugar tax came into force in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ It has been done as part of government's plan to combat obesity and sugar related disease.
- ❖ With the introduction of sugar levy, UK joins group of countries including Mexico, France, and Norway that have introduced similar fat taxes.

- ❖ The Soft Drinks Industry Levy was announced in 2016.
- ❖ It is based on levels of sugar in drinks, along with most sugary drinks paying highest taxes in the United Kingdom.

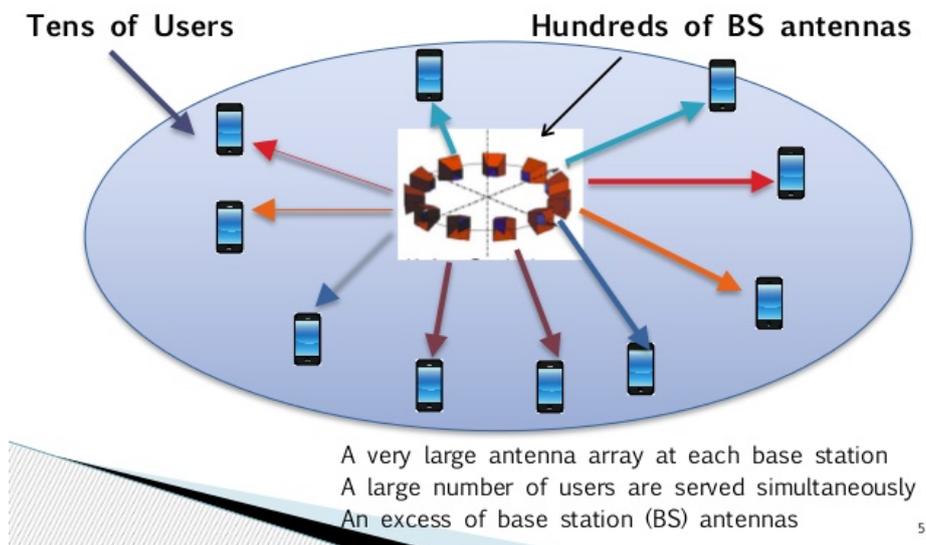
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India's first 5G lab

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi has installed Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output (MIMO) lab on campus for standardization, R&D, and manufacturing of 5G equipment.
- ❖ It will be the first of its kind 5G lab in the country. And it has been set-up at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management.
- ❖ The lab will serve as 5G base station prototype that will be used to test and verify algorithms and also helps to develop complete 5G base station.

What is Massive MIMO

Essentially multiuser MIMO with lots of base station antennas



ENVIRONMENT

Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve - new Grass species

- ❖ Researchers have discovered new grass-like plant species named *Fimbristylis agasthyamalaensis* in Ponmudi hills within the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.



- ❖ It has been classified as sedge, the grass-like plant and has been named after the locality from which it was found.
- ❖ The new species of plant belongs to the Cyperaceae family. Its flowering and fruiting were observed from October to March.
- ❖ Researchers have recommended preliminary conservation assessment of plant as 'critically endangered,' according to IUCN criteria.

Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

- ❖ Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve was established in 2001 in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ In March 2016, Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.
- ❖ Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is situated at the southern-most end of the Western Ghats and spread over two southern states Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve is home to rare endemic animals include tiger, Asian Elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ It is home to Kanikaran tribe, one of the oldest surviving ancient tribes in the world.

STATES

Rural Connectivity Project – Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved \$140 million loans for a development project aimed at improving rural roads connectivity in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It was approved at a meeting of Board of Directors of AIIB recently held in Beijing, China. The Project will be co-financed by World Bank.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- ❖ AIIB is multilateral development bank initiated by China. Its purpose is to provide finance to infrastructure development and regional connectivity projects in Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ It was officially established in December 2015 and opened for business in January 2016. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
- ❖ So far it has 84 members including India. China is the largest shareholder of AIIB with 26.06% voting shares.
- ❖ India with 7.5% vote share is second largest shareholder followed by Russia, Germany, and South Korea.



Climate Resilient Agriculture- Maharashtra

- ❖ Central Government and Maharashtra Government have signed the US \$420 million loan agreement with World Bank for Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture to help small and marginal farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The loan will be provided by World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). It will have the maturity of 24 years and grace period of 6 years.
- ❖ The project will help to mitigate the emission of Green House Gases (GHGs) through carbon sequestration 'planting trees in upper catchment areas and afforestation.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 Pulitzer Prize

- ❖ The 2018 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded by Pulitzer Prize Board for work during 2017 calendar year.
- ❖ In Journalism, New York Times newspaper won three Pulitzer Prizes. With this so far New York Times has won 125 Pulitzer Prizes in total.
- ❖ The New York Times and The New Yorker have jointly won the Pulitzer Prize, in the Public Service category for reporting long-running Harvey Weinstein's sexual harassment and abuse in Hollywood.
- ❖ In Letters, Drama & Music, Andrew Sean Greer's comic novel *Less* won best Fiction award.

Journalism

Public Service - New York Times.	Breaking News Reporting - Staff of The Press Democrat.
Investigative Reporting - The Washington Post	Explanatory Reporting - The Arizona Republic and USA Today Network.
Local Reporting - The Cincinnati Enquirer Staff	National Reporting - New York Times and Washington Post
International Reporting - Clare Baldwin, Andrew R.C. Marshall and Manuel Mogato of Reuters	Feature Writing - Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, freelance reporter, GQ



Commentary - John Archibald of Alabama Media Group, Birmingham, Ala.	Criticism - Jerry Saltz of New York magazine
Editorial Writing - Andie Dominick of the Des Moines Register.	Editorial Cartooning - Jake Halpern, freelance writer, and Michael Sloan, freelance cartoonist, New York Times.
Breaking News Photography - Ryan Kelly of the Daily Progress	Feature Photography - Photography Staff of Reuters

Letters, Drama & Music

Fiction - Less, by Andrew Sean Greer.	Drama - Cost of Living, by Martyna Majok.
History - The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea, by Jack E. Davis (Live right/W.W. Norton).	Biography or Autobiography - Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser
Poetry - Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016, by Frank Bidart.	General Nonfiction - Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America by James Forman Jr.
Music - by Kendrick Lamar	

Pulitzer Prize

- ❖ It was established in 1917 by American-Hungarian newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer.
- ❖ The Pulitzer Prize is an annual award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.
- ❖ The award is administered by Columbia University in New York City.
- ❖ Prizes are awarded yearly in 21 categories.
