

## Election and airwaves

- In the recently concluded Karnataka Assembly elections, political parties were provided free airtime on public broadcasters, All India Radio (Akashvani), and Doordarshan during elections.
- Time vouchers are distributed by a lottery system by the Election Commission in a transparent process to obviate any preferential treatment in getting primetime slots.
- The guidelines by the Election Commission of India (ECI) also require that a maximum of two-panel discussions are also aired by Akashvani and DD. These discussions provide an excellent platform for parties, both big and small, to debate and criticize each other's policies and manifestos, and in general promote an informed citizenry.
- The transcripts of political parties are vetted to ensure that they adhere to relevant codes. These codes proscribe any content which is inter alia critical of other countries, attacks religions or other communities, or incites violence and personal attacks.

**THE HINDU**

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## Green deposits

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came up with a regulatory framework for banks to accept green deposits from customers.
- Under the new framework, banks that accept green deposits will have to disclose more information on how they invest in these deposits.

### What are green deposits?

- Green deposits are not very different from the regular deposits that banks accept from their customers.
- The only major difference is that banks promise to earmark the money that they receive as green deposits towards environment friendly projects.
- A green deposit is just one product in a wide array of other financial products such as green bonds, green shares, etc., that help investors put money into environmentally sustainable projects.
- The RBI's framework for the acceptance of green deposits lays down certain conditions that banks must fulfill to accept green deposits from customers.
- Firstly, banks will have to come up with a set of rules or policies approved by their respective Boards that need to be followed while

investing in green deposits from customers.

- These rules need to be made public on the banks' websites and banks will also have to disclose regular information about the amount of green deposits receive.
- The RBI has come up with a list of sectors that can be classified as sustainable and thus eligible to receive green deposits.
- These include renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, energy efficiency, and afforestation.
- Depositors who care about the environment may get some satisfaction from investing their money in the environmentally sustainable investment product



THE HINDU

## Lumpy skin disease

**LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN CATTLE**

Called LSD for short, it is caused by a poxvirus

It is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito or tick

It can spread through saliva & nasal secretions

LSD is not a zoonotic disease, which means it can't infect people

**MAIN SYMPTOM**  
Skin nodules/lumps in one area or all over the body

**THE EFFECT IN CATTLE**  
Reduced milk production  
Reduced mole fertility  
Weight loss  
Pregnancy loss

**TREATMENT**  
No specific remedy  
Antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs & vitamins are prescribed to prevent a secondary infection

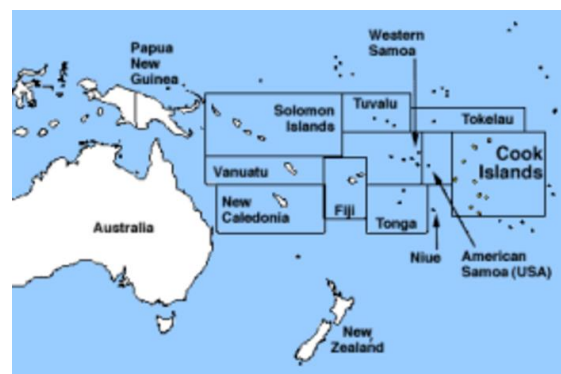
An outbreak of LSD has been reported in:  
 • India • China • Thailand  
 • Bangladesh • Vietnam  
 • Nepal • Myanmar

In Malaysia, just 0.1% of 81,252 head of cattle tested at 9,108 farms have the disease



THE HINDU

## USA and Papua New Guinea



- Papua New Guinea will sign a security pact with the United States that gives American troops access to the Pacific nation's ports and airports, its leader said on Thursday.



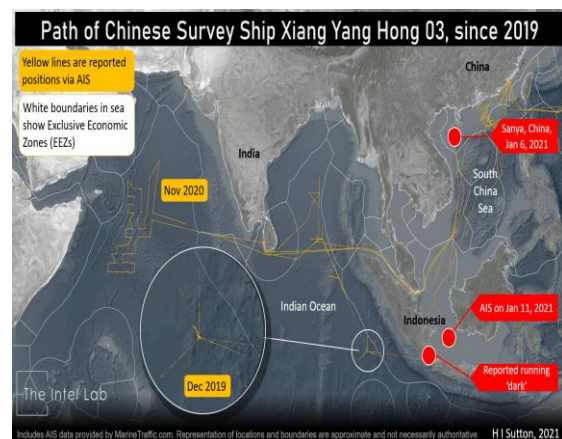
- U.S. President Joe Biden has placed more importance on the Pacific over concerns about an increasingly assertive China, which is trying to woo nations with an array of diplomatic and financial incentives in return for strategic support.
- Prime Minister James Marape said two agreements focusing on defence cooperation and maritime surveillance had been agreed with Washington and would be formally signed at the earliest opportunity after parliamentary approval.
- The agreements, which can be renewed every 15 years, will give the United States vital movement in Papua New Guinea's waters near sea routes to Australia and Japan, in return for access to U.S. satellite surveillance.

## THE HINDU

## Chinese vessels sunken



- Two crew of the capsized Chinese deep sea fishing vessel are confirmed dead, the Chinese Ministry of Transport said on Thursday as a multinational effort is racing against time to locate the missing crew.
- The Indian Navy said that responding to a distress call from the fishing vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028, it had deployed P-8I maritime patrol aircraft on May 17 for search and rescue (SAR) efforts in the southern Indian Ocean Region, approximately 900 nautical miles from India.



## India diplomacy

- The Quad Summit (Australia, India, Japan, U.S.) due to be held in Sydney has been cancelled in the wake of U.S. President Joe Biden's domestic troubles, all four Quad leaders will meet on the sidelines of the G-7. Following this foray with the Indo-Pacific "coalition of democracies"
- Hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit scheduled for July 3-4, where he is expected to receive China's President Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, the Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, leaders of Central Asian states, the soon-to-be added SCO members, the President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, and the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko".
- The composition of the SCO, which includes those being inducted as observers such as Myanmar, gives the impression of it being a largely anti-western grouping, with practically every country sanctioned by the West as a part of it.
- A lesson or two may also be learned from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council for Foreign Ministers (SCO-CFM) held in Goa earlier this month, where India's bilateral relations with mainly Pakistan, but China and even Russia, were allowed to overshadow more substantive multilateral outcomes.
- In 2017, the same year that India took part in reviving the Quad in the face of overt belligerence from Beijing, India also joined the SCO as a full member, agreeing to host the summit this year. New Delhi also exchanged places with both Italy and Indonesia in order to host the G-20 in 2023
- It is to India's credit that it continues to maintain this balance, and is being courted by countries across the global divide, even as it seeks to hold out against two nuclear-armed land neighbors at its frontiers.
- Events that could jolt India off its careful tightrope walk and force a rethink of its policies one way or the other. A sudden success for Ukraine in its much-delayed, upcoming spring offensive, for example, would require New Delhi to reconsider its unalloyed ties with Moscow.
- Any major aggression by China across any part of the Line of Actual Control would be another such event requiring a strategic overhaul.
- India may also be forced to rethink if Russia turns more belligerent over the payment problem or withhold

supplies of defence hardware to India under pressure from China.

- Equally, any decision by the U.S. and Europe to “force a choice” on India: to go forward with unilateral sanctions for the increase in Russian oil inflows processed at the Rosneft-owned refinery in Gujarat, or through the old threat of Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act-Related Sanctions (CAATSA) for India’s acquisition of the Russian S-400 missile systems.



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