White-bellied- go-away bird is an African bird, named after its call that consists of a loud "gwaa" and sounds like 'go away'.



India This Week

News and Views

Isha Gore, AIS Vas 1, XI B

hile we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning.



Nail-Free Tree campaign gains momentum

News: In accordance with the 2013 order by National Green Tribune, which prohibits trees from News: According to a recent report published in being used to support billboards or banners, Maha- South Asia Journal, Tamil Nadu's capital city, rashtra Cabinet Minister, Satej Patil has launched Chennai, has topped the world in CCTV surveilthe Nail Free Tree campaign in the district of Kol- I lance by having the maximum CCTV coverage, that hapur. As part of this campaign, over 50 organisa- *i* is 657 cameras per square kilometre and per 1,000 tions participated to remove nails, strings and population. The Tamil Nadu government plans on billboards from over 100 trees. Kolhapur is known installing more CCTV devices that will have conto be a nature-rich city with unique-biodiversity. nectivity with control rooms for live streaming Views: We humans tend to forget that trees have | under the Nirbhaya Fund and has also sanctioned senses as well, not just the uses we try to exhaust I funds for the maintenance of these cameras. them of. The nails, panels, wires, angles, iron brack- Views: CCTV cameras are of utmost importance, ets that are hit on the trees adversely affect their especially in a highly populated country like India growth. Each protrusion hammered into trees interrupts the circulation of water, sugar and other valu- I creasing one's sense of security, and reducing the able nutrients, thereby damaging them. Trees in the I work of officials during investigations. All this cities have become a free advertising space for would make the city feel like a safer place for its many, and to put an end to this menace, I truly be- people. The government, however, needs to be conlieve that this campaign is of great value.

Ojaswi Pipania, AIS Vas 1, XI C



The most CCTV scrutinised city globally

sistent with the maintenance of the cameras.

Vidushi Jaiswal, AIS Vas 1, XI B



News: The alerts of bird flu was sounded in Rajasthan, after the detection of avian virus in around 300 crow carcasses found in regions like Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, etc. The virus was discovered when samples from these carcasses were sent to the National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal. The Animal Husbandry Department has set up a state-level control room and sent its teams to the districts for effective monitoring in the state.

Views: This virus is a huge threat to the poultry industry in Ajmer and the Bharatpur bird sanctuary, which receive hundreds of migratory birds this time of the year. The state level control- room is an important monitoring measure, but to overcome this, precautionary measures are needed to be taken both by the government and the concerned industries.





R-Day celebrations to go low-key

News: In a bid to maintain the overall traditional Anushri Malik, AIS Vas 1, XI B | character in compliance with the strict social distancing protocols necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Republic Day parade will undergo certain variations. According to an official, the parade will begin from Vijay Chowk but will culminate at the National Stadium instead of I the Red Fort, covering a distance of 3.3 km as compared to the normal 8.2 km. The duration of the parade will be shorter, and so will be the number of marching contingents, spectators and the much-awaited cultural performances.

> **Views:** With the fear of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the discovery of the new Coronavirus variant, the initiatives that the government is taking are both prudent and crucial. I am absolutely in favour of these measures, such as cut-I ting down the distance of the parade to almost half and reducing the spectator strength from 115,000 to 25,000. These changes may come off as a little disappointing but since safety is foremost in these times, this is the closest we can get to celebrating Republic Day as we do every year.

> > Shilpi Singh, AIS Vas 1, XI D

Around The V 🌍 R L I

GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe

NETHERLANDS

Last EU country to start vaccination The Netherlands has become the last EU country to start the shots against COVID-19 for its citizens, using the vaccine made by Oxford and

AstraZeneca. Prime Minister Rutte has come under fire for his delayed reaction as the vaccination process started almost two weeks after everywhere else in Europe.

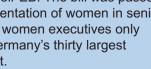


GERMANY

Women executives

In an effort to bridge the gender gap, the government of the

country has announced that German-listed companies with four or more executives must appoint at least one woman to their EB. The bill was passed to rectify the poor representation of women in senior positions in Germany as women executives only make up for 12.8% of Germany's thirty largest companies' management.







Mob storms Capitol

Four people died in the riot attacks when a mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol in Washington DC to halt a meeting meant to certify the election results, forcing the building into a lockdown. Various smaller Trump supporting crowds also gathered across the country to march to the statehouses in his support.

NIGER

Terrorist attack in the countr

Around 100 people were killed and 75 wounded in the villages of Tchoma Bangou and Zaroumadareye in the latest attack by terrorists in the jihadist-plagued Tillaberi region. The attack came right after the announcement of the first-round of presidential results where Mohamed Bazoum won and had promised to step up the fight against terrorism.

CHINA

First quantum network Combining over 700 optical fibers on ground and 2

ground-to-satellite links to achieve quantum key distribution for a distance of 4,600 km, the University of Science and Technology of China has established the world's first integrated guantum communication network. The team was led by scientist Jianwei Pan, Yuao Chen and Chengzhi Peng.

NEW ZEALAND

#1 in ICC test rankings

For the first time in ICC test ranking history, New Zealand has grabbed the top position. The spot was granted to them after the team defeated Pakistan by an innings and 176 runs in the second test match. Captain Kane Williamson also scored a double century, pushing NZ to become the sixth country in the past ten years to be ranked number one.

News ► UK: PM Johnson canceled his trip to India on Republic Day as the new strain of COVID-19 spreads in England ► Japan: State of emergency declared in Tokyo as COVID-19 cases surge <a>Iraq: Arrest warrant issued for Trump over Soleimani killing Flash