ARBIT it happens here...

#ARCHAEOLOGY

The famous railing from 'Titanic' has broken off

A 20-day subaquatic exploration relocated once-lost artifacts and documented ongoing decay.



high-definition mages offer unex pected finds and unfortunate updates at the site of the RMS Titanic's fina esting place eleased on September 2, the hotos come as the first maging and Research Expedition, undertaken by the ship's salvor-in-possession company RMS Titanic, Inc. in over 14 years. Notably, the docmentation confirms that one of the vessel's most iconic sec tions has succumbed to 112 years spent in the frigid North Atlantic waters, at a crushing depth of 12,500 feet below the cean's surface

More than 1.500 passen gers and crew aboard the Fitanic died while en route to York City from Southampton, UK, during the famous tragedy on April 15. 1912. Although, its exact vhereabouts were a mystery for years, an expedition led by Robert Ballard confirmed the luxury cruise liner's exact location in 1985. Since then, numerous explorers, experts, and tourists have made the frequently dangerous journey back down to document the historic archaeological site. In 1994, a US federal court granted sole 'salvor-in-possession' rights to RMS Titanic. Inc., which designated the company as the only organization legally permitted to recover artifacts from the wreck. The group and its affiliates have now overseen eight expeditions, the most recent of which took place over 20 days in July

According to an announcement on September 2, researchers amassed over "2 million of the highest resolution images and video to date" during their latest exploration. They also successfully mapped out the ship and its debris field using LiDAR, Sonar, as well as a hyper magnetometer, a device used to zero-in on metallic objects such as ship wreckage. It was with these tools that explorers managed to relocate one historic relic in particular that many thought was long gone, a 2 foot tall, bronze statue known as the *Diana of Versailles.* According to

Titanic researcher. James Penca, the Diana of Versailles served as a centerpiece in the

1 10 4



first-class passenger lounge widely considered to be the most beautiful and detailed space on the ship. "But unfortunately, when Titanic split in two during the sinking, the lounge got ripped open. And in the chaos and destruction, Diana got ripped off her man tle, and she landed in the darkness of the debris field." Penca told the BBC on August 1. Many experts theorized sediment or ocean current-scattered debris had since obscured the bronze bust. "To actually find it once again. half-buried on the ocean floor was like finding a needle in a havstack." Penca explained. The new discoveries also highlighted the ship's increasingly fragile remains. One of the Titanic wreckage's most recognizable features has long been the railing, surrounding the Bow's forecastle deck, a section also made famous in the 1997 film's "King of the World" scene by James Cameron, Based on images taken over the summer, however, a large section of the structure has broken off and fallen from the port side prow. Given previous expeditions' documentation, the team says that this must have occurred as recently as 2022. Time is certainly not on the side of the preservationists. Given the harsh ocean conditions and the destructive capabilities of metal-eating bacteria, some observers believe that the vast majority of the Titanic could decay within only a few decades.

TT NEW TOLLING





Run for Africa- and PART:1 **#MARINE-LIFE** Crude Oil & Petroleum Products Surprising Creatures **China takes it all!** In the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, plastic creates strange communities that bring coastal and open ocean animals together. mineral reserves. Around 60% of the total mining in Africa is of gold, which contributes to 22% of the world production. World's 55% of diamonds are mined in Africa. Africa will add 796 million people to the global workforce by 2050, as it will be home to the largest youngest population of the world. astics floating in a mas sive 'garbage patch' in the Pacific Ocean are home to strange new mixes of and marine coastal species that might increase the odds of biological invasions, wreaking havoo on nearby ecosystems Scientists have long known that critters such as worms, crustaceans and mollusks could make their home on plastic debris. Animals have even crossed the Pacific Ocean on these makeshift rafts after a devastating tsunami struck Japan in

Africa is becoming 'partner of choice' for developed countries on every thing, from growing their economies to protecting their borders. This is because Africa hosts 30% of the world's



Neelotpal Mishra

he Berlin Wes Africa Conference of 1884-1885 was a meeting at which the major European powers negotiated and formalized claims to territory in Africa. This started the scramble for Africa. Great

Britain, France, and Germany began looking to Africa for natural resources for their growing industrial sectors as well as a potential market for the goods that these factories produced. The governments thereon began to safeguard their commercial interests in Africa, and began to secure treaties from indigenous peoples or their supposed representatives. The same is in play today as Africa is becoming 'partner of choice' for developed countries on every thing, from growing their economies to protecting their borders. This is because Africa hosts 30% of the world's mineral reserves. Around 60% of the total mining in Africa is of gold, which contributes to 22% of the world production. World's 55% of diamonds are mined in Africa. Africa will add 796 million people to the global workforce by 2050, as it will be home to the largest youngest population of the world. Moreover, Africa is undergoing a major shift towards providing service rather than being dependent on agriculture and extraction of minerals. By 2040. Africa will have 31 cities with a population of more than 5 mil-

The African Landscape Today

🦳 hina, India, Japan, South └── Korea and the ASEAN share the African geopolitical space today with the US and EU. They also are major investors in Africa as well as providers of develop ment assistance. The US, which was focused on terrorism and other non-military threats after 9/11, is paying attention to Africa's new geopolitics. Russia is now engaging with Africa more than ever before, as are many other regional actors like Iran, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, who are taking a growing interest in African security.

Russia and China are seizing political, economic and military initiative in Africa in ways that could alter the global balance of power. Mainly, China and Russia apart from India, Japan and South Korea view Africa as an opportunity to be seized. From 2007 to 2017, the US trade with Africa dropped by 54% while China's trade grew by 220%. Russia's total investment in Africa is growing by 40% since 2015. In 2019, Russia held the first ever Russia-Africa summit, hosting 45 African Heads of State. China holds a similar event called the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. India organises CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership.

Sub-Saharan Africa is in the centre of the crescent or 'arc of instability,' stretching from the Andean region of Latin America across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and the Caucasus and lion. Currently, there are only 12. through the Northern parts of vulnerable to economic disruption, population stresses, civil conflict, and political instability, as increased profits from oil, gas and metals is used to entrench cor rupt, or, otherwise ill-equipped governments in several regions, liminishing the prospects for democratic and market-based reforms

South Asia. It remains the most

There is presence of foreign militaries in around 25 African countries. They often lease territories to foreign powers for mili tary bases, mainly for domestic economic gain. Countries are also seeking external help in dealing with their internal serious security challenges. The US drone attacks in Somalia have helped reduce al-Shabaab's capacity and French troops have contributed significantly in building the capacity of national armies in the Sahel and driving out jihadists. The competition among the various foreign militaries, to respond to hotspots in Africa, has led to a multiplicity of activities that overcrowd the security landscape, especially in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. This has also led to rivalry between foreign armies playing out in Africa, and may potentially have a destabilising impact on the continent

Corruption is high, press freedom low and climate change is severe in Africa. This is a fundamental threat to peace and security as it is a cause of conflict, generating new grievances in society

owned/ backed firms to get contracts for mining Globalization has created opportunities in African countries, but economies have not transformed enough to move away from dependence on raw materials to production. Thus, many remain on the bottom rungs of global supply chains.

to be a game changer. Africa is cur-

regions of the world than within

the continent. With a view of

increasing trade amongst African

countries, the African Union has

facilitated the creation *Africa*

Economic Zones Organization

rently trading more with the other

digital divide exists in Africa

estimated that \$88.6 billion

cent of Africa's GDP, leaves the

continent annually as illicit capi-

Apart from the Russian

Wagner Group, hired by the

others, South África's Dyck

Advisory Group was hired by the

Mozambican government to com-

bat Al-Shabaab jihadist violence

in Cabo Delgado in the north of

the country. US companies like

the CACI and Academi are among

the most prominent private mili

tary companies present on the

African continent. In addition to

Secopex, Great Britain's Aegis

these, the French company,

Defence Services & G4S, Omega

Consulting Group of Ukraine and

Xeless from Germany are also

active in Africa. Mostly, these

Private Military Companies fol-

low the resources for protection

arrangement by enabling their

Central African Republic amongst

tal flight.



Africa - Towards Growth and Prosperitva *Trade Agreement* has the potential

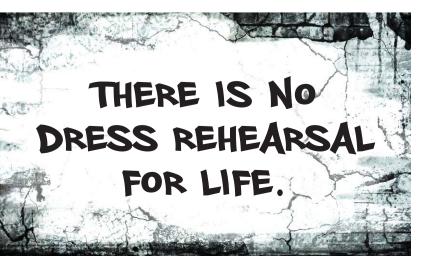
hirty-four countries, i.e. about 72 per cent of Africa's citizens, have improved their governance performance since 2010 in terms of participation, rule of law, rights, transparency and accountability. The grain yields have increased in Southern and

Eastern regions of Africa. and they are fast developing close trade and strategic ties with East and South Asian countries. This leads to that region being most stable and promising sub-region, politically and economically, with five African nations being among the top ten fastest growing economies. In this Age of Disruptions, the Continental Free

African Free Trade Zone and African Continental Free Trade Area Proposed highways and high speed railways to connect the African continent have been envisaged by the African Union. This would help accelerate growth and prosperity in the region. For the

first time, an African country

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



Emergency Services Day





China in Africa

or driving existing ones. Extreme 🤊 hina has emerged as Saharan 🔾 Africa's largest trading part Only 45% of the population use ner (exports and imports) in the mobile services and 26% use last 20 years, with one-fifth of the smartphones. Of these, 29% use region's total goods' exports and the single largest source of internet in comparison to 51% in the world. A 2020 UNCTAD report imports, after initiating its official 'go out' policy. which is equivalent of 3.7 per China is focusing on emerging

ithium supply centres, as this is a crucial metal used in electric vehicles. It is also focusing on Bauxite, Iron and Uranium. The maritime Silk Road is connecting China's eastern seaboard with the Indian Ocean littoral, by development of 47 ports in sub-Saharan Africa. Under the Digital Silk Route in Africa, Chinese provision digital infrastructures and solutions such as the Smart City and Safe City initiatives. The bundled solu tions address terrorism, crime and e-governance, thus, tying the beneficiaries to proprietary tech nologies and entrench Chinese technological standards, giving

firms China-Africa At the 2021 Cooperation Forum, China announced its first cutback in financial support to Africa, from \$60 billion to \$40 billion over three years. Currently, 22 African countries with low-income status are either already facing severe debt distress or are at a high risk of facing such distress. In addition, approximately 50% of China's lending to developing African countries is not included in official debt statistics Furthermore loans provided by China to

reported collecting additional

taxes worth 10.6 million through

the use of common reporting stan-

dard data. Around 23 countries are

party to the *Multilateral*

Administrative Assistance in Tax

are a crucial tool for peace and

security in Africa. This would

invariably lessen the dependency

of African countries on foreign

militaries and the UN. In almost

all multilateral peace operations

that were active, as of May 2023

in Africa, in many troubled

regions, AU forces are deployed

alongside UN force.

Africa led peace operations

Matters, to tackle tax evasion.

on Mutual

Convention

competitive advantage to Chinese



African countries come with high er interest rates of 4% compared to loans from Western sources. which are at 1%. Chinese projects often seem to go hand-in-hand with civil protests

Confucius institutes promote Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching internationally, and facilitate cultural exchanges. These are used as influence platforms and have a role as intelligence cover. A total of 61 Confucius institutes, 48 Confucius classrooms have been established in Africa. China launched a 2015 initiative to put satellite televisions in 10.000 African villages. These came with

ree, pre-loaded access to Chinese stations, pumping state-sponsored content

Over the last few years, it has emerged as the largest major Arms' Supplier to Sub-Saharan Africa. Around 40 African countries have some kind of agreement with Chinese public security agencies and extradition treaties with 13 African countries. A large number of African police and law enforcement personnel and magistrates have received training in China. In Africa, China operates overseas police stations in Benin City, Nigeria Maseru in Lesotho and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. With the help of these police posts service stations, the Chinese vernment is also influencing e elections in the respective ountries. Furthermore, these staions are controlling activities of the Overseas Chinese Diaspora.

Chinese companies collect nassive amounts of metadata. using which they better tailor their products and services to consumers, allowing them to gain influence to shape developments and policies in these markets. There is a possibility that such data would be passed on to African states with authoritarian tendencies to subvert democratic processes or control citizens. There also have been allegations of China hacking into computers the African Union's Headquarters in 2018.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

To be continued...



2011. But a new research adds two details that could be concerning for existing ecosystems. First, it finds that plastic is providing a home for coastal species to thrive in the open ocean, thousands of miles from shore. Second, some of these species are reproducing despite the alien environment

"It's probably one of the leastknown environments, the sea surface," says Martin Thiel, a Marine Biologist at Catholic University of the North in Chile, who was not involved in the new research. "It's a very, very particular community that we are disturbing now at a massive scale."

For the new study, researchers identified species living on just more than 100 pieces of plastic that were fished out of the so-called Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a region in the northern Pacific Ocean where currents converge to deposit an estimated 79,000 metric tons of plastic debris. The scientists identified 484 invertebrates from a surprising range of species on the plastic. Many of these animals were species that are more commonly found near coastlines of the western Pacific. These coastal species included 'moss animals' or brvozoans, jellyfish, sponges, worms and other organisms

"I just remember the first time (study co-author) Jim (Carlton of Williams College and Mystic Seaport Museum) and I pulled out a piece of plastic and saw the level of coastal species present. We were just blown away," says Linsey Haram, lead author of the study. Haram, who was a research associate with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre during the study, specializes in marine ecology.

"Nearly all the debris hosted pelagic, or open ocean species. which makes sense, considering





ppen ocean

that weathering on much of the plastic suggested that it had spent several years at sea. But all told about 70 per cent of the debris, that the researchers analysed, carried at least one species, usually found in coastal waters, a much higher tally than Haram and her colleagues expected going into the work," she

And as they looked closer, the scientists found that some two thirds of the debris pieces were home to coastal and open ocean species, living side-by-side. Plastic isn't just carrying coastal species out to sea, it's also creating unnatural neighbourhoods, that the researchers call 'neopelagic communities.

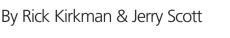
"What's new, the 'neo' part of that, is that we now, likely because of plastics, are seeing coastal species and

"And these unnatural commun ties may come at a cost for traditional open ocean residents that are used to living on natural debris," she adds, 'because coastal creatures could be competing for space and food, or could even be eating their neighbours." Haram and her colleagues found signs that these coastal species were reproducing. For instance, they found insect like arthropods tending to clutches of eggs and anemones sprouting little clones of themselves, indicators that suggest that relocations aided by plastic aren't necessari-

these native pelagic species together,

take root.

and seabirds.





LEGS.



interacting quite frequently on debris," Haram says. "We're essential v creating new communities in the

ly temporary. And the plastic in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch doesn't necessarily stay there but can. instead, wash up on foreign beaches. where transplanted species might

"If you can reproduce, then, you can spread. And if you can spread you can invade," says Linda Amaral-Zettler, a Marine Microbiologist at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, who was not involved in the new study. "You're not just a dead end, vou're not just hitchhik ing and then perishing at the end of it." She hopes that the research serves as a warning that plastic may be facilitating species invasions, par ticularly between widespread coastal ecosystems. The new work highlights a different way that the flood of plastic is interfering with the natural environment, one beyond the well-publicized harm which it does to species such as fish, turtles

