

Leaders of many faiths have joined hands to save a hill that the Jain community considers sacred. For over a week now, Jains across Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi, have been organising peaceful protests. The outcry is against a Jharkhand government decision that could change the demographic of visitors to Samed Sikharji at Parasnath Parvat (hill), Giridih district, taking it from a “place of pilgrimage” to a “religious tourist destination.”

The protesters demand that the Jharkhand government revoke its decision to promote Parasnath Parvat “as a part of ecotourism or any kind of tourism.” They feel this will disrupt the sanctity of the hill dotted with temples. It is believed that 20 of the 24 Tirthankaras (enlightened beings) attained moksha (salvation) here. The hill itself is named after Parasnath, the 23rd Tirthankara. Every year thousands of Jain pilgrims from across the world undertake a 27 km long trek to reach the summit.

The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry on Monday proposed an amendment to bring online gaming within the ambit of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The proposal, released for public consultation, requires all online games to register with any self-regulatory body approved by the Ministry.

A majority of four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday found no flaw in the Union government’s process to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes through a Gazette notification issued on November 8, 2016. The sole woman judge on the five member Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, however, disagreed with the majority, saying the government’s notification issued under Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act was unlawful.

8.3 percentage, the rate of unemployment in India in December, the highest in 2022, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The unemployment rate during November was at 8%, while in September it was the lowest at 6.43%, CMIE data stated. The share of unemployment was the highest in Haryana (37.4%).

83 percentage rises in circulation of currency, six years after the move to ban 86% of the cash in circulation (demonetisation), according to official data. The value of the currency in circulation stood at ₹32.42 lakh crore as on December 23, 2022, compared to ₹17.74 lakh crore worth of notes in circulation on November 4, 2016, the RBI said.

11 percentage, Coal India Ltd’s (CIL) coal supply to the power sector in April-December of FY 2022-23. It rose to 432.7 million tonnes (MT) from a supply of 390.2 MT in the year ago period. The supply to the nonpower sector last month was 10.5 MT due to increased output. CIL’s output in

BLOCKCHAIN TO BE USED TO PUSH FARM EXPORTS

1. NITI Aayog has launched a pilot project using blockchain technology, in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh government, on apple farming that will be replicated for other products such as grapes, mangoes etc. India ranks second in fruits and vegetable production in the world, after China, but its share in global fruits and vegetable market is just 1%. Lack of quality produce and traceability has hampered India’s food exports apart from disincentivising growers.
2. **Blockchain will** help bridge this gap by removing redundant processes, ensuring quality control and monitoring produce across entire storage and supply chain. IoT sensors will be used to generate crop data and its storage, distribution of grown crops to food processing companies, supply of processed food to wholesalers and retailers and its storage.
3. **Other opportunities of using blockchain technology in agriculture Self-executing smart contracts:** Especially in agricultural insurance, green bonds, and traceability, together with automated payments. Land registrations: To provide an incorruptible ledger of land records. Supply chains: To provide an immutable record from farm to retail store. Streamline subsidy distribution: Direct payments without need for documents or multiple points of authorization.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (NCW) ISSUES ADVISORY TO ENSURE SAFETY OF WOMEN IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Chief Secretaries of all the States and UTs are advised to direct all coaching institutes/educational institution to: Ensure strict implementation of ‘Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013’ (also referred to as PoSH Act). Conduct awareness programmes for better reporting of cases. Conduct a background check on those responsible for running coaching centres.
2. PoSH Act was enacted for making workplaces safer for women by preventing, prohibiting, and redressing acts of sexual harassment against them in the workplace. Act is based on Vishaka guidelines laid down by Supreme Court in 1997.
3. **Features of PoSH Act:** Defines sexual harassment at workplace and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. Wide definition of aggrieved woman to cover all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and whether in organized or unorganized sectors, public or private, and covers clients, customers and domestic workers as well.
4. **An Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** is mandatory in every private or public organisation that has 10 or more employees. District Officer to constitute Local Committee to receive complaints from organisations with less than 10 workers or if complaint is against the employer itself.

FIRE AFTER BLAST AT NASHIK CHEMICAL PLANT LEAVES TWO WORKERS DEAD

1. According to Minister of Labour and Employment, 6,500 employees died on duty at factories, ports, mines, and construction sites in five years. Major Reasons behind Industrial Accidents in India Relaxed inspections and licensing to allow self-certification. Low investment in health and safety by companies.
2. Old and decrepit machinery with lack of training to workers for operating machinery. Shortage of health and safety inspectors with issues of corruption in administration of safety laws. Industries in small and medium sectors lacks ability to invest in industrial safety. Provisions to deal with industrial accidents Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code to regulate health and safety conditions of workers in establishments with 10 or more workers, and in all mines and docks.
3. NDMA guidelines on chemical disasters. Doctrine of absolute liability propounded in M.C. Mehta v. UOI (Oleum Gas leak case), 1986 Under this, enterprises engaged in hazardous or inherently dangerous activities shall be liable for compensation if any accident in its operation results in escape of toxic substances. Environment

April December 2022-23 increased to 479 MT from 413.6 MT in the year ago period.

XBB.1.5 is a recombinant, which means its genome is the product of the genomes of two different strains spliced together. In the U.S., it accounted for 40.5% of all new cases by December 30. XBB.1.5 could be more transmissible than its immediate ancestors. And so far, it does not appear to be able to cause severe disease. Experts say that with the hybrid immunity in India, no sub lineage is likely to cause a fresh wave.

Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on a recent census to ensure each seat has an almost equal number of voters. While delimitation exercise was undertaken across the country between 2002 and 2008, it was not carried out in Assam and four other States after 1976 by citing various reasons. Despite constituting a Delimitation Commission in 2020, the ECI's decision to use the 2001 Census data and citing of Section 8A of the Representation of People Act, 1950 have raised hackles.

More than two years after Ladakh became a Union Territory, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a high-powered committee headed by Minister of State Nityanand Rai to "ensure protection of land and employment" for the people of Ladakh. The 17-member committee that includes Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R.K. Mathur will "discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and its strategic importance", an order by MHA said.

In a sign of escalating conflict between the government and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) over the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022, panel Chairperson Harsh Chouhan on Monday said its position on the new rules being violative of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 "will be the same" even as the Environment Ministry has dismissed these concerns.

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that there is an imperative need for the Union and State governments to change the nomenclature 'ex-servicemen' to 'ex-service personnel' to make it gender neutral in tune with ever evolving, dynamic tenets of the fundamental right to equality before law guaranteed under the Constitution.

Relief Fund, a central fund under Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, to provide immediate relief to victims of chemical disasters.

50 OF INDIA'S 3,693 CENTRALLY PROTECTED MONUMENTS (CPMs) MISSING

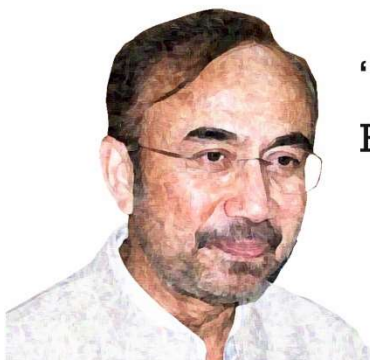
1. Finding is part of a submission made by Ministry of Culture (MoC) to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for a report titled 'Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India'. As per Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), these monuments have become untraceable due to rapid urbanisation, submergence by reservoirs/dams, difficulties in tracing in remote locations, non-availability of their proper location etc.
2. ASI, an attached office of MoC, is in charge of protection and maintenance of CPMs which have been declared so under provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958. Also, National Monuments Authority (NMA) is responsible for protection of such sites through management of prohibited and regulated area around CPMs. NMA, under MoC, has been setup under provisions of AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.
3. **Recommendations by Standing Committee**-Physical survey of all CPMs must mandatorily be carried out by ASI from time to time. Thorough assessment of security requirements and budgetary allocation required for the same. Involving Local Panchayats and police in safeguarding monuments. Use satellite imagery to try and trace monuments which are untraceable at present.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCY (HEFA)

1. HEFA has fallen way short of government's target of mobilising Rs 1 lakh crore by 2022. HEFA is a joint venture between Union Ministry of Education and Canara Bank to finance infrastructure development in premier educational institutions through long-term loans. HEFA was set up as a non-profit Non-Banking Financing Company (NBFC).
2. Government had expanded scope of HEFA in 2018 under Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education or RISE by 2022 initiative, bringing Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, medical institutions etc. under its ambit. HEFA was also made nodal body in infrastructure financing in the education sector.

INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND (IEPF)

1. IEPF will launch an outreach programme to create awareness of cryptocurrencies and online gaming. IEPF was created, under Companies Act, 2013, to protect investors' interests and promote awareness.
2. IEPF is utilised for: Refund in respect of unclaimed dividends, matured deposits, matured debenture etc. Reimbursement of legal expenses incurred by members, debenture holders or depositors.
3. IEPF is administered by the IEPF Authority consisting of a chairperson, a chief executive officer and such other members, not exceeding seven, appointed by the Central Government.



"I know there will be a day when gravity will win. But I get up every day and I would have defeated her every single day of my life."

DR. KHAN
(KSG)