

Japan will pay up to one million yen (approximately ₹6 lakh) per child to families if they move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area. The impact of emigration from rural to urban spaces has been felt sharply in rural areas the most, where the number of local community members have decreased, leading to a shrinkage in local and small scale economic opportunities. The Regional Revitalisation Migration Support project provides subsidies to people living or working in the 23 wards of Tokyo to move out of the Tokyo metropolitan area and start a business or work.

With residents of the Joshimath town reporting frequent landslips and hundreds of houses in the hill town in Uttarakhand developing cracks, the district administration has issued orders to stop all construction work. The Tapovan Vishnugad hydropower project of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), work on the Helang bypass of the Border Roads Organisation and the operation of the Auli ropeway, one of Asia's longest, were stopped. With houses in Joshimath developing dangerous cracks, allegedly due to the construction activity, residents are in panic.

A parliamentary panel has asked the government to clarify how many of the 66 proposals received under the Affordable Rental Housing Scheme launched for the urban poor, especially migrant workers, during the COVID-19 pandemic have been approved by the respective urban bodies. The Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ministry had informed Parliament that 66 proposals had been received from public and private entities for the construction of 1,02,019 units in 18 States and Union Territories which are being evaluated by the respective urban local bodies and are in the process of getting approvals.

Amid push to upgrade facilities at the strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which gives India leverage to keep an eye on China's expansion in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday reviewed the "operational preparedness" of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and infrastructure development at operational areas.

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Thursday held the 36th round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Bonne. Mr. Bonne's visit was the first major diplomatic visit of the New Year, and according to a statement from the Embassy of France in India, both participants agreed to intensify efforts "towards strategic autonomy". "The two sides held discussions on a variety of issues, including the current global security situation in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, regional security in the context of Afghanistan, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, besides other issues of mutual concern," the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi, said.

DRAFT NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY RELEASED FOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

1. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released the 'Draft Statement on Industrial Policy 2022 Make in India for the world' for stakeholder consultation. This will be the third industrial policy after first in 1956 and next in 1991.
2. It will replace Industrial policy, 1991 which was prepared in backdrop of balance of payment crisis. Industrial policy refers to government efforts to support particular industries that are considered strategically important, such as manufacturing. Proposed policy aimed at addressing issues and challenges of industry through certain policy measures to foster and create an innovative and competitive industrial ecosystem in country.
3. **Key highlights of Policy**-Create Indian premium international brands and showcase it as an attractive investment destination through: Universal Enterprise ID for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to strengthen their credit rating mechanism. MSME cluster financing models. Start-up Innovation Zones at Urban Local Bodies level etc. Incentivising public procurement to promote Make in India, create national digital grid, develop robust data protection regime etc. Strengthen export finance systems for enhancing export competitiveness.

11 STATES/UTS JOIN NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM (NSWS) FOR VEHICLE SCRAPPING

1. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways stated that 11 states/UTs have been onboarded onto NSWS for Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program (V-VMP) to attract private investment in vehicle scrapping ecosystem. 11 states/UTs include Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Chandigarh.
2. NSWS was created by Department of Industry and Internal Trade. V-VMP or Vehicle Scrapping Policy came into effect from April 1, 2022. It aims to create an ecosystem for phasing out of unfit and polluting vehicles in an eco-friendly manner.
3. **Key Highlights of V-VMP**-Provides for fitness tests after 20 years for personal vehicles, while commercial vehicles will require it after completion of 15 years. Setting up of Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) for environment friendly scrapping of vehicles, enhance value recovery from scrapped vehicles etc. Encouraging public and private investment to formalize vehicle scrapping industry.
4. Replacing End-of-Life Vehicles to achieve better fuel efficiency, reduce vehicular air pollutants etc. It does not treat a vehicle as scrap just because of its age, but considers other factors like quality of brakes, engine performance.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MOHFW) REVIEW ELIMINATION OF KALA-AZAR

1. As per MoHFW, there has been a 98.7 percent decline in cases of Kala-azar from 44,533 in 2007 to 834 in 2022 in India. Kala-azar (Black Fever Disease) is a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) caused by a protozoan parasite of genus Leishmania and spread by infected female sandfly bites. In India, Leishmania donovani is the only parasite causing the disease.
2. It is considered as the second deadliest parasitic killer in world after Malaria. It is endemic in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. India contributes 11.5 percent of total cases reported globally. It is a treatable and curable disease. Anti-leishmanial medicines are available for treatment.
3. **Steps taken to elimination of Kala-azar by 2023**-National Kala Azar Elimination Programme was launched to control this disease. National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) for prevention and control of Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, etc.
4. NTDs are a diverse group of 20 conditions that are mainly prevalent in tropical areas, where they mostly affect more than 1 billion people living in impoverished communities.

PUNJAB, HARYANA FAIL TO REACH CONSENSUS ON SUTLEJ-YAMUNA LINK (SYL) CANAL ISSUE

1. SYL canal issues continues to remain unresolved as both states have failed to reach any settlement over water-sharing of Ravi and Beas rivers. SYL is a 214-km long canal for sharing waters of Ravi and Beas rivers between Haryana and Punjab, of which 122 km was to be in Punjab and 92 km in Haryana.

The decennial census exercise has been postponed till September, at least, as the government informed the States that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries has been extended till June 30. As per norms, census can be conducted only three months after freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas, and police stations. The finalisation of boundaries of administrative units entails covering all jurisdictional changes between two consecutive censuses. The last census was held in 2011.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered Moscow's armed forces to hold a 36-hour ceasefire in Ukraine this weekend for the Russian Orthodox Christmas holiday, the Kremlin said.

₹12,882 crore, the amount approved by the Union government for the continuation of schemes by the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the rest of the 15th Finance Commission. The DoNER Minister said that the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme will be ₹8,139.5 crore.

18,000 number of people to be fired from the workforce of Amazon, according to CEO Andy Jassy. Mr. Jassy cited "the uncertain economy" and the fact that the online retail giant had "hired rapidly" during the pandemic for the layoffs.

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹19,744 crore National Green Hydrogen mission that aims to make India a 'global hub' for using, producing, and exporting green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is when hydrogen is produced via electrolysis, the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen with electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind. This is the most environmentally sustainable way of producing hydrogen. Green hydrogen development is still in the nascent stages globally and while India can take the lead in being a major producer, it does not have the necessary infrastructure yet to execute all intermediary steps.

As the stalemate surrounding the Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal — the focal point of a water sharing dispute between Haryana and Punjab — continues, the political parties are involved in a war of words over the emotive issue.

- It was planned in 1966 after Haryana was carved out of Punjab. Haryana completed its stretch of SYL Canal in 1980, while Punjab kept citing Riparian Principles and non-availability of its water. Riparian Principles states that owner of land adjacent to a water body has the right to use water.
- Punjab also argues that many areas in state may go dry after 2029 due to over-exploitation of groundwater. Haryana argues that its southern parts of state are facing water problem due to depleted groundwater. Haryana has been denied its rightful share in water as assessed by Eradi Tribunal, 1987.
- Constitutional provisions relating to Water-State list:** Entry 17 (Water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage etc.). Union list: Entry 56 (Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys). Article 262: Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers. In exercise of power conferred by Article 262, Parliament enacted Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

CENTRE APPROVES NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION (NGHM) WITH INITIAL OUTLAY OF ₹19,744 CRORE

- NGHM aims to make India a Global Hub for production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. Green Hydrogen is hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity.
- Outlay includes ₹17,490 crore for SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition) Programme. SIGHT programme provides two distinct financial incentive mechanisms i.e., Targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and Production of Green Hydrogen. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will formulate scheme guidelines for implementation.
- Features of NGHM**-Development of an enabling policy framework for: Supporting establishment of Green Hydrogen ecosystem. Robust Standards and Regulations. Public-private partnership for R&D (Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership – SHIP) etc. Coordinated skill development programme under Mission.
- Expected Mission Outcomes by 2030**-Development of Green Hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum. Renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in country. Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions. Over ₹1,00,000 crore cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports.

DELHI POLICE USED DNA MITOCHONDRIAL PROFILING TO ESTABLISH THE VICTIM IDENTITY

- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) profiling is a method used by forensics scientists to examine biological items of evidence from crime scenes to determine mtDNA sequence from samples such as hair, bones, and teeth. Typically, these items contain low concentrations of degraded DNA, making them unsuitable for nuclear DNA examinations.
- mtDNA is circular, double stranded, and inherited maternally. It is found in mitochondria - a subcellular organelle located within the cell and functions to produce energy (powerhouse of cell) for various tissues of body.
- It can play an important role in missing person investigations, mass disasters etc. with limited biological material (or Nuclear DNA) as: Mitochondrial division is disassociated from cellular division and is stimulated by energy demand, i.e., cells with greater energy requirement have greater number of these organelle.
- Also, it has high copy number as most human cell contain hundreds of mtDNA genomes copies against two copies of Nuclear DNA in nucleus. High copy number increases the likelihood of recovering sufficient DNA from samples even if they are highly degraded by environment or time.



“Let your dream be more powerful than your fear.”

DR. KHAN
(KSG)