

The founder of social media website Pixstory, Appu Esthose Suresh, presented his pitch for a network driven by 'positivity' at the Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday evening, before the Premier League match between Arsenal and Manchester United. Mr. Suresh's firm clinched a deal with Arsenal as the football team's "Official Social Media Partner." "Everyone who joins the platforms gets a base integrity score," Mr. Suresh said. This score increases as users contribute content and add information about themselves. The site says on its website that it promotes "transparency, integrity, and decency in which users are held accountable to the truth."

The Constitutional Conduct Group, which includes nearly 100 former civil servants, has written to President Droupadi Murmu protesting the government's push for a mega infrastructure project on the Great Nicobar Island. The Union Environment Ministry in November gave an in principle clearance for the diversion of 130.75 sq. km. of forest in Great Nicobar island for a ₹72,000-crore project that includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant and a Greenfield township. This is one of the largest single forest diversions in recent times.

India's financial sector is highly exposed to the risks of the economy transitioning from being largely dependent on fossil fuel to clean energy, says a study in the Global Environmental Change journal, published last week. An analysis of individual loans and bonds found that 60% of the lending to the mining sector was for oil and gas extraction, while one-fifth of the manufacturing sector debt is for petroleum refining and related industries. Electricity production — by far the largest source of carbon emissions — accounted for 5.2% of outstanding credit, but only 17.5% of this lending is to pure play renewables.

In a sign of escalating tensions between the Executive and the Judiciary, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said most people had "sane views," similar to the one expressed by a retired High Court judge, who said the Supreme Court had "hijacked" the Constitution by deciding to appoint judges by itself. Mr. Rijiju took to Twitter to share a video interview of the former Delhi High Court judge, Justice R.S. Sodhi (retired), and called it the "voice of a judge."

India's foreign trade data for the first eight months of 2022-23 have been significantly revised, with the import bill being scaled up or down by at least two billion dollars in each of those months, in comparison to the preliminary estimates issued by the Union Commerce Ministry. The total merchandise exports between April and November are now pegged at \$298.3 billion, nearly \$12 billion higher than what the original monthly data suggested. The import bill in those eight months is now estimated at \$493.5 billion, about \$1.7 billion higher than the initial numbers. The trade deficit in the first eight months of the year is \$10 billion lower than indicated by adding up monthly preliminary estimates.

POOR INFRASTRUCTURE, STAFF CRUNCH CONTINUES TO PLAGUE HEALTHCARE IN RURAL INDIA: CENTRE

1. According to the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's Rural Health Statistics 2021-2022, India's rural healthcare system continues to be plagued by a shortfall on two critical fronts – doctors and infrastructure.
2. **The Indian healthcare system is divided into: Sub-centres (SC):** These are the first point of contact for a patient, catering to a population of 3,000-5,000. Primary Health Centres (PHC): SC is succeeded by a PHC, which is required to look after the daily needs of 20,000-30,000 people (50,000-75,000 in urban areas). Community Health Centres (CHC): They provide referrals and access to specialists, catering to 80,000-120,000 people (0.25-0.5 million in urban areas).
3. **Key highlights of the Rural Health Statistics 2021-2022:** There is a shortage of 83.2% of surgeons, 74.2% of obstetricians and gynaecologists, 79.1% of physicians and 81.6% of paediatricians. Less than half the PHC (45%) function on a 24x7 basis. Of the 5,480 functioning CHCs, only 541 have all four specialists. SC, PHC and CHC facilities are overburdened across the board, with SCs currently looking after more than 5,000 people, PHCs catering to 36,049 people and CHCs to 164,027 people.
4. This, coupled with a human resource shortage (like auxiliary nurse midwives – ANM), plagues access to adequate and quality healthcare. The shortage was most pronounced in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand. SCs, PHCs and CHCs had more staff in 2021, at the height of the deadly second wave of COVID-19, as compared to now.
5. **Some of the government initiatives to transform rural healthcare:** Under Ayushman Bharat, the existing SCs and PHCs are being transformed into AB-Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) to deliver preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services which are universal, free and close to the community.
6. **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)** envisages increased investments in public health to provide better access to health in rural areas by: Strengthening of HWCs in villages and cities for early detection of diseases. Support for Block Public Health Units (BPHU) in 11 high-focus States. Integrated district public health laboratories in all districts, etc. National Ambulance Service under National Health Mission (NHM) for free transportation to health facilities.

ALIEN PLANTS GROWING TOGETHER THREATENING TIGER HABITATS

1. According to a study conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), several alien invasive plants (like Lantana Camara, Parthenium hysterophorous, Prosopis juliflora, etc) growing together can have a detrimental effect on the biodiversities in tiger habitats.
2. **Invasive species:** Invasive/introduced/alien/exotic species are any non-native species that significantly modify or disrupt the ecosystem it colonises. Such species may arrive in new areas through natural migration, but they are often introduced by the activities of other species like Humans.
3. **Background:** The study was conducted in Kanha Tiger Reserve (MP), comparing uninvaded native forests with old-growth invasions of single and multiple alien plants. India's biodiverse ecosystems are threatened by a variety of alien plants, introduced during British colonisation. Lantana alone has pervasively invaded 44% of India's forests. Apart from their spread in different ecosystems, little is known and even greater confusion when one asks about how alien plants impact native ecosystems.
4. **Highlights of the study:** Co-occurring invasive plants have a magnified cumulative impact than their individual impacts, causing ecological homogenisation in invaded regions. Multiple alien species together affected soil nutrients and the abundance of rich grasses and herbs. Depletion of the native plant populations → Reduced forage availability for herbivores like sambar and chital → diseases in the herbivores → threaten the sustenance of tiger, leopard, and dhole.

CENTRE ISSUES GUIDELINES TO SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS TO REGULATE PROMOTIONS

1. The Centre has released endorsement guidelines for celebrities and social media influencers that mandate compulsory disclosure of monetary or material benefits of a product or a brand they are promoting through their social media platforms. The new guidelines emphasize the increased risk of consumers being misled by

₹4.5 lakh crore, the cost overruns for 343 infrastructure projects out of 1,438 projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). The original cost for the implementation of projects was ₹20.35 lakh crore. The latest completion cost is ₹24.86 lakh crore.

13 number of people killed, including children, authorities, and media in a building collapse in Syria's war-torn city of Aleppo. A Kurdish news agency said five children were among the dead. A war monitor said that they were all Syrians displaced during more than a decade of fighting in the country. The five-storey building collapsed in the early hours of the day.

407 Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) on Sunday, declining from 294 on Saturday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). However, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) chose not to invoke curbs in view of a prediction of "immediate improvement."

Promising to bring its visa staff across the U.S. Embassy and five consulates in India back up to full strength in the next few months, the U.S. on Sunday said it was launching a "surge" in staffing and several other measures to increase visa processing capacity across the country.

At the annual police meet that concluded on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested prison reforms to improve the jail management, and recommended repealing obsolete criminal laws. Mr. Modi attended the 57th All India Conference of Directors-general and Inspectors General of Police organised by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) on Saturday and Sunday. A government statement said the Prime Minister suggested making the police forces more sensitive and training them in emerging technologies. He emphasised the importance of the National Data Governance Framework for smoothing of data exchange across agencies.

The Supreme Court has sought response from commercial tax authorities in a petition challenging the legality of provisions in the Kerala Goods and Services Tax (GST) law which allows assessment, levy, and collection of tax under the repealed Value Added Tax (VAT) regime. A Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta recently protected traders, including the lead petitioner, T.S. Belaraman, represented by advocate S. Mahesh Sahasranaman, who were affected by the levy of tax under the VAT system.

advertisements and unfair trade practices by some individuals on social media platforms. Non-disclosure of brand affiliations by influencers may invite a penalty of up to Rs 50 lakh.

2. **'Endorsement'?** Endorsements are a form of advertising that uses famous personalities or celebrities who command a high degree of recognition, trust, respect, or awareness among the people. Advertisers and clients hope such approval, or endorsement by a celebrity, will influence buyers favourably. For example, Sachin Tendulkar endorsing motorcycles and biscuits can influence young men or children who look up to him as a role model.
3. **How often do we follow influencers?** A report by iCubesWire Survey, a digital media marketing company, suggests that a major percentage of Indians choose brands based on the suggestions by influencers. 34 per cent of the respondents of the survey said they buy products or services after watching the social media posts of influencers. This content can be in the form of reels on Instagram or videos on popular social media platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, among others.
4. **Disclose:** Individuals/groups who have access to an audience and the power to affect their audiences' purchasing decisions or opinions about a product, service, brand, or experience, because of the influencer 's/celebrity ' s authority, knowledge, position, or relationship with their audience.

KERALA'S WAYANAD BECOMES THE FIRST DISTRICT IN THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE BASIC DOCUMENTS TO ALL TRIBAL PEOPLE

1. Wayanad becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance to all tribespeople.
2. **Works done by the administration:** ABCD campaign organised by the Wayanad district administration for people's awareness. Collaboration with different departments: It organised over 26 campaigns across the district so far with the support of the Revenue and Tribal Development departments, District IT Mission, and local administrative bodies. Ensuring basic documents to all citizens belonging to the Scheduled Tribes communities and these documents are digitalised and saved in DigiLocker accounts opened for them.
3. **Benefits:** People (mostly tribal) can avail themselves of the government incentives. It will save them the time and effort of visiting several offices. Digitalising the documents through DigiLocker will help the beneficiaries easily retrieve the documents in case they are lost or damaged. Build trust between people and the government.

SC REFUSES GOOGLE STAY ON CCI ORDER ON ₹1,337 CRORE PENALTY

1. The Supreme Court refused to stay the order passed by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) directing Google to deposit 10% of a penalty of ₹1,337 crore imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
2. **Issue about-**Google abused its dominant position in the Android ecosystem (anti-competitive practices) by mandating the pre-installation of Google mobile services including Search, YouTube, Maps, etc. As per CCI, Google cannot force equipment manufacturers to pre-install Google's app. It cannot restrict uninstalling its pre-installed apps.
3. **About NCLAT:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal is a tribunal which was formed by the Central Government of India under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013, for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June 2016. NCLT is a body having original Jurisdiction. NCLAT is a body having Appellate Jurisdiction.



"One thing you should never lose
- is your locus of control."

DR. KHAN
(KSG)