

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

16TH AUGUST 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

A day after several organisations in Nagaland observed Naga Independence Day, Governor R.N. Ravi said Nagaland has been and shall ever remain an integral part of India. His statement coincided with a 24hour shutdown called by an apex Naga civil society organisation across the Naga inhabited areas to protest an order by the government in adjoining Manipur to hoist the Tricolour in all villages on the Independence Day.

In his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a ₹100 lakh crore "Gati Shakti" infrastructure plan with great fanfare. He made no mention of the fact that the same scheme has turned up in his last two Independence Day speeches as well. In fact, several initiatives announced on Sunday seem to be a rehash of previously launched schemes, some as old as two years ago.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday lamented the "sorry state of affairs" of lawmaking and Parliamentary debate in the country, saying there was "a lot of ambiguity in laws" which was triggering litigation and causing inconvenience to citizens, courts and other stakeholders. Speaking on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day celebrations held at the Supreme Court lawns, Chief Justice Ramana rued how the standards of lawmaking had fallen over the years.

A delegation of seven Ministers met VicePresident and Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu and demanded action against some Opposition members for what the government described as "unprecedented, extreme and violent acts" in the House on August 11, the concluding day of the monsoon session of Parliament. The meeting came just a day after Mr. Naidu visited Parliament House to review video footage of the proceedings, including the alleged scuffle between the Opposition members and the marshals while the General Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021, was being passed.

Where there's a will there's a way. A team of people with disabilities embarked upon a journey to trek the

INDIA NEEDS AND UPDATED FLOOD MAP

1.Recent occurrences of heavy rainfall leading to flooding across India have shown that flood-prone areas in the country go beyond those mentioned in the central monitoring map. The shift in the flooding patterns and frequencies demands an updated map of flood-prone areas, factoring in the impacts of climate change.

2.Flood Prone Areas in India: Regions susceptible to floods, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), **lie mostly along the Ganga-Brahmaputra river basin, from the northern states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, covering Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and stretching to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast.**The coastal states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, parts of Telangana and Gujarat also witness yearly floods.

3.Need of a New Map: Old Estimation: **The current demarcation is based on estimates made in 1980 by Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) or National Flood Commission formed four decades ago.** National Flood Commission, was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in 1976, to study India's flood-control measures after the projects launched under the National Flood Control Programme of 1954 failed to achieve much success.

OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE(ONDC)

1.The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry chaired a meeting for the review of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). What is ONDC? Open Network for Digital Commerce christened ONDC is **globally first-of-its-kind initiative that aims to democratise Digital Commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.** As UPI is to the digital payment domain, ONDC is to e-commerce in India.

2.ONDC will enable, buyers and sellers to be digitally visible and transact through an open network, no matter what platform/application they use. ONDC will empower merchants and consumers by breaking silos to form a single network to drive innovation and scale, transforming all businesses from retail goods, food to mobility.

3.Aims and objectives: ONDC aims at promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.

PRIME MINISTER SHRAM AWARDS

1.The Government of India has announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards (PMSA) for the year 2018. This year the Awards are given in three categories namely: Shram Bhushan Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/- each, Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs. 60,000/- each and Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards which carry a cash prize of Rs.40,000/- each.

2.About the Awards: The objective of the Prime Ministers Shram Awards is to recognize the outstanding contributions made by workmen in organizations both in public and private sector. **The Awards will be presented to the workmen as defined in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and employed in the Departmental Undertakings of the Central and State Governments,** Central and State Public Sector Undertakings as also private sector and having minimum of 500 employees on roll.

3.Eligibility: These awards are given to the workmen, **who have distinguished record of performance, devotion to duty of a high order, specific contribution in the field of productivity,** proven innovative abilities, presence of mind and exceptional courage. These are also given to the workmen who have made supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives in the conscientious discharge of their duties. Workmen solely engaged in routine service duties would not be eligible.

Siachen Glacier on Independence Day. They will attempt a world record for the largest group of people with disabilities to scale the highest battlefi eld in the world. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar flagged off the expedition, which is being executed by 'Team CLAW', a group of armed forces veterans working towards empowering people with disabilities.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Karnataka would implement the Mekedatu drinking water project despite opposition from neighbouring States. "The State government is awaiting the approval of the Centre on the Detailed Project Report on the Mekedatu drinking water project to utilise the additional water allocated by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and Supreme Court.

President Ashraf Ghani left Afghanistan on Sunday, joining his fellow citizens and foreigners in fleeing the advancing Taliban and signalling the end of a 20 year Western experiment aimed at remaking the country. The Taliban entered the capital Kabul earlier in the day, and an official with the militant group said it would soon announce the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from the presidential palace — a return rich in symbolism to the name of the country under the Taliban government ousted by the U.S.led forces after the 9/11 attacks.

In his eighth consecutive address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for making the next 25 years, in the runup to the centenary of India's Independence, a glorious one with "new thresholds, aspirations and dreams". He coined the phrase "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas" (With all, development for all, the trust of all, the striving of all).

India's security establishment was taken by surprise at the rapid pace with which the Taliban has taken over control of Afghanistan, a senior government source said. "We were surprised at the rapid gains made by the Taliban," the source said, even as a second source stated that India would operate more flights to Kabul to bring back stranded citizens in Afghanistan.

Amid repeated demands from the Opposition parties in Bihar and with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar joining

IPCC'S SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.Recently, IPCC released its Sixth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science". Several Indian Scientists have participated in the preparation of this report. What is Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)? The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the sixth in a series of reports intended to assess scientific, technical, and socio-economic information concerning climate change.

2.This report evaluates the physical science of climate change – looking at the past, present, and future climate. It reveals how human-caused emissions are altering our planet and what that means for our collective future.

3.Highlights of Sixth Assessment Report (AR6): Weather and climate events – such as extreme heat, heavy rainfall, fire conditions, and droughts – are becoming more severe and frequent because of climate change. The report finds we are already edging closer to a 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer world, and every day emissions rise the prospects for averting the worst impacts of climate change become dimmer. Carbon dioxide has been and will continue to be the dominant cause of global warming under all greenhouse gas emissions scenarios.It says, if greenhouse gas emissions are halved by 2030 and net zero by 2050, global warming can be stopped. Also, IPCC report vindicates India's position that historical cumulative emissions are the source of the climate crisis that the World faces today.

4.Need of the hour: It is essential that all countries – in particular the major economies – do their part during this critical decade of the 2020s to put the world on a trajectory to keep a 1.5 degrees Celsius limit on warming within reach. This is why the United States has committed to a 50-52 percent reduction in emissions from 2005 levels in 2030 and is marshaling the entire federal government to tackle the climate crisis.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT PM-JAY

1.Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the Union government's health insurance scheme, approximately 20.32 lakh COVID-19 tests and 7.08 lakh treatments were authorised from April 2020 to July 2021. The total value of the tests and treatment stood at ₹2,794 crore.

2.Key Features of PM-JAY: **The world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government. It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year,** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India. Coverage: Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.

3.Provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service. The National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency responsible for the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme. This scheme is a Centrally sponsored scheme with some Central sector components.

4.Eligibility: **No restrictions on family size, age or gender. All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.** Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country. Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc. Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

5.As per the latest economic survey: The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) contributed to improvement in many health outcomes in States that implemented the programme. States that joined the PM-JAY, compared to those that did not, experienced greater penetration of health insurance, reduction in infant and child mortality rates, realised improved access and utilisation of family planning services and greater awareness of HIV/AIDS.

VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE POLICY

1.About the Vehicle Scrappage Policy: Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy government commercial vehicles more than 15 years old and private vehicles which are over 20 years old will be scrapped. As

their calls for a caste based census in the country, senior Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi has said that as in Karnataka, the State government is free to conduct it.

The death toll in Haiti's powerful earthquake jumped to over 700 on Sunday as crews desperately dug through collapsed buildings for survivors in the Caribbean nation still reeling from its president's assassination.

a disincentive, increased re-registration fees would be applicable for vehicles 15 years or older from the initial date registration. The state governments may be advised to offer a road-tax rebate of up to 25% for personal vehicles and up to 15% for commercial vehicles to provide incentive to owners of old vehicles to scrap old and unfit vehicles.

2.Significance: The vehicle **scrapping policy is aimed at creating an eco-system for phasing out unfit and polluting vehicles in an environmentally friendly and safe manner.** The initiative will promote a circular economy and make the process of economic development more sustainable and environment friendly. The policy will also bring in investments of around Rs 10,000 crore and create 35,000 job opportunities.