

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Of the 30 Haryana players at the just concluded Tokyo Olympics, 12, including men's wrestling silver medallist Ravi Dahiya, belong to Rohtak's Maharshi Dayanand University. The university, popularly referred to by its acronym "MDU", has over the years turned out to be the "sports nursery" of the State having produced 270 odd international level players in various games, including 27 Arjuna awardees, since 1976. MDU has created an excellent infrastructure for sports that includes a centrally airconditioned multipurpose gymnasium hall, an international standard cricket stadium, AstroTurf hockey field, synthetic athletics tracks, international standard swimming pool and lawn tennis courts, among others.

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana inaugurated a community policing programme 'Ummeed' in the North-East district. Mr. Asthana also highlighted the achievements of a communitybased organisation Nagrik Bhaichara Samiti. He said that since it is not feasible to deploy policemen in every nook and corner, a self-disciplined and service-oriented society is required to assist the police to establish peace and harmony. 'Ummeed' as an initiative to strengthen the common chord of togetherness and mutual trust between communities in order to live peacefully in the spirit of coexistence.

The Chinese hide behind diplomatic walls to deploy an array of tools not available to democracies, said former Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, remarking that the flexibility displayed by Indian negotiators can accord them an edge over their Chinese counterparts reluctant to engage with informal diplomacy.

The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, has recommended to the government nine names for appointment as judges in the court, and in the process, scripted history by naming Karnataka High Court judge B.V. Nagarathna, who may become India's first woman CJI a few years from now.

In view of the developments in Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is cutting short his visit to the Americas this

### RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

1.The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre and search engine giant Google to respond to a petition by two businessmen, who have invoked the "right to be forgotten", and sought the removal of certain articles relating to a criminal case lodged against them, from various online platforms. The petitioners said they have the "right to be forgotten" or a "right to delink" in the context of the facts and circumstances of the case.

2.The petition argued that they "had been honourably discharged by the competent courts, yet the alleged articles and wrong information available online against petitioners continue to haunt them". **The Right to be Forgotten falls under the purview of an individual's right to privacy.** In 2017, the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right (under Article 21) by the Supreme Court in its landmark verdict (Puttuswamy case).

3.**Right to privacy is also governed by the Personal Data Protection Bill that is yet to be passed by Parliament. The bill exclusively talks about the "Right to be Forgotten."** Broadly, under the Right to be forgotten, users can de-link, limit, delete or correct the disclosure of their personal information held by data fiduciaries.

4.What are the issues associated with this provision in the Bill? The main issue with the provision is that the sensitivity of the personal data and information cannot be determined independently by the person concerned, but will be overseen by the Data Protection Authority (DPA). This means that while the draft bill gives some provisions under which a user can seek that his data be removed, but his or her rights are subject to authorisation by the Adjudicating Officer who works for the DPA.

### INCREASING VACANCIES IN COURT

1.In recent days, the Supreme Court has voiced concern over the Government's lackadaisical attitude towards the large number of vacancies in High Courts and tribunals. The vacancies in High Courts are at a staggering 455, as on August 1.Concern: The court has noted that the Centre's delay in making appointments to the High Courts is adversely affecting the adjudication of commercial disputes.

2.Reasons for Vacancies in both higher and lower judiciary: Systemic defects in the appointment process most certainly contribute to vacancies in the lower judiciary. For example, **exams are not conducted frequently enough to fill vacancies as they arise and even when they are, High Courts are often unable to find enough meritorious candidates to fill the vacancies** advertised. A sheer lethargic approach for conducting the appointment process on time is another reason for increasing vacancies. Unclear recruitment procedures, and difficulties in coordination between the High Court and State Public Service Commission, also frequently give rise to disputes and litigations surrounding recruitment, further stalling the process of recruitment.

3.Impacts and implications: Increase in the pendency of cases. Any failure to allocate the required human and financial resources leads to the crippling of judicial work in the subordinate courts. It **also amounts to letting down poor litigants and undertrials, who stand to suffer the most due to judicial delay.** Vacancies mean more work for a district's remaining judges. Heavier caseloads due to vacancies meant they spent less time considering individual cases raises troubling concerns about the quality of justice dispensed.

4.Current Need-**Public Service Commissions should recruit the necessary staff to assist these judges,** while State governments should build courts or provide working space for them. The recruitment of judges to fill vacancies should also begin earnestly. A smooth and time-bound process of making appointments require a close coordination between the High Courts and the State Public Service Commissions. This coordination should be facilitated by the respective State Governments and High Courts as best as possible.

week, and will return from the United Nations after chairing over two meetings at the UN Security Council (UNSC). Mr. Jaishankar was due to travel to Mexico, Panama and Guyana after his visit to New York, but sources said these visits would now be “rescheduled” at a later date, evidently due to the fast moving crisis in Afghanistan, which has triggered an exodus to neighbouring countries and beyond.

Presiding over a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate on technology and peacekeeping, his first as External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar announced the rollout of a technological platform in partnership with the UN — ‘UNITE Aware’ — to help enhance the safety of UN peacekeepers. India, as a major contributing nation to UN peacekeeping activities, has been keen on using its month long UNSC Presidency to prioritise peacekeeping.

The Centre will offer price assurances, viability gap funding and planting material assistance to oil palm farmers to boost domestic production and reduce dependence on imports via a new mission approved by the Cabinet.

Afghanistan may be governed by a council now that the Taliban have taken over, while the Islamist group’s supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada would likely remain in overall charge, said a senior member of the group. The Taliban would also reach out to former pilots and soldiers from the Afghan armed forces to join their ranks, Waheedullah Hashimi, who has access to the group’s decision-making, said in an interview.

China said the “hasty” United States withdrawal from Afghanistan had caused “a severely adverse impact” there and conveyed to Washington that it could not “on the one hand work hard to contain China” and “on the other count on China’s support” to help stabilise the country.

Chinese fighter jets, anti-submarine aircraft and combat ships conducted assault drills near Taiwan on Tuesday with the People’s Liberation Army saying the exercise was necessary to safeguard China’s sovereignty.

The economy is gaining traction with a gradual pickup in manufacturing activity and

## FOREIGNER’S TRIBUNAL

1. Foreigners’ Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established as per the Foreigners’ Tribunal Order, 1964 and the Foreigners’ Act, 1946. Composition: Advocates not below the age of 35 years of age with at least 7 years of practice (or) Retired Judicial Officers from the Assam Judicial Service (or) Retired IAS of ACS Officers (not below the rank of Secretary/Addl. Secretary) having experience in quasi-judicial works.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has **empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies) to decide whether a person staying illegally in India** is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
3. The amended order (Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019) also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

## RoDTEP SCHEME

1. The Centre has notified the rates and norms for the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme. A budgetary allocation of ₹12,454 crore has been made for 2021-22 under the scheme which covers 8,555 tariff lines, accounting for about 75% of traded items and 65% of India’s exports.
2. The scheme was announced in 2020 as a replacement for the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS), which was not compliant with the rules of the World Trade Organisation. The scheme would refund to exporters the embedded central, state and local duties or taxes that were so far not being rebated or refunded and were, therefore, placing India’s exports at a disadvantage.
3. Key features: **To enable zero rating of exports by ensuring domestic taxes are not exported, all taxes, including those levied by States and even Gram Panchayats, will be refunded under the scheme.** The rebates under RoDTEP is WTO-compliant as per legal advice, range from 0.5% to 4.3% of the Free On Board value of outbound consignments.
4. The lowest rate is offered on items like chocolates, toffees and sugar confectionary, while yarns and fibres have been granted the highest rate. Steel, pharma and chemicals have not been included under the scheme because their exports have done well without incentives.

## INDIA’S WATER CRISIS & WOMEN

1. India is water-stressed due to changing weather patterns and repeated droughts. And the worst sufferers of this crisis are mostly women. Water scarcity in India is expected to worsen as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by the year 2050.
2. Vulnerability of Women: The crisis of water only puts them at a higher risk of vulnerability. Fetching water in India has been perceived as a woman’s job for centuries. Women, especially in the rural areas, walk miles to collect water from the nearest source.
3. Reduced Access to Sanitation: Their marginalisation is compounded by the indignity and insecurity of not having a private spot to fulfil their toilet needs. This whole system of women being forced to be water carriers leads to them having very less time for themselves.
4. Water-Wives: **The entire water management by women has led to polygamy in one drought-prone village of Maharashtra. This involves having more than one spouse to collect water. The arrangement is termed as ‘water wives’.**
5. Related Government Initiatives: Jal Kranti Abhiyan. National Water Mission. National Rural Drinking Water Programme. NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index. Jal Jeevan Mission. Jal Shakti Abhiyan. Atal Bhujal Yojana.

## PLASTIC CRISIS: SUNDERBANS

1. Unregulated inflow of relief to the Sunderbans has resulted in a new crisis in the cyclone-battered region as plastic has been accumulated in the area. The threat posed by plastic is so great for the Sunderbans because the region is witnessing frequent tropical storms, which lead to devastation.
2. **Reasons for Accumulation of Plastic in Sunderban:** Cyclones: The region is witnessing frequent cyclones, which lead to devastation, followed by the necessity for relief and rehabilitation of inhabitants.

**moderation in contraction of services, spurred by comfortable liquidity, RBI officials wrote in an August edition of the RBI Bulletin.**

**3. Plastic waste associated with relief material, used in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan (May 2020) in the Sundarbans,** could cause damage to the eco-sensitive region.

**4. Tourism:** Besides recent cases of cyclones in the region, tourists have also contributed to the accumulation as they leave behind heaps of plastic waste that is strewn all over the forest.