

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified certain geological sites across the Northeast for promotion of geotourism as some States in the region prepare to 'unlock' from September. "Twelve locations in the Northeast are included in the 32 approved geotourism or geoheritage sites in the country. These are scenic places that can be top attractions," a GSI official said. Of the 12 sites, three are in Meghalaya, two each in Assam and Tripura, and one each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

China's legislature formally amended the country's family planning rules to allow couples to have three children, also announcing a number of policy measures aimed at boosting declining birth rates. The changes come in the wake of China's once in ten year population census that recorded rapidly declining birth rates over the past decade. The National Bureau of Statistics said on May 11 that 12 million babies were born last year, the lowest number since 1961.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has sought a social awakening against polygamy and a proper debate on property rights for the girl child. Polygamy is prevalent in several of the 26 tribes and more than 100 subtribes in the frontier State. Mr. Khandu said polygamy needed to become obsolete in the modern world.

Legal proceedings against child marriages are commonly undertaken against elopements whereas forced child marriages often go unpunished, finds a new study. The report — "Child Marriage Prosecutions in India" — brought out by Partners for Law in Development (PLD), a Delhi-based legal resource group. The study found that legal prosecution of child marriages was twice as much against elopement or self-arranged marriages by girls with such cases accounting for 65% (54 out of a total 83 cases) of the total cases studied. Only 30% of the cases were those of arranged child marriages, and a mere 5% were forced child marriages (such as those that involved kidnapping, enticement or forcible marriage by parents).

CHINA FOR ADOPTION OF CULTURAL SYMBOLS, LANGUAGE IN TIBET

1. At a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the Chinese invasion of Tibet, a top Chinese official said that "all-round efforts" are needed to ensure Tibetans speak standard spoken and written Chinese and share the "cultural symbols and images of the Chinese nation."

2. China-Tibet issue: Tibet is a region on the Tibetan Plateau in Asia, spanning about 2.4 million km² – nearly a quarter of China's territory. It is the traditional homeland of the Tibetan people as well as some other ethnic groups. Tibet is the highest region on Earth, with an average elevation of 4,900 metres. The highest elevation in Tibet is Mount Everest, Earth's highest mountain, rising 8,848m above sea level. The People's Republic of China asserts that Tibet has been a part of China since the Mongol-led Yuan dynasty. In 1951 Tibetan leaders were forced to sign a treaty dictated by China.

3. The treaty, known as the "Seventeen Point Agreement", professes to guarantee Tibetan autonomy and to respect the Buddhist religion but also allows the establishment of Chinese civil and military headquarters at Lhasa (Tibet's capital). The Chinese government regards the Seventeen Point Agreement as a legal contract that was mutually welcomed by both governments and by the Tibetan people. However, the Tibetan people – including the 14th Dalai Lama – consider it invalid and as having been signed under duress. Tibet has been occupied and ruled over by China and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) since 1951 in "a calculated and systematic strategy aimed at the destruction of their national and cultural identities" according to the 14th Dalai Lama.

4. This has often been described by the Tibetan people as a cultural genocide (Goldstein, 1998). Eight years of occupation and repression led to the Tibetan Uprising of 1959, in which Tibetans rebelled in an attempt to overthrow the Chinese government; instead, the uprising led to the fleeing of HH the Fourteenth Dalai Lama into India, where he has lived in exile ever since. A few hundred Tibetans initially followed the 14th Dalai Lama into exile, and since then hundreds of thousands have followed.

DEFENCE STARTUP CHALLENGE 5.0

1. Defence minister launched the 5th edition of the defence India start-up challenge (DSIC) under Innovations for defence excellence- defence innovation organization (iDEX-DIO) Key points related to this Objective: To achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in the defence and aerospace sectors. Some of the problem statements unveiled as part of the challenge pertain to- situational awareness, augmented reality, artificial intelligence etc

2. About iDEX- It is an initiative by the government to contribute towards modernization of the Defence Industry. It was launched in 2018. It aims to promote innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries; with particular focus on MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia

3. It will be funded by Defence Innovation Organization (DIO), and will function as the executive arm of DIO. DIO is a 'not for profit' company registered under the Companies Act 2013. Its two co-founders are Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) – Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

RECORD SUGAR EXPORTS HELP REDUCE THE CANE DUES

1. Sugar mills have surpassed their 60 lakh tonne export target this year, making it easier for them to pay sugarcane farmers and reducing the arrears for this year to less than rupees 9,000 crore.

2. Government has been encouraging diversion of excess sugar towards ethanol production and for exporting purposes. In the last 4 years, exports of sugar has increased by more than 10

The National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm (NMEOP), a ₹11,040 crore project by the Union government to maximise cultivation and production, is expected to bring in remarkable growth prospects for the palm oil industry in Kerala. While both farmers and refiners find the scheme extremely encouraging, it can also revitalise the estates run by the Oil Palm India Limited and the Plantation Corporation of Kerala. Since India is heavily dependent on imports when it comes to crude and refined palm oils, the industry stakeholders believe that the current development will be highly beneficial for the sector.

The Supreme Court has held that merely because law allows arrest does not mean the State can use the power indiscriminately to crush personal liberty. "We may note that personal liberty is an important aspect of our constitutional mandate. The occasion to arrest an accused during investigation arises when custodial investigation becomes necessary or it is a heinous crime or where there is a possibility of influencing the witnesses or accused may abscond.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a person belonging to a reserved category is entitled to claim the benefit of reservation in either of the successor States of Bihar or Jharkhand, but cannot claim benefit of the quota simultaneously in both the successor States upon their reorganisation in November, 2000.

Jewellers have decided to go on a nationwide token strike on Monday, August 23, 2021 to protest against what they called the 'arbitrarily implemented mandatory hallmarking process' by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Reports of targeted killings in areas overrun by the Taliban mounted on Friday, fuelling fears that they will return Afghanistan to the repressive rule they imposed when they were last in power, even as they urged imams to push a message of unity at Friday's prayers.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Jayanth Varma has expressed serious reservations about the RBI's protracted "accommodative" policy stance in light of uncertainty about the duration of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, contending that the forward guidance and stance were becoming "counter productive".

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3.The growth in the export is primarily due to demand for Indian sugar in the global market and also the assistance of centre to the tune of Rupees 6,000 per tonne to facilitate exports Despite this impressive growth, arrears are a major issue for sugarcane farmers in the country.

LOAN SCHEME TO BE NOTIFIED SOON

1.Delay in actualizing a loan guarantee scheme announced by the government in the aftermath of second wave of the pandemic in India. Background: **A Rs 60,000 crore loan guarantee scheme was announced by the government hit hardest by second wave of the Covid-19** This credit support was part of the Rupees 1.1 Lakh crore loan guarantee scheme for Covid-affected sectors Rupees 50,000 crore in this was earmarked for healthcare projects in non-metro cities and was approved by the Union Cabinet.

2.For other sectors which were badly hit due to the pandemic (Ex: Tourism), a Rupees 60,000 crore loan guarantee scheme was promised with the interest on such loans capped at 8.25% as opposed to prevalent rates of 10-11% Delay in actualizing the loan guarantee scheme is hurting the chances of survivability of the tourism sector which has been one of the worst affected sectors due to the pandemic Business have also highlighted how lenders have not been processing their applications for loan restricting under the existing 'Emergency Credit Line guarantee scheme'

3.About 'Emergency Credit Line guarantee scheme' **It was launched by government of India as a special scheme in view of the pandemic The ECLGS aims to provide 100 percent guaranteed coverage to the banks, NBFCs and other lenders in order to enable them to extend emergency credit to businesses hit by the Covid-19 pandemic** and struggling to meet their working capital requirements. In November 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of ECLGS 2.0 by extending the Rs 3 lakh crore scheme to support 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee and the healthcare sector.

4.These sectors included power, construction, iron and steel manufacturing, roads, real estate, textiles, chemicals, consumer durables, non-ferrous metals, pharma manufacturing, logistics, gems and jewellery, cement, auto components, hotels-restaurants-tourism, mining, plastic product manufacturing, automobile manufacturing, auto dealerships, aviation, sugar, ports and port services, shipping, building materials, and corporate retail outlets.

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

1.It replaced the 1995 Act. It brought Indian law in line with the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory. Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept. The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21 and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.

2.**Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time. Acid Attack Victims have been included.** In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability. The appropriate governments have been given the responsibility to take effective measures to ensure that the persons with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others.

3.Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education. Government funded educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions will have to provide inclusive education to the children with disabilities. It provides for penalties for offences committed against persons with disabilities and also violation of the provisions of the new law.

WEB APP OF THE INDUS SCRIPT BOOK INAUGURATED

1.The Indus Research Centre, which is part of the Roja Muthiah Research Library, has launched a web app-indus script in Chennai.

2.The web app was developed through a financial grant from the Department of Archaeology. The Indus Script: **Texts, Concordance and Tables, written by Iravatham Mahadevan, is the sourcebook for studying and analysing the Indus**

Applications for foreign direct investment in an insurance company promoted by a private bank would be cleared by the RBI and IRDAI to ensure that the 74% limit of overseas investment is not breached. The changes took effect following amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Nondebt Instruments) Rules, 2019, as per the gazette notification issued by the Finance Ministry.

scripts It is the most sought after book by researchers from all over the world.

3.The book was published in 1977 by the Archaeological Survey of India