

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Malabar Rebellion leaders Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, Ali Musaliar and 387 other 'Moplah martyrs' will be removed from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle. A three member panel, which reviewed the entries in the fifth volume of the dictionary brought out by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), is understood to have recommended the deletion as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never part of the Independence struggle, and was a fundamentalist movement focused on religious conversion. None of the slogans raised by the rioters were in favour of nationalism and anti-British, it noted.

With Afghanistan in turmoil following the Taliban takeover, the Punebased NGO Sarhad, which works for students living in conflict zones, has said it would "adopt" 1,000 Afghan students till the situation stabilised in their country.

Amid growing demands for the restoration of Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh have been visited by members of three parliamentary committees in the past 10 days. And all three panels that visited J&K between August 14 and 22 are headed by leaders of the Congress that had opposed the manner in which the J&K's special status was abrogated. These visits by parliamentary panels not only come two years after the bifurcation of J&K and the removal of its special status under Article 370, but barely two months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met 14 leaders from J&K, including former Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Ghulam Nabi Azad, in June.

The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), a Union government initiative for skill development in rural areas, has brought highspeed internet to some of the remotest tribal hamlets deep inside the Nilambur jungle in Kerala. For the first time, the Palakkayam, Vettillakkolli and Ambumala tribal hamlets got high speed internet.

With repeated delays in deals for the procurement of AK203 assault rifles and Kamov226 utility helicopters from Russia, India has signed a deal for 70,000 AK203 assault rifles to be

KIGALI AMENDMENT

1. India has decided to ratify Kigali Amendment, a key amendment to the Montreal Protocol. What is Kigali Amendment? Negotiated in the Rwandan capital in October 2016. The amendment has already come into force from the start of 2019. **It enables the gradual phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs, a family of chemicals used extensively in the air-conditioning, refrigeration and furnishing foam industry.**

2. Goals under Kigali Amendment: Before the middle of this century, current HFC use has to be curtailed by at least 85 per cent. Countries have different timelines to do this. **India has to achieve this target by 2047 while the developed countries have to do it by 2036.** China and some other countries have a target of 2045. While the reductions for the rich countries have to begin immediately, India, and some other countries, have to begin cutting their HFC use only from 2031.

3. Significance and the expected outcomes: **If implemented successfully, the Kigali Amendment is expected to prevent about 0.5°C rise in global warming by the end of this century.** No other single intervention to cut greenhouse gas emissions comes even close to this in terms of returns offered and the ease of implementation. It is thus considered crucial to achieving the Paris Agreement target of restricting temperature rise to within 2°C from pre-industrial times.

4. What are hydrofluorocarbons? HFCs are known to be much worse than carbon dioxide in causing global warming. In fact, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the average global warming potential of 22 of the most used HFCs is about 2,500 times that of carbon dioxide.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL

1. The 1989 Montreal Protocol is meant to protect the ozone layer of the upper atmosphere. **The Protocol mandated the complete phase-out of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS),** which it has successfully managed to do in the last three decades.

2. What are the concerns now? CFCs were gradually replaced, first by HCFCs, or hydrochlorofluorocarbons, in some cases, and eventually by HFCs which have minimal impact on the ozone layer.

3. The transition from HCFCs to HFCs is still happening, particularly in the developing world. HFCs, though benign to the ozone layer, were powerful greenhouse gases. If left unabated, their contribution to annual greenhouse gas emissions is expected to reach up to 19% by 2050.

HISTORIC NUCLEAR FUSION BREAKTHROUGH ACHIEVED

1. Physicists in California, **using lasers the size of three football fields, have generated a huge amount of energy from fusion.** This offers hope for the development of a new clean energy source.

2. Experts focused their giant array of almost 200 laser beams onto a tiny spot to create a mega blast of energy – eight times more than they had ever done in the past. Although the energy only lasted for a very short time – just 100 trillionths of a second – the scientists were able to create more energy than they are using. In this experiment, scientists used two isotopes of hydrogen, giving rise to helium.

3. Nuclear fusion is considered by some scientists to be a potential energy of the future, particularly because it produces little waste and no greenhouse gases. It differs from fission, a technique currently used in nuclear power plants, where the bonds of heavy atomic nuclei are broken to release energy.

4. In the fusion process, two light atomic nuclei are "married" to create a heavy one. This is the process that is at work in stars, including our Sun.

CHINA'S THREE-CHILD POLICY

1. China's legislature has 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

procured off the shelf, while the Army is also looking at procuring a limited number of helicopters the same way to meet an immediate shortage of light utility helicopters. Meanwhile, Russia has carried out upgrades of the Ka226T helicopter on offer.

The Quad countries — India, the U.S., Australia and Japan — will carry out the next edition of the Malabar naval exercise from August 26 to 29 off the coast of Guam amid mounting global concerns over China's growing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris began a trip to Asia on Sunday where she will offer reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region after the chaotic U.S. pullout from Afghanistan and Taliban takeover. Ms. Harris landed in Singapore. The crisis has prompted comparisons with the trauma of 1975 Saigon, when U.S. helicopters ferried final evacuees from the Embassy roof, as Viet Cong troops advanced.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met Japan's Foreign Minister in Tehran. Toshimitsu Motegi's visit is aimed at boosting bilateral ties and furthering efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region.

Terrorists of banned outfits such as the Lashkare Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which had been fighting alongside the Taliban against the U.S. led forces in Afghanistan for the past several years, may soon intensify efforts to infiltrate into Indian territory, according to the latest assessment of security agencies.

In a first, scientists from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, have introduced a stretchable battery that is powered by human perspiration. The soft stretchable battery comprises printed silver flake electrodes that generate electricity in the presence of sweat. The battery looks like a paper bandage that can be affixed to a flexible sweat absorbent textile which draws power from sweat and transfers it to wearable devices, including smart watches and arm straps, via Bluetooth.

The Forest Department in Odisha may move the National High Authority of India (NHAI) with a request to translocate trees that were felled when laying roads. The proposal was mooted in the wake of a massive loss of tree cover due to road widening projects in the State. More than 18.5 million trees have

declining birth rates. Why Law? 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 that 12 million babies were born last year, the lowest number since 1961.

2. Why was one-child policy implemented? China embarked upon its one-child policy in 1980, when the Communist Party was concerned that the country's growing population, **which at the time was approaching one billion, would impede economic progress.**

3. Criticisms: Chinese authorities have long hailed the policy as a success, claiming that it helped the country avert severe food and water shortages by preventing up to 40 crore people from being born. However, the one-child limit was also a source of discontent, as: **The state used brutal tactics such as forced abortions and sterilisations. It violated human rights, and was unfair to poorer Chinese** since the richer ones could afford to pay economic sanctions if they violated the policy. It gave way for enforcing reproductive limits as a tool for social control. It affected the sex ratio- skewed towards males.

4. Why was it discontinued? **Fears of a rapidly ageing population undermining economic growth forced the ruling Communist Party to allow two children per married couple.** What necessitated further reforms? While the relaxation did result in some improvement in the proportion of young people in the country, the policy change was deemed insufficient in averting an impending demographic crisis.

5. Challenges ahead: **Experts say relaxing limits on reproductive rights alone cannot go a long way in averting an unwanted demographic shift.** The main factors behind fewer children being born are: Rising costs of living, education and supporting ageing parents. Country's pervasive culture of long working hours.

RESERVATION APPLICABLE IN EITHER OF STATES AFTER DIVISION

1. The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that a person belonging to a reserved category in an undivided state is entitled to claim benefit of reservation in either of the successor States.

2. The ruling came after a resident (Scheduled Caste) of Jharkhand, filed an appeal against the High Court order denying him appointment in state civil service examination of 2007 on the ground that his address proof showed that he was a permanent resident of Patna, Bihar.

3. **The SC has ruled that a person belonging to a reserved category is entitled to claim benefit of reservation in either of the successor States of Bihar or Jharkhand. However he/she cannot claim benefit of the quota simultaneously in both the successor States** upon their reorganisation in November, 2000. As it will defeat the mandate of Articles 341(1) and 342(1) of the Constitution.

AUSTRALIAN MARINO SHEEP

1. Amid the rising demand of import of wool, shepherds in Uttarakhand will get a batch of lambs through crossbreeding of sheep indigenous to the region with Australian Merino sheep by the end of the year.

2. Australian Merino sheep are known to have the softest and finest wool used for apparels. The main trigger for import was the deteriorating quality and quantity of carpet and apparel grades wool, largely due to inbreeding.

3. India is the seventh-largest producer of wool and accounts for nearly 2 to 3% of total world production. India has the third largest sheep population in the world with over 64 million sheep. The annual wool production is in the range of 43-46 million kg.

4. **Due to the insufficient domestic production, India depends on imports for raw wool, particularly on Australia and New Zealand.**

NARAYANKOTI TEMPLE

1. The Narayankoti temple (Uttarakhand) has been included under the Centre's Adopt a Heritage project.

2. Adopt a Heritage Project: Launched on 27th September, 2017 (World Tourism Day), it is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), State/UTs Governments.

3. Narayankoti Temple: **The temple is a group of ancient temples in Guptkashi. This is the only place in the country**

been felled for the widening of roads in the State in the past decade. “Odisha will move the NHAI with a request to issue an advisory to executing agencies to deracinate fully grown trees and translocate them to nearby areas.

which has nine planetary temples in a group that are a “symbol of nine planets”.

4. It is devoted to Lakshmi Narayana who is associated with Pandavas. It is believed that these temples were constructed in the 9th century.