

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Researcher, author and one of the intellectual voices of the Bahujan movement Gail Omvedt passed away on Wednesday. Dr. Omvedt was an American born Indian scholar who authored books on Dalit politics, women's struggle and anticaste movement. She also participated in various people's movements, including the one for the rights of people displaced by the Koyna Dam. Ms. Omvedt cofounded Shramik Mukti Dal with her husband and activist Bharat Patankar.

The Delhi High Court was informed by the Centre that online gambling was a State subject and the State governments have to make laws to regulate such activities. "The legislative competence to determine whether a game is a game of skill or a game of chance or is involved in gambling [played with stakes or not] is conferred on the States only or to the court of laws [which possess the judicial wisdom]," the Centre said in an affidavit. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) "does not possess the judicial wisdom to determine whether an online game is involved in gambling or not".

The Union government has increased the minimum price that sugar mills must pay to sugar cane farmers by ₹5 a quintal, setting the fair and remunerative price (FRP) at ₹290 a quintal for the 2021-22 sugar season, which runs from October to September. Despite demands from sugar mills, however, the Centre refused to hike the minimum price at which they can sell the processed sugar, citing consumer interests.

The Jal Shakti Ministry has launched a campaign to create a million soak pits in villages across the country over the next 100 days, to help manage grey water and prevent the clogging of waterbodies. Though the Central government does not have any comprehensive estimate of the total number of soak pits needed countrywide, the States have been asked to develop their own targets.

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), in coordination with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), will launch an online hackathon "Manthan 2021" on

PROCEDURE TO ARREST CABINET MINISTER IN INDIA

1. Union minister Narayan Rane was arrested after his statement against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. A Union minister or a Member of Parliament enjoys certain privileges but most of them are available when Parliament is in session. If Parliament is not in session, police or other law enforcement agencies may arrest a Union cabinet minister in a criminal case.

2. But, under Section 222A of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business of the Rajya Sabha, the police or a judge issuing an arrest order is required to intimate the Rajya Sabha Chairman about the reason for and place of arrest. The Chairman gets it published in a Rajya Sabha.

3. Protection available to Union ministers - **A Union minister or an MP enjoys protection from arrest 40 days before the start of a Parliament session, during its sittings and 40 days after its conclusion.** So, under Section 135 of the Code of Civil Procedure, Narayan Rane has the protection from arrest in a civil case as Parliament's Monsoon Session ended earlier this month. However, his arrest came in a criminal case. And, the **protection from arrest does not cover criminal offences or preventive detention.**

SC SET ASIDE HARYANA ORDER CREATING SUB-CATEGORY OF CREAMY LAYER

1. Supreme Court has quashed Haryana government's notification. It said economic criterion can't be sole basis to decide 'creamy layer'.

2. Constitutional and legal backing related to reservation: **Article 14:** Equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. **Articles 15(1) and 15(2):** Prohibit the state from discriminating against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth. **But clauses (3) to (5) of Article 15 empower the state to provide for positive discrimination** in favour of the grossly underrepresented and neglected sections of the society in order to promote substantive equality or better to say EQUITY.

3. **Article 16:** Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. Article 16 clause (4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.

4. Supreme Court intervention - Two notifications were issued by the Haryana government sub-classifying backward classes solely on economic basis while fixing the criteria for creamy layer. **The apex court held that the Haryana's notifications have violated the law declared in the Indra Sawhney judgment by identifying creamy layer only on the basis of income.** Apart from the economic criterion, social, educational and other factors must also be taken into account before defining a "creamy layer" among the backward classes.

5. creamy layer? It is a concept that sets a threshold within which OBC reservation benefits are applicable. While there is a 27% quota for OBCs in government jobs and higher educational institutions, those falling within the "creamy layer" cannot get the benefits of this quota. Based on the recommendation of the Second Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission), the government on August 13, 1990 had notified 27% reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in vacancies in civil posts and services that are to be filled on direct recruitment.

UN ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

1. World leaders are planning to meet to discuss the **renewal of the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which expires on September 17.** Background: Taliban has launched a major nationwide offensive in the wake of the withdrawal of foreign troops over the past few months.

2. UNAMA - UNAMA was established on 28 March 2002 by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1401. **It was basically established to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan**

Thursday, for identification of innovative concepts and technology solutions to address the challenges faced by intelligence agencies.

The Supreme Court urged the West Bengal government to wait and not go ahead with a separate judicial inquiry into the Pegasus snooping allegations when the top court is already seized of the issue.

The Union government has allocated more than two crore additional COVID19 vaccines to the States to vaccinate schoolteachers and non-teaching staff on a priority basis in the runup to Teachers Day on September 5. These additional doses will be sent from August 27 to 31, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday cleared a foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal entailing an investment of up to ₹15,000 crore in Anchorage Infrastructure Investment Holding (AIIH) Ltd., a company incorporated to invest in the infrastructure and construction development sectors. The government said the investment would prove to be a “significant boost to the recently announced National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)” as AIIH had proposed downstream investments in some of the sectors covered under the NMP.

The government is learnt to have cleared all nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, for appointments as judges of the top court. One of the names, Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Karnataka High Court, may be in line to become the first woman Chief Justice of India, thus scripting history.

The Nandi Hills in Karnataka's Chickballapur district was hit by a landslide on Wednesday following heavy rain the previous night.

The Supreme Court said probe agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) suffered from the dearth of manpower and infrastructure that the judiciary too faced. Both were overburdened.

In a move that could affect hundreds of Afghans desperate to leave the country, India decided to “invalidate” or cancel all visas issued to Afghan nationals, including about 2,000 issued in the last few months, as the Taliban began to make advances across the

in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development. Its original mandate was to support the implementation of the Bonn Agreement (December 2001).

3. Reviewed annually, this mandate has been altered over time to reflect the needs of the country. UNAMA is an integrated mission. **This means that the Special Political Mission, all UN agencies, funds and programmes, work in a multidimensional and integrated manner to better assist Afghanistan** according to nationally defined priorities.

4. Bonn Agreement-Bonn was a closed-door negotiation; participants were isolated, outside contact was limited during the negotiations, and there was no publicity until after the agreement was signed. The existing nominal head of state (Rabbani) was sidelined and did not participate, and the Taliban were completely excluded from the Bonn negotiations. The United Nations and several other international actors played major roles in pushing the negotiations forward, and the **Bonn Agreement was blessed by the U.N. Security Council.**

5. UN special political missions-The term ‘Special Political Mission’ encompasses entities that are not managed or directed by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) such as the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

TAMIL NADU ANNOUNCES A WAGE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME FOR URBAN POOR

1. This is an urban employment scheme proposed to be implemented by Tamil Nadu Government on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It seeks to improve the livelihood of urban poor.

2. Need for-Unlike other States, the urban population in Tamil Nadu is growing fast and it would reach 60% of the total population by 2036. A total of four crore people are now living in urban areas, accounting for 53% of the total population. But, many of them had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Key objectives-**Generation of paid rural employment of not less than 100 days for each worker who volunteers for unskilled labour.** Proactively ensuring social inclusion by strengthening the livelihood base of rural poor. Creation of durable assets in rural areas such as wells, ponds, roads and canals. Reduce urban migration from rural areas. Create rural infrastructure by using untapped rural labour.

4. Implementation of the scheme: **Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant.** Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought. Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which lends to accountability and transparency. The Gram Sabha is the principal forum for wage seekers to raise their voices and make demands. It is the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat which approves the shelf of works under MGNREGA and fix their priority.

GM SOYA CAKE IMPORTS

1. With rising soyabean prices escalating the poultry industry's costs, the Centre has allowed the import of 1.2 million metric tonnes of crushed and de-oiled genetically modified (GM) soya cake till October 31, 2021. Need for-Soyabean meal is an essential raw material for the poultry industry, but prices have more than doubled over the past couple of months. Besides, protein sources like fish, meat and milk have recorded high inflation.

2. Status of GM Soybean and soyabean seeds in India: **India allows the import of GM soybean and canola oil.** Import of GM soya bean seeds was so far not approved in India.

3. Concerns/criticisms associated with the latest move: Environmental activists have raised **concerns about the permission given for something derived from a genetically modified plant to enter the human food chain**, given that India's regulatory system has yet to approve GM foods. Besides, the 1989 rules of the Environment Protection Act applied not just to GM organisms, but also products and substances thereof.

4. Approval Process for GM crops in India: The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops. **Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and**

country. The Union government announced that all Afghans must enter India now only on special e-visas applied online.

fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

5.Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the authorised body to regulate the imported crops in India. Genetically Modified crops-A GM or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.