KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

3ʳᴰ AUGUST 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

In a push back against the Centre's plan to mandatorily fortify rice and edible oils with vitamins and minerals, a group of scientists and activists has written to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), warning of the adverse impacts on health and livelihoods. They cited multiple studies to show that dietary diversity and higher protein consumption are key to solving undernutrition in India, rather than adding a few synthetic micronutrients which could harm the health of consumers.

The Lok Sabha passed a law to amend the general insurance business Act without a debate. The Bill – The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 – will allow the government to bring down its stake in State owned general insurance companies, generate required resources and help public sector general insurers design innovative products.

"Preventive detention is a necessary evil only to prevent public disorder. The court must ensure that the facts brought before it directly and inevitably lead to a harm, danger or alarm or feeling of insecurity among the general public or any section thereof at large," a Bench, led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, observed.

The Supreme Court asked the States to respond to a petition that stated citizens continued to get booked and prosecuted under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act for expressing themselves freely on social media. Section 66A was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in a judgment in 2015.

Hailing the rich contributions made by the Tamil Nadu legislature over the past century, President Ram Nath Kovind observed that the [erstwhile] Madras legislature had sown the seeds of a fully representative democratic form of governance, which were realised after Independence.

India's merchandise exports in July were 34% higher than the pre-COVID levels of July 2019, at $35.17

GARMENT EXPORTERS FEAR LOSING BUSINESS TO BANGLADESH, VIETNAM

1.Reason why India is losing market to competing countries- **Unchecked export of cotton and cotton yarn to countries causing local shortage in supply of these raw materials** and driving up prices.

2.India`s export of Indian cotton and cotton yarn has increased by 56% in past six months, whereas apparel shipments to global markets have risen by just 24%.

3.Steep rise in price of cotton, ranging from 30% to 60%. Also, budget announcement for levy of 10% duty on imported cotton has led to increased cost of production. India textile industry is fragmented and is dominate by unorganized sector and small and medium industries using Outdated technology.

4.Inflexible labour laws. Lack of scale as apparels units in India have an average size of 100 machines which is very less in comparison with Bangladesh, which has an average 0f 500 machines per factory.

CENTRE INTRODUCES GUIDELINES TO PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR SHARING BIOLOGICAL DATA

1.The first of ofs kind, **Biotech-Pride(promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines** is aimed at providing a framework and guiding principle to facilitate and enable sharing and exchange of biological knowledge, Information and data.

2.It will be **implemented through the Indian Biological Data Centra(IBDC)** , which is the first national repository for life science data India.

3.It is mandated to archive all publicly funded life science data generated at national level. Other existing datasets and data centres will be bridged to this IBDC which will be called bio-grid.

4.Significance-**To harmonise, synergies and encouraging data sharing for research and analysis and to promote scientific work.** This will advance the understanding of the molecular and biological processes, contributing to fundamental research on human health, agriculture, animal husbandry etc.

SIMPLIFIED PATENT AND COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION HELPING INDIA BECOME INNOVATION HUB

1.Recent initiatives taken by government to bolster the ecosystem of patents, design, trademarks. **Simplified and streamlined Intellectual property (IP) process**-Re-engineering of registration process and shift to digital mode to promote ease of filing and obtaining services. For example, every application processed online from start to finish, hearings through video-conferencing etc.

2.Expedited Examination systems of patients-Special care is given to expedite examination of patents filed especially for applications filed by start-ups, Women Entrepreneurs etc.(This can result in patent grants within a year).

3.Reduction in fees-Filing fees for Startups, MSMEs, Women entrepreneurs has been reduced by 80%. Improved access and transparency for dissemination of information through real-time basis status of IP applications, Indian Patent Advanced Search System(InPass), SMS Alert for applicants etc.

4.Impact of these initiatives-India sees fourfold increase in Patent and Trade Mark registrations during the last 5 years. India`s ranking in Global Innovation Index(GII) has climbed to 48th(2020) from 81st position(2015-16).GII is released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation(WIPO).

INDIA TAKES OVER UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL(UNSC) PRESIDENCY FOR AUGUST

1.This is India`s first presidency in the UNSC during its 2021-22 tenure. India`s two-year tenure as a non-permanent member began on January 1, 2021(This is the 8th tenure as non-permanent member in the UNSC).

2.The presidency of UNSC rotates on a monthly basis among each of the 15 members, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names.

billion, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, but the trade defi• cit hit a three month high as gold imports jumped 145.4% from the 2019 levels.

The 12th round of Corps Commanders meeting between India and China, was "constructive", a joint statement issued on Monday said, though the two sides have not yet reached an agreement for disengagement at Gogra and Hot Springs in eastern Ladakh.

Following a plea seeking remedial action against discharge of untreated sewage into an irrigation canal in Noida, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) pulled up authorities over "failure of constitutional obligation".

History was created in Orissa High Court when for the first time live streaming of court proceedings was done for the benefit of litigants and advocates. Chief Justice inaugurated the facility on a trial basis.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana offered to send a water dispute case fi• led by Andhra Pradesh against Telangana for mediation, while saying, in the background of the AssamManipur border fl• areup, that the people of the two States were "brothers", who should not even "dream" of doing harm to each other.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to travel to Tehran to attend the swearing in of the newly elected Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on August 5.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India and if there needs to be a change in status it is the vacation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), India's Permanent Representative to the UN and president of the UN Security Council for the month of August T.S. Tirumurti said.

A massive wildfire is raging through the seaside resort of Marmaris in Mugla province. The fires tearing through Turkey have destroyed huge swathes of forest.

Israel's Supreme Court delayed a decision on Monday in the case of Palestinian families facing expulsion by Israeli settlers in annexed East Jerusalem, an issue that exploded into armed conflict in May.

3.As president, India will decide the agenda whose resolutions and directives are binding on all member states. India has set its agenda to hold high-level meetings on three priority areas-**maritime security, counterterrorism and peacekeeping.** Also expects to deploy a mobile app-UNITE AWARE-that will provide terrain information and improve situational awareness for peacekeepers.
4.UNSC is one of the principal organs of the United Nations with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. India has been campaigning for a permanent seat at the UNSC along with Germany, Japan and Brazil(Known as G4).

INDIA GETS NEW DIGITAL PAYMENT MODE WITH E-RUPI
1.e-RUPI is an **electronic voucher based digital payment system which is person-specific and purpose-specific payments system.** These vouchers are like **e-gift cards, which are prepaid in nature.** The code of the cards can be shared either via SMS or the QR code can be shared.
2.e-RUPI is backed by existing Indian rupee as underlying asset and it`s specificity of purpose makes it different from a virtual currency and puts it closer to a voucher-based payment system.
3.e-RUPI is not a platform. It has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform. Significance-Being pre-paid in nature, it assures timely payments to the service provider without involvement of any intermediary.
4.No digital or bank presence required. Ensures leak-proof delivery of various welfare services. Corporates can issue these vouchers for their employees. Voucher redemption can be checked by the issuer.

UPDATED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS(NDCs)
1.Only 110 countries that are party to the Paris accord have submitted updated NDCs for limiting their carbon emissions. China and India have missed U.N. deadline.
2.The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 countries in December 2015 with the aim of limiting global warming to well below 2 degree Celsius and preferably to 1.5C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
3.Under the accord, every participating country originally had until the end of 2020 to submit new or updated NDCs.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA-DIGITAL PAYMENT INDEX(RBI-DPI)
1.The composite **RBI-DPI Index has grown from 207.84 of March 2020 to 270.59 in March 2021. This demonstrated rapid adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country in recent years.**
2.RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters(with number of sub-parameters).
3.payment Enablers(weight 25%), Payment Infrastructure-Demand-side factors(10%), Payment Infrastructure-Supply-side factors(15%), Payment Performance(45%) and Consumer Centricity(5%).

CRIME INCIDENT REPORT SYSTEM(CIR) SYSTEM
1.In an effort to foil rising payment gateway and banking related frauds, the Bengaluru police has launched new platform called CIR.
2.Available at Police helpline(112), the system works through tie up of RBI and banks with the Police and courts.
3.As soon as the fraud is reported by individuals and the individual agrees to details, the complaint will be treated as criminal miscellaneous petition.
4.It allows police to step in and reclaim the money before the fraudster, if it it is not withdrawn from bank.

HALAM PEOPLE
1.Clashes took place between Bru people living in the Casco relief camp in Damcherra area in Tripura and Halam communities over the possession of forest land in the area.
2.Ethnically Halam communities of Tripura belong to the Kuki-chin tribes of Tibeto-Burmese ethnic group.
3.Halams are also known as Mila Kuki, through they are not at all Kukis in terms of language, culture and living style. As per 2011 Census their total population is 57,210, distributed throughout the Tripura.
4.Hi-Hook dance and Rai Balmani Festival are popular among

India's manufacturing sector stopped shedding jobs for the first time in 16 months in July even as it rebounded from June's sharp contraction to post its best performance in three months, IHS Markit's Purchasing Managers' Index survey showed.

Facing a payout of $1.2 billion plus interest after an arbitration award went against it, the government on Monday said it had not received any formal proposal from Britain's Cairn Energy plc to resolve the issue within the country's legal framework.

the Halams.

NATIONAL CENTRE OF DISEASE CONTROL

1.The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare presided over the 112th Annual Day celebrations of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).Initiatives Launched at the Event: Genome Lab: The Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) National Reference Laboratory for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was inaugurated.

2.WGS is a comprehensive method for analyzing entire genomes. Genomic information has been instrumental in identifying inherited disorders, characterizing the mutations that drive cancer progression, and tracking disease outbreaks.

3.Rapidly dropping sequencing costs and the ability to produce large volumes of data with today's sequencers make whole-genome sequencing a powerful tool for genomics research.

4.AMR is the resistance acquired by any microorganism (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasite, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections.