

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Supreme Court held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including those on death row, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence. In fact, the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure — Section 433A — which mandates that a prisoner's sentence can be remitted only after 14 years of jail. "Section 433A of the Code cannot and does not in any way affect the constitutional power conferred on the President/Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of the Constitution.

A steep decline in cross border firing by Pakistan was recorded in Jammu and Kashmir till June, compared to the number of ceasefire violations reported in 2020, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has suggested the withdrawal of antidumping levy on viscose staple fibre originating in or exported from Indonesia or China and imported by India.

To provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator SEBI allowed payments banks to carry out activities of investment bankers. Non scheduled payments banks, that have prior RBI nod, can act as a banker to an issue, SEBI said.

The Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance has sought a review of the design and implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) as it has deviated from the original intent and questioned the low recovery rates, long delays in the resolution process and the high number of vacancies in the National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs).

The pressure on quality of assets for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) would persist in the near term and the risk to this sector would remain elevated due to the impact of the COVID19 second wave.

Parts of Manipur and Nagaland shut down to protest against the lack of progress in the Naga peace

### UNION GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES TRIBUNALS REFORMS(RATIONALISATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) BILL, 2021

- 1.It replaces Tribunal Reforms(Rationalisation and Condition of Service) Ordinance, 2021.
- 2.Important features of the Bill- **The Bill dissolves certain existing appellate bodies and transfers their functions to other existing judicial bodies.** These include the Cinematograph Act, the Copyright Act, the Customs Act, the Patents Act, the Airport Authority of India Act.
- 3.The term of office for the Chairpersons and members of Tribunals will be four years, subject to an upper age limit of seventy years for the Chairperson, and sixty-seven years for the other members.
- 4.Earlier,SC struck down Section 184 of the Finance Act2017, which prescribes tenure of four years for members, as it was contrary to the principles of separation of powers, independence of judiciary and Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

### PAKISTAN FINALISES BILL TO GRANT PROVISIONAL PROVINCIAL STATUS TO GILGIT-BALTISTAN(GB)

- 1.GB road was part of erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. **It has been under Pakistan's control since November 4, 1947, following invasion of kashmir by tribal militias and Pakistan army.**
- 2.It was renamed as Northern areas of Pakistan and put under direct control of Pakistan federal government through Karachi Agreement, 1949. The GB order, 2018 was aimed at incorporating GB as its fifth province of Pakistan. Baluchistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh are other four provinces.
- 3.India maintains that Pakistan has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it. India has asserted that the region is an integral part of India by virtue of the legal, complete and irrevocable accession of Jammu & Kashmir to the Union of India in 1947.
- 4.Significance of GB- **GB lies at the intersection of Indian Subcontinent, Central Asia and China.** Important Glaciers like Siachen Glacier are located in GB.Before Entering Pakistan, Indus River passes through GB. Hydro-electric potential of Indus River makes it vital for energy security as well.

### INDIAN SATELLITE NAVIGATION POLICY-2021(SATNAV POLICY-2021)

- 1.In order to achieve the goal of self-reliance in India's satellite-based navigation and augmentation services sector, a comprehensive SATNAV Policy has been proposed by the Department of Space(DOS).
- 2.Satellite based Navigation is a constellation of navigation satellites with global or regional coverage and its supporting infrastructure designed to provide all weather, passive, three-dimensional position, velocity and timing data.
- 3.Major Objectives of the Policy-**Ensuring guaranteed and continuous availability of free-to-air navigation signals for civilian uses and secures navigation signals for strategic uses.**
- 4.Working towards compatibility and interoperability of Indian satellite navigation and augmentation signals with other Global Navigation Satellite System(GNSS) and Satellite based Augmentation Systems(SBAS) signals. To provide Position, Velocity and Time(PVT) based services.

### FLOATING RATE FUNDS

- 1.Floating rate funds buy bonds whose interest rates change to the changing rates in the economy.
- 2.This feature is thus supposed to insulate them from losses because of rate hikes and can even increase their returns as rates rise.
- 3.According to Securities and Exchange Board of India rules, **65% of the corpus of floating rate funds has to be invested in floating rate instruments.**
- 4.Floating rate funds have seen huge inflows in recent months as

process. The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN (IM) had called the 12 hour shutdown on the sixth anniversary of the signing of the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by a voice vote.

The Lok Sabha passed two key Bills without a debate, as the House once again witnessed protests by the Opposition over the Pegasus snooping controversy and farmers' issues. The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 and The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 were passed separately by voice vote before the House was adjourned for the day.

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that no proposal for the bifurcation of any State, including Tamil Nadu, was currently under consideration.

Direct transfer of money into bank accounts of informal workers and an urban employment guarantee scheme were among the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour in its report on the impact of the pandemic on rising unemployment.

The Mizoram government has advised its people to cut down on domestic consumption in anticipation of a commodities crisis because of a 'blockade' in Assam over the border row.

Ebrahim Raisi was inaugurated as President of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinge on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers.

Israel's Supreme Court has floated compromises that would block the evictions of dozens of Palestinians in the east Jerusalem town of Sheikh Jarrah.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reached out to corporate houses and philanthropic organisations across the country to help the Delhi government launch and meet targets under the Delhi@2047 project.

investors expect interest rates to rise.

### TALISMAN SABRE

- 1.It is the largest **bilateral combined training activity between Defence Force(ADF) and United States(US) military.**
- 2.It is biennial exercise incorporating activities on land, sea and air.
- 3.After India invited Australia to Malabar exercise in 2020, Australia has extended India invitation for Talisman Sabre, 2023 to further consolidates the interoperability of their navies in Indo-Pacific.

### NEW THEORY ON HOW EARTH GOT ITS OXYGEN

- 1.About 2.4 billion years ago oxygen concentration in air was negligible but in only about 400 million years Earth's atmosphere went to one-tenth the amount of oxygen we have now.
- 2.**According to a new theory this happened because-Earth's rotation slowed down because of complicated physics of tidal friction and interaction with the moon.**
- 3.This resulted in days getting longer giving more time to cyanobacteria to produce oxygen.
- 4.The idea is being considered impressive as it does not require any big biological changes in bacteria or the world's oceans.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MUSEUMS(NCSM)

- 1.NCSM has taken up projects for setting up of new science centres for Promotion of Culture of Science(SPoCS). Currently, 25 Science Museums/Science Centres in the country are functioning under the administrative control of NCSM.
- 2.**NCSM is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture.**
- 3.Its objective is to portray the growth of science and technology and their applications in industry and human welfare, with a view to develop scientific attitude and temper and to create, inculcate and sustain a general awareness amongst the people.

### GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS(GPS) CLOCKS

- 1.Indian Railways will provide GPS clocks(replacing the analog mechanism) for control officers to enable section controllers coordinated with station masters, loco pilots and other staff directly involved in train operations and avoid accidents.
- 2.**GPS Clock is a satellite system that uses atomic clocks to provide everyone on Earth with low-cost access to international atomic time standards.**
- 3.Atomic clock, type of clock that uses certain resonance frequencies of atoms(usually cesium or rubidium) to keep time with extreme accuracy.

### PERSONALITY IN NEWS

- 1.Pingali Venkayya(2 August 1876-4 July 1963)-He was **Indian freedom fighter who was designed the Indian National Flag. In 1916, he had published a booklet titled A National flag for India.**
- 2.In 1921, acknowledging the need for a national flag, Gandhi asked Venkayya to design it.
- 3.Initially, he presented a green and red flag, but it later evolved with a spinning wheel at the centre and a third colour-white.
- 4.The flag was officially adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1931.

### DAIRY SECTOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 1.The dairy industry has been a subject of intense debate in recent years, fueled by climate change crisis concerns worldwide as well as the advancement of various plant-based alternatives claiming to be more sustainable replacements.
- 2.Harvesting animals for dairy and animal-based products is crucial for food security, poverty alleviation and other social needs. However, there are harmful consequences of animal harvesting on climate. Further, animal rearing has been criticized heavily by non-profit organisations like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for performing cruelty against animals.
- 3.**GHG Emission: Agriculture contributes approximately 16% of India's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which is released by cattle during dairy farming.** Methane from animal waste contributes about 75% of the total GHG emissions of the dairy sector.

As part of the state forest department's pilot project to stop wild elephants from entering villages, the Chhattisgarh government has set aside paddy acquired in 2019-2020 for "elephant management" in nine districts. "For management of elephants, it has been directed to provide paddy of 2019-2020 to the forest department at the cost of procurement.

The Goa government will drop the word "Bhumiputra (son of the soil)" from the Goa Bhumiputra Adhikarini Bill, 2021 that was passed by the assembly on July 30, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said. "The sentiments of many people are attached to the word Bhumiputra and the government is ready to drop this word [from the Bill].

4. Recently, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed an **anti-methanogenic feed supplement 'Harit Dhara' (HD)**, which can cut down cattle methane emissions by 17-20% and can also result in higher milk production.

#### PLACES IN NEWS

**1. Gogra and Hot Springs, Ladakh**-The 12th round of Corps Commanders Meeting between India and China was constructive as per a joint statement issued. However the two sides have not reached an agreement for disengagement at Gogra and Hot Springs in Eastern Ladakh.

**2. Hot Spring**, also called thermal spring, is a spring of naturally hot water, typically heated by subterranean volcanic activity.

**3. Strait Island**-Few Great Andamanese (GA) tribes have been shifted to their tribal settlements at Strait Island to ensure their safety against the COVID-19 pandemic. The island is a tribal reserve for the GA where entry of outsiders is prohibited. GA is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). The Andamans is home to five PVTGs-Sentinelese, Jarwa, Great Andamanese, Onge and Shompen.

**4. Haldibari (India)-Chilahati (Bangladesh) rail link**- With the joint efforts of the railways of both countries, India and Bangladesh have started regular operation of freight trains through the restored Haldibari-Chilahati Route.

**5.** The rail link between India and the then East Pakistan was operational till the war of 1965. The rail link was reopened by both Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh in 2020 for movement of passenger and goods traffic.