

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

With at least three energy storage-linked projects of scale being planned in India, new advanced chemistry cell battery technologies, which could potentially enable battery storage ecosystems to diversify away from the established lithium-ion formula and scale up the viability threshold, offer an array of potential options to policymakers. The suitability of some of these frontier battery Technologies are likely to be evaluated based on the end-use application of the battery storage projects in the works—electricity storage for the grid or their use in electric vehicles(EVs).

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday said police stations pose the “highest threat” to human rights and dignity, which are “sacrosanct”. “The threat to human rights and bodily integrity is the highest in police stations... Going by recent reports, even the privileged are not spared third degree treatment,” the Chief Justice said. Custodial torture and police atrocities still prevail despite constitutional guarantees.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will join the open debate on maritime security that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over at the U.N. Security Council as India holds the Presidency for the month. The Embassy of India in Russia has announced that President Putin will participate in the event through video conference. The participation of world leaders in the session is part of the broader global message about the consensus over India providing leadership of the UNSC as the world deals with conflicts in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Yemen among others. .

Hundreds of Greek firefighters fought desperately on Sunday to control wildfires on the island of Evia that have charred vast areas of pine forest, destroyed homes and forced tourists and locals to flee.

Myanmar protesters marked the anniversary of a 1988 pro democracy uprising that brought Aung San Suu Kyi to prominence, with flash mobs and marches of defiance against the ruling junta.

The economic blockade of Mizoram

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

- 1.The Public Accounts Committee, headed by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, is going on a four-day tour of Srinagar, Kargil, Leh and Drass. The committee visit is in connection with a **2019 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on “high altitude clothing, equipment, ration and housing” for the Army personnel.** The CAG report had pointed out delays in the procurement of high altitude clothing and equipment items of up to four years, leading to acute shortage of essential clothing and equipment.
- 2.About PAC: The PAC is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha. The term of office of the members is one year. The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition. Its chief function is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament.
- 3.Limitations of the Public Accounts Committee: Broadly, **it cannot intervene in the questions of policy. It can keep a tab on the expenses only after they are incurred. It has no power to limit expenses.** It cannot intervene in matters of day-to-day administration. Any recommendation that the committee makes is only advisory. They can be ignored by the ministries.
- 4.It is not vested with the power of disallowance of expenditures by the departments. Being only an executive body; it cannot issue an order. Only the Parliament can take a final decision on its findings.

### CASTE-BASED CENSUS FOR INDIA

- 1.The Bihar chief minister wants the central government to reconsider its refusal to hold a caste-based census, as he feels such data can help his government design more focused policies for the really needy among OBCs. However, the Government of India has decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise populations other than SCs and STs in Census.
- 2.While SC/ST details are collected as part of the census, details of other castes are not collected by the enumerators. The main method is by self-declaration to the enumerator. So far, backward classes commissions in various States have been conducting their own counts to ascertain the population of backward castes.
- 3.**Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes.** Before that, every Census until 1931 had data on caste.
- 4.The Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 was a major exercise to obtain data about the socio-economic status of various communities. It had two components: a survey of the rural and urban households and ranking of these households based on pre-set parameters, and a caste census.

### MEKADATU

- 1.Tamil Nadu has protested against Karnataka’s move to build a reservoir on river Cauvery at Mekedatu. However, the Karnataka Government has asserted that there is no “compromise” on the Mekedatu project and the state wants to undertake the project.
- 2.Meanwhile, the Centre has said the project required the approval of the Cauvery Water Management Authority’s (CWMA). The Detail Project Report (DPR) sent by Karnataka was tabled in the CWMA several times for approval, but the discussion on this issue could not take place due to a lack of consensus among party states Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- 3.About the Project: **Mekedatu is a multipurpose (drinking and power) project. It involves building a balancing reservoir, near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district in Karnataka.** The project once completed is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighboring areas (4.75 TMC) and also can generate 400 MW power. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 9,000 crore.
- 4.Why Tamil Nadu is against this project? **It says, the CWDT and the SC have found that the existing storage facilities**

was lifted late on Saturday after more than four hours of talks between the people of Lailapur, two Assam Ministers and officials.

The Taliban tightened the noose over northern Afghanistan on Sunday, capturing three more provincial capitals as they take their fight to the cities after seizing much of the countryside. The militants have snatched four provincial capitals in Afghanistan since Friday in a lightning offensive that appears to have overwhelmed government forces. Kunduz, SarePul and Taloqan in the north fell within hours of one another.

The Naveen Patnaik Government has given its consent to the ambitious ₹8000 crore coastal highway project that would connect Odisha's Tangi with West Bengal's Digha, six years after mooting of the proposal.

Participating in a series of webinars and physical meetings — "Lado Panchayats" — under the aegis of "Selfie With Daughter Foundation", a non government organisation working on gender issues, over the past few weeks, women, from across the country, have advocated the need to increase the minimum marriageable age of girls to 21 years from the present 18.

Ahead of the Independence Day celebration, the Union government has asked States to ensure that people do not use national flags made of plastic as ensuring the appropriate disposal of the Tricolour made of the non biodegradable item was a practical problem.

The head of Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement, Hassan Nasrallah, has vowed a "suitable and proportionate" response to any Israeli air strikes on Lebanon after a flare up at the border last week. Israel carried out its first air raids on Lebanese soil in years on Thursday, prompting Hezbollah to fire rockets back at the Jewish state the following day.

North Korean leader Kim Jongun has mobilised the military to carry out relief work in areas recently hit by heavy rains, amid concerns over an economic crisis and food shortage.

The National Investigation Agency Sunday searched 56 locations allegedly linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in Jammu and Kashmir as a part of its probe into a terror funding case.

available in the Cauvery basin were adequate for storing and distributing water so Karnataka's proposal is ex-facie (on the face of it) untenable and should be rejected outright.

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#### PERMANENT SEAT AT UNSC

1. The US administration under Biden has continued to remain non-committal on support for India's UNSC bid. However, the Obama and Trump administrations had supported a permanent seat for India on the Security Council.

2. The U.S. has offered qualified support for building a consensus for enlargement of the UNSC — in terms of permanent and non-permanent members. However, it said it would not support an expansion of the veto — given to the P-5, the current five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the U.K and the U.S.

3. The Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group — Pakistan, South Korea, Italy and Argentina — opposes the G4 plan. China also opposes the bids of India and Japan.

4. India's claims to a permanent seat in the UNSC are based on the following grounds: Represents one-sixth of the global population. Among the founding members of the U.N. Always upheld its principles and credentials while some other countries consider the organisation as merely a talk shop. Impressive contribution towards the UN Peacekeeping Force (UNPKF). An emerging economic power.

#### THE NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(IT) RULES

1. Twitter has appointed a permanent Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), a Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) and a Nodal Contact Person in compliance with the new Information Technology (IT) Rules. The Supreme Court had recently expressed reservations over Twitter changing the status of the CCO appointment from "interim" to "contingent" in its affidavit. The IT rules mandated the appointment of a senior employee as CCO, but Twitter had appointed a "contingent worker" through a third party contractor. This was opposed by the Centre.

2. Twitter Inc is admittedly an 'intermediary' within the meaning of Section 2(1)(w) of IT Act, 2000, and an SSMI (Significant Social Media Intermediary) under the IT Rules 2021. SSMIs are required to appoint a chief compliance officer, a nodal officer, and a grievance officer — all whom are required to be residents of India, according to the IT rules.

3. Any non-compliance amounts to breach of provisions of IT Rules, leading to Twitter losing its immunity as an "intermediary". A loss of its intermediary status, which provides its immunity from liabilities over any third-party data hosted by it, makes it liable for criminal action in case of complaints.

#### CENTRAL UNIVERSITY(AMENDMENT) BILL 2021

1. The bill seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, to provide for the establishment of a university in the Union territory of Ladakh.

2. The establishment of a central university (to be named Sindhu University) will help students in Ladakh to pursue their higher studies with ease and will also cater to the

**Apple has announced that software updates later this year will bring new features that will “help protect children from predators who use communication tools to recruit and exploit them, and limit the spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material(CSAM)”.**

regional aspirations for years to come.

**3.**Central universities or union universities in India are established by an Act of Parliament and are under the purview of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education.

#### **PANI MAAH**

**1.**The Union Territory of Ladakh launched a month-long campaign — ‘Pani Maah’ (Water Month) to increase the pace of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT and to inform and engage village communities on the importance of clean water.

**2.**The campaign will run at block and panchayat levels in two phases.

**3.**The campaign will adopt a three-pronged approach — focussing on water quality testing, planning and strategizing water supply, and seamless functioning of Pani Sabha in villages.