

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to the first ever estimates of the gender inequality in global earnings presented in the World Inequality Report 2022 released earlier this week. The female share of the total labour income is the national aggregate labour income earned by women relative to the total aggregate of labour income within a country. In a country with perfect equality between women and men, the female labour income share would be 50%.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been created for control of wildlife crime at the Central Government level, to work in close coordination with State forest department and other law enforcement agencies. The WCCB had launched operation "Save Kurma" from December 2016 to January 2017 to focus on the poaching, transportation and illegal trade of live turtles and tortoises. The operation resulted in seizure of more than 15,912 live turtles and the arrest of 55 suspects. Another operation "Operation Turtshield I" from December 2019 to January 2020 and Operation TurtshieldII" (December 2020 to February 2021) was taken up to tackle the illegal trade of live turtles, resulting in the seizure of 4,601 live/ dead turtles and arrest of 45 accused in the first operation.

The world's wealthiest democracies on Saturday sought to present a united front against Russian aggression toward Ukraine as Britain hosted a meeting of Foreign Ministers in the northern English city of Liverpool.

In a significant gesture, India on Saturday supplied the first consignment of materials as part of humanitarian assistance to help the Taliban ruled Afghanistan deal with the deteriorating health situation in the country. India has not recognised the Taliban administration in Afghanistan and has urged the international community to proceed cautiously in dealing with the Taliban because of uncertain security guarantees and the outfit's rigid position on human rights related issues.

Bangladesh reacted sharply to the U.S. Treasury's decision to sanction a special military and police task force for alleged human rights violations. Foreign Secretary Masud

IMAGING X-RAY POLARIMETRY EXPLORER

1. NASA launched a new mission named Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) onboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. IXPE observatory is a joint effort of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Italian Space Agency. It is the first satellite mission that is dedicated to the measure the polarization of X-Rays from different cosmic sources.

2. This mission was developed by Small Explorer Program of NASA. IXPE is a space observatory with three identical telescopes designed to measure the polarization of state of light from astrophysical sources to provide insight into our understanding of X-ray production in objects. [X-ray producing objects - Neutron stars, pulsar wind nebulae, supernova remnants, stellar and super-massive black holes, and dozens of other high-energy objects.]

3. The mission's primary length is 2 years and the observatory will be at 600 kms altitude, orbiting around Earth's equator.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INDEX 2021

1. The Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 was jointly released by non-profits Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. The GHS Index 2021 is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capacities of 195 countries to prepare for epidemics and pandemics. By assessing these capacities every 2-3 years, the GHS Index stimulates political will and action to prioritize addressing these gaps.

2. This Index has assessed countries across 6 categories, 37 indicators and 171 questions, using instantly available information. According to the GHS Index 2021, all countries remains unprepared for future epidemic and pandemic threats. Findings - The world's overall performance on the GHS Index score slipped to 38.9 (out of 100) in 2021, from a score of 40.2 in 2019. This, even as infectious diseases are expected to have the greatest impact on the global economy in the next decade.

3. All countries across all income levels had insufficient health capacities. This left the world acutely vulnerable to future health emergencies. In 2021, no country scored in the top tier of rankings and no country scored above 75.9. The report showed that India has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.

NATIONAL VECTOR BORNE DISEASES CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) is an umbrella programme that deals with following diseases - Malaria, Dengue, Filariasis, Japanese Encephalitis and Kala-azar. This Programme was launched in 2003-04 by merging National Anti-malaria Control Programme, National Filariasis Control Programme and Kala Azar Control programmes.

2. Japanese Encephalitis Control Programme and Dengue have also been included in this Program. This programme is administered by the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC). These diseases are targeted for elimination, and not for eradication. [Eradication of the disease is permanent reduction to zero of the global incidences of infection caused by specific agent as a result of deliberate efforts; and when intervention measures are no longer needed.]

3. Directorate NVBDCP is the central nodal agency for prevention and control of 6 vector borne diseases (VBDs) including Chikungunya. [6 VBDs - Malaria, Filariasis, Kala Azar, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue and Dengue Hemorrhagic fever, and Chikungunya.]

NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAMME

1. National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a centrally sponsored scheme under the umbrella of National Health Mission. This Programme is implemented by the government with the goal to "make India leprosy free".

2. Objectives: To reduce Prevalence rate less than 1/10,000 population at sub national and district level. To reduce Grade II disability % < 1 among new cases at National level To reduce

Bin Momen has summoned U.S. Ambassador to Dhaka Earl Miller to protest against the actions. The decision by the U.S. to ban the Rapid Action Battalion, came as a shock to the Sheikh Hasina Government, just days before its planned celebrations for the 50th anniversary of its Liberation Day, where President Ram Nath Kovind will represent India.

A programme this October to check stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana by a private "agritech" firm claims to have reduced the paddy - area being burned by 92% over last year. This, however, does not seem to have dissuaded the bulk of farmers in the States from burning stubble as multiple accounts suggest that instances were not noticeably reduced from last year. In the programme, the Bengaluru based nurture .farm sprayed a bio-decomposer in the paddy fields of about 25,000 farmers in Punjab and Haryana in October. The decomposers are a powder mixed in water meant to accelerate the process of turning rice stubble into compost. Untreated rice straw takes four to eight weeks to disintegrate which is too long for the average farmer to wait to be able to sow the winter wheat crop.

Guaranteed minimum support prices (MSP) for all crops may be the best route to crop diversification in Punjab and Haryana, farmers think. Farmers in these two States already get the benefit of MSP rates for paddy and wheat because of the high levels of procurement. However, they say they will join the upcoming fight for an MSP guarantee for all crops, as it will enable them to shift away from input expensive, environmentally harmful and climatically unsuitable paddy to grow oilseeds and lentils instead.

Successful tests of the Pinaka Extended Range (ER) multibarrel rocket launcher system, Area Denial Munitions (ADM) and indigenously developed fuses have been carried out at various test ranges, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

China branded U.S. democracy a "weapon of mass destruction" on Saturday, following the U.S.-organised Summit for Democracy which aimed to shore up likeminded allies in the face of autocratic regimes. China was left out of the twoday virtual summit and responded by angrily accusing U.S. President Joe Biden of stoking Cold Warera ideological divides.

A study published in Scientific

Grade II disability cases < 1 case per million population at National level. Zero disabilities among new Child cases. It also aims at generating awareness about leprosy disease.

3.Disability Prevention & Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) is a priority. NLEP follows decentralized health planning and funds are sent to the states through State Health Societies. India achieved the goal set by the National Health Policy, 2002 of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem, defined as less than 1 case per 10,000 population, at the National level in 2005.

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION PROGRAMME

1.National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) is the Public Health initiative of the Government of India under the umbrella of National Health Mission (NHM). NTEP has a goal of ending TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2030.

2.It provides technical and managerial leadership to anti-tuberculosis activities in the country. As per the National Strategic Plan 2017-25, the program has a vision of achieving a "TB free India".

3.Its strategies are based under the broad themes of "Prevent, Detect, Treat and Build pillars for universal coverage and social protection". NTEP provides various free of cost, quality TB diagnosis and treatment services across the country through the government health system.

PLI SCHEME FOR DRUGS

1.The Department of Pharmaceuticals had launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and their Key Starting Materials.

2.Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Also known as bulk drug, the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) is the chemical molecule in a finished pharmaceutical product (FPP) that lends the product the claimed therapeutic effect. API means the active ingredient which is contained in medicine. Example - An active ingredient to relieve pain is included in a painkiller.

3.Key Starting-Materials Also known as Drug Intermediates, Key Starting Materials are chemical compounds that are used as a base to make an API. An API starting material can be a raw material, intermediate or an API that is used in the production of an API. It is incorporated as a significant structural fragment into the structure of the API.

6th SCHEDULE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

1.Various civil society groups in Ladakh have been demanding inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The demand for Sixth Schedule started after they felt that the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in current form can no longer protect the interest of tribal as it did not have power to legislate or frame rules on subjects like land, jobs, and cultures.

2.Need for: It is estimated that more than 90% of Ladakh's population is tribal. The primary Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Ladakh are Balti Beda, Bot (or Boto), Brokpa (or Drokpa, Dard, Shin), Changpa, Garra, Mon and Purigpa. Thereby several distinct cultural heritages of these communities in Ladakh region needs to be preserved and promoted.

3.About the Sixth Schedule: It protects tribal populations and provides autonomy to the communities through creation of autonomous development councils that can frame laws on land, public health, agriculture and others. As of now, 10 autonomous councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHILD NUTRITION

1.The government has listed the following steps, taken during the lockdown, for supplementary child nutrition: To ensure continuous nutritional support to beneficiaries, anganwadi workers and helpers distributed supplementary nutrition at the doorstep of beneficiaries once in 15 days during COVID-19 as all anganwadi centres across the country were closed to limit the impact of the pandemic.

2.Anganwadi workers and helpers also assisted the local administration in community surveillance, creating awareness as well as doing other work assigned to them from time to time. Need for: Studies have shown that the pandemic could

Reports conclusively pins down impact of the chicxulub meteorite in springtime. This, 66 million years ago, ended the 165-million-year dominion of dinosaurs, wiping out 75% of life on Earth, allowing a new order to emerge. This has been a major question until now; the answer enhances the ability to trace the first stages of damage to life on Earth.

lead to increase in malnutrition due to loss of livelihood, disruption in food and health services.

3. In 2022 compared to 2019 the number of children under five years with wasting could increase by an additional 9.3 million; an estimated 2.6 million additional children were likely to be stunted; and there would be roughly 1,68,000 additional deaths of children under five years.