

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

India has imposed antidumping duty on five Chinese products, including certain aluminium goods and some chemicals, for five years to protect local manufacturers from cheap imports from the neighbouring country. According to separate notifications of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the duties have been imposed on certain flatrolled products of aluminium — sodium hydrosulphite used in the dye industry, silicone sealant, used in manufacturing solar photovoltaic modules and thermal power applications, and hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) component R32 and hydrofluorocarbon blends, both used in refrigeration.

India handed over two Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) and other self defence equipment to Mozambique to assist in its capacity building as the Central African nation battles growing terror threats. Naval ship INS Kesari entered Port of Maputo in Mozambique to deliver 500 tonnes of food aid as well as the defence equipment, under the eight edition of Mission Sagar by the Navy to assist friendly foreign countries in the region. These deployments were conducted in solidarity with India's extended Maritime Neighbourhood and highlights the importance accorded by India to these special relationships, the Navy said on Sunday. As much as 500 tonnes of food aid has been shipped by INS Kesari to support the efforts of the Government of Mozambique to cope with ongoing drought and concurrent challenges of pandemic, it stated.

South African antiapartheid icon and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu died on Sunday aged 90. Calling him a "guiding light for countless people globally", Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his tribute, said: "His emphasis on human dignity and equality will be forever remembered.

Weeks after a botched ambush by an elite armed forces unit killed 13 civilians at Oting in Mon district of Nagaland, a recent high level meeting in New Delhi decided to constitute a committee to study the possibility of withdrawing the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from the State. The Act gives immunity to armed forces when they use force in a notified area.. The committee will be headed by the

FLEX FUELS VEHICLES

1.Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has for long been advocating the use of flex-fuel to power cars and motorcycles sold in India. Recently, at an industry event, the transport minister revealed that he has issued an advisory to all carmakers to introduce flex-fuel engines in their vehicles.

2.As per the advisory issued by the government: Carmakers are given six months' time to introduce flex-fuel engines. Manufacturers have to produce the Flex Fuel Strong Hybrid vehicles and both types of vehicles must comply with the BS-6 emission norms.

3.About* flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs)? An FFV is a modified version of vehicles that could run both on gasoline and doped petrol with different levels of ethanol blends. FFVs will allow vehicles to use all the blends and also run on unblended fuel. FFVs have compatible engines to run on more than 84 percent ethanol blended petrol.

4.Benefits: **FFVs are aimed at reducing the use of polluting fossil fuels and cutting down harmful emissions. Alternative fuel ethanol is Rs 60-62 per litre while petrol costs more than Rs 100 per litre in many parts of the country, so by using ethanol, Indians will save Rs 30-35 per litre.** For India, FFVs will present a different advantage as they will allow vehicles to use different blends of ethanol mixed petrol available in different parts of the country. Also, these vehicles are a logical extension of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme launched by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in January 2003. Since India has surplus produce of corn, sugar and wheat, the mandatory blending of ethanol programme will help farmers in realising higher incomes. For the overall Indian economy, higher usage of ethanol as an automobile fuel will help save import costs as the country meets more than 80 per cent of its crude oil requirements through imports.

5.Disadvantages/challenges of using FFVs: **Customer acceptance will be a major challenge since the cost of ownership and running cost are going to be very high compared with 100 per cent petrol vehicles.** Running cost (due to lower fuel efficiency) will be higher by more than 30 per cent when run with 100 per cent ethanol (E100). Flex Fuel Engines cost more as ethanol has very different chemical properties than petrol. Ethanol has very low (40 per cent) Calorific value as compared to Gasoline, very High Latent heat of vaporization causing cooling of charge/combustion etc. Ethanol also acts as a solvent and could wipe out the protective oil film inside the engine thereby could cause wear and tear.

BOTTOM TRAWLING AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

1.Sri Lankan authorities between December 18 and 20 and the impounding of 10 boats for "poaching" in territorial waters have again raised concerns about the fate of the men.

2.Issue- Fishermen from Tamil Nadu getting arrested and released later has become a routine affair, but there have been cases of deaths. The bone of contention between the two countries has been the use of bottom trawlers by the Tamil Nadu fishermen, a practice opposed in Sri Lanka's Northern Province on the ground that trawling damages the marine ecosystem. This practice has been banned in Sri Lanka and there have been agitations for stringent enforcement of the law. The Indian side had agreed twice — in 2010 and 2016 — to phase out and end the practice of bottom trawling. But it has not ended yet.

3.Issue with Bottom trawling-**Bottom trawling, an ecologically destructive practice, involves trawlers dragging weighted nets along the sea-floor, causing great depletion of aquatic resources.** Bottom trawling captures juvenile fish, thus exhausting the ocean's resources and affecting marine conservation efforts. This practice was started by Tamil Nadu fishermen in Palk Bay and actively pursued at the peak of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

4.Solution to the bottom trawling- deep-sea fishing plan: The

Additional Secretary (Northeast) in the Union Home Ministry and will include Nagaland's Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said here on Sunday that the executive showed a growing tendency to disregard and even disrespect court orders, though it was supposed to assist, and cooperate with, the judiciary for the rule of law to prevail in the nation. Highlighting the challenges before the judiciary, he said a "non-cooperative executive" was one of the concerns. "Courts do not have the power of the purse or the sword. Court orders are only good when they get executed... Unless the executive and legislature make sincere efforts to fill the judicial vacancies, appoint prosecutors, strengthen infrastructure and make laws with a clear foresight and stakeholder analysis, the judiciary cannot be held responsible alone," he said.

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board to make it mandatory for new petroleum outlets to obtain consent to establish and consent to operate. The NGT also directed the retail petroleum outlets, irrespective of their turnover, to obtain consent to operate within six months. If they did not do so, the State Pollution Control Boards could take action.

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said on Sunday that women seeking to travel long distances should not be offered road transport unless they are accompanied by a close male relative. The guidance issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, which also called on vehicle owners to refuse rides to women not wearing headscarves, has drawn condemnation from rights activists.

A recent visit by the Chinese Ambassador in Colombo to Sri Lanka's Tamil majority Northern Province has sparked concern and considerable commentary on what is widely seen as a heightening geopolitical contest between India and China, now manifesting in the island nation's north.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said the country intends to double the number of settlers living in the Israeli controlled Golan Heights with a multi-million dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory it captured from Syria more than five decades ago.

solution to the bottom trawling issue lies in transition from trawling to deep-sea fishing. **The activity of catching fish that live in the deep parts of the sea/ocean is called deep-sea fishing.** The boats are designed in such a way that fishermen get access to the deeper parts of the ocean and fish species. It is practiced worldwide, especially in the coastal areas with no ecological damage. The depth of water should be at least 30 meters to be considered a deep sea fishing zone.

5.Efforts by Government- the Palk Bay scheme: Launched in July 2017 under the Blue Revolution programme. The scheme is financed by the Union and the State Governments with beneficiary participation. It had envisaged the provision of 2,000 vessels in three years to the fishermen of the State and motivate them to abandon bottom trawling.

P.N.PANICKER

1.The President of India recently unveiled the statue of Shri P.N. Panicker at Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram. P.N. Panicker (1909-1995): Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker is known as the Father of the Library Movement of Kerala.

2.June 19, his death anniversary, has been observed in Kerala as Vayanadinam (Reading Day) since 1996. In 2017, PM declared June 19, Kerala's Reading Day, as National Reading Day in India. The following month is also observed as National Reading Month in India.

3.Panicker led the formation of Thiruvithaamkoor Granthasala Sangham (Travancore Library Association) in 1945 with 47 rural libraries.

4.The slogan of the organization was 'Read and Grow'. The association - Grandhasala Sangham won the prestigious 'Krupsakaya Award' from UNESCO in 1975.

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

1.Researchers of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) are carrying out tagging of the Olive Ridleys at three mass nesting sites — Gahirmatha, Devi River mouth and Rushikulya. The tagging would help them identify the migration path and places visited by the marine reptiles after congregation and nesting.

2.Key facts: The Olive ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. They inhabit warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. These turtles, along with their cousin the Kemp's ridley turtle, are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

3.Rushikulya rookery coast in the Ganjam district of Odisha, Gahirmatha beach and the mouth of the Debi River, are the major nesting sites in Odisha. IUCN status: Vulnerable.

4.Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", initiated in the early 1980s, helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.

UNSC RESOLUTION 2615

1.The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously passed this resolution to permit a carve-out in sanctions against the Taliban to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

2.This carve-out covers urgently needed humanitarian assistance and other activities that support basic human needs in Afghanistan. The resolution (2615) mandates a review of the carve-out every six months.

3.It also requests that an Emergency Relief Coordinator brief the UNSC every six months on the delivery of assistance and any obstacles to implementation. It also "calls on all parties" to respect human rights and observe international humanitarian law.

VERNACULAR INNOVATION PROGRAM

1.Launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog. It is an initiative to lower the language barrier in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship such that it will systematically decouple creative expressions and languages of transaction.

2.It seeks to enable innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages. Implementation: AIM has identified and will be training a Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages. It will assist in overcoming linguistic barriers and empowering innovators in the farthest parts of the

After a year of visible strain in its ties with Colombo, New Delhi may finally have some reason for cheer. In a month's time, Sri Lanka will ink the long dragging deal with India to jointly develop the Trincomalee oil tank farms — a coveted project that has remained controversial for decades. The work of restoring and operating the Trincomalee oil tank farm will be undertaken as a joint venture between India and Sri Lanka.

country.

3.Need for: According to the 2011 census, 10.4% of Indians speak English, with the majority speaking it as a second, third, or fourth language. Only 0.02 percent of Indians were English Speakers with their first language.

4.AIM aims to boost the local, regional, national, and global innovation pipelines by offering access to learning in one's language and culture.