

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

For the fourth year in a row, Kerala has topped a ranking of States on health indicators. Uttar Pradesh has come in at the bottom. The "Health Index" is part of a report commissioned by the NITI Aayog, the World Bank and the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry. Kerala is followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana, which improved its ranking. The Health Index score is prepared based on the States' performance across a large set of indicators that are divided into three broad domains — health outcomes, governance and information, and key inputs and processes. Health outcomes, for instance, include parameters such as neonatal mortality rate, under-5 mortality rate and sex ratio at birth.

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari asked automobile manufacturers to manufacture flexfuel vehicles complying with BS6 norms within six months. "In order to substitute India's import of petroleum as a fuel and to provide direct benefits to our farmers, we have now advised the automobile manufacturers in India to start manufacturing flex fuel vehicles (FFV) and flex fuel strong hybrid electric vehicles (FFVSEV) complying with BS6 norms in a time bound manner within a period of six months.

The Centre and the administration of Jammu and Kashmir decided to throw open real estate in the Union Territory for "second homes and summer homes" to all Indian citizens. According to an official summit document at the first J&K Real Estate Conference in Jammu, the Union Territory has become a promising yet untapped destination for the next wave of growth and prosperity. "Under the newly introduced Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, the term 'being permanent resident of the State' as a criterion has been 'omitted', paving the way for investors outside Jammu and Kashmir to invest in the Union Territory. As a result, any citizen of India can buy non-agriculture land in Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

The Union Home Ministry said on Monday that it had refused to renew the FCRA registration of Missionaries of Charity (MoC), a Catholic religious congregation set up by Nobel laureate Mother Teresa, as "some adverse inputs were

RBI'S NORMS ON TOKENISATION

1.The Reserve Bank of India has extended the deadline given to the online merchants and financial payments companies for implementation of the norms for tokenisation of card data by 6 months to June 30, 2022.

2.Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual credit and debit card details with an alternate code called the "token", which will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device. As per the new guidelines, the RBI prohibited merchants from storing customer credit and debit card details on their servers with effect from January 01, 2022. Also, the merchants must adopt card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation as an alternative to card storage.

3.It applies to domestic, online purchases. Response - Most of the leading banks are ready for the switchover. But other stakeholders - mostly merchants - argue that the systems at their backend are not yet ready to adopt the new regime and had sought further time in putting new norms into effect.

4.Impacts - **Customers who don't have the tokenisation facility will have to key in their card details each time they order something online. This may impact transaction value, especially when done through stored cards.** In case of multiple cards, each will have to be tokenised. A tokenised card transaction is considered safer as the actual card details are not shared with the merchant during transaction processing.

INS KHUKRI

1.INS Khukri decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service to the nation. INS Khukri was the first of the indigenously built Missile Corvettes. INS Khukri was built by the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders in 1989. It was affiliated with the Gorkha brigade of the India Army. It had the distinction of being part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets. Legacy - INS Khukri has a legacy with the naval history of India.

2.The first INS Khukri (F149), which was a Type 14 Blackwood-class frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1958. It was sunk off the coast of Diu, Gujarat, by the Pakistan Navy Daphné-class submarine PNS Hangor during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. Missile Corvettes are agile high-speed ships and have considerable firepower. They are ideal for a littoral environment.

3.Indian Navy has four Missile Corvettes - INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt, INS Kiltan and INS Kavaratti. These were commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2020 respectively. Project 28 - In 2020, the last of 4 indigenously built anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes 'INS Kavaratti' was commissioned under Project 28.

4.**The ships under Project 28 have been designed locally by the Navy's in-house Directorate of Naval Design (DND).** These were built locally by Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers.

PSEUDOEPHEDRINE

1.Pseudoephedrine is largely known as a sympathomimetic drug. It is in a class of medications called nasal decongestants that is used to relieve nasal congestion caused by allergies, cold and hay fever. It also temporarily relieves sinus congestion and pressure.

2.Pseudoephedrine will relieve symptoms but will not treat the cause of the symptoms or speed recovery. It works by causing narrowing of the blood vessels in the nasal passages. Other uses - Legally, this substance is used in the manufacturing of amphetamines, which can be sold only on the prescription of doctors. Illegally, it is used in the making of drugs, which are sold without any prescription.

3.Status in India-**Pseudoephedrine is a controlled substance, as it is being used for making the highly addictive drugs. It is one of the 7 controlled substance in India, which is being used by pharmaceutical companies in making various medicines.** Other controlled substances are Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine & its Salts, N-Acetyl Anthranilic Acid, Anthranilic Acid and two others.

4.These substances are also known as precursor substances.

noticed". The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday called for public shaming of those flouting liquor ban in the State, while hardening his stance against relaxing the stringent prohibition law for those coming to the dry State from elsewhere. Addressing a gathering of women's self help groups 'Jeevika', Mr. Kumar said, "Don't come to Bihar if you find the ban inconvenient."

The Union Home Ministry has maintained a studied silence on the constitution of a committee on withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland. The panel's terms of reference are yet to be notified and publicised. It will be headed by Registrar General of India Vivek Joshi and comprise State government officials.

Dowry death can be presumed if the wife was harassed, mentally and physically close before her death in the marital home, the Supreme Court has held. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana was interpreting Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code (dowry death). The provision mandates that the death of a married woman could be linked to the crime if she had been harassed for dowry "soon before her death". "The cruelty has to be proved during the close proximity of time of death. It should be continuous.

Turkey urged Russia on Monday to drop "one sided" demands and adopt a more constructive approach in its standoff with Western powers and NATO over Ukraine. NATO member Turkey has irritated Moscow by supplying combat drones to Ukraine that Russia fears could be used by Kiev in its conflict with separatists in two eastern regions.

Iran said nuclear talks that resumed in Vienna on Monday should focus on lifting sanctions on the Islamic republic and "guarantees" that the U.S. will return to the fold. Negotiations to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal restarted in late November, after a five month hiatus following the election of ultraconservative Iran President Ebrahim Raisi. The talks seek to bring back the United States, after it withdrew from the accord in 2018 under then President Donald Trump and began imposing sanctions on Iran.

Edward. O. Wilson, the trailblazing U.S. scientist, professor and author

They are used for manufacturing narcotics drugs and psychotropic substance. Section 9A of the Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 authorizes the law enforcement agencies to control and regulate these substances, including pseudoephedrine in India.

REVAMPED DISTRIBUTION SECTOR SCHEME

1. Recently, the Ministry of Power had launched the Reforms-based and Results-linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Scheme Objectives Reduction of the AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% by 2024-25 Reduction of the ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25.

2. Developing Institutional Capabilities for Modern DISCOMs Providing financial assistance to DISCOMs for modernisation and strengthening of distribution infrastructure, and Improvement in the quality, reliability, and affordability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient DISCOMs/ Power Departments. Assistance - The scheme provides conditional financial assistance to DISCOMs for strengthening of supply infrastructure.

3. The assistance will be based on meeting pre-qualifying criteria. It is also based upon achievement of basic minimum benchmarks by the DISCOM evaluated on the basis of agreed evaluation framework tied to financial improvements. Implementation of the Scheme would be based on the action plan worked out for each state rather than a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

4. **Nodal Agencies - Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC). Aggregate Technical & Commercial Losses The concept of Aggregate Technical & Commercial losses provides a realistic picture of loss situation in the context it is measured.**

5. It is combination of energy loss (Technical loss + Theft + inefficiency in billing) & commercial loss (Default in payment + inefficiency in collection). $AT\&C\ Losses = (Energy\ input - Energy\ billed) * 100 / Energy\ input$. ACS-ARR Gap It is the gap between the average cost of supply (ACS) and the average revenue realised (ARR).

MAGNETAR

1. Researchers have succeeded in measuring for the first time the characteristics of a flare on a distant magnetar. The flare, which spewed within a few tenths of a second as much energy as the Sun would shed in 100,000 years, was captured in 2020 by the International Space Station's Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor (ASIM) instrument.

2. A magnetar is a rare compact type of neutron star teeming with energy and magnetism. Only 30 Magnetars have been spotted within the Milky Way so far. Formation - During the course of their evolution, massive stars (masses around 10-25 times the mass of the Sun) eventually collapse and shrink to form very compact objects called neutron stars. A subset of these neutron stars is the so-called magnetars.

3. Characteristics - **Magnetars are isolated neutron stars with intense magnetic fields much higher than in ordinary pulsars, typically ~10¹⁵ G. Magnetars emit energy in the range given by luminosities of 10³⁷ - 10⁴⁰ joules per second.** (Luminosity of our sun = 10²⁶ joules per second). These are highly dense and have breathtakingly high rotation speeds (rotational periods can be just 0.3 to 12.0 seconds).

4. Further, these magnetars emit violent flares. Eruptions in magnetars are believed to be due to instabilities in their magnetosphere, or "starquakes" produced in their crust - a rigid, elastic layer about one kilometre thick. This causes waves in the magnetosphere, and interaction between these waves causes dissipation of energy.

5. Magnetars are very difficult to observe when they are silent. It is only during a flare that they can be observed, and these flares are so short-lived that it presents a formidable problem.

DART MISSION

1. The main aim of the mission is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course. Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a low-cost spacecraft, weighing around 610 kg at launch and 550 kg during impact. 2. It also carries about 10 kg of xenon which will be used to demonstrate the agency's new thrusters called NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster-Commercial (NEXT-C) in space.

3. The spacecraft carries a high-resolution imager called Didymos

whose study of insects and clarion call to protect earth earned him the nickname “Darwin’s natural heir”, has died at age 92. Wilson, whose death was announced on Monday by his foundation, was an award winning biologist and long time Harvard University research professor, considered the world’s leading authority on ants and their behaviour

Reconnaissance and Asteroid Camera for Optical Navigation (DRACO). Images from DRACO will be sent to Earth in real-time and will help study the impact site and surface of Dimorphos. **4.DART will also carry a small satellite or CubeSat named LICIAcube (Light Italian CubeSat for Imaging of Asteroids).** LICIAcube is expected to capture images of the impact and the impact crater formed as a result of the collision. It can also capture images of any dust cloud formed during the impact.