

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Visakhapatnam is known for its salubrious climate, tranquil beaches, peaceful social fabric, Central public sector units, educational institutions and cosmopolitan culture. But of late, the district has gained notoriety as the “ganja hub” of the country. In the district, about nine of the 11 mandals that fall under the thickly forested area of the Eastern Ghats, which is known as the Agency area, are into ganja cultivation. The traditional crops such as turmeric, ginger, rajma and millets have given way to this weed, the seed of which was first sown by smugglers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu about four decades back. Today, as per a conservative estimate by the Excise Department, it is grown on over 7,000 to 10,000 acres spread over 150 to 200 villages in the nine mandals.

After oxygen cylinders, it's everyday use portable oxygen cans that are now witnessing brisk sales across the country, with escalating air pollution levels and increased travel and outdoor activities. It is also being used by those recovering from COVID19. Sales of these portable oxygen cans, according to industry experts, have doubled postDiwali, and going by the current trend they are expected to triple in the coming weeks. DelhiNCR alone claims to bring in 65% of the sales, while Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune also are witnessing a steady climb in demand for this product. This when medical doctors are not ready to give an allclear for the product, stating that it can actually delay medical intervention and lead to a false sense of wellbeing.

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has asked the Centre to appoint a Chief Secretary with a working knowledge of the Mizo language as the Mizo people in general and his Cabinet Ministers do not know or are weak in Hindi. In a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah on October 29, the Chief Minister said the Ministry of Home Affairs appointed Renu Sharma as the State's Chief Secretary when his Government wanted to promote Additional Chief Secretary J.C. Ramthanga to the post.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the government why the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been tasked to keep an eye on the inflow and subsequent outflow of foreign funds to NGOs under the

CENTRAL SECTOR PLAN SCHEME

1.Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment will release the Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme. The Central Sector Plan Scheme is “In-service Training & Sensitization of Key functionaries of Central & State Governments and Local Bodies and other service providers” at national level w.e.f. 2015 -16. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has entrusted the responsibility to the Rehabilitation Council India (RCI) as nodal agency for implementation of its Central Sector Plan Scheme.

2.The scheme has been implemented through various government implementation agencies at national level from FY 2015 -16. The RCI has developed the general guidelines for the implementation of this scheme and training modules for training and sensitization of various target groups as per the provisions of the scheme. RCI has developed target groups wise separate Training Modules namely Health & Allied Professionals, Education Functionaries, Grass Root, Senior & Mid-level Functionaries and Introductory Training Modules.

3.**Rehabilitation Council of India-The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is a Statutory Body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.** The RCI was set up as a registered society in 1986. The RCI Act, 1992 was enacted to make RCI a Statutory Body in 1993. It was amended by Parliament in 2000 to make it more broad-based.

4.The mandate given to RCI is, To regulate and monitor services given to persons with disability, To standardise syllabi and To maintain a Central Rehabilitation Register of all qualified professionals and personnel working in the field of Rehabilitation and Special Education. The Act also prescribes punitive action against unqualified persons delivering services to persons with disability.

LEADS REPORT 2021

1.The Ministry of Commerce and Industry releases report on Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2021. Findings - The LEADS survey 2021 was conducted over the period from May to August 2021. Gujarat, Haryana & Punjab have got the top 3 positions respectively. Within the North Eastern States and Himalayan Region, Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya. Delhi stands at the top rank among Other UTs.

2.**Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Jharkhand have witnessed a remarkable improvement in their ranks compared to 2019 LEADS ranking. Improvements - LEADS 2021 has gone 2-step ahead of the previous reports in analysing the domestic & EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state.** Along with the perception-based indicators, objective parameters have been used for index formulation in the LEADS 2021 Index. Also, the statistical methodologies to build the index has been updated to get more robust results, given change in the overall framework.

3.21 perception and objective variables have been statistically analysed to prepare a composite index basis upon which the states have been ranked. The perception survey was administered to the 4 categories of logistics stakeholders, viz. traders/ shippers, transport service providers, terminal operators, and logistics service providers. Significance - LEADS report would be a practical guide to identify strengths, opportunities & improve the logistics performance of States. The inputs given by LEADS Report 2021 can lead the way to bring down logistics cost by 5% over the next 5 years. The current cost is about 13-14% of the GDP, according to estimates.

4.**LEADS Report-The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) had launched a study, “Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)” in 2018. The report ranks the states and UTs on the basis of their logistics ecosystem,** highlights the key logistics related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations. The states have been ranked in three separate classes including North Eastern States & Himalayan UTs’ and ‘Other UTs’ group.

foreign contributions regulations law. "Why has the whole operation been brought under the Ministry of Home Affairs and not under the finance department?" Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, heading a three judge Bench, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The petitions argued that the amendments severely restricted the use of foreign funds by NGOs for their activities and transfer to other philanthropic organisations within the country. Mr. Mehta said Intelligence Bureau (IB) inputs have shown that foreign funds entering India were used to fund activities that destabilise national peace and security. The inputs even indicated that the money was used to train naxals. "There is an element of national security, integrity of the nation involved here."

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh said the Navy was monitoring the Chinese naval and maritime assets deployed in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for any activities "inimical to our interests." Admiral Singh said the logistics deals and foundational agreements signed by India have helped the Navy achieve 'Reach and Sustenance'. The third edition of GMC 2021, being hosted by the Indian Navy, has the participation of Navy Chiefs and heads of maritime forces from 12 Indian Ocean nations.

The Kerala government made a strong pitch in the Supreme Court to decommission the 126-year-old "deteriorated" Mullaperiyar dam operated by Tamil Nadu and build a new one, saying climate change, erratic and heavy rainfall and floods make the spectre of catastrophe real and near. Kerala's affidavit coincides with a red alert issued in Chennai following torrential rains. The Chennai rains came in the heels of several days of downpour in Kerala. The State also referred to the Uttarakhand flood, also known as the Chamoli disaster of February 2021, mainly attributed to the climate change in the environs of the Nanda Devi National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site.

New Delhi and Islamabad will hold two parallel tracks on Afghanistan this week — the two meetings sharpening the divide between India and Pakistan and their view of each other's role in the region. On Wednesday, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will meet his counterparts from Russia, Iran and five Central Asian states, including NSAs and State Security Chiefs from each of these countries for the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue. On Thursday, Pakistan's special envoy on Afghanistan Mohammad Sadiq Khan will host a meeting of the "Extended Troika" made up of Russia, China, U.S. and

5. With Competitive & Cooperative federalism, LEADS is creating an Ecosystem for Excellence by bringing in a healthy competitive spirit where everyone is persuaded to improve. LEADS report aims to enhance focus on improving logistics performance across states which is key to improving the country's trade and reducing transaction cost.

INDIAN FLAPSHELL TURTLE

1. Forest officials from Odisha have released 40 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*) that were smuggled into the Satiguda dam. Smuggling of turtles, one of the Class 1 species of the water animal, is a non-bailable offence under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Indian flapshell turtle is a freshwater turtle species found in many states. The "flap-shelled" name stems from the presence of femoral flaps located on the plastron. These flaps of skin cover the limbs when they retract into the shell.

2. **Indian flapshell turtle is a relatively small soft-shell turtle. It is a scavenger in the river. Location - Indian flapshell turtles are found in shallow, quiet, often stagnant slow-moving rivers, streams and rice paddies.** They prefer waters with sand or mud bottoms because of their tendency to burrow. Countries - Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh (Indus and Ganges drainages), and Myanmar (Irrawaddy and Salween Rivers).

3. **Diet - All softshell turtles are predominantly carnivores, though the flapshells eat some plant matter (i.e. Omnivore). Threats - Poaching for meat and cartilage. Foxes and wild dogs destroy their nests.**

BHASHA SANGAM INITIATIVE

1. Union Education Minister launches Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools. Developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 scheduled Indian languages (Eighth Schedule languages). It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.

2. **100 sentences in 22 languages are presented in such a way that children in school will be able to read in Indian language, in Devanagari script, in roman script and translations into Hindi and English.** 100 sentences are presented in audio and video form with Indian Sign Language.

3. Through this programme of Bhasha Sangam learners in school will be able to get acquainted with all the languages-their scripts, pronunciation Available on DIKSHA, ePathshala and through 22 booklets.

PROJECT SAMPOORNA

1. Project Sampoorna which was successfully implemented in Bongaigaon district of Assam is a model that can be easily implemented anywhere in reducing child malnutrition. What is the project about? The Bongaigaon district has 2,416 malnourished children, 246 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 2,170 instances of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). Project Sampoorna was launched to target the mothers of SAM/ MAM children with the tagline being 'Empowered Mothers, Healthy Children'. It was based on the success of the community-based COVID-19 management model (Project Mili Juli). Under this project, the mother of a healthy child of an Anganwadi Centre was paired with the target mother and they would be Buddy Mothers.

2. **They were given diet charts to indicate the daily food intake of their children and would have discussions on all Tuesdays at the AWC.** Since the major hindrance to the project was patriarchy, the mothers were enrolled in Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). Meanwhile, 100 millilitres of milk and an egg on alternate days for the children for the first 3 months were provided so that their mothers could stabilise themselves in the newly found jobs.

3. **What was the impact of the Project Sampoorna?** After three months of Project Sampoorna, out of 246 SAM children, 11% continued to be SAM, 11.4% improved to MAM and 76.8% became normal. By September 2021, 92.3% SAM and 98.9% MAM children were normal. Children who had not improved were checked and treated by doctors under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

4. Project Sampoorna had prevented at least 1,200 children from becoming malnourished over the last year. The National Nutrition Mission and the State government recognised the project in the 'Innovation Category'. This model is successful in

Pakistan. For the first time, the TroikaPlus, as it is called, will also meet with Taliban acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who is visiting Islamabad to attend bilateral meetings.

both women empowerment as well as tackling the malnutrition.