

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Taking pride of place among the exhibits at Qatar during the FIFA World Cup next year will be a special dhow built far away in a village in Kerala. Recreating the vessels used by Arab traders about 800 years ago when they sailed to Kerala, the dhow being made at Chaliyam in Kozhikode will not have a single nail or metal piece. Instead, traditional coir ropes will hold together the teak pieces. On the special dhow nearing completion at the Pattermadu dhow-making unit, hundreds of metres of coir ropes are used. "It is going to be the pride of not only Qatar, but our tradition as well.

Pochampally village in Telangana is set to be named as one of the best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), according to reports. "On behalf of people of Pochampally in particular and Telangana, I am grateful that the award has been bestowed on the village," Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy said after receiving the news. India had nominated two other villages in the same category Kongthong in Meghalaya and Ladhpura Khas in Madhya Pradesh. Pochampally about 50 km from Hyderabad is an artisanal village known for its exceptional ikat weaves and textures. Visitors throng the village to see the weavers at work on their handlooms, creating fabric with complex geometric designs and colours. Recent UNESCO heritage tag for Ramappa Temple and now the Best Tourism Village Award to Pochampally will significantly boost tourism in the State."The Tourism Villages is a global initiative to highlight villages where tourism preserves cultures and traditions, celebrates diversity, provides opportunities and safeguards biodiversity, according to UNWTO.

Only a little over a thousand doubtful cases in the final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam, have been referred to the District Commissioners concerned for action, the State Coordinator of the NRC has said in an RTI reply. More than 19 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants in Assam were excluded from the final draft register published on August 31, 2019, which cost ₹1,220 crore. The Registrar General of India under the Home Ministry on March 23 this year told the Assam Government that issuance of "rejection slips" to those excluded

### NOROVIRUS

1.PyeongChang 2018, the ongoing XXIII Olympic Winter Games at Pyeongchang, South Korea has been hit by a disease outbreak - Norovirus infection. Norovirus is a bug similar to the diarrhoea-inducing rotavirus for which India has included a vaccine in its universal immunisation programme. While rotavirus primarily affects children, Norovirus infects people across age groups. Disease outbreaks typically occur aboard cruise ships, in nursing homes, dormitories, and other closed spaces. Symptoms usually show up 1 or 2 days after exposure to the virus. This includes a sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, nausea and abdominal pain, and may have fever, headaches and body aches.

2.In extreme cases, loss of fluids could lead to dehydration. This self-limiting disease normally lasts only 2 or 3 days, and most individuals who are not very young, very old, or malnourished can ride it out with sufficient rest and hydration. Transmission - Norovirus is highly contagious, and can be transmitted through contaminated food, water, and surfaces. The primary route is oral-faecal. One may get infected multiple times as the virus has different strains. Norovirus is resistant to many disinfectants and heat up to 60°C. Therefore, merely steaming food or chlorinating water does not kill the virus. The virus can also survive many common hand sanitisers.

3.**Commonality - Norovirus is the most common pathogen implicated in outbreaks of gastrointestinal disease (inflammation of the stomach and intestines), according to the World Health Organisation.** The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 out of every 5 cases of acute gastroenteritis globally is caused by Norovirus. Prevention - The basic precaution is repeatedly washing hands with soap after using the lavatory or changing diapers; and before eating or preparing food.

4.During outbreaks, surfaces must be disinfected with hypochlorite solution at 5,000 parts per million. Treatment - Diagnosis is done by real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction. No vaccines are available for the disease. It is important to maintain hydration in the acute phase. In extreme cases, patients have to be administered rehydration fluids intravenously.

### NASA'S DART MISSION

1.NASA will launch the agency's first planetary defense test mission named the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. DART is a planetary defense-driven test of technologies for preventing an impact of Earth by a hazardous asteroid. DART is a suicide mission that aims to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course. DART's target asteroid Dimorphos (small moonlet) is NOT a threat to Earth. Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos.

2.Didymos is a perfect system for the test mission as it is an eclipsing binary. This means it has a moonlet that regularly orbits the asteroid and we can see it when it passes in front of the main asteroid. The spacecraft will collide with the moonlet at a speed of about 24,000 kms per hour when it is 11 million kms away from Earth. The collision may take place between September 26 and October 1, 2022. Related Links - Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment.

3.**DART Spacecraft-** DART is a low-cost spacecraft that uses hydrazine propellant for maneuvering the spacecraft. It carries 10 kg of xenon to be used to demonstrate the NASA Evolutionary Xenon Thruster-Commercial (NEXT-C) solar electric propulsion system as part of its in-space propulsion. NEXT-C is a next-generation system based on the Dawn spacecraft propulsion system. NEXT-C has very high fuel efficiency and flexible operations making it ideal for many classes of science missions.

### RENAMING RAILWAY STATIONS

1.The Centre has given its clearance to Madhya Pradesh government's proposal for changing the name of Habibganj

from the final draft shall be completed in a “mission mode.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said “Comptroller and Auditor General [CAG] versus Government” had earlier become a common thought and auditing was looked upon with apprehension and dread. However, the mindset had now changed and today audit was being considered an important part of value addition. Speaking at the first Audit Divas, he said that the CAG had changed rapidly by adopting modern procedures and it was now using advanced analytics tools, geospatial data and satellite imagery. The institution had grown in importance and had created a legacy with the passage of time. “In the 21st century, data is information, and in the coming times, our history will also be seen and understood through data. In the future, data will dictate history,” he said.

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and facilitating the travel of Afghans out of the country was on top of the agenda as U.S. Special Envoy Thomas West met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla here on Tuesday. Mr. West, who is on a multicountry tour of Europe and Asia, travelled to Delhi after meetings in Islamabad and Moscow.

There were no verifiable, centralised records of Internet shutdowns in the country. Neither the Union Home Ministry nor the Department of Telecom maintains such a record, the parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology pointed out in its report adopted. The committee, headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, pressed for a detailed study on the economic impact of frequent and prolonged Internet shutdowns. The advocacy group Access Now, in a study published last March, reported that India topped the list of countries that resorted to government imposed Internet clampdown. The report, sources say, said that in the absence of a database, there was no mechanism to review whether the Internet clampdowns followed the laid down rules or the Supreme Court guidelines. It is equally revealing, the committee noted, that there were no coherent rules dictating these shutdowns. On the grounds of maintaining “public safety” or in a scenario of “public emergency”, the State Governments have the right to impose an Internet clampdown. But the report, sources say, pointed out that “public safety” and “public emergencies” were not clearly defined. The Net shutdowns have been reduced as a “routine

railway station to Rani Kamlapati railway station. While Indian Railways may own the Railway station, it does not get involved in the business of changing the name of it. This is left to the discretion of the state government concerned. Change of station names is entirely a state subject even though Railways belong to the Union government. Process - The state governments send the request to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which then accords its approval, keeping the Ministry of Railways in the loop.

2. Usually, it is ensured that no other station with the new name proposed exists anywhere in India. If a state government wants to change the name of a city, generally, there is little reason for the Centre to come in the way or keep an old name in circulation, including in the signage of its properties there. After the name change is notified by the state government, Indian Railways invents a new station “code” for railway operation purposes. The change is then fed into its ticketing system so that the new name and the code is reflected on its tickets, reservation and train information. Lastly, it physically changes the name written at the station, and also in its communication materials for all practical purposes.

3. **The languages, spellings to be displayed on the signboard is governed by the Indian Railway Works Manual, a document that codifies everything related to civil engineering construction works.** Railways should obtain approval of the state government concerned on the spelling of the names (in Hindi, English and local languages) before putting them on its signboards. The station names shall be exhibited in the order of Regional Language, Hindi and English, except for Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, the use of Hindi will be restricted to important stations and pilgrim centres as determined by the Commercial Department.

4. **Queen Kamlapati-Rani Kamlapati was the 18th-century Gond queen and widow of Nizam Shah, whose Gond dynasty ruled the then Ginnorgarh, near Bhopal.** Nizam Shah built the famous Kamlapati Palace in her name in Bhopal. Kamlapati is known to have shown great bravery in facing aggressors during her reign after her husband was killed. Kamlapati was the “first Gond queen of Bhopal” and “last Hindu queen of Bhopal”, who did great work in the area of water management and set up parks and temples.

#### ICMR POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has suggested India to ‘urgently wean away from coal as its main source of energy’ and ‘shift from traditional animal husbandry practices’ to combat the challenges of climate change. The ICMR’s policy brief accompanies the 2021 Global Lancet Countdown Report focusing on, Premature mortality due to ambient air pollution by sector; Emissions from agricultural production and consumption; and Detection, preparedness and response to health emergencies.

2. **The combustion of coal, mainly in power plants followed by industrial and household settings, has increased the premature mortality.** Therefore, India needs to urgently wean away from coal as its main source of energy and needs to invest more on renewable, cleaner and sustainable sources such as solar, wind or hydro energy. Since 46% of all agricultural emissions in India are contributed by ruminants such as goats, sheep and cattle, India needs to move away from the traditional animal husbandry practices.

3. India must invest in newer technologies that will improve, Animal breeding and rearing practices, Use of good livestock feeds and Implement proper manure management. All of these practices will contribute to the reduction of the GHG emissions.

#### INDIA’S SOLAR ENERGY CAPACITY

1. India told the UN COP26 climate summit about its solar energy capacity. India’s solar energy capacity stands at about 45 gigawatts after it increased 17 times in the last 7 years.

2. This asserts that although the country represents 17% of the global population, its historical cumulative emissions are only 4%, and its current annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are only about 5%.

3. **India achieved 24% reduction in emission intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the period of 2005-2014.** Also, India’s 15% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emission in 2016 was removed from the atmosphere by the Land Use, Land-Use Change & Forestry (LULUCF).

**policing and administrative tool”.**

**The Supreme Court questioned the Union Government’s commitment to run community kitchens across the country to stave off hunger, saying the first job of a welfare state was to ensure that people did not starve to death. “Every welfare state’s first responsibility is to provide food to people dying due to hunger,” Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana said. The court was annoyed at the lack of details regarding the Government’s progress in framing a national policy to run community kitchens in consultation with the State Governments. It found that the affidavit merely stated the Government was still “extracting information”. The affidavit did not reveal much about the scheme or consultation with the States or, for that matter, the funds required, it observed. The court gave the Government three weeks as a last opportunity to hold a meeting and frame a policy. “Come up with a comprehensive scheme, identify areas where there is an immediate need... If you want to take care of hunger, no constitution law will come in the way,” it said.**

**4. Between 2015 and 2019, the forest and tree cover increased by 13,031 sq. km. and mangrove cover increased by 235 sq. km.**