

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Interpol has launched an online campaign to apprise people of major cyberthreats to help them protect their computer systems, networks and personal information from cybercriminals. "Whether it's in a business or in a personal setting, cybercrime is often just a single click, tap or swipe away," it said. The three week campaign, from October 4 to 22, would be run primarily through social media.

Lakhs of students have fallen prey to pirated NCERT books being floated in the market. Deputy Commissioner of Police in Delhi (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo said that these books are injurious to children's health as the ink used on the paper is cheap and harmful.

U.S.Japanese scientist Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann of Germany and Giorgio Parisi of Italy won the Nobel Physics Prize for climate models and the understanding of physical systems, the jury said. The Nobel committee said it was sending a message with its prize announcement just weeks before the COP-26 climate summit in Glasgow. "What we are saying is that the modelling of climate is solidly based in physics theory".

Rating agency Moody's Investors Service has upgraded India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative', citing an ebbing of risks from COVID19 and the negative feedback between the real economy and the financial system. While it retained India's rating at Baa3, reflecting the lowest investment grade rating, Moody's said it expects real GDP to surpass prepandemic levels of 2019-20 this year itself, as the ongoing economic recovery is picking up steam with activity upticks broadening across sectors. It expects 2021-22 to record 9.3% growth in GDP, followed by 7.9% next year.

A study on the efficacy of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY scheme) in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu has found that a sizeable population covered under the programme bore hospitalisation expenses for COVID-19 treatment from personal funds or borrowings. As of August 2021, an estimated 85% of the 26 crore population in the four States (over 20 crore) is covered under the scheme.

CRIME IN INDIA REPORT

1.The annual report, 'Crime in India' was released by NCRB to provide insights on the patterns of crimes that were registered in 2020.

2.**Crime rate** - States/UTs such as Tamil Nadu (1808.8), Kerala (1568.4) and Delhi (1309.6) recorded the highest crime rate (crimes per one lakh people) overall. **Crime against women** - There was an 8.3% decline and out of the total registered cases, 30.2% were of the category "cruelty by husband or his relatives". **Crime against Children**- A decline of 13.2% has been reported in cases registered for committing crimes against children. **Crime against SCs and STs** - An increase of 9.4% and 9.3% respectively have been reported in 2020.

3.**Economic offences** - There was a reduction in the registered number of economic offences (by 12% since 2019) but cybercrimes recorded an increase of 11.8%. **Sedition** - Cases related to sedition declined from 93 in 2019 to 73 last year having Manipur and Assam with leading cases. **Communal riots** - communal riots registered an increase of 96% in 2020 over the previous year and caste riots saw an increase of close to 50%.

4.**Violent crimes** - violent crimes decreased by 0.5% but murder has registered a marginal increase of 1%. **Offences against the State** - It include cases related to sedition, waging war against the nation, provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), Official Secrets Act and Damage to Public Property Act. 2020 saw a 27% drop in cases over 2019 related to offences against the state. **Agrarian riots** - It saw a 38% increase over 2019 due to unprecedented protests against the three farm laws passed by the Centre.

5.What is the impact of pandemic on the pattern of crimes? The year 2020 saw prolonged lockdowns which coincided with a high number of complaints of domestic violence. The lockdown also led to an overall fall in crime related to theft, burglary and dacoity.The COVID-19 related disruption led to a greater registration of cases due to disobedience to government order and violations of other State local laws. As lockdown has led to increase in digital transactions, cybercrimes also saw a rise.

GAMING DISORDER

1.As the pandemic increased screen time across age groups, the concerns over gaming disorder have been growing. In 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) included 'Gaming Disorder' in the 11th International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) as one of the mental disorders caused due to addictive behaviour alongside 'Gambling Disorder'.

2.According to the WHO, Gaming disorder is defined as a pattern of gaming behavior ("digital-gaming" or "video-gaming") characterized by, Impaired control over gaming, Increasing priority given to gaming over other activities to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other interests and daily activities, and Continuation or escalation of gaming despite the occurrence of negative consequences.

3.**It is the obsessive and compulsive overuse of internet games and video games as an escape from life. Symptoms - Insomnia, withdrawal from social contacts, academic failure, extreme anger and irritability,** and refusal to eat food. Online gaming has not only been a problem for children and youth but adults too get addicted to games that involve real money. Ultimately, gaming addictions can cause physical, social and emotional damages, impairing sleep, appetites, careers and social lives.

4.Diagnosis - For gaming disorder to be diagnosed, the behaviour pattern must be of sufficient severity to result in significant impairment in important areas of functioning. It would normally have been evident for at least 12 months.

5.**International Classification of Diseases**-International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is the basis for identification of health trends and statistics globally and the international standard for reporting diseases and health conditions. It is used by medical practitioners around the world to diagnose

Telangana has termed Andhra Pradesh's request to divert an additional 2 tmc ft of water from the Tungabhadra dam to the TBPRight Bank High Level Canal (HLC) as "untenable and against the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal award", and that it would be detrimental to the requirements of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) already getting deficit flows.

Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan of Puduchery said ferry service between Karaikal and Jaffna in Sri Lanka, was awaiting approval from the External Affairs Ministry. Addressing mediapersons after flagging off 'Samudra Naukayan', an ocean expedition of the National Cadets Corps (NCC) group, headquarters, Puducherry, at the Thengaithittu harbour, Ms. Soundararajan said a ferry service had already existed, but was later stopped.

Climate change solutions will be at the top of the agenda for Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, who will visit India this week — the first head of state or government to arrive in Delhi since February 2020. Ms. Frederiksen, who last held a summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2020 where they had announced the first "Green Strategic partnership", is expected to discuss investments in Indian renewable technology, supply of green technology and outline their climate positions on reducing carbon emissions ahead of the upcoming COP26 UN summit on Climate Change in Glasgow this November.

There is an "urgent need" to understand the "weaknesses and strengths" of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution and "act accordingly". In his meeting with President Rajapaksa on the final day of his visit, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla reiterated India's position "on complete implementation of the provisions under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, including devolution of powers and the holding of provincial council elections at the earliest".

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has introduced a Webbased system for voluntary reporting of incidents that pose a potential threat to flight safety. It said that to encourage voluntary safety reporting, besides email and postal mode, Webbased reporting had been introduced on the eGCA platform, which made the reporting mechanism more accessible to persons engaged in aviation related

conditions and by researchers to categorize conditions. The inclusion of a disorder in ICD is a consideration which countries take into account when planning public health strategies and monitoring trends of disorders.

ALGAE TO BIODEGRADE PLASTIC

1. Researchers have isolated an alga species that shows promise as an agent of biodegradation of plastic sheets. According to the Central Pollution Control Board's annual report 2011-12, the plastic waste generated in a year amounted to 5.6 million metric tonnes. Only 60% of the plastic used in India was collected and recycled. The metros alone contributed some 21.2% of the total waste, led by Delhi, followed by Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

2. The usual means of disposal of plastic waste involves incineration, land-filling and recycling. These methods are hazardous to the environment. But, the new biodegradation method based on alga species is safe and environment friendly. In the recent study, the biodegradation of low-density polyethylene (polymer) sheet into monomers was done by the microalga Uronema africanum Borge.

3. This microalga degrades the polymers by producing enzymes, hormones, toxins such as cyanotoxins, and some polysaccharides. This green photosynthetic microalgae is commonly found in Africa, Asia and Europe. It is an epiphyte, which attaches itself to other algae and plants.

FACTORS DROPPING DOWN EQUITY BENCHMARKS

1. Equity benchmarks 30-share Sensex and Nifty dropped in early trade, amid a negative trend in global markets. Foreign institutional investors (FII) were net buyers in the capital market.

2. A sharp rise in oil prices is a fresh overhang of Indian equities, which can essentially result in further hardening of inflation.

3. This could adversely impact the government's fiscal math. Related links - Factors Driving up Sensex, Sensex Breached 50,000 and Investing in Equity Market.

FOREST RESTORATION

1. Forests cover nearly 30% land surface of the earth. But, there is a decline in global forest cover, and requires restoration. Restoration is bringing back the degraded or deforested landscape to its original state by various interventions to enable them to deliver all the benefits. Active restoration includes planting, and Passive restoration includes halting environmental stressors.

2. State of the World's Forests report 2020, says that between 1990 and 2020, 420 million hectares of forest have been lost through deforestation, conversion and land degradation. India lost 4.69 MHA of its forests for various land uses between 1951 and 1995. Decade 2021-2030 is declared as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for improving environmental conditions and enhancing human communities.

3. Challenges - Out of 21.9% population of India living under the poverty line, nearly 275 million people including tribes depend on the forest for subsistence. As 18% of the global human population depend on forests, there is a degradation of 41% of its forests in India. To combat this, India joined the Bonn Challenge with a pledge to restore 21 MHA of degraded and deforested land which was later revised to 26 MHA to be restored by 2030.

4. Solution - There needs to be research on the local ecology before putting restoration interventions into practice. Alternate financing ways such as involving corporates and dovetailing restoration activities with ongoing land-based programmes of various departments can help to make it easy for operation.

5. An inclusive approach involving active engagement of stakeholders, awareness and capacity building of stakeholders can help India achieve its MHA restoration objectives. In forest restoration, the participation of local communities and adequate financing and incentives are essential.

NORD STREAM 2 PIPELINE

1. The Nord Stream 2 (NS2) running from Russia to Germany across the Baltic Sea has been completed.

2. NS 2 is an expansion of Russia's existing Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany across the Baltic Sea. The total capacity of two strings of Nord Stream 2 is 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year. NS2's manufacture began in 2016 and construction in

activities. However, the Voluntary Safety Reporting System was not a substitute for Mandatory Safety Reporting System that would continue to function.

The U.S. will begin trade discussions with China while pushing Beijing to adhere to the terms of the Trump administration's 'Phase I' trade deal, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Katherine Tai said.

2018. The 1,224 km, \$11-billion underwater link is the shortest, most economical and environment-friendly route to double Russia's gas export to Germany.

3.What is the significance of the project? European gas prices have broken records this year, edging close to an unprecedented \$1,000 per thousand cubic meters. Due to lack of viable alternatives to gas, low storage levels because of a severe winter and the post-COVID-19 economic surge, NS-2 is of greater significance. It provides Russia with more direct access to the European gas market.