

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The 13th BRICS summit held virtually called for an “inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue” for stability in Afghanistan. The virtual summit, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was dominated by the developments in Afghanistan, and adopted the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan. “We have also adopted the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan. With the agreement on Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation between our space agencies, a new chapter of cooperation has begun,” Mr. Modi said, highlighting the key items on the agenda of the summit.

A carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a burial urn at Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district in southern Tamil Nadu, by the Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory, has yielded the date of 1155 BCE, thereby indicating that the Thamirabarani civilisation dates back to 3,200 years. Encouraged by this finding, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday announced in the Assembly the establishment of Porunai Museum in Tirunelveli.

The procurement of 56 C295MW transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security on Wednesday marks the culmination of a decade long process by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to replace the ageing Avros, pending signing of a formal contract. This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India under technology transfer by a private company and is expected to cost close to \$3billion.

The U.S.headquartered Ford Motor Company has announced restructuring of its Indian operations under which it will stop manufacturing vehicles in India. The move, which follows accumulated operating losses of over \$2 billion, will impact nearly 4,000 jobs.

The union government kicked off a major public outreach in J&K that will see around 70 Union Ministers meeting people and their representatives for the next nine weeks in the Union Territory. Initiating the largescale exercise, Union Agriculture Minister

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

1.The U.S. and Germany have stepped up pressure on Iran to return soon to talks on its nuclear programme. Meanwhile, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency, said Iran has continued to increase its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in breach of the accord. The IAEA also said that its verification and monitoring activities have been “seriously undermined”.

2.About the Iran Nuclear Deal: Also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and **P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU)**. Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.

3.What’s the concern now? Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018. Besides, he opted for a “maximum pressure” campaign by imposing sanctions and other tough actions. **Iran responded by intensifying its enrichment of uranium and building of centrifuges, while maintaining its insistence that its nuclear development was for civilian and not military purposes.** Again, In January 2020, following the drone strike on Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Gen. Qasem Soleiman, Iran announced that it would no longer observe the JCPOA’s restraints. The collapse of the JCPOA drags Iran towards nuclear brinkmanship, like North Korea, which has created major geopolitical instability in the region and beyond.

4.Significance of the deal for India: Removing sanctions may revive India’s interest in the Chabahar port, Bandar Abbas port, and other plans for regional connectivity. This would further help India to neutralize the Chinese presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan. Restoration of ties between the US and Iran will help India to procure cheap Iranian oil and aid in energy security.

JHARKHAND HOUSE CLEARS BILL FOR 75% QUOTA FOR LOCALS

1.’The Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2021’ was recently passed by the state Assembly. It provides 75% reservation for locals in private sector jobs with a monthly salary of up to ₹40,000. Once notified, Jharkhand will become the third State, after Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, to pass such a law.

2.How does the bill define private sector jobs? The bill will treat shops, establishments, mines, enterprises, industries, companies, societies, trusts, Limited Liability Partnership firms and any person employing ten or more persons as the private sector and an entity. Moreover, the same may be notified by the government from time to time.

3.Highlights of the Bill: **Every employer needs to register employees on a designated portal who are receiving gross monthly salary or wages not more than Rs 40, 000 — or as notified by the government from time to time — within three months of this bill** (after turning into an Act) coming into force. No person should be engaged or employed unless the registration process is complete on the designated portal. No local candidate will be eligible to avail 75 per cent benefit without registering herself in the designated portal.

4.Concerns and issues associated with this policy: Violates constitutional provisions- Article 16. Impacts ‘Unity in Diversity’: This policy can lead to a situation of locals vs non-locals in an area, thus posing a threat to the integration of the country. It might discourage capital investment in the region. Impacts freedom of a business. Against the spirit of competition.

ASSAM GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC VEHICLE POLICY

1.The Assam government has unveiled an electric vehicle (EV) policy for phasing out vehicles running on fossil fuels by 2030.

2.Highlights of the Policy: **The policy aims to introduce at least 200,000 electric vehicles (EVs) within the next five years through a set of incentives for buyers.** It entails

Narendra Singh Tomar and Ministers of State Kailash Choudhary and Shobha Karandlaje met farmers, horticulturists, agriculture scientists and others at the Centre of Excellence at Zawoora in Srinagar.

Canberra is “deeply disappointed” by the Taliban government announcement this week and coordinating joint strategies to deal with the situation in Afghanistan will be discussed during the first “2+2” double ministerial summit between Australian and Indian Foreign and Defence Ministers.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said emergency landing facilities will be developed at many places to strengthen security. Inaugurating the facility on the National Highway 925A in Rajasthan with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, he said this runway will protect strategically important borders. According to an official statement, Mr. Gadkari said the 19 other places include Phalodi-Jaisalmer road and Barmer-Jaisalmer road in Rajasthan, Kharagpur-Balasure road in West Bengal, Hashimara-Guwahati road in Assam, Bhuj-Naliya road in Gujarat, Leh/Nyoma area in Assam and the Jorhat-Baraghat road.

The Ministry of Railways has announced the closure of the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuels (IROAF), an enterprise headquartered in New Delhi, that was formed exclusively to promote green energy by introducing alternative energy and fuel efficient and emission control technologies across the railway network. “The Ministry of Railways has decided to close down the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuels with effect from September 7, 2021,” a Railway Board order said.

“Our war on terror begins with al-Qaeda, but it does not end there,” former U.S. President George W. Bush said days after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. “It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated,” he told the U.S. Congress. Afghanistan was the first outpost in what the Bush administration called a “global war on terror”. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan to get rid of the Taliban regime, which refused to hand over 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden, and defeat al-Qaeda. Twenty years later, the U.S. exited a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan with al-Qaeda networks spread across many countries.

converting all government vehicles and fleet of public buses to electric and deploying 2 lakh EVs within the next five years. In order to encourage people to buy EVs, the state government will give a subsidy of ₹20,000 on two-wheelers, ₹50,000 for three-wheelers and ₹1.5 lakh for four-wheelers.

3. Government of India Initiatives to give a boost EV Sector in India: The government aims to see 6 million electric and hybrid vehicles on the roads by 2020 under the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India Scheme) for improving electric mobility in India. Implementation of smart cities would also boost the growth of electric vehicles.

4. Challenges ahead: The Indian electric vehicle (EV) market currently has one of the lowest penetration rates in the world. Capital costs are high and the payoff is uncertain. The Indian EV industry has been hit hard due to rupee's dramatic depreciation in recent months. Local production of inputs for EVs is at just about 35% of total input production. The production will be severely affected in terms of production costs.

5. Need of the hour: For EVs to contribute effectively, we need commensurate efforts in developing an entire ecosystem. Need to shift the focus from subsidizing vehicles to subsidizing batteries because batteries make up 50% of EV costs. Increasing focus on incentivizing electric two-wheelers because two-wheelers account for 76% of the vehicles in the country and consume most of the fuel. A wide network of charging stations is imminent for attracting investment.

LAND PORTS-BORDER TRADE

1. What is the issue-Safe and secure border is sine qua non for enhanced trade and integration. Here is how land ports have contributed to this.

2. What is a Land port-The regional economy of South Asian countries sharing land borders is heavily fragmented by trade and transportation barriers. Addressing this, in 2012, India set up the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) through the LPAI Act, 2010, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Land port is an area on the international borders including portions of national, State highways and other roads, and railways. It is notified as land Customs station or immigration check-post under the Customs Act, 1962 or the Foreigners' Act, 1946.

3. What are the contributions so far-The LPAI has developed till date a total of 9 ICPs (Integrated Check Posts), which are located across India's international land border. These are: Attari - Handling India's trade with Pakistan Agartala, Petrapole, Srimantapur and Sutarkandi - All handling India's trade with Bangladesh Raxaul and Jogbani - Both handling India's trade with Nepal Moreh - Handling India's trade with Myanmar.

4. What is the role of a LPAI-Manages the ICP properties. Develops, sanitizes and manages the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points. Puts in place systems, which address security imperatives at the ICPs.

FRAGILE X SYNDROME

1. It is a genetic disorder that causes a range of developmental problems including learning disabilities and cognitive impairment. It is the leading inherited cause of autism in 4% of the global population. It is caused by changes in FMR1 gene which make an important protein (FMRP) that is required for brain development.

2. It is caused by the mutation named FRAXA. Mutation - A mother who is a carrier has a 50% chance of passing the mutated gene to her children, who will either be carriers or have FXS. Men who are carriers do not pass the pre-mutation to their sons, but only daughters, who become carriers. Effect - Males are more severely affected by this disorder than females.

3. FXS in India In India, FXS is largely undetected because of, Lack of adequate, affordable screening and diagnostic facilities, Stigma attached to mental health, Absence of surveys in community settings, and Bare minimum hospital data based on clinical experience.

SUPREME COURT'S STANCE ON PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

1. The Supreme Court has now ruled that there shall be no presumption of innocence once a person is convicted by a learned trial court. Until now, Innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt is the general legal principle adopted by

The Centre will release ₹56,027 crore in the current fiscal to disburse all pending export incentives. In a release on Thursday, the government said the benefits will be disbursed to more than 45,000 exporters, of which 98% are MSMEs.

courts in India.

2.The SC has also asked the High Courts to be 'very slow in granting bail to the accused pending appeal who are convicted' of the serious offences like murder. Basic elements - The court said that every judgment should contain 4 basic elements, Statement of material (relevant) facts, Legal issues or questions, Deliberation to reach a decision and Ratio or conclusive decision.

3.A judgment should be coherent, systematic and logically organised. It should enable the reader to trace the fact to a logical conclusion on the basis of legal principles.