

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Delhi government said that the government is preparing a winter action plan based on 10 focus points to protect the people of Delhi from pollution. 10 focus points are curbing stubble, garbage, vehicular and dust pollution, identification of hotspots, study of smog towers, communication with neighboring States, War Room and Green App upgradation, coordination with the Central government and Commission For Air Quality Management.

The Union government told the Supreme Court that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) does not have the power to take cognisance of a matter on its own as it is not there in the statute. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change told the Bench that procedural aspects cannot tie up the powers and jurisdiction of the "peculiar" tribunal which has been constituted to deal with environmental matters.

These weeds include aquatic plants like vallisneria, najas as well as utricularia. "Recently a weed shift has been observed in the paddy fields of Palakkad district, the rice granary of the Kerala, Vallisneria also known as eel grass or tape grass is a common submerged aquatic plant. This has been introduced to the country as an ornamental aquarium plant. The genus is widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America.

U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry will travel to India from Sept. 12-14 "to discuss efforts to raise global climate ambition and speed India's clean energy transition," the State Department said. On his visit, Mr. Kerry will meet with his Indian counterparts and private sector leaders, the department said in a statement. Mr. Kerry is laying groundwork for U.S. participation in the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP26, which will be held in Glasgow on Oct. 31-Nov 12. He travelled last week to Japan and China for talks with officials. In April, Mr. Kerry spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about how the United States could help mobilize finance to reduce risks in producing alternative energy in the fight against global warming.

### SWACHH SURVEKSHAN GRAMIN 2021

1. Swachh Survekshan Gramin, 2021 will be launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase- 2 on 9th September, 2021. It aims to support acceleration of ODF plus interventions and results in the country. An expert agency has been hired to conduct the Survekshan 2021. As part of the Survekshan, Villages, Districts and States would be ranked using key parameters.

2. Coverage: **As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 17,475 villages in 698 Districts across the country will be covered. 87,250 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places in these villages will be visited for survey.** Around 1,74,750 Households will be interviewed for their feedback on SBM related issues. Also, citizens will be mobilised to provide feedback on sanitation related issues online using an application developed for the purpose.

3. Background: Commissioned by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. SSG is not just a ranking exercise but has been a vehicle for creating a Janandolan (people's movement). A detailed protocol has been developed to guide the ranking of Districts based on their performance on key quality and quantitative parameters.

4. **The weights to different elements of the SSG 2021 are as below: Direct Observation of sanitation at public places - 30%.** Citizen's Feedback, including feedback from common citizens, key influencers at the village level and from citizens online using a mobile App -35%. Service Level Progress on sanitation related parameters -35%.

### RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN CITIZENS TO WORK IN THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

1. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of an agreement on the recruitment of Indian citizens to work in the Portuguese Republic between the Government of India and Portugal. The present agreement would set an institutional mechanism for partnership and cooperation between India and Portugal on sending and accepting Indian workers. Implementation Strategy:-Under this agreement, a Joint Committee will be set up to follow up the implementation of the same.

2. **Impact-Signing this agreement with Portugal will add a new destination for Indian migrant workers in an EU member nation, especially in the context of many Indian workers who have returned to India following the Covid-19 pandemic.** It will provide new opportunities for skilled Indian workers and professionals. With the conclusion of this agreement, Portugal and India will have a formal arrangement for recruitment of Indian workers.

3. **Benefits-Indian workers would have enhanced job opportunities to work in Portugal.** The Government-to-Government mechanism proposed in the agreement will ensure that the movement of workers happens smoothly with the maximum support from both sides.

4. Portugal and India cooperate actively in multilateral fora including support for each other's candidatures. **Portugal is supporting India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. In October 2005, Portugal extradited Abu Salem and Monica Bedi to India facing terror charges in India.** On October 9, 2015, Portugal became the first European and western country, and only the fourth outside the East Asia Summit, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Nalanda University in India.

### QEQERTAQ AVANNARLEQ-

1. It is a tiny, uninhabited and previously unknown island discovered recently off the coast of Greenland.

2. Measuring 60×30 metres and with a peak of three metres above sea level, it has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth. Before this, Oodaaq was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.

3. **The discovery comes as a battle is looming among Arctic nations, the US, Russia, Canada, Denmark and Norway for**

Rainfall in August, which recorded 24% deficiency, was lowest in 12 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday. Two major spells of weak monsoon prevailed over the country — from August 9-16 and August 23-27 — when northwest, central and adjoining peninsular and west coast of India had subdued rainfall activities. "During August 2021, rainfall over the country as a whole was below Long Period Average (LPA) by minus 24 per cent. It is also the lowest August rainfall in last 12 years after 2009," the IMD said in an statement.

U.S. President Joe Biden told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on September 10 that both countries needed "to ensure competition does not veer into conflict" as they grapple with a growing list of differences. The months since have seen both sides clash on a number of issues, starting with a war-of-words that played out in public when senior officials from the two countries met in Alaska in March in what was the first significant engagement with Beijing by the new administration. The differences range from human rights issues in Hong Kong and Xinjiang and the Taiwan question to the COVID-19 origins investigation and now the crisis in Afghanistan.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras was ranked the best higher education institution in the country for the third year in a row by the Union Education Ministry, which released its India Rankings 2021 under the National Institutional Ranking Framework on Thursday. The IITs dominated the overall rankings, grabbing seven of the top 10 positions. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru was ranked second, followed by the IITs in Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee and Guwahati. Jawaharlal Nehru University ( JNU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) were at rank nine and 10, respectively.

the control of the North Pole and of the surrounding seabed, fishing rights and shipping routes exposed by melting ice due to climate change.

#### **PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAN (PMGDISHA)**

- 1.PMGDISHA campaign for 100 percent digital literacy in Digital Villages launched.
- 2.Under the campaign, a three day certification drive for rural citizens, especially women and disadvantaged communities, will be conducted for a few days in September 2021.
- 3.The drive has been launched under the PMGDISHA Scheme, the flagship digital literacy programme of GOI.

#### **INDIA'S FIRST DUGONG CONSERVATION RESERVE**

- 1.India's first Dugong conservation reserve will be built in Tamil Nadu. The reserve will spread over an area of 500 km in Palk Bay on the southeast coast of Tamil Nadu.
- 2.Dugong is a marine animal that has been enlisted vulnerable to extinction on a global scale by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
- 3.It is the State animal of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This endangered marine species survive on seagrass and other aquatic vegetation found in the area.
- 4.It is the only herbivorous mammal that is strictly marine and is the only extant species in the family Dugongidae.

#### **UAE'S GREEN VISA**

- 1.The United Arab Emirates has announced a new class of visas called "green visa" intended to ease the restrictions faced by foreigners in pursuing employment opportunities in the country. The green visa will allow foreigners to work in the UAE without being sponsored by an employer.
- 2.This will be a marked change from the norm that requires a prospective worker to be sponsored via an employer, who, in turn, applies for a work permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation.
- 3.The green visa will enable visa holders to sponsor their parents. It will increase the cap on the age of children who can be sponsored by the holder from 18 to 25.
- 4.It will allow the holder to stay in the country up to 3 months to look for a new job if they are fired from older one. Previously, it was only 30 days.
- 5.This visa targets "highly skilled individuals, investors, business people, entrepreneurs, as well exceptional students and postgraduates".

