

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

In 2019, a consortium of 12 national research and development (R&D) laboratories joined hands in a rare effort to transform livelihoods at Nabarangpur in Odisha, one of India's poorest districts. Two years later, the interventions appear to be creating quite a stir. With 56% tribal and 15% Dalit population, Nabarangpur has the lowest per capita income of ₹14,700 in Odisha (at 2004-05 prices), and 50% of its working population does not have any work. In 2019, a consortium of 12 national research and development (R&D) laboratories joined hands in a rare effort to transform livelihoods at Nabarangpur in Odisha, one of India's poorest districts. Two years later, the interventions appear to be creating quite a stir. With 56% tribal and 15% Dalit population, Nabarangpur has the lowest per capita income of ₹14,700 in Odisha (at 2004-05 prices), and 50% of its working population does not have any work. CIMAP's high yielding curcuminoid rich variety of turmeric named 'CIMPitamber', and the NBRI's 'Keshari' variety of turmeric have also been introduced in Nabarangpur. Women SHGs have been asked to donate seeds after the annual harvest to prospective farmers.

The Union government is yet to take a call on the recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium on appointing a total of 68 judicial officers and advocates as judges of various High Courts, sources aware of the procedure for appointment to the higher judiciary have said. Between August 8 and September 1, the Collegium processed over 100 names recommended by various High Courts and had finally sent 68 names to the government for appointment as judges to 12 High Courts. The combined sanctioned strength of the 25 High Courts of the country is 1,098 judges. As on September 1, there were 465 vacancies, according to data put in public domain by the Law Ministry.

When the Centre launched its NIPUN Bharat scheme in July 2021 to improve foundational literacy and numeracy among primary school students, participants from non-Hindi speaking States complained that they were the ones left feeling illiterate as they could not understand either the speeches, nor the PowerPoint presentations on the

### BLACK TIGERS

1. A study on black tigers of Simlipal Tiger Reserve showed that a mutation in Transmembrane Aminopeptidase Q (Taqppep) gene caused black stripes to broaden or spread into the orange-brown coloured background. Simlipal's small and isolated tiger population led to inbreeding and the anomalous appearance characterised by wide, merged stripes.

2. Pseudo-melanism is a rare stripe pattern variant of tigers, which is distinguished by stripes that are broadened and fused together. This condition is observed in both wild and captive tigers. Pseudo-melanism is different from true melanism, a condition characterised by unusually high deposition of melanin, a dark pigment.

3. Rare - **Mutants are genetic variations which may occur spontaneously, but not frequently, in nature. Black tigers were sought out as a novelty by trophy hunters for their unusual appearance.** So, only a few survived to establish blood lines. Besides, pseudo-melanism is caused by a recessive (hidden) gene. But these genes are rare and it is unlikely that two unrelated tigers will carry the same one and pass it on together to a cub.

4. In an ideal tiger world, where far-ranging individuals are never short of choices for partners, that makes succession of black tigers a rarity. Success rate - Under exceptional circumstances, a black tiger may succeed as part of a very small (up to 5 individuals) founding population that is forced to inbreed in isolation for generations. This will offer the recessive gene frequent chances to show up.

5. **Natural selection is also favouring melanistic leopards as their darker coats confer a selective advantage in both hunting and avoiding hunters in Simlipal's tropical moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest.** Natural selection eliminates the weakest from a gene pool, and the traits of the more successful get passed on.

### INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH FOR RAILWAYS

1. The National Rail Plan prepared by Indian Railways along with other projects can have a transformative effect in the infrastructure of railway system.

2. What are the recent optimisms in the railway sector? Indian Railways recorded the highest ever annual freight loading of 1,233 million tonnes (mt) in 2020-21, exceeding the preceding year's 1,210 mt. Railway staffs have operationalised the Oxygen Expresses, delivering more than 30,000 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen amidst the pandemic.

3. **National Rail Plan-National Rail Plan (NRP) for India aims to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030 Keeping the year 2050 as the horizon, NRP charts out a strategic grid for Railways to follow for the short term (up to 2024), medium term (up to 2031) and long-term.** Intends to increase modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%. Reduce the transit time of freight substantially by increasing average speed of freight trains to 50Kmph. Identify new Dedicated Freight Corridors and new High Speed Rail Corridors. A cumulative outlay for the entire plan period 2021-51 is estimated at Rs.38,20,516 crore.

4. Does the expectation in the document appear realistic? The aim to grab 45% of the country's freight market by 2030 (from the current 26%) which is predicated on its carrying capacity appears unrealistic. NRP's bold statement that the revenue surplus generated by the Railways would be adequate to finance future capital investment post 2030 is under question.

5. How can the railways achieve the ambitious objectives set out in the NRP- Need to address productivity and efficiency indices in order to maximise resource utilisation and improve average system velocity. **Need to cater to freight transport demand of other commodities (non-conventional as well as conventional high-value) through appropriate interventions for enhancing the modal share.** A single window, end-to-end solution for logistics services as demanded by the customers. Partnering of Railways with logistics service providers to leverage their superior market access and flexible parcel sizes

scheme, all made in formal Hindi.. Hindi gains due to demographic shift.Hindi speaking States make up 46% of population.Hindi speaking States make up 46% of population.

**Punjab gets its first Dalit Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi.**

**While the Registrar General of India has not yet issued a notification on Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) to make it a legal document, a Foreigners' Tribunal has gone ahead and recorded it as the "final NRC" while declaring a man to be Indian.**

**India recorded 1.2 lakh cases of "deaths due to negligence relating to road accidents" in 2020, with 328 persons losing their lives every day on average, despite the COVID19 lockdown, according to government data. As many as 3.92 lakh lives were lost in three years in deaths due to negligence related to road accidents, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed in its annual 'Crime India' report for 2020.**

**India and Saudi Arabia have discussed the way forward in Afghanistan, says Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud. During his first visit to India, he spelt out plans for investments in India, despite the delays in Saudi Arabia's \$100 billion pledge made in 2019, and offered Saudi Arabia's "good offices" for any talks between India and Pakistan.**

**The helicopter launched Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Helina, being developed indigenously, has completed all trials and the process for issuing of acceptance of necessity (AoN) by the Army has started, at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

**France would have known Australia had "deep and grave concerns" that a submarine fleet the French were building would not meet Australian needs, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said after the contract's cancellation set off a diplomatic crisis. France accused Australia of concealing its intentions to back out of the 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract for French majority stateowned Naval Group to build 12 conventional diesel electric submarines.**

**Women employees in the Kabul city government have been told to stay**

through consolidation services.

### **CONCERNED WITH TRIBUNALS**

- 1.Parliament enacted the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 which contained provisions that had been struck down by the Supreme Court in an ordinance issued earlier.ribunals are quasi-judicial institutions established by law that intend to provide faster adjudication. Tribunals were not mentioned in the original constitution. They have been added by the 42nd constitutional amendment act based on the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee. Part XIV-A has been added to the constitution with respect to tribunals. Article 323A deals with administrative tribunals which can be established only by the Parliament. Article 323B deals with other types of tribunals which can be established by both the Parliament and the State Legislature.
- 2.What are the issues? Government pushing the earlier struck provision on selection and tenure of Tribunal members through the new act were against the judgements of the court. Unusual delay in filling up vacancies among judicial and administrative members. Choosing the members from the waiting list before exhausting the names in the selection list in appointments. Reducing the tenure of the Acting Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) by 10 days. Disagreements between the government and judiciary on the eligibility criteria and conditions of service of members of tribunal Undermining the independence of tribunals.
- 3.What is the Supreme Court's view? **The court wants to ensure the independence of tribunals by providing reasonable tenure. It has warned that it will suo moto stay the legislation and could consider initiating the contempt of court proceedings.** The Supreme Court has been repeatedly calling for the establishment of a National Tribunals Commission to make suitable appointments and evaluate the functioning of tribunals.

### **GENERAL SHERMAN TREE**

- 1.**Two wildfires in California (Colony fire & Paradise) are burning through the Sequoia National Park, the Sierra Nevada that is home to the world's largest tree. Sequoia trees are fairly fire-resistant trees.**
- 2.General Sherman tree (Sequoiadendron giganteum) is the world's largest in terms of volume. This tree is about 2,200 years old.
- 3.It stands at a height of 275 feet (taller than the leaning tower of Pisa). It has a diameter of 36 feet at the base. Even 60 feet above the base, the tree has a diameter of 17.5 feet.

### **INVESTING IN EQUITY MARKET**

- 1.On a day when the Sensex and Nifty closed at fresh highs, the SEBI chairman cautioned investors against market risks and called for due diligence before investing.
- 2.The investors in securities market should be consciously aware of the fact that such investments are subject to market risks.
- 3.**There is a big surge in retail participation in equity markets. Investors should not only go for fundamentally strong and better run companies.** But they should also follow the basics of investment like, Asset allocation (Investors should not get tempted and divert funds from other assets like FDs, debt MFs, PF, gold etc into equities), Due diligence (i.e., basic check on the company) before investing in primary and secondary markets, Avoiding leveraged investment and going for professional advice.

### **CITIZEN ARRESTER**

- 1.It is a form of the vigilante in the United States, which is supported by a law that makes vigilantism respectable. Vigilantism is the practice of ordinary people in a place taking unofficial action to prevent crime or to catch and punish people believed to be criminals.
- 2.**A 'citizen arrester' enjoys legal status and whose actions are protected by a law that permits him or her to pursue and arrest a person accused of breaking the law.**
- 3.Because of its potential for abuse in the US, there is a debate on the need to circumscribe the scope, and eligibility, of who can be a citizen arrester.

**home, with work only allowed for those who cannot be replaced by men, the interim Mayor of Afghanistan's capital said. The decision to prevent most women city workers from returning to their jobs is another sign that the Taliban are going back on their promises that they would be tolerant and inclusive.**

**4.**The concept of 'citizen arrester' draws on a legal convention that comes from the Common Law tradition in England (dating from 12th Century.)