

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

3RD AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

1,737 number of criminal cases that were registered, while 39 people were convicted across India for violating environmental laws in the last three years, according to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. He explained that as per the available information, the criminal cases were registered under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Tokenism is the act of doing something in order to show that a person/company is including people from minority or marginalised groups, but without sincerity and without showing an intent to increase diversity and promote inclusivity. Tokenistic acts can be dangerous and counterproductive for the tokens. One, they do not change prejudices about the community and secondly they don't contribute to diversity, for diversity is more than just mere representation. Tokenism can be felt at the individual level, the institutional level and at the systemic level. Unless there are efforts, at all three levels, true diversity and inclusivity will remain a myth.

The Lok Sabha, passed the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, with no significant modifications to the version of the Bill presented in the House for discussion. The key thrust of the Bill is to make Indian law compatible with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). There were 50 amendments to the Act proposed in the Bill. CITES was signed in Washington D.C. on March 3, 1973, and later amended in 1979 to trade plant and animal specimens with other governments, without threatening the survival of the species.

22 lakh, the number of Indian accounts banned by WhatsApp in June on the basis of complaints received via its grievance redressal channel and through its own mechanism to detect violations, according to the messaging platform. This is higher than the 19 lakh accounts banned by the platform in May, 16 lakh accounts in April, and 18.05 lakh accounts in March. The new IT rules mandate large digital platforms to publish compliance reports every month with the details of complaints received and action taken.

SCHOOL INNOVATION COUNCIL

1. The School Innovation Council was launched and has been introduced to all schools of all the states. The School Innovation Council (SIC) is an initiative taken by The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

2. SIC is a council of teachers, students, and experts from industry and academia to conduct year-round activities for students and teachers on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. SIC will enable mindset change, awareness, and training on Ideation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, design thinking, Intellectual Property Rights, start-up finance, and HR among School teachers and students.

3. **SIC will promote out of box thinking in school education as envisioned in National Innovation and National Education Policy 2020. It will also enable the ranking system for schools on the level of innovation-oriented activities.**

4. To implement the SIC council in all schools across the nation, SIC portal has been developed where schools can register themselves. SIC will link schools with Innovation Councils established by MIC at Higher Education Level to further provide exposure to school students.

SCHOOL INNOVATION AMBASSADOR TRAINING PROGRAM

1. School Innovation Ambassador Training program (SIATP) was launched to strengthen the mentoring capacity of teachers for cultivating and handholding innovative and ingenious ideas from students. The SIATP program has been conceptualised by MIC and AICTE to train the school teachers across country.

2. Under SIATP, teachers undergo 72 hours of training, and those who qualify all the following five modules with a minimum 50% as passing marks are recognized as "Innovation Ambassadors". Design Thinking & Innovation; Idea generation & Idea hand-holding; Finance/Sales/HR; Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); Entrepreneurship and Prototype/ Product Development.

3. The "Innovation Ambassadors" are competent to nurture the young school students on Ideation, IPR, product development, design thinking, problem-solving, critical thinking and skills of entrepreneurship.

ODESA PORT

1. The first shipment of Ukrainian grain since the Russian invasion in February 2022 left the port of Odesa under a landmark deal to lift Moscow's naval blockade in the Black Sea. The milestone comes after the United Nations and Turkey signed agreements with Russia and Ukraine to re-open Ukraine's Black Sea ports and resume exports of grain, cooking oil and fertilizer.

2. **Odessa Sea-Port (UAODS Port) is the largest Ukrainian seaport and one of the largest ports in the Black Sea basin.**

Its total annual traffic capacity is 40 million tonnes. The types of vessels regularly calling at Odessa are Bulk Carrier (100%). Along with its younger satellite ports of Chornomorsk (1958) and Yuzhne (1973), port of Odessa is a major freight and passenger transportation hub of Ukraine.

3. Odesa is the base of a fishing fleet as well as the chief operational hub of the Ukrainian Navy. Odesa is also an important cultural and educational centre.

HAMBANTOTA PORT

1. India has raised its concern about the scheduled visit of a Chinese satellite vessel to the Hambantota port, Sri Lanka to the Sri Lankan President. Hambantota port is also known as the Magapura Mahinda Rajapaksha port. It is a deep-water port situated in the southern part of Sri Lanka.

2. It is close to the Asian and European maritime trade routes, the Suez Canal and Malacca Strait. It was constructed in 2008 with Chinese financial aid, and given to China on a 99-year lease. The growing congestion at Colombo port was the primary reason for constructing Hambantota.

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₹9.91 lakh crore, the worth of loans written off by banks in the last five financial years. During 2021-22, the writeoff amount came down to ₹1.57 lakh crore compared to ₹2.02 lakh crore the previous year, according to the Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat. K. Karad. The highest writeoffs in the last five years were recorded in 2018-19, which stood at ₹2.36 lakh crore. He also added that as per data, the number of wilful defaulters in the last four years stood at 10,306.

U.S. House Speaker and veteran Democratic politician Nancy Pelosi arrived in Taipei on Tuesday evening, marking the most high-level political visit from the U.S. to Taiwan in 25 years. China condemned the visit as “a major political provocation”, and said it would launch “targeted military operations” as countermeasures, even as Beijing on Tuesday scrambled Su35 fighters across the median of the Taiwan Strait in a show of force, placed restrictions on several Taiwanese exporters, and announced live fire drills to be held in six regions near the island of Taiwan from Thursday to Sunday.

President Joe Biden announced on Monday that the U.S. had killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al Zawahiri, one of the world's most wanted terrorists and suspected mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks. In a televised address, Mr. Biden said the drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, had been carried out.

There is no collapse in the rupee's value and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is only intervening in the forex markets to rein in volatility, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured Parliament.

The Supreme Court in the case of Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary vs Union of India gave judicial approval to the twin conditions of bail under Section 45(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. Section 45(1) of the PMLA requires that before a person is released on bail, the public prosecutor must be given an opportunity to oppose the application and secondly, when the application is opposed, the court must be satisfied that the accused is not guilty. The SC by upholding such stringent provisions overturns the principle of presumption of innocence — that an undertrial remains innocent until he is proven guilty.

3. It was also envisaged to solve the country's logistical problems and offer quick access to the international shipping lanes. The port has led to the emergence of conflict between the Asian powers, India and China since, China seeks to establish its paramouncy in the Indian Ocean and, India strives to maintain a natural defence area.

4. Disadvantages to India-India is apprehensive that the port is part of Chinese 'string of pearls' with an objective to surround India and dock its military vessels. The String of pearls is a geopolitical theory on potential Chinese intentions in the Indian Ocean region.

5. It refers to the network of Chinese military and commercial facilities and relationships along its sea lines of communication extending from the Chinese mainland to Port Sudan. These sea lines run through several major maritime choke points such as The Strait of Mandeb, The Strait of Hormuz, The Strait of Malacca, The Lombok Strait, and Other strategic maritime centres in Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Somalia.

PYRENE REMEDIATION

1. Researchers at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun have identified white-rot fungus *Trametes maxima* IIPLC-32 to be capable of pyrene remediation. Pyrene, possessing four fused benzene rings, is a parent class of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

2. Pyrene is a highly toxic, recalcitrant, and carcinogenic PAHs found in the environment. Rapid pace of economic development and industrialisation has resulted in the release of several PAHs into the environment. The PAHs are ubiquitous environmental pollutants originating from multiple sources, including combustion of petrogenic fossil fuels, and incomplete incineration of municipal wastes and biomass.

3. It gets lodged into the environmental matrices like soil, water and atmosphere. This results in widespread environmental pollution, necessitating adequate remediation of contaminated environmental matrices. Remediation is the action of remedying something, in particular of reversing or stopping environmental damage.

4. Pyrene Remediation is the action of remedying the environment by removing pyrene from the environment. The fungus *Trametes maxima* IIPLC-32 has the potential to cause microbial degradation of pyrene using special enzymes.

5. Growing on dead plants, this fungus can remove pyrene from the environment. This fungus acts to decrease the pollution level of the soil, thereby improving the soil quality. In the future, *T. maxima* IIPLC-32 can be tried for the bioremediation of PAH-contaminated aquatic environments.

PRIVATE PLAYERS CAN USE DRONES FOR DELIVERY PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH DRONE RULES, 2021

1. The government is utilizing the services of drone providers for vaccine delivery, an inspection of oil pipelines and power transmission lines, agricultural spraying, etc. Private players can now also do so. In 2021, the government notified the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to promote the growth of drone manufacturing by private companies.

2. The PLI rate is 20 per cent of the value addition over three financial years. PLI for a manufacturer shall be capped at 25 per cent of the total annual outlay. The beneficiaries include 12 manufacturers of drones and 11 manufacturers of drone components.

3. Key aspects of the regulatory framework under Drones Rules, 2021: Registration and having a Unique Identification Number (UIN): Every drone, except for those meant for research, development and testing purposes, is required to be registered and should have a Unique Identification Number (UIN). Segregating the entire airspace: An airspace map of the country segregating the entire airspace into red, yellow and green zones is available on the digital sky platform. Operation of drones in red and yellow zones is subject to the approval of the Central Government and the concerned Air Traffic Control (ATC) authority respectively.

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The Maldives on Tuesday signed a cybersecurity agreement with India as both sides affirmed bilateral will to strengthen ties to take on “transnational crimes and terrorism” in the Indian Ocean region. Addressing the media after the signing of six agreements, President Ibrahim ‘Ibu’ Solih expressed gratitude to India for the help extended to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and for providing a landing craft and utility vehicles to the Maldives National Defence Force.

The Supreme Court quashed the Jharkhand government’s 2016 decision to grant 100% reservation to local people of 13 Scheduled Areas in public jobs and upheld a High Court decision that had termed the government decision “discriminatory and impermissible”. The top court said “the citizens have equal rights, and the total exclusion of others by creating an opportunity for one class is not contemplated by the founding fathers of the Constitution of India”.

4. Necessary type certification: Drones are required to have the necessary type certification issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). No type certification is however required in case of nano drones (up to 250 gram all-up weight) and model drones made for research and recreation purposes.