

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Lok Sabha passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which provides for the establishment of carbon credit markets and brings large residential buildings under the energy conservation regime. The Bill mandates the use of non-fossil sources, including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol, for energy and feedstock, according to the statement of objects and reasons. The Bill amended the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, to establish carbon markets, enhance the scope of the Energy Conservation Building Code, amend penalty provisions and increase number of members in the governing council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

The 13th Edition of the Indo-U.S. Joint Special Forces exercise "Ex Vajra Prahar 2022" commenced at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh on August 8. "The Vajra Prahar series of joint exercise aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics," the Army said in a statement.

The root causes for floods prevail throughout the Western Ghats. The first is the flouting of laws that have been established to safeguard natural capital. Second, we have been ignoring serious degradation of human capital in terms of health and employment. Third, scientific knowledge and advice has been continually disregarded. And fourth, there has been serious erosion of social capital. We must usher in a new regime, acknowledging that it is local communities that have a genuine stake in the health of their ecosystems and an understanding of the working of the same. To accomplish this, the government must implement the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments. It must empower local bodies at the gram panchayat, and town and city levels to prepare reports on the status of the environment.

Reacting strongly to Sri Lanka's request to delay the visit of a tracking vessel that was due to arrive on August 11 and had aroused India's concerns, China on Monday described India's opposition to the visit as "senseless" and "urged" New Delhi to "not disturb normal exchanges" between the two countries. The Yuan Wang 5 had last month been given clearance by Sri Lanka to stop in the port of

TAIWAN STRAIT

1.China continued its live-fire military exercises in Taiwan Strait, while also announcing new exercises in the Yellow Sea. Taiwan Strait or Formosa Strait separates the island of Taiwan (Formosa) and continental Asia (coast of China's Fukien province).

2.It is an arm of the Pacific Ocean found in the South China Sea. It is 160 km wide at its narrowest point. It reaches a depth of about 70 m. It contains the Pescadores Islands (controlled by the government of Taiwan). The area lies in a typhoon zone. It is the primary shipping route between China and Japan, and Europe.

3.**Yellow Sea Yellow Sea or Huang Hai or Hwanghae is a large inlet of the western Pacific Ocean lying between mainland China and the Korean peninsula.** It is situated to the north of the East China Sea. The Bo Hai Sea is the north-western extension of the Yellow Sea.

4.It is connected to the Yellow Sea via the Bohai Strait. The Bo Hai (Gulf of Chihli) is located in the northwest part of the sea. It is found between the Liaodong Peninsula to the north and the Shandong Peninsula to the south.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROMOTION SCHEME

1.The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2016. It aims to promote apprenticeship training in the country by providing stipend support to the apprentices.

2.Further, the objectives of the NAPS are as under: To develop skilled manpower for the industry by promotion of on-the-job experiential training. To encourage establishments to enroll apprentices by sharing partial stipend support to the apprentices. To provide up-skilling opportunities for candidates who have undergone short-term skill training. To encourage enrolment of apprentices in small establishments (MSMEs), and those located in underserved areas like in aspirational districts and in North-East region.

3.Components of the Scheme Sharing of 25% of prescribed stipend subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- per month per apprentice with the employers. Sharing of basic training cost up to a maximum of Rs. 7,500 per apprentice.

4.Instead of reimbursement of stipends to the establishment, it is proposed to transfer the amount to the bank account of apprentices by the Government under Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme (DBT). **Implementing agencies - State Apprenticeship Advisers (SAAs) and Regional Directorates of Apprenticeship (RDATs) will act as implementing agencies in their respective State/Regions.**

CSIR AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

1.For the first time in its 80-year history, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has appointed a woman Director-General. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) was set up as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1942. It operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

2.It is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. The CSIR covers a wide spectrum of science and technology - oceanography, drugs, genomics, biotechnology, nanotechnology, IT, etc., The Prime Minister is the ex-officio President and the Union Minister of Science and Technology is the ex-officio Vice President.

3.The CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology. CSIR has put in place CSIR@80: Vision & Strategy 2022. CSIR's mission in this strategy is to build a new CSIR for a new India. According to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2021, the CSIR (ranked 37th) is the only Indian organization among the top 100 global government institutions.

ILLEGAL MINING OF MINOR MINERALS

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Hambantota from August 11 to 17 to carry out replenishment. The visit of a space and satellite tracking vessel for close to a week had, however, aroused concerns in New Delhi, and last week, Sri Lanka's government conveyed to China that it wanted the visit deferred "until further consultations" were made.

A mother and father should have equal rights as guardians of their children and the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act (HMGA), 1956 should be amended as it discriminates against women, a parliamentary panel has recommended in its report. "The said Act does not provide for joint guardianship nor does it recognise the mother as the guardian of the minor legitimate child unless the father is deceased or is found unfit. The Act gives preference to father over mother, it goes against the right to equality and right against discrimination envisaged under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court orally observed that it is "contrary to law" to identify religious and linguistic minority communities district wise. A Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit and S. Ravindra Bhat remarked that minority status of linguistic and religious communities have to be considered State wise.

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions has informed a Parliamentary Standing Committee that the government is working to develop a "technology solution" to automatically register grievances published in newspapers and on social media platforms on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for action. The CPGRAMS is an online platform available to the citizens round the clock on all days to lodge their grievances over service delivery for action by the public authorities.

The value of the counterfeit currency in the banking system reduced from ₹43.47 crore in 2016-17 to about ₹8.26 crore in 202122, amounting to a sharp decline of more than 80%, according to a Finance Ministry reply in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Chad's military government and 42 rebel groups on Monday signed a pledge in Qatar ahead of planned

1.Context: India has grossly underestimated the issue of illegal mining, which damages the environment and causes revenue loss. Demand for minor minerals such as sand and gravel has crossed 60 million metric tons in India. While laws and monitoring have been made stringent for the mining of major minerals consequent to the unearthing of several related scams across the country, rampant and illegal mining of minor minerals continues unabated. The United Nations Environment Programme, in 2019, ranked India and China as the top two countries where illegal sand mining has led to sweeping environmental degradation.

2.Examples: There have been numerous cases of the illegal mining of dolomite, marble and sand across the States. In Andhra Pradesh's Konanki limestone quarries alone, 28.92 lakh metric tonnes of limestone have been illegally quarried.

3.Issue with the regulation of Minor Minerals Under different state laws: Unlike major minerals, the regulatory and administrative powers to frame rules, prescribe rates of royalty, mineral concessions, enforcement, etc. are entrusted exclusively to the State governments. Issue with EIA 2016: EIA was amended in 2016 which made environmental clearance mandatory for mining in areas less than five hectares, including the minor minerals. The amendment also provided for the setting up of a District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (EIAA) and a District Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

4.Environmental issues: In the Yamuna riverbed in UP, increasing demand for soil has severely affected soil formation and the soil holding ability of the land, leading to a loss in marine life, an increase in flood frequency, droughts, and also degradation of water quality. Such effects can also be seen in the beds of the Godavari, the Narmada and the Mahanadi basins. In the Narmada basin, sand mining has reduced the population of Mahseer fish from 76% between 1963 and 2015.

5.Conclusion: Protecting minor minerals requires investment in production and consumption measurement and also monitoring and planning tools. To this end, technology has to be used to provide a sustainable solution e.g., Satellite imagery can be used to monitor the volume of extraction and also check the mining process.

IRONERS IN BENGALURU DITCH COAL IRONS FOR LPG ALTERNATIVES TO BEAT HARMFUL FUMES

1.According to the World Health Organization, burning of coal releases particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other substances detrimental to human health.

2.Udhyan (an NGO), which works on the skill development of school students and small entrepreneurs, launched The 'Istri Project' in 2019 to help clean up the issue of using coal irons boxes.

3.They emphasized using LPG alternatives to be used by tailors for straightening clothes. Ironers on average save 133 minutes a day with LPG irons and are able to press 9-12 clothes more; they also save around Rs 850 on fuel a month, according to the non-profit which has developed the irons.

CARE REPORT

1.Context: CARE (an NGO) has highlighted the global link between Gender Inequality and food insecurity. Direction: Not important for prelims. For mains, just remember the name 'CARE NGO' and 1-2 points. Findings: Women are more food insecure than men. Increased gender inequality has led to greater food insecurity across 109 countries.

2.There is a usual lack of support from Men, in household chores and childcare There is a lack of sex-disaggregated data on food insecurity, thereby not allowing policymakers to work on it.

3.CARE: It is a not-for-profit organization that builds the capacity of communities to ensure empowerment for marginalized women and girls in the field of - Health, Livelihood, Education and Disaster Relief & Resilience.

UNDERTRIALS

1.Context: SC has asked to facilitate the release of undertrials and those convicted of minor offences to celebrate the 75th year of Independence. Direction: Diagrams are just for noticing the

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national reconciliation talks in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena on August 20, though the deal did not include the country's main opposition group.

Infrastructure assets worth more than ₹1.62 lakh crore are expected to be monetised during the current fiscal, Parliament was informed on Monday. The Centre had last year announced a ₹6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors such as power to road and railways in four years till 2025.

trends. No need to note it down.

2. Definition of Under-trials: One who is arrested for some crime and is waiting to appear before the magistrate. 76% of prisoners in Indian jails are under-trials, thus violating their basic rights (NCRB 2020 data).

3. Reasons for a high number of undertrials: Delay in the justice system, shortages of court staff and judges, inconsistency in the bail system, poor legal representation etc. Initiative for Undertrials: setting up of several Fast-Track Courts, Modernization of Prison scheme, Open Court, Streamlining of IPC and CrPC laws, Clubbing of similar petty offences and clearing them on mission mode, E-Prison project. Malimath Committee (2013) recommendation: Standard of 'Proof beyond reasonable doubt' followed in criminal cases be done away with.