

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

18TH AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Due to global warming, any change in the surface air temperature and the net radiation balance tends to produce larger changes at the north and south poles. These changes are more pronounced at the northern latitudes and are known as the Arctic amplification. Between July 15 and 17, 2022, the Greenland ice sheet saw a sharp spike in the rate and extent of melting. A study by a group of Indian and Norwegian scientists have found that the reduced sea ice in the Barents-Kara sea region can lead to extreme rainfall events in the latter half of the monsoons, in September and October.

The report, Air Quality and Health in Cities, released by U.S.-based Health Effects Institute, analyses pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Delhi and Kolkata were ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM2.5 levels were compared. However no Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 – or even top 20 polluted cities when NO2 levels were compared. This list saw Shanghai at the top with an average annual exposure of 41 ug/m³.

The Supreme Court raised doubts about whether a person should be sentenced to death on the same day he or she is convicted of a crime. Noting that death penalty is “irreversible”, a three judge Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit asked if trial judges ought to pause and give every possible opportunity to a convict to avoid the gallows before allowing the State to take his or her life.

Hours after Minister for Urban Development Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that all Rohingya migrants from Myanmar living in a camp in Delhi will be shifted to flats, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a strong denial. The Ministry also said that it had issued orders that the shanty town where the Rohingya were now living in be designated a “detention centre”, pending the deportation of all of the hundreds of people living there.

28 percentage, the rise in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection touching the second highest level of

NAREGULI PADDY

1. Farmers in the villages of Saidur, Kanale and Hirenallur gram panchayats grow a flood-resistant traditional variety of paddy. Nereguli is a flood-resistant traditional variety of paddy. Nereguli variety yields about 15 bags of paddy, each weighing about 60 kg per acre.

2. Though the yield is less compared to other varieties of paddy, **this variety has a higher rate of tolerance to flooding. The paddy did not lose its quality even when the field was inundated for 40 days.** The grass blades rot and what remains are the stalks, which sprout once the water level recedes.

3. There are other varieties in Bangladesh and Andhra Pradesh that can withstand floods and grow tall but will collapse once the water recedes, but Nereguli is quite the opposite, since, it is rooted and grows fast once the water recedes. However, due to the extensive use of chemical fertilizers, this variety of paddy too could withstand flood only for 25 days.

4. It is liked for its vigour, taste and health quotient. This variety is organically grown using traditional methods and is highly nutritious and in great demand, in Kerala and Goa.

DIP IN CHILD MORTALITY

1. The Union Minister of State for Health said that India has taken rapid strides in reducing child mortality since 2014 from 45 per 1,000 live births to 35 per 1,000 live births in 2019. The government's Sample Registration System (SRS) has reported that the country's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 20 out of 1,000 babies born in the country in 2020.

2. This means that 20 babies born die within 12 months of their birth. IMR is defined as the number of infant deaths (under one year) per thousand live births in a given time period. It is widely acknowledged as a measure of a country's overall health situation. However, in India, while the IMR situation has improved since 1971 when the country's IMR was an abysmal 129, it is still patchy across the country. **3. Paalan 1000 - 'Paalan 1000 - Journey of the First 1000 Days' is a National Campaign and Parenting App launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to reduce child mortality. 'Paalan 1000' focuses on the cognitive developments of children in the first two years of its life.**

4. The companion app will provide practical advice to caregivers on what they can do in their everyday routine and will help clear doubts. The app combines coaching for parents, families and other caregivers with services designed to meet the families' basic needs. The programme is aligned with the mission of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), emphasising responsive care and focused interventions during the first 1,000 days.

5. Importance of the early phases of a child's life - A baby's brain development begins during pregnancy and is influenced by the pregnant woman's health, nutrition and environment. The first 1,000 days encompass conception as well as the first two years of a growing child's life and during this period, the child needs the right nutrition, stimulation, love and support. The first 1,000 days establish a solid platform for a child's physical, mental, emotional, cognitive and social health.

SC ON CONTRADICTION DYING DECLARATIONS

1. The Supreme Court spoke about the dying declaration while acquitting a man convicted under Section 304-B (dowry death) of the Indian Penal Code. Dying Declaration Section 32 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 deals with cases in which a statement of relevant fact is made by a person who is dead or cannot be found.

2. The general rule under Section 60 of the Act is that all oral evidence must be direct i.e. he heard it, saw it or perceived it. Dying declarations can be recorded by Anyone can record the dying declaration of the deceased as per law. The law does not compulsorily require the presence of a Judicial or Executive Magistrate to record a dying declaration.

3. A dying declaration cannot be relied upon as a solitary piece of

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₹1.49 lakh crore in July on the back of economic recovery and steps taken to curb tax evasion, the Government said. GST collection stood at ₹1,16,393 crore in the same month a year ago. GST, introduced in July 2017, touched a record high of ₹1.68 lakh crore in April 2022. This is the sixth time that the monthly GST collection crossed the ₹1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST, the Ministry said in a statement.

₹ 1.5 lakh crore, the worth of the 5G telecom spectrum sold in a seven-day auction that ended on Monday. The mop-up from the 5G spectrum, capable of offering ultrahigh speed mobile Internet connectivity, is almost double at ₹77,815 crore worth 4G airwaves sold last year. Reliance Jio was the top bidder for the airwaves capable of offering speeds about 10 times faster than 4G and enable billions of connected devices to share data in real time. It was followed by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd.

5.83 crore, the number of Income Tax Returns (ITR) received by the Income Tax Department, by the end of the FY22 filing season. The latest numbers are about the same as FY21. The due date for filing of ITRs by salaried class and individual category taxpayers, who do not have to get their accounts audited for the fiscal ending March 31, 2022, was July 31. A late fee of ₹5,000 would be payable by those (with an annual income of over ₹5 lakh) who file their ITR by December 31 of the assessment year 2022-23.

200 number of student bodies, trade unions, teachers' associations and intellectuals to gather at Jantar Mantar on August 16 as part of the weeklong 'Rojgar Andolan' to demand a national employment policy in India. The Rojgar Andolan will be organised under the banner of the Sanyukta Rojgar Andolan Samiti (SRAS) and continue till August 22. The step comes after "no response" from the Prime Minister's Office about the implementation of the National Employment Policy, a draft given to PMO on December 20, 2021.

Anyone who is living ordinarily in J&K can now also avail the opportunity to get enlisted as a voter there, in accordance with the provisions of Representation of the Peoples Act, Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar said on Wednesday in Jammu. Meanwhile, J&K parties have opposed the move.

evidence unless recorded by a Judicial or Executive Magistrate. A dying declaration recorded by a Judicial or Executive Magistrate will muster additional strength to the prosecution case though. A dying declaration may in several cases be the primary piece of evidence to prove the genesis of occurrence. The person who records the dying declaration must be satisfied that the victim is in a fit state of mind.

4.The Supreme Court Ruling-The SC said that a dying declaration can be the sole basis for recording a conviction and if it is found reliable and trustworthy, no corroboration is required. The SC also said that a court is required to examine whether a dying declaration is true and reliable by scrutinizing the facts of an individual case very carefully.

5.A court should also examine whether the dying declaration has been given when the deceased was physically and mentally fit to make the declaration, and was not under any tutoring or duress or prompting.

6.In case there are multiple dying declarations and there are inconsistencies between them, the dying declaration recorded by the higher officer like a Magistrate can be relied upon. However, the SC said this is with the condition that there is no circumstance giving rise to any suspicion about its truthfulness.

DIPLOMACY FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

1.Context: PM outlined a new ambition to make India a developed country, "Viksit Bharat", by 2047. India must address its foreign policy challenges in becoming "Viksit": Overcome colonial legacy: It undermines India's geopolitical position e.g., the legacy of partition. Prioritize deterring the dangers from across the Western frontier until Pakistan is ready for a productive relationship with India. Resolve the problems left over by Partition on India's North-western frontier.

2.Addressing connectivity challenge: Strengthening regional and trans-regional institutions in South Asia and beyond e.g., BIMSTEC, BRICS, SCO, QUAD Emphasize connectivity, trade ties, and security partnerships with its neighbours. Address the China challenge: growing gap with China in terms of defence, trade, and clout. China has been asserting itself across Asia to make a "unipolar Asia".

3.Build stronger partnerships with other major powers: Partnerships should be based on negotiated mutually beneficial terms and India should always exercise its strategic autonomy. Take global leadership: India must take global leadership in managing the enormous consequences of the unfolding technological revolution, stabilizing the economic order, and addressing the challenges of climate change and pandemics.

4.Pursue multilateralism: India has to continue its pursuit of multilateralism, at the UN, G-20, and WTO. India should make coalitions of like-minded nations. Engage with Africa, Latin America, and Oceania where India's footprint remains light, despite some recent initiatives.

NeVA

1.Context: 'One Nation-One Application' is being implemented using the National eVidhan Application (NeVA) NeVA is a portal to bring all the legislatures of the country together, on one platform.

2.Key Benefits: Paperless Assembly Automation of the entire law-making process Cloud technology (Meghraj) allows data to be accessed anywhere at any time.

3.Himachal Pradesh is the first Digital Legislature in the country. NeVA (previously known as e-Vidhan) is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the Digital India Programme, under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA).

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

1.Context: FIFA has suspended AIFF due to undue legal and political interference in the federation. Background of the issue: In May this year, India's Supreme Court disbanded the AIFF (due to issues of mismanagement) and appointed a three-member committee to govern the sport. (Similar to the steps taken for BCCI, after Lodha committee recommendations).

2.However, Fifa's rules say its member federations must be free from legal and political interference. Impact: U-17 women's world

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After intervention by the Prime Ministers Office (PMO) last week, sources said it has been decided that the University Grants Commission (UGC) would disburse the national fellowships of the Social Justice and Empowerment and Minorities Affairs Ministries that have been pending since April, but only till September 30. The UGC had told the Ministries to disburse the fellowships for M.Phil and Ph.D scholars on their own, after the Finance Ministry changed the rules for flow of funds for Central sector schemes in March. As per the new rules, a Central Nodal Agency would have to be appointed or the Ministry in question could directly transfer the funds into the beneficiaries' accounts. Before that, the Ministries would send the funds to the UGC to disburse.

Pressure groups affiliated with the North East Students' Organisation on Wednesday resumed the demand for the repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from the region.

cup (scheduled to be played in October in India) may not be held. Also, Indian national team will not be allowed to play other national football teams.

3. Success in women's football: Gokulam Kerala FC – a professional football team based in Kerala state – became the first Indian club to play in the prestigious Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Club Championship.