

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

19TH AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Centre has revived the windfall tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel exports at ₹2 per litre, raised the export tax on diesel from ₹5 a litre to ₹7, and slashed the central excise levy on domestic crude oil to ₹13,000 per tonne. The new windfall taxes will kick in from August 19. A windfall tax is a higher tax rate on sudden big profits levied on a particular company or industry.

The website of VideoLAN Client (VLC) has been banned in India. Civil society organisations have repeatedly filed RTI applications with the MeitY to know the reasons behind this ban. All of them have been met with similar responses stating that “no information is available” with the Ministry. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, allows the government to direct an intermediary to “block for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource” if it is necessary to do so, in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India”. Only the Central government can exercise this power of directing intermediaries to block online content, and not the State governments.

The perceived beliefs and recorded observations of egg laying habit of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) have changed after the recent excessive rains in western Rajasthan. The critically endangered bird species has adopted an altogether new behaviour of giving clutch of two eggs at a time after getting additional protein diet during the monsoon season. Environmentalists in Rajasthan have hailed it as a new record, as all experts had been reporting a clutch of single egg by GIB for more than a century. Scientists working on ex situ breeding of these endangered birds have discovered the new proclivity in Jaisalmer district's Desert National Park (DNP).

7.2 gigawatts (GW), the amount of solar capacity installations added in the first half of 2022 by India, according to Mercom India Research. In January-June of 2021, the country had added 4.5 GW solar capacity, the research firm's 'Q2 2022 India Solar Market Update' released on Thursday said. India's cumulative installed solar capacity now stands at 57 GW. Cumulative large-scale solar PV installations in Rajasthan reached almost 13 GW as of June 2022, and the State

HAYABUSA-2 PROBE

1. Hayabusa-2 probe has brought 5.4 grams of rocks and dust from the asteroid Ryugu. Hayabusa-2 mission was launched in December 2014. It is a six-year voyage to study the asteroid Ryugu. In 2018 the spacecraft reached the asteroid and deployed two rovers and a small lander onto the surface. In 2019, the spacecraft fired an impactor to create an artificial crater to collect the samples. A small capsule containing the rock and dust samples landed safely in the South Australian outback in 2020.

2. **Key Findings The analyses of the samples have helped us explore the origins of life on our planet. Volatile and organic-rich C-type asteroids may have been one of the main sources of Earth's water. These sample from Ryugu represents one important source of volatiles.** They are 4.6 billion years old. The materials contained amino acids. Living organisms use amino acids to make protein which makes them fundamental building blocks of life.

3. Since it would not have survived the planet's molten origin, such primordial material cannot be found on Earth. Scientists were not able to rule out the possibility that those amino acids had originated from terrestrial sources. Amino acids were previously recovered from meteorites that crashed into Earth. It suggests that the building blocks of life might have formed in space. The organic material collected probably has originated from the fringes of the Solar System. The composition of particles collected from Ryugu closely matches water on Earth. However it is unlikely to be the only source of volatiles delivered to the early Earth.

4. The slight differences identified suggests that our planet's water might have also originated from places other than asteroids. Asteroid - Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. There are 994,383 known asteroids.

5. It is divided into 3 classes. Asteroid between Mars and Jupiter. Trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA), the orbits of the asteroids pass close to the Earth. More than 10,000 such asteroids are known, out of which over 1,400 are classified as potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs). “Ryugu is also classified as a PHA and was discovered in 1999 and was given the name by the Minor Planet Center in 2015.”

NATIONAL ACTION FOR MECHANISED SANITATION ECOSYSTEM(NAMASTE)

1. NAMASTE is a central sector scheme for improving the living standards of sanitation workers in urban areas. Namaste is a joint initiative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

2. Objective - It envisages safety and dignity of sanitation workers in urban India by creating an enabling ecosystem that recognizes sanitation workers as one of the key contributors in the maintenance of sanitation infrastructure. providing them with sustainable livelihood. enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.

3. It also aims at provide alternative livelihoods support and entitlements to reduce their vulnerabilities. This will enable them to access self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities and break the intergenerationality in sanitation work.

4. **Eligible cities 500 cities converging with AMRUT will be taken up. The cities include All Cities and Towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities, including Cantonment Boards (Civilian areas).** All Capital Cities of States/Union Territories (UTs) Ten Cities from hill states, islands and tourist destinations (not more than one from each State).

5. Features Creating database of Septic Tank Workers A database of informal Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) will be created. It will help in reaching the SSWs and their families and

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accounted for almost 27% of the total installations in the country.

The Supreme Court ordered status quo on the implementation of a Delhi High Court order to hand over the affairs of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to a Committee of Administrators (CoA). A three judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana passed the order to maintain status quo after the Centre and the IOA informed the top court that the charge had not yet been transferred to the three member CoA. "According to the rules of the International Olympic Committee, representation of a national level body like the IOA by a nonelected body would be treated as a third party interference. The IOA is bound by these rules. Every country in the world is bound by it," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted.

The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry has blocked seven Indian and one Pakistan based YouTube news channels for allegedly spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order. The blocked channels had over 114 crore views and 85.73 lakh subscribers. "Fake anti-India content was being monetised by these channels on YouTube," said an official, adding that a Facebook account too had been blocked. "The purpose of the content published by some of these channels was to spread hatred among religious communities in India. False claims were made in various videos," said the Ministry in a statement.

800 million cubic metres (mcm), the amount of gas Polish gas company PGNiG has contracted for the new Baltic Pipe linking Poland and Norway for the fourth quarter. Long wary of Russian intentions, Poland started diversifying away from Russian gas years before Moscow's February invasion of Ukraine triggered a global energy crisis. Poland was cut off from Russian gas supplies in April for refusing to pay in roubles. The company said that it had seen a "radical shift" in its foreign gas supply sources.

The Supreme Court took serious note of a plea to bring transparency in drug pricing and monitoring mechanism while pointing to a recent accusation against the manufacturer of Dolo 650 tablet of indulging in "unethical practices". An NGO that has filed the petition

provide them necessary support for collectivization, skill building and linking with social and financial benefits. The Survey would be conducted by the City NAMASTE Managers validated by the concerned ULB in digital mode. Extending Insurance Scheme Benefits SSWs and their families will be covered under the Ayushyaman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Their premium for those who are not covered earlier shall be borne under NAMASTE.

6. Implementing Agencies - To support the implementation of NAMASTE following managements units will be setup National NAMASTE Management Unit. State NAMASTE Management Unit. City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit.

TRADITIONAL LIBRARY(TKDL)

KNOWLEDGE

DIGITAL

1. The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the, widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001. It is established jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH). The TKDL is a first of its kind globally and has been serving as an exemplary model to other nations.

2. The TKDL currently contains information from existing literature related to ISM such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Yoga. The information is documented in a digitized format in five international languages which are English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish. TKDL provides information in languages and format understandable by patent examiners at Patent Offices worldwide, so as to prevent the erroneous grant of patents. The TKDL will drive research & development, and innovation based on India's valued heritage across diverse fields.

3. The opening up of the TKDL is also envisaged to inculcate thought and knowledge leadership through Bharatiya Gnaana Parampara, under the New Education Policy 2020. Indian traditional knowledge (TK) offers immense potential to serve national and global needs, therewith providing societal benefits as well as economic growth. The World Health Organization (WHO) established its first off-shore Global Centre for Traditional Medicines (GCTM) in India. This demonstrates the continued relevance of traditional knowledge in address the current and emerging needs of the world.

4. The TKDL will act as an important sources of TK information for advancing knowledge and technology frontiers. It facilitates wider adoption of Indian traditional medicines. The access to the TKDL database would be through a paid subscription model with a phase-wise opening to national and international users. In future, more information on Indian traditional knowledge from other domains will be added to the TKDL database from the perspectives of the "3P - Preservation.

BIOSENTINEL

1. NASA's BioSentinel will carry microorganisms to deep space to help scientists better understand the effects of deep space radiation on biological lifeforms. The BioSentinel mission was selected as one of the secondary payloads, and the sole biological experiment, to fly on the first launch of the Space Launch System rocket for the Artemis I mission.

2. The primary objective of BioSentinel is to develop a biosensor instrument to detect and measure the impact of space radiation on living organisms over long durations beyond low-Earth Orbit (LEO). While progress identifying and characterizing biological radiation effects using Earth-based facilities has been significant, no terrestrial source can fully simulate the unique radiation environment encountered in deep space.

3. The BioSentinel biosensor utilizes the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to query the biological response to ambient deep space radiation, including DNA damage like the formation of double strand breaks (DSBs).

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said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had accused the pharma group manufacturing the well known drug of distributing freebies to the tune of ₹1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals in order to promote its product.

China's investments in infrastructure projects under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have declined while Beijing's short and medium term assistance to partner countries, some of which are dealing with rising debt levels, is increasing, according to recent research highlighting a shift in China's approach to overseas lending.

China's State media has broadcast what it said were tests of an updated shortrange surface to air defence missile system, carried out by the Xinjiang military command in the "Karakoram plateau region" near the India border.

RHINE RIVER

1.The low water levels on the Rhine River hurts Germany's economy. The Rhine is one of the major European rivers. The river begins in the Swiss canton of Graubünden in the southeastern Swiss Alps.

2.It forms part of the Swiss-Liechtenstein, Swiss-Austrian, and Swiss-German borders. After that the Rhine defines much of the Franco-German border, after which it flows in a mostly northerly direction through the German Rhineland.

3.Importance of the Rhine River to Germany's economy- Economists' estimate, the disruption to Rhine shipping could knock as much as half a percentage point off overall economic growth this year in Europe's largest economy.

4.The low Rhine water levels are expected to increase costs for chemicals companies such as BASF and could lead to production cuts. Coal power plants, now back in fashion as an alternative to Russian gas supplies, and also face supply shortages with boats unable to take on enough coal.