

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

20TH AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

A delegation from India and other member countries of the United Nations are in New York to deliberate on a one of its kind agreement to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas, namely the oceans that extend beyond countries' territorial waters. The agreement follows a resolution by the UN General Assembly in May and is expected to be the final in a series set in motion since 2018 to draft an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The high seas comprise nearly 45% of the Earth's surface.

Exemptions specified in a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with regard to the country of origin would prevail in case of a conflict between the revenue department and an importer, the Finance Ministry has said. Customs field officers should be sensitive to applying CAROTAR and maintain consistency with the provisions of relevant trade agreement or its Rules of Origin. Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) or CAROTAR Rules, came into effect from September 21, 2020. It empowers officers to seek further information from an importer, consistent with the trade agreement, in case the officer has reasons to believe that the country of origin criteria have not been met. Where the importer fails to provide the requisite information, the officer can make further verification consistent with the trade agreement.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will officially inaugurate the premises of the Indian Embassy in the Paraguayan capital Asuncion next week. The External Affairs Ministry said the ceremony would happen during his tour covering Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay.

The Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy 2022 on Friday, which suggests that the State would be targeting generation of 16,000 Mega Watt of renewable power by 2026-27. The policy was released by the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA). The government has proposed to meet the ambitious 16,000 MW target by generating 4,000 MW from solar rooftop projects, 2,000 MW from distributed solar generation and the rest (10,000 MW) from utility/grid scale solar projects and solar parks.

UN REPORT ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

1. A UN report on contemporary forms of slavery affecting persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minority communities was published recently. Highlights of the report According to the report, the various manifestations of modern slavery includes, Child labour, Sexual slavery, Chattel slavery, Domestic servitude, Forced and bonded labour, Child and/or forced marriage.

2. **Child labour - (Among children 5 to 17 years of age) exists in all regions of the world. In Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, the Americas and Europe, between 4% and 6% of children are said to be in child labour.** Bonded labour - Dalits in South Asia are forced to undertake certain types of labour as a consequence of their assigned caste status.

3. They are almost exclusively working in "unclean" jobs in urban areas, like street sweeping and burying the dead. Manual scavenging, predominantly carried out by Dalit women, have a negative impact on mental and physical health. Child marriages - A large majority of forced marriage cases relate to Pakistan and to a lower extent to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India. Trade unions make important contributions in advocating for the rights of minorities and migrant workers.

4. It is encouraging that trade unions in Colombia, Ghana and India provide dedicated support and services for women workers. Reasons In India, Child labour, caste-based discrimination and poverty are closely inter-linked. Deep-rooted intersecting forms of discrimination are often the result of historical legacies. These includes slavery, colonisation, systems of inherited status, formalised and State-sponsored discrimination, etc.

5. The systematic discrimination affects the ability to live a life of dignity and enjoy human rights on equal footing with others. Marginalised communities often remain overlooked in public policies and national budgetary allocations. Their access to justice and remedies during violations is generally limited. Stigmatisation of some communities, perpetuated by negative stereotypes in the media, textbooks, or on the Internet, contributes to their disempowerment.

6. Additional intersectional factors, such as class, gender and religion are also affected by caste realities. The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

PHOTOBOMBING EFFECT

1. Photobombing refers to a situation when someone is taking picture, suddenly a random person came into the frame and ruin by taking away attention from the main subject. Similarly, photobombing effect would also impact a space telescope's ability to observe habitable exoplanets.

2. According to a new NASA study, when a telescope is pointed at an exoplanet, the light reflected by the planet could be contaminated by light from other planets in the same system. For example, consider someone is looking at Earth sitting next to Mars or Venus from a distant vantage point. Depending on the observation, an exo-Earth could be hiding in [light from] what we mistakenly believe is a large exo-Venus.

3. Venus has surface temperatures hot enough to melt lead and is therefore considered hostile to life. This kind of mixing could lead to scientists missing out on potentially habitable planets. Point-spread function (PSF) This phenomenon stems from the "point-spread function" of the target exoplanet. PSF is the image created due to the diffraction of light coming from the source and becomes larger than the source for very distant objects, like an exoplanet.

4. The PSF's size depends on the aperture of the telescope and the wavelength at which the image was captured. For distant exoplanets, the PSF may resolve in such a way that multiple planets or planets and satellites could seem to morph into one. When that happens, the data gathered about the exoplanet would be affected by whatever objects were photobombing it.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government's piped water connection to seven crore families in the last three years under the Jal Jeevan Mission helped the country achieve the target of 10 crore such connections in villages so far.

The production of the AK203 assault rifles by the Indo-Russian joint venture at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, is set to begin by yearend and the manufacturing equipment required for it will be dispatched from Russia shortly, according to a senior official of Kalashnikov, the Russian company which manufactures the rifles.

Protests by a group of HIV positive people alleging shortage of certain antiretroviral (ARV) drugs entered its 30th day on Friday with officials from the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) stating that they had met with the group and assured them of fresh supply of medicines. "Fresh supplies are being expedited and airlifted to priority locations," the Health Ministry said, while protestors maintained that they would continue the dharna until "all HIV patients in India start receiving one month of medicines".

A teacher, living with disabilities, who fought the Rajasthan government's decision to demote him in return for transferring him to his home town won his case in the Supreme Court, which declared the marginalisation of the disabled as a human rights issue. The Supreme Court took exception to the hard bargain the disabled teacher had to endure. A Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee also noted how the High Court did not appreciate the plight of the teacher, Net Ram Yadav, represented by advocate Rahul Shyam Bhandari. Mr. Yadav had asked for transfer from his then working place, 550 kms. away from his district, so that he could be near his family who could support him.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) may conduct a serosurvey among contacts of monkeypox patients to check for the presence of antibodies and find out how many of them were asymptomatic, official sources said. As of now, it is not known what is the proportion of people who stay asymptomatic of the viral infection. India so far has reported ten cases of monkeypox.
Russian President Vladimir Putin

MEGALODON

1. A recent study by researchers used fossil evidence to create a 3D model of the Megalodon — one of the biggest predatory fish of all time. **It was estimated to be lived at around 23 million to 2.6 million years ago. It was around 50 feet (16 meters) from nose to tail.**

2. That's about two to three times the size of today's great white shark. It would have weighed around 70 tons, or as much as 10 elephants. It could have devoured a creature the size of a killer whale in just five bites.

3. Once it filled its massive stomach, it could roam the oceans for months at a time. Its average cruising speed was faster than sharks today and it could have migrated across multiple oceans with ease.

LAKE GARDA

1. Water levels on Italy's Lake Garda at 15-year low. Italy's worst drought in decades has reduced Lake Garda, the country's largest lake, to near its lowest level ever recorded. The lake exposes swaths of previously underwater rocks. But the issue goes beyond Italy, with land across Europe parched by a lack of rainfall and sweltering temperatures, driven by climate change.

2. Several other European countries also reporting record temperatures and low levels of water in rivers. Geography of Lake Garda Lake Garda, also called Benaco, the largest of the Italian lakes. It is separated from the Adige River valley by the narrow ridge of Mount Baldo.

3. The lake is fed by the Sarca River at its northern end, while the Mincio flows out toward the Po River at the southern end. It is narrow at the northern end and it widens gradually southward into a nearly circular basin.

4. The predominant winds are the sover from the north in the morning and the ora from the south in the afternoon. The northern end belonged to Austria until 1919. Well sheltered by the Alps to the north, Lake Garda has a temperate Mediterranean climate.

BIG BANG PRIVATIZATION OF BANKS CAN BE HARMFUL: RBI REPORT

1. Big-bang privatization of public sector banks can do more harm than good, the latest RBI bulletin has warned, asking the government to take a nuanced approach to the issue. While private sector banks (PSBs) are more efficient in profit maximization, their public sector counterparts have done better in promoting financial inclusion, they said in the article.

2. Privatization not at the cost of social objective: The gradual approach to privatization adopted by the government could ensure that a void was not created in fulfilling the social objective of financial inclusion and monetary transmission. Promoting green transition: PSBs (Public Sector Banks) had played a key role in catalyzing financial investments in low-carbon industries, thereby promoting green transition.

3. **Financial inclusion goals: Evidence suggested that public sector banks were not entirely guided by the profit maximization goal alone and have integrated the desirable financial inclusion goals into their objective function unlike private sector banks,** the report said. Countercyclical role of PSB lending: In recent years, these banks have also gained greater market confidence. Despite the criticism of weak balance sheets, data suggests that they weathered the COVID-19 pandemic shock remarkably well.

4. Consolidation of the sector has created robust and competitive banks: Recent mega-mergers of PSBs have resulted in the consolidation of the sector, creating stronger and more robust and competitive banks. National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL): The authors also pointed out that the establishment of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) would help in cleaning up the legacy burden of bad loans from their balance sheets.

EX VINBAX 2022

1. Vietnam-India Bilateral Army exercise Vinbax 2022 concluded at Chandimandir (Haryana) The exercise commenced on 01

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and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will attend the upcoming Group of 20 summit, the leader of host nation Indonesia said in an interview published.

About 52% of cyberthreats that took place in 2021 were specifically designed to target removable media including CDs, DVDs, BluRay disks, diskettes and USB drives, according to the 2022 Honeywell Industrial Cybersecurity USB Threat Report released.

August and was focused on the deployment of Army Engineer and Medical teams in UN Peacekeeping operations.

2.Aim: It aims to strengthen mutual confidence, and interoperability and enable sharing of best practices between the Indian Army and Vietnam People's Army.

3.It was the first time ever that the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) was undertaking a Field Training Exercise with any foreign Army.