

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

1.73 lakh number of people who lost their lives in around 4.22 lakh traffic accidents in the country in 2021 with U.P. reporting the highest number of deaths (24,711 deaths) followed by Tamil Nadu (16,685). According to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of traffic accidents in the country increased from 3.68 lakh in 2020 to 4.22 lakh in 2021. A rising trend was seen in the total number of deaths in 'traffic accidents' from 2017 to 2019 with a sharp decline in 2020.

Violent crimes such as rape, kidnapping, atrocities against children, and robberies registered across India increased in 2021, after the pandemic related restrictions led to a decline in these severe offences in 2020. Murders, which did not come down even in 2020, continued to increase in 2021 too, according to data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s 2021 report. The number of registered rape cases increased from 28,046 in 2020 to 31,677 in 2021, closer to the 2019 figure of 32,032. Cases related to kidnapping and abduction fell to 84,805 in 2020 from 1,05,036 cases in 2019, but again rose to 1,01,707 in 2021. On the other hand, murder cases continued their consistent increase with 29,272 cases in 2021, up from 29,193 in 2020 and 28,915 in 2019.

The jurisprudence of bail in post-independent India, is anchored on the bedrock of Article 21 of the Constitution which states that liberty can be deprived only through the procedure established by law, which must be "just, fair and reasonable". Prolonged detention of an accused pending trial may convert the process itself into a punishment rendering a finding of acquittal practically useless as the accused would have suffered much of the punishment by then. This is why grant of bail is fundamentally important. B Grant of regular bail is usually guided by what is referred to as the triple test — the ascertainment of whether the accused is at flight risk; possibility of tampering with the evidence and influencing witnesses.

\$5.6 trillion, the possible losses to GDP by 2050 due to worsening droughts, storms and torrential rain in some of the world's largest economies according to a report. This year heavy rains have triggered floods that inundated cities in China and South Korea and disrupted

## FULL COURT MEETING

1. Within hours of taking over, the new Chief Justice of India, U U Lalit called a meeting of the 'full court' where the judges discussed how to deal with issues relating to listing and backlog of cases. A full court meeting literally means one that is attended by all the judges of the court. There are no written rules dealing with these meetings.

2. As per convention, full-court meetings are called by the Chief Justice of India to discuss issues of importance to the judiciary. The senior designations of practicing advocates in the Supreme Court and High Courts are also decided during the full court meetings.

3. Frequency - As a full court meeting is convened at the discretion of the Chief Justice of India, it does not follow any particular calendar. Full court meetings have been held many times in the past. In March 2020, it was convened to discuss demands by associations of lawyers to close the court until further notice following the Covid-10 outbreak and its subsequent spread among court staff. Significance - The basic idea is to take everyone along.

4. Full court meetings are an ideal occasion to arrive at common solutions to deal with problems that beset the country's legal system and to make any amends, if necessary, in the administrative practices of the court. Decisions Made in the Recent Meeting The recent meeting has decided to set up "one or two" constitution benches and "six three -judge benches" on priority basis. The focus will be on resolving the three -judge bench matters as there are many references to them pending.

5. The constitution benches will initially deal with case management and issue directions for getting the records, the paper book, of the case ready to prepare for the hearing. The three-judge benches will sit in the first half of the day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

6. Listing of Cases - On the listing of cases, it was decided that Mondays will be dedicated to fresh matters. Those miscellaneous matters in which notice has already been issued will be taken up post-lunch on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fridays will be devoted to after-notice miscellaneous matters.

## TIGRAY CRISIS

1. The Director-General of the World Health Organisation has said that racism is the reason behind a lack of international interest in Ethiopia's war-stricken northern Tigray region, where the civilians are living in dire conditions. There have been tensions in the regions for nearly 3 decades.

2. But, the tensions escalated in September 2020, when leaders in Tigray held local elections in defiance of the Ethiopian government. These elections were considered "illegal" by the federal government, further leading to conflict with Tigray authorities. In November 2020, Abiy government claimed that the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a former ruling party designated as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian government, had attacked its army bases.

3. Over the next year, violence would spread to other parts of the country. **The conflict was a result of months of disagreements between the Abiy government and political leaders in Tigray, who were opposing reforms pursued by the federal government.**

4. The government forces of Abiy took control of Tigray's regional capital Mekelle, and installed an interim administration loyal to the federal government. However, the conflict is far from over.

5. Tigray-Tigray is Ethiopia's northernmost region. Bordering Eritrea, it is home to most of the country's estimated 7 million ethnic Tigrayans. The ethnic group, which accounts for about 6% of Ethiopia's population, have had an outsized influence in national affairs.

## APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

1. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India. He will only be the second CJI to have

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water and electricity supply in India, while drought has put farmers' harvests at risk across Europe. Such disasters are costing the global economy billions of dollars. In the U.S., losses could total \$3.7 trillion by 2050.

The government has sought more time from the Supreme Court to hold consultations on the issue of granting minority status to religious communities, including Hindus, said to be numerically low in as many as 10 States. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, in an affidavit, said comments and views of States such as Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir have not been received as on date. "Further, comments from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are also awaited. In these States, the issue may have wider ramifications," the Ministry said.

Extending "heartfelt condolences" to victims of the floods in Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was saddened by the crisis, in a rare outreach to the neighbouring country on a day Pakistan's Finance Minister said he could consider reopening trade routes with India.

\$ 25 billion, the amount committed by Mukesh Ambani to launch 5G networks in India. Mr. Ambani said Jio will launch 5G services in major cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in time for the Indian festival of Diwali in late October. A pan India rollout will follow, with an aim to cover every district in the country by December 2023. Mr. Ambani stopped short of announcing leadership changes at Monday's AGM, instead asking shareholders to extend their blessings to his three children.

1061 death toll from monsoon flooding in Pakistan since June according to figures by the country's National Disaster Management Authority. The annual monsoon is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing lakes and dams across the Indian subcontinent, but each year it also brings a wave of destruction. Officials say this year's monsoon flooding has affected more than 33 million people — one in seven Pakistanis — destroying or badly damaging nearly a million homes.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to formally raise its first unit of indigenous Light Combat Helicopters

been appointed directly from the Supreme Court Bar Association, without serving as a judge of a high court. India's highest judicial post is the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124 (2) of the Indian Constitution.

2. Article 124 also says that appointment by the President is to be done "after consultation" with judges of the Supreme Court, as the President may "deem necessary". Article 217, which deals with the appointment of High Court judges, says the President should consult the CJI, Governor, and Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.

3. Qualifications - Apart from being an Indian citizen, the person to be appointed as the Chief Justice of India must Have been for at least 5 years a Judge of a High Court. or of two or more such Courts in succession. or Have been for at least 10 years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or Be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

4. Collegium System - The more than two decades-old collegium system is followed in the appointment of judges, consisting of five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. The government gets a background inquiry done by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) at times from the names first suggested for appointment by the collegium.

5. While the government can also raise objections, usually the collegium's will prevails. The term "collegium" is not mentioned in the constitution, which only speaks of consultation by the President. Given the ambiguity of the word "consult", this method of appointment has often been challenged in the courts. Seniority - Usually, the seniormost judge of the court after the chief justice (in terms of the years served) is recommended as the successor.

6. This convention was discarded by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who appointed Justice AN Ray as CJI in 1973 over his seniors. According to the government's Memorandum of procedure for the appointment of Supreme Court Judges, seniority is to be the norm. The Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs seeks the recommendation of the outgoing CJI for appointing the next CJI. After the collegium's recommendations are finalised and received from the CJI, the Law Minister will put up the recommendation to the Prime Minister who will advise the President on the matter of appointment.

7. Removal of CJI - The constitution states, "A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President". This Presidential order must be passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by A majority of the total membership of that House and A majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting. An address in the same session has to be presented to the President for removal on one of the two grounds - proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

## FIJI VIRUS

1. The novel Fijivirus has caused a disease that had dwarfed some non-basmati and basmati plants in Haryana and Punjab. The Fiji Virus is the other name for the Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV).

2. The virus was first reported in southern China in 2001 and causes a striking disease on rice and maize that leads to serious yield losses in several East Asian countries, such as China, Vietnam and Japan. It spreads by the white-backed plant hopper (*Sogatella furcifera*), which injects it while sucking the sap from mostly young plants.

3. The virus is specific to the phloem and is not transmitted by seed or grain. Symptoms - The affected plants showed severely stunted appearance. The roots were poorly developed and turned brownish. The infected tillers can be pulled out easily.

## MEET THE CHAMPION INITIATIVE

1. PM Modi's 'Meet the Champion' Initiative to be held in over 25 cities on National Sports Day tomorrow About: 'Meet the Champions' is a unique school visit campaign that was kicked off by Olympic Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra in December last year

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**(LCHs) in Jodhpur in the first week of October coinciding with Air Force Day on October 8. Ten LCHs will be inducted in the first batch completing one unit, a defence official said.**

**Indian graziers were stopped by the Chinese Army at Demchok in Ladakh on August 21, a senior government official said. According to the official, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) objected to the presence of graziers within India's perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Saddle Pass at CNN junction in Demchok. The incident was followed by a couple of meetings between the commanders of the Indian Army and the Chinese PLA to resolve the issue. The graziers have been frequenting the area and there was a minor scuffle in 2019 also, said the official.**

and has reached various parts of the country over the past few months.

2. During the school visit, the champion athlete shares their experiences, life lessons, and tips on how to eat right and also give an overall inspirational boost to school children.