

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

31ST AUGUST 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Abhijit Sen, former Member of the Planning Commission, former Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and eminent economist, died in Delhi. Professor Sen had been a faculty at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP) at Jawaharlal Nehru University from 1985 to his superannuation in 2015. Politicians, academics, students, farmers' leaders and activists remembered him for his contributions in areas such as minimum support price, rural economy and rural employment.

India's retail inflation has been a bugbear for the economy since it surged past 6% in January, but there are wide disparities in the pace of price rise experienced by consumers across the country, with a dozen States clocking an average inflation of less than 6% and another 12 States averaging more than 7% through 2022 so far. While headline inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index has averaged 6.8% in the first seven months of 2022, well above the 6% upper tolerance threshold set by policy makers, consumers in Telangana, West Bengal and Sikkim faced the steepest spike in prices, with their combined retail inflation for rural and urban areas averaging 8.32%, 8.06%, and 8.01%, respectively.

Solomon Islands has suspended visits from all foreign Navies, citing a need to review approval processes, the country's leader said on Tuesday, after a U.S. Coast Guard ship was unable to refuel at its port. The decision comes amid concerns over the Solomons' growing ties with China in recent years, switching diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 2019 and signing a security pact with the Asian power in April.

45,026 number of females who committed suicide in 2021 in the country. More than half of them were housewives. "Of females who committed suicides, the highest number (23,178) was of housewives followed by students (5,693) and daily wage earners (4,246)," the report said. Majority of suicides committed by housewives were reported in Tamil Nadu (3,221 out of 23,179) followed by Madhya Pradesh (3,055) and Maharashtra (2,861 suicides).

China's claims on Arunachal Pradesh

PUGA VALLEY

1.The magistrate of Nyoma subdivision in Ladakh ordered Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to practise the highest standards of precaution at the geothermal energy plant in Puga Valley. The Puga Valley Geothermal Project will be India's first geothermal energy project, and will be the world's highest geothermal energy project.

2.Puga Valley is situated in the Changthang Valley in the southeastern part of Ladakh, about 22 km away from the Salt Lake Valley. The region is known as a hub for generating geothermal energy, which is notably in the form of sulphur and borax deposits. It has shown an immense amount of mud pools and hot sulphur springs.

3.These mud pools and springs are said to have medicinal properties, and can cure skin diseases and even rheumatism. One can also spot sheep, yak, bar-headed geese, brahminy ducks, black-necked cranes and more wildlife here.

PILEUS CLOUD

1.Haikou city residents in China were astounded when they observed a rainbow in the sky that was shaped like a cloud. The phenomena was not a rainbow, but actually a cloud known as pileus cloud. The 'pileus cloud' is also known as a 'cap cloud' or 'scarf cloud'. Actually, the rainbow-like pileus cloud is not a cloud in itself.

2.The pileus cloud is an accessory cloud of small horizontal extent, in the form of a cap or hood above the top or attached to the upper part of a cumuliform cloud that often penetrates it. Several pileus may fairly often be observed in superposition.

3.Formation - A pileus is created when the quickly rising air in the cumulus cloud (or cumulonimbus) updraft pushes against the cooler air above it. This causes condensation of the moisture right along the top of the updraft, leading to the formation of the Pileus. When the sun is shining at a perfect angle, diffraction of light takes place between the droplets and ice crystals in the cloud, giving the Pileus its rainbow-like colors. But, these clouds typically only last a few hours, as they are "eaten up" by the cloud that is above them.

4.Pileus cloud is absorbed by the lower cloud by convection. Pileus isn't very common, but it can be spotted on days when you could anticipate cumulus clouds developing into thunderstorms. Pileus cloud should not be confused with the lenticular cloud. Lenticular clouds stand alone while pileus clouds are an accessory to cumuliform clouds.

5.Lenticular Clouds-**Lenticular clouds are stationary clouds that form mostly in the troposphere, typically in parallel alignment to the wind direction.** These strange clouds sometimes form downwind of hills or mountains. Lenticular clouds are so named because they resemble lentils. They are easily distinguished from other cloud species by their distinctive UFO shape and smooth edges.

DUNALIELLA TERTIOLECTA

1.Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has developed an edible material, using marine microalga Dunaliella tertiolecta, that can be coated on vegetables and fruits to extend their shelf life. Dunaliella tertiolecta is a marine microalga or the phytoplankton known for its antioxidant properties and has various bioactive compounds such as carotenoids and proteins.

2.Dunaliella is also used to produce algal oil, which is a non-animal source of omega-3 fatty acid, and is a good source of biofuel. After the oil is extracted, the residue is usually discarded. However, the researchers have now used these extracts from the residue in formulating their edible film, in combination with chitosan.

3.Edible Film - It has anti-microbial and anti-fungal properties. This material displayed superior antioxidant activity, thermal stability, mechanical strength, total phenolic content and water vapour barrier property. It also had excellent UV-Vis light-blocking properties.

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BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & CHANDRA LAYOUT 7619136662 | BHOPAL: 7509975361 | INDORE: 7314977441 | IMPHAL: 9650245599
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are “outrageous” and its transgressions at the LAC with India are a “violation of the international order”, said Germany’s new Ambassador to India Phillip Ackerman.

Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to make collection of forensic evidence mandatory in crimes punishable by more than six years.

33 percentage of trees that survived of the 16,461 trees transplanted in Delhi over the last three years. According to the Delhi government’s tree transplantation policy notified in December 2020, agencies concerned have to transplant a minimum of 80% of the trees affected by their development work. Tree transplantation for 22 development projects have been undertaken in the last three years. Of the 404 trees transplanted under the Central Vista project, only 30% have survived.

\$ 1.1 billion, the amount IMF will release to Pakistan immediately apart from an additional \$500 million to the total size of the package. The IMF board approved an agreement to revive a massive loan program for Pakistan, as the country grapples with devastating monsoon flooding that has worsened an economic crisis. The original \$6 billion bailout package was signed by former Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2019, but was repeatedly stalled when his government reneged on agreed reforms on subsidies and failed to improve tax collection.

Iraq has failed to form a government after the October 2021 parliamentary elections in which Mr. Sadr’s bloc won the most number of seats. A bitter power struggle between the country’s dominant Shia parties have since then plunged the country into a deepening crisis. For Iraqi presidential elections to take place, two-thirds of the representatives should be present in the House. Such an election has not been possible as the quorum was not met as different blocs boycotted parliament sessions — once by the Sadrist Movement and twice by the opposition, the Shia Coordination Framework, to stop Mr. Sadr’s bid to form a majority government. In protest against the rival parties’ continued boycott of Parliament, Mr. Sadr, asked all the 73 legislators of the Sadrist Movement to resign.

The Supreme Court dismissed a writ

4.Coating Technique - The material can be either directly coated on the vegetables and fruits or made into a vegetable storage pouch. In both cases, the shelf life of the vegetables can be extended. It is a simple dip coating technique with no significant cost added.

5.Benefits - The new coatings can be mass-produced. They are very stable to light, heat, and temperature up to 40 degree C, and can be safely eaten as part of the product formulation. They retain texture, colour, appearance, flavour and nutritional value.

6.Safety - To test the biosafety of these coatings, the coatings were tried on the BHK21 cell line, which is a laboratory standard for the study of various biological processes. The tests showed that the new coating materials were nontoxic and could be safely used as edible food packaging materials.

7.According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, between 4.6 and 15.9% of fruits and vegetables go waste post-harvest, partly due to poor storage conditions. The new material could reduce this post-harvest loss.

UN HIGH SEAS TREATY

1.Negotiations involving 168 countries, including the European Union, to agree on a UN treaty for protecting oceans has failed. The UN High Seas Treaty is also referred to as the ‘Paris Agreement for the Ocean’. The treaty aims to deal with Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction.

2.The proposed treaty concerns the ocean existing beyond the Exclusive Economic Zones that lie from the coast of a country to about 200 nautical miles into the sea, till where it has special rights for exploration. Waters beyond that are known as open seas or high seas.

3.The treaty was to be negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982, which governs the rights of countries regarding marine resources. As there is no treaty for conserving the health of vast swathes of the earth’s oceans, a UN resolution (in 2017) had decided to rectify this while setting 2022 as the deadline.

4.Later, a High Ambition Coalition, which now has more than 100 countries including India, the US and the UK, came about and put the focus on ‘30×30’ goals - protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. After the latest deadlock, talks will only resume next year, unless a special session is called.

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT

1.The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification for standardising the process for issuance of International Driving Permit (IDP) across the country. International Driving Permit (IDP) or International Driving Licence (IDL) is accepted in over 150 countries.

2.It is an official travel document that is authorised by the United Nations issued to tourists travelling to foreign countries. It is an official translation of your driver’s license issued in your home country. The document essentially states that you possess a valid driver’s license. It translates your license documents into many languages so authorities abroad are able to verify and understand your driving credentials. The document is issued from various zonal offices.

3.The validity of this permit is for one year. The applicants are required to get the licence from the country visiting within one-year period. India’s Status - India is a signatory to Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949 (Geneva Convention). So, India is required to issue International Driving Permit as provided under this Convention, for the acceptance of the same on reciprocal basis with other countries.

4.Issue - Currently, the format, size, pattern, colour etc. of the IDP being issued was differing across States in India. Due to this, many citizens were facing difficulties with their respective IDP in foreign countries. Now, through this amendment, the process of issuing IDP has been standardized across India, and in adherence to the Geneva Convention.

NEW EDIBLE COATING TO PROLONG THE SHELF LIFE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1.A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)

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petition challenging the Constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 under which couples seek refuge for interfaith and intercaste marriages. The writ petition has called the provisions under the SMA violative of the right to privacy guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution as they require couples to give a notice of 30 days before the date of marriage inviting objections from the public. These public notices have been used by antisocial elements to harass couples getting married.

The process is now under way to ensure the commercial availability of India's indigenous vaccine LumpiProVac to protect livestock from lumpy skin disease, Yash Pal, Director, National Research Centre on Equines, said. He cautioned against the use of raw milk, especially during this infection phase, explaining that while pasteurised and boiled milk was safe, raw milk carried high levels of disease causing bacteria.

Guwahati has developed an edible material that, coated on vegetables and fruits, substantially extended their shelf-life. The team used a mix of an extract of a marine microalga called *Dunaliella tertiolecta* and polysaccharides to produce it.

2. The microalga is known for its antioxidant properties and has various bioactive compounds such as carotenoids and proteins.

3. Research is carried out to help farmers keep their produce safe from sprouting & rotting for longer durations & help the country meet UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets on reducing food losses in production and supply chains.