

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

11TH APRIL 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Ministry of Earth Sciences, in a response to a question, informed the Lok Sabha earlier this week that of the 6,907.18kmlong coastline of the Indian mainland, about 34% is under varying degrees of erosion, while 26% is of an accretional nature and the remaining 40% is in a stable state. “The National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai, an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), is monitoring shoreline erosion since 1990 using remote sensing data and GIS mapping techniques. About 6,907.18 km long Indian coastline of mainland has been analysed from 1990 to 2018.

Odisha's Special Task Force (STF) and Forest department have together seized closed to 45 leopard hides in past two years. It indicates that 5% of the State's leopard population has already been poached. The analysis of poaching cases reveals that the killings of big cats is taking place not only at the instance of organised crime networks, but majorly due to random hunting. Ever since the STF of State Crime Branch has been assigned to go after wildlife offenders, the number of detection of poaching cases has gone up. The STF on its own has seized 26 leopards hides in the last two years.

1090 taxidermied animals, including hundreds of endangered or extinct species, seized by Spain, in one of the largest hauls of its kind. The private collection is estimated to be worth nearly €29 million (\$32 million). Among them, 405 are classified as protected, endangered or extinct, including the scimitar horned oryx once found in parts of Africa. A stuffed Bengal tiger, considered near extinction, was also found. The owner of the collection is under investigation.

Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to get into the global network of silk cities, celebrated French textile artist Isabelle Moulin said in Kolkata, expressing hope that in the next few years West Bengal's Murshidabad district — known to produce fine silk in the over the past 300 years — may join the global silk city network.

To ensure that visually impaired litigants are able to effectively pursue and protect their legal rights, the Delhi High Court has asked the

POSITIVE INDIGENOUS LIST

1.The Ministry of Defence has released the third positive indigenisation list of 101 items, comprising major equipment/platforms. The 'First Negative Indigenisation' List comprising 101 items was notified in August 2020. The Second Indigenisation list was notified in June 2021 import list for 108 items.

2.The Third List includes: Highly complex Systems, Sensors, Weapons and Ammunitions like Light Weight Tanks, Mounted Arty Gun Systems, Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV) etc.

3.What is the positive indigenisation list? Introduced in August 2020, the negative list essentially means that the Armed Forces—Army, Navy and Air Force—will only procure such items from domestic manufacturers. The manufacturers could be private sector players or Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

4.Why was this policy needed? What will be the impact? **As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India has been the second largest importer between 2014 and 2019 with US\$ 16.75 billion worth of imports during this period.** The government wants to reduce the dependence on imported items in defence and give a shot in the arm to the domestic defence manufacturing industry. By denying the possibility of importing the items on the negative list, the domestic industry is given the opportunity to step up and manufacture them for the needs of the forces.

5.Significance and implications of this move: Recognises the potential of local defence industry. Invigorate impetus to domestic Research and Development by attracting fresh investment into technology and manufacturing capabilities. Provides an excellent opportunity for 'start-ups' as also Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

1.On 5th April 2016, The Stand-up India scheme was launched by the Indian government. On 5th April 2022, it completed six years. Accomplishments of this scheme: Under this scheme over 1.33 lakh new job-creators and entrepreneurs have been facilitated. Over 1 lakh women entrepreneurs have benefited under this scheme in the last six years. Under this scheme, Rs. 30,160 crores have been sanctioned by the government to a total of 1,33,995 accounts up to 21st March 2022.

2.Out of the total sanctioned accounts, 6,435 accounts belonged to ST borrowers with Rs 1373.71 crore sanctioned and 19,310 accounts belonged to SC borrowers with Rs 3976.84 crore sanctioned. To 1,08,250 women entrepreneurs who held accounts, Rs. 24809.89 crore has been sanctioned.

3.**About the 'Stand Up India Scheme': Launched in 2016. It seeks to promote entrepreneurship at the grass-root level of economic empowerment and job creation. Aim: To leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to the underserved sector of people such as SCs, STs and Women Entrepreneurs.** The offices of SIDBI and NABARD shall be designated Stand-Up Connect Centres (SUCC). Loans under the scheme are available for only Greenfield projects.

4.The objective of the scheme is: To facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least one SC or ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up green field enterprises in manufacturing, service or trading sector.

5.Eligibility: SC/ST and/or women entrepreneurs; above 18 years of age. Loans under the scheme are available for only Greenfield projects. Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution. In case of non-individual enterprises, at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATIONS) ACT

Delhi government to provide them the court documents in Braille script. Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta said the right to justice includes the right to receive documents, which legally entitles the parties with a communication mode and language that they can easily decipher.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden will hold a virtual meeting prior to the '2+2' Foreign and Defence ministerial meeting in Washington on Monday. They will discuss the recent developments in south Asia, the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest, the MEA said.

Iran's Foreign Minister said that Washington is "imposing new conditions" in the negotiations to restore the 2015 nuclear agreement. "On the issue of lifting sanctions, they (the Americans) are interested in proposing and imposing new conditions outside the negotiations.

Ukraine is preparing for "important battles" against Moscow's forces in the east of the country, officials in Kyiv said, as Pope Francis on Sunday called for an Easter truce to end the war. Evacuations continued from Kramatorsk, in eastern Ukraine.

The vaults of the National Film Archives of India (NFAI) here have acquired another rare gem in the form of a 100-year-old silent film Behula (1921), which was made by Kolkata's famed Madan Theatre in the heyday of the silent film era. The five-reel Behula was sourced from the Paris-based Fondation Jérôme Seydoux Pathé, where it had been preserved for decades.

As many as 18,606 non-genuine hospital transactions were detected in the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) with penalty amounting to ₹29.72 crore being levied on hospitals. Also, 144 hospitals were depanelled from the scheme for fraudulent behaviour, said the Health Ministry in its reply in Parliament in the recently concluded session. The Ministry said all claims required mandatory supporting documents along with on-bed patient photo before approval and payment. It said suitable penal action in terms of antifraud guidelines was taken against the hospitals involved in fraud.

₹2786 crore, the amount of MNREGA dues that West Bengal is yet to receive from the Centre. The claim was made by the West Bengal Government. "Bengal ranked 2nd

1. The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the 2020 amendments made to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010, which introduced restrictions in the handling of foreign contributions by organizations in India. The judgment came in response to PILs challenging the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act 2020 (Noel Harper and others versus Union of India and connected cases).

2. The challenge was primarily to the following amendments: Amendment to Section 7, which forbids a recipient of foreign contribution from transferring the same to any other entity. Amendment to Section 8(1)(b), which reduces the limit of usage of foreign contribution for administrative expenses from 50% to 20% (not much pressed during arguments). Amendment to proviso to Section 11(2), which states that the Centre can direct an organization to not utilize foreign contributions pending an inquiry on suspected violations.

3. Newly added Section 12 & 17 which state that the foreign contributions must be deposited in the FCRA account created in the specified branch of the scheduled bank, which was later notified as the New Delhi Branch of the State Bank of India. Newly added Section 12A which empowers Centre to obtain Aadhaar numbers of the key functionaries of organization for approval.

4. FCRA regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country. The Act, first enacted in 1976 was amended in the year 2010 and then 2020. **Section 5 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 gives the Union government "unchecked and unbridled powers" to declare an organisation as being one of political nature and deny it access to funds from sources abroad. FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.**

5. Applicability: The provisions of the Act apply to the territory of India, to citizens of India who may be outside India and to companies or their branches outside India that are registered or incorporated in India. The entities covered by the Act include an individual, a Hindu undivided family, an association, or a registered company.

CENTRAL TIBETAN RELIEF COMMITTEE (CTRC)

1. The Union government has extended the scheme to provide ₹40 crore grants-in-aid to the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for another five years, up to fiscal year 2025-26.

2. Highlights of the Scheme: Launched in 2015. It is a scheme of providing grant-in-aid of ₹40 crore to CTRC to meet the administrative and social welfare activities expenses of 36 Tibetan settlement offices in different States.

3. Tibetans in India: More than one lakh Tibetan refugees are settled in India. Major concentration of the Tibetan refugees is in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir. Tibetan refugees began pouring into India in the wake of the flight of the Dalai Lama from Tibet in 1959. The government decided to give them asylum as well as assistance towards temporary settlement.

4. Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE)? The Speaker and a Deputy Speaker head the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile. The 16th TPiE had 45 members: 10 representatives from each of the traditional provinces of Tibetan – U-Tsang, Dhotoe and Dhomey; Two from each of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the pre-Buddhist Bon religion; Two representing each of the Tibetan Communities in North America and Europe. One from Australasia and Asia (excluding India, Nepal and Bhutan).

STATE OF DENOTIFIED TRIBES

1. A standing committee of Parliament, in its report, has criticised the functioning of the development programme for de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes. Who are de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes? They are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminals' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871. They are the most vulnerable and deprived.

2. Measures for their welfare: **The National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted in 2006. It was headed by Balkrishna Sidram Renke. Scheme for economic empowerment of DNT communities: It has been formulated to provide coaching, health insurance, facilitate livelihood and financial assistance for construction of homes for the members of DNT.**

among all States in Person Days-Generated (202122), having generated 36.4 crore of person days. ₹2,876 crore is pending from the Central Govt up to March 31st, 2022,” the government said.

3.The Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC) has been set up in 2019 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the purpose of implementing welfare programmes. A committee has been set up by the NITI Aayog to complete the process of identification. Ethnographic studies of DNCs are being conducted by the Anthropological Survey of India, with a budget of Rs 2.26 crore sanctioned.