

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH APRIL 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), while forecasting a “normal” southwest monsoon for this year also, revised downwards the definition of what constitutes average rainfall. At a press briefing on Thursday, the agency said India would get 99% of the long period average (LPA) rainfall — changed from 89 cm to 88 cm in 2018, and in the periodic update in 2022, again revised to 87 cm. A monsoon is considered “normal” when rainfall falls between 96% and 104% of the LPA. The IMD does not expect an El Nino, a phenomenon associated with a warming of the Central Pacific and drying up of the rains over northwest India, the coming monsoon. “Currently La Nina conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific.

6 crore, the added number of Whatsapp users who will now be able to make monetary transactions via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) approved additional users for the messaging platform. “With this approval, WhatsApp will be able to expand the service to its 100 million users,” NPCI announced. The NPCI is the umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems and has created a robust payment and settlement infrastructure in India.

Do not encourage sale and purchase of captive elephants, the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, headed by senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, has recommended. The parliamentary panel has urged the Union government to remove the controversial clause in the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 that overrides the original Act, making an exception only for elephants.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said remembering PMs was to know the journey of Independent India. He was speaking at the inauguration of Museum on PMs.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is offering to buy Twitter, saying the social media platform he has criticised for not living up to free speech principles needs to be transformed as a private company. Twitter Inc. said in a regulatory filing that Mr. Musk, currently the company’s biggest

INTRANSE-II PROGRAM

1.The government has launched Indigenous Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Solutions for Indian Traffic Scenario under Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor for Indian Cities Phase-II Program. InTranSE -II is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
2.Recently launched solutions include: **An indigenous Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System – ODAWS: It incorporates vehicle-borne sensors for monitoring driver propensity and vehicle surroundings to deliver acoustic and visual alerts for driver assistance.** Bus Signal Priority System: It is an operational strategy that modifies normal traffic signal operations to better accommodate in-service public buses at signal-controlled intersections. Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC) software: CoSMiC provides a Dashboard page showing IoT units, products, applications, and its live data in a Geographical Information System (GIS) map.
3.InTranSe-Intelligent Transportation System Endeavour (InTranSe) for Indian IndianCities” is a National level Collaborative Research and Development Program. Funded by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India. Aim: InTranSe aims at Development, Demonstration, Deployment, Technology Transfer and Commercialization of products and technologies relevant to Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). Overall objective of the program is to provide the country with the capability to become a significant player in the area of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).

GLOBAL WIND REPORT 2022

1.Released by: Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC). What is GWEC-Established in 2005, it is the international trade association for the wind power industry, representing the united voice of the industry, globally.
2.Highlights of the Report: **Wind energy installations every year across the world must quadruple from the 94 GW installed in 2021 within this decade to meet the global climate targets. Without the necessary amplification,** restricting global warming over pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degrees Celsius — a target set by the Paris Agreement — and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 may become difficult.
3.New offshore installations in 2022 are likely to decline to the 2019 / 2020 levels, primarily due to the reduction of installations in China. Market growth is expected to regain momentum from 2023, eventually passing the 30GW-mark in 2026. Offshore wind energy generation increases return on investment, along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
4.Challenges to growth: Inconsistent policy environments focused on short-term political aims. Badly designed markets which do not enable bankable renewable energy projects. Infrastructure and transmission bottlenecks. A lack of adequate industrial and trade policies related to renewable technologies. Hostile political or misinformation campaigns.
5.Scope in India: More than 1.4 GW of wind was installed in 2021, exceeding the 1.1 GW of installations during the previous year. The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of installing 5 GW of offshore capacity by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030. India is yet to develop its offshore wind energy facility. India can generate 127 GW of offshore wind energy with its 7,600 km of coastline.
6.Need of the hour: **Governments to tackle issues such as planning barriers and grid connection challenges. To sustain and increase growth in wind-based generation capacity, policymakers are urged to streamline the procedures to grant permits, including land allocation and grid connection projects.** Workforce planning for large-scale renewables deployment should be an early policy priority and investment in grids must treble from current levels through to 2030. Annual transition-related investment in the energy system must increase 2.7 times from the 2019 level, to \$5.69 trillion a year till 2030. There is also a need for greater public-

individual shareholder, has proposed buying the remaining shares of Twitter that he doesn't already own at \$54.20 per share, an offer worth more than \$43 billion.

The focus on capital expenditure in the recently announced Budget for the current fiscal year will boost manufacturing and tax revenue collections, thereby keeping India on track to becoming a \$5 trillion economy, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday. Tax revenues in the last fiscal year grew by a record 34% to ₹27.07 lakh crore, which the Ministry said was "a remarkable testimony to the rapid recovery" of the economy following successive waves of COVID19.

Britain's Conservative government has struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylum seekers thousands of miles away to the East African country, a move that opposition politicians and refugee groups condemned as inhumane, unworkable and a waste of public money.

One of Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest allies warned NATO on Thursday that if Sweden and Finland joined the U.S. led military alliance then Russia would have to bolster its defences in the region, including by deploying nuclear weapons. Finland, which shares a 1,300km border with Russia, and Sweden are considering joining the NATO alliance.

An interdistrict boundary row is as much of a niggle for Arunachal Pradesh as the dispute along certain stretches of its 804.1 km boundary with Assam continues. The frontier State's Chief Minister Pema Khandu said his government was nearing a permanent solution to the decades-old boundary dispute with Assam. However, he indicated it would not be easy to settle an interdistrict boundary dispute unless the people involved cooperated with the government.

To meet its long pending requirement of naval utility helicopters (NUH), the Navy is looking to procure variants of the indigenous advanced light helicopter (ALH) and light utility helicopter (LUH) modified for ship based operations, according to defence sources.

The National Health Authority (NHA), the implementing agency for the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), has extended an open invitation to all interested parties for sharing their Expression of Interest (EoI) in developing innovative solutions aimed at

private co-operation to confront "the new geopolitics of the wind supply chain". A stronger international regulatory framework is needed to address the increased competition for commodities and critical minerals.

SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDHI PROGRAM

1.The Union Government has launched the 'SVANidhi se Samridhi' program in additional 126 cities across 14 States/UTs. About the 'SVANidhi se Samridhi': It is an additional program of Launched under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Implementing Partner: Quality Council of India (QCI). During Phase 1 of the program, it covered 125 cities, covering approximately 35 Lakh Street vendors and their families.

2.Aim: To provide social security benefits to street vendors for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment. Under the program, socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families is conducted to assess their eligibility for Eight Government of India's welfare schemes and facilitate sanctions of eligible schemes.

3.These Eight schemes include: 1) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. 2) PM Suraksha Bima Yojana. 3) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. 4) Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (BOCW). 5) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana. 6) National Food Security Act (NFSA)-portability benefit - One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC). 7) Janani Suraksha Yojana and 8) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

4.PM SVANidhi Scheme: It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March 2020. Small Industries Development Bank of India is the technical partner for implementation of this scheme. It will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

UGC ALLOWS 2 DEGREES ATIME IN PHYSICAL MODE

1.The University Grants Commission has for the first time decided to allow students to pursue two full-time and same-level degree programmes in physical mode simultaneously either at the same university or from different universities.

2.This move is a part of implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 which seeks to provide as much flexibility as possible so that students can receive multidisciplinary education. The University Grants Commission of India is a statutory body under the provisions of UGC Act, 1956.

3.It is responsible for coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education. It provides recognition to universities in India, and disburses funds to such recognized universities and college.

JULIUS NYERERE

1.PM Modi recently paid tributes to former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere on his 100th birth anniversary. Nyerere, born on April 13, 1922, was a Tanzanian anti-colonial activist. He served as the president of Tanzania from 1964 to 1985.

2.Ideologically, he promoted a political philosophy known as Ujamaa. Ujamaa ideology focused heavily upon the practices of communal living and brotherhood.

3.Even though it was necessary that Tanzania became an independent economy, the local practices of Ujamaa promoted reliance upon communities. The most important part of society according to Ujamaa ideology was the community.

BIRSA MUNDA

1.Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently released a book on the life of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda. The book titled 'Birsa Munda - Janjatiya Nayak' is written by Prof Alok Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur. The book is a comprehensive attempt to bring to the fore the struggle of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the contribution of forest dwellers in the freedom movement.

2.Birsa Munda was a folk hero and a tribal freedom fighter hailing from the Munda tribe. He was a spearhead behind the Millenarian movement that arose in the Bihar and Jharkhand belt in the 19th century under British colonisation. He is also known as 'Dharti Abba' or the Earth Father. Born on 15th November 1875.

3.Birsait: Bisra wanted to reform the tribal society and so, he

building a national digital health ecosystem for India. “This collaborative approach will not just help speed up the development but also will help in making digital public goods available to public and/or private entities. Interested parties shall provide these solutions as a service at no cost to public and/or private entities,” the agency said.

306 death toll from the devastating floods in and around the South African port city of Durban, after roads and hillsides were washed away as homes collapsed. The heaviest rains in 60 years pummelled Durban’s municipality, known as eThekweni. The storm is the deadliest on record in South Africa.

urged them to let go of beliefs in witchcraft and instead, stressed on the importance of prayer, staying away from alcohol, having faith in God and observing a code of conduct.

Based on these, he started the faith of ‘Birsait’.

4.Bisra started a movement called ‘Ulgulan’, or ‘The Great Tumult’. His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to a big hit against the British government in the form of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act being passed in 1908. The act restricted the passing on of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.