

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Supreme Court agreed to hear on April 26 a petition highlighting the need for the government to frame guidelines for compensating victims of wrongful prosecution by the police or authorities. "India, with a population of around 1.5 billion, has no effective statutory/legal mechanism for the wrongful prosecutions due to police and prosecutorial misconduct resulting in a pandemic of false cases which has not only destroyed the social fabric of the nation but also affected the overburdened judiciary with alarming pendency of over 40 million cases".

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is aiming to carry out a landing experiment (LEX), a critical component of the Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration (RLVTD) programme, in the next few days. ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said. RLVLEX, the second in a series of experimental flights for the RLVTD programme, will be held in April itself.

Only over 7% of individuals in India with diabetes were able to achieve their blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol targets, according to a recent paper published in the Lancet - Diabetes and Endocrinology. The report "Achievement of guideline recommended diabetes treatment targets and health habits in people with self reported diabetes in India (ICMRINDIAB13): a national cross-sectional study" reasons that achievement of treatment targets remains sub optimal in India, in a pan Indian study, and goes on to provide hints for shaping the health care response to the crises.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime and the sixth Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC-6) meant to encourage defence start-ups during Def Connect 2.0. The iDEXPrime aims to support projects, requiring support beyond ₹1.5 crore up to ₹10 crore, to help the evergrowing start-ups in the sector, the Defence Ministry said.

Meghalaya is set to add globalised forms of legalised gambling to the indigenous 'teer' or betting on the number of arrows hitting a target of straw. State Law and Taxation Minister James P.K. Sangma said

PEER-TO-PEER-LENDING

1. Peer-to-peer (P2P) lending is a form of direct lending of money to individuals or businesses without an official financial institution participating as an intermediary in the deal. Due to some unique characteristics, peer-to-peer lending is considered as an alternative source of financing.

2. It is also known as "social lending" or "crowd lending." P2P lending is generally done through It has only existed since 2005, but the crowd of competitors already includes Prosper, Lending Club, Upstart, and StreetShares. P2P lending websites are platforms that purely act as an intermediary or marketplace that connects borrowers and lenders.

3. The site sets the rates and terms and enables the transactions. P2P lenders are individual investors who want to get a better return on their cash savings than a bank savings account or CD offers. P2P borrowers seek an alternative to traditional banks or a better rate than banks offer.

4. Loans provided - P2P lending offers both secured & unsecured loans. However, most of the loans in P2P lending are unsecured personal loans. Secured loans are rare for the industry and are usually backed by luxury goods.

5. Advantages - Higher returns to the investors, More accessible source of funding, Lower interest rates, etc

6. Disadvantages - High credit risks, No insurance/ government protection, etc Some jurisdictions do not allow P2P lending or require the companies that provide such services to comply with investment regulations.

WATER ADALAT

1. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) held a Water Adalat. Water adalat is a concept started by the Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

2. It was started to resolve disputes related to water billing, delay in provision of water supply, sanitary connection and conversion from non-domestic to domestic connection. It is arranged on every first Wednesday (Now, Thursday) of the month to solve the grievances of the public related to the mentioned water issues.

EXTENSION OF TENURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

1. Union Ministry of Environment has extended the tenure of environmental clearances (EC) granted for existing or new projects. An Environmental Clearance (EC) is a long-drawn process that is mandatory for projects beyond a certain size.

2. It often involves an environment impact assessment of a potential project and sometimes public hearings involving the local populace who might be affected by the project. It is mandatory for 39 types of developmental projects including mining, hydro power and thermal power among others. The process for clearance is outlined by the Environmental Impact.

3. Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006-Explaining its rationale to extend the validity of the projects, the Ministry said that nuclear power projects and hydropower projects had high gestation period. High gestation period is due to geological surprises, land acquisition, delays in forest clearance, local issues, rehabilitation & resettlement, etc.

4. One of the conditions of an EC is that a project must begin construction in the period that it has been granted an EC and if unable, a fresh process must begin. This leads to projects being financially unviable.

5. Mining leases are now granted for a period of 50 years but the Environment Clearance is valid for 30 years. The Central Government deems it necessary to align the validity of mining ECs, subject to review & appropriate environmental safeguards.

6. Exemption-Environment Ministry also proposed to exempt highway projects that would serve India's strategic interests from the EC process. The notification further stated that instead, project proponents should comply with a set of standards to

Meghalaya, a popular tourist destination, intended to generate adequate revenue from legalised gambling, online betting and gaming.

In the backdrop of the rapid geopolitical turmoil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson agreed on a new and expanded India-U.K. defence partnership and vowed to seal an ambitious free trade agreement by the end of the year. After his wide ranging talks with Mr. Modi on the second and final day of his India visit, Mr. Johnson said the U.K. is creating an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) for India to “reduce bureaucracy and slashing delivery times” for defence procurement.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, during a recent visit to South Africa and Mauritius, urged Non Resident Indians (NRIs) to register as overseas electors and told them that a proposal on postal ballots for NRIs was being contemplated, the Election Commission of India said.

Reliance Industries Ltd., operator of the world’s biggest oil refining complex, has ordered at least 15 million barrels of Russian oil since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Myanmar’s junta chief on Friday called for face to face peace talks with the country’s established ethnic rebel groups, as the military struggles to crush newer antijunta militias that have sprung up to fight the coup. Myanmar has about 20 ethnic rebel armies — many of which control swathes of remote border territory — that have fought each other and the military for decades over the drug trade, natural resources and autonomy.

Japan described four islands whose ownership it disputes with Moscow as “illegally occupied by Russia” in the latest version of an annual diplomatic report released on Friday. Japan, which is struggling to improve ties with Moscow to regain control of the Kurils, which Tokyo calls the Northern Territories, had previously described the dispute in a softer tone. The islands were seized by former Soviet Union during Second World War.

A Russian General declared on Friday that Moscow wants to seize all of southern and eastern Ukraine, far wider war aims than it had acknowledged as it presses on with a new offensive after its campaign to capture the capital Kyiv collapsed

safeguard the environment. In 2021, the National Board for Wildlife, which grants wildlife clearance, had also approved the construction of roads in border areas where there are wildlife sanctuaries for their “strategic importance”.

7.The same notification also proposed that 15 MW thermal power plants should be allowed to increase their capacity to up to 25 MW without the clearance. There is a condition that these thermal power plants must, Primarily function on biomass and solid waste, and Use up to 15% of petrol, coal or lignite as an auxiliary fuel.

8.It also sought to exempt the expansion of ports for fishermen who use boats with less pollution potential, as well as allow expansion of terminal buildings within airports, provided they do not usurp more land. This involves only incremental environmental impacts which can be catered by providing for environmental safeguards built into the project’s Environmental Management Plan.

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR UNIFORM RIGHT OF WAY

1.The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has released draft policy guidelines to bring consistency in Right of Way-related procedures across states and spur the deployment of telecom infrastructure ahead of 5G roll out.

2.Right of Way (RoW) is the legal right, allowing online filing of application. Basically, this is a framework for setting up telecom towers, laying fibre cables, settling disputes, and improve coordination among companies. The 'Draft Policy Guidelines on Right of Way (RoW) for Establishment of Telecommunications Infrastructure' have been prepared for outlining general principles related to RoW permissions.

3.The existing RoW policy has been adopted by about 18 states and the rest of the states are also close to aligning with the government's RoW policy. The draft guidelines has prescribed the methodology for Calculation of RoW area, Establishment of poles for the deployment of small cells, Usage of street furniture for the deployment of small cells, Mandatory in-building solutions (IBS), The provision of an online RoW portal and deemed approval, among other things.

4.In the case of the establishment of poles for the deployment of small cells, the application fee shall not exceed ₹1,000 per application. There shall be neither application fee nor compensation for using the street furniture for installing small cells and Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) required to connect small cells. [This street furniture may be either established by any person or entity over the immovable property of the local/government authority.]

5.However, an applicant must submit a self-declared intimation to the authority on the online RoW portal for the usage of street furniture. Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) shall issue guidelines in respect of the structural safety of the street furniture for installation of small cells.

6.The central government authorities shall permit deployment of small cells on government buildings and structures free of cost. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has taken up a pilot programme to use street furniture to accelerate the expansion of telecom infrastructure in the wake of impending 5G commercial roll outs.

EUROPA

1.Researchers have said that there might be an abundance of water pockets beneath formations called double ridges on Jupiter’s moons Europa. Europa’s surface is mostly solid water ice. Double ridges are the formations which are most common on Europa’s surface and are similar to those seen on Earth’s Greenland ice sheet.

2.About Europa: Europa is slightly smaller than Earth’s moon and its diameter is about one-quarter that of the Earth. Europa has a very thin oxygen atmosphere. Interestingly, while its diameter is less than the Earth’s, Europa probably contains twice the amount of the water in all of the Earth’s oceans.

3.NASA is expected to launch its Europa Clipper in 2024. The module will orbit Jupiter and conduct multiple close flybys to Europa to gather data on the moon’s atmosphere, surface and its interior.

FINCLUVATION

1.India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% government owned entity under Department of Posts (DoP) has announced the launch of Fincluvation– a joint initiative to collaborate with

last month.

The government on Friday appointed Suman K. Bery as the vice chairman of the NITI Aayog following the resignation of Rajiv Kumar. Mr. Bery will take charge from May 1, 2022.

One of the repercussions of (Russian President) “Putin’s war” apart from the misery and death is that the international focus is sort of going away from huge challenges for mankind which are climate change, poverty reduction, infrastructure and moving towards military spending and towards concentrating on war and peace, said German envoy in India Walter J. Lindner.

Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.

2.Fincluvation is an Industry first initiative to create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion.

3.Fincluvation will be a permanent platform of IPPB to co-create inclusive financial solutions with participating start-ups.