

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water, has been appointed a member of a high level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against global warming. Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians, and the only South Asian, serving on the expert group. The High Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non State Entities was constituted on March 31 and is expected to draw up an action plan and recommend actions to businesses and nonstate actors to accelerate the transition to net zero, or when carbon emitted by human sources is compensated by sucking carbon out of the atmosphere.

The Taliban announced a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer. "As per the decree of the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, all Afghans are informed that from now on, cultivation of poppy has been strictly prohibited across the country," according to an order from the Taliban's supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada.

All Cabinet Ministers in Sri Lanka resigned late on Sunday, amid raging protests by citizens asking the Rajapaksa administration to quit for "failing" the country in its crisis response. They submitted their resignation to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who remains in office and is scheduled to meet President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday morning, Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena announced. This paves the way for President Gotabaya to form a fresh Cabinet, amid demands from coalition partners for a "caretaker government".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan bowled a yorker at his rivals by getting the presidential nod for the dissolution of Parliament, a move dubbed "unconstitutional" by the Opposition parties. The latter have approached the Supreme Court to challenge the move. In a suo motu hearing on the issue later on Sunday, the Supreme Court barred all state institutions from taking any "extraconstitutional" steps in the wake of the dismissal of the no-confidence vote in the National

### DIGITISATION OF J FOR

1.The Punjab government decided to provide digital J-Forms to the farmers across the state from April 1, 2022. This move will benefit the farmers who will be looking to sell their crop (wheat) at MSP in mandis. 'J form' is the sale receipt of a farmer's agricultural produce in mandis (grain market).

2.These forms were earlier issued manually by arthiyas (commission agents) because in Punjab, a majority of farmers sell their crops through such agents only. Also, this form is an income proof for a farmer who sells his crop. Before digitisation of the J form, several arthiyas had the habit of keeping these forms with themselves, instead of providing it to the farmers, which was their right.

3.Hence, many farmers ended up having no record of their income after selling their crops. But by getting digitised J form, farmers will now have a clear record of the crop sold and income received in lieu of that. Punjab Mandi Board will send these forms directly to the farmer's WhatsApp number immediately after a sale is confirmed on the system by the arthiyas and buyers. JForms in DigiLocker are legally at par with original physical documents in line with Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation & Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016.

4.Benefits - The 'J form' can be used by the farmers for raising finance from financial institutions, IT waivers, subsidy claims, and farmer's insurance. It can also help farmers get admission for their wards in educational institutes abroad. Apart from this, this move will stop the theft of grains by some arthiyas. The government too will benefit because some landowners (not involved in farming) show their income under farming to evade Income Tax payments.

### M2E

1.The influenza A virus was isolated for the first time in 1931, and the first attempts to develop a vaccine against the virus began soon afterwards. These viruses cause seasonal epidemics and also pandemics at random intervals. Vaccination is the most effective way of preventing the spread of influenza infection. But, the seasonal influenza strains mutate rapidly and new strains of the virus proliferate.

2.This makes it very difficult to make a vaccine that can consistently generate a sufficient degree of immunity. However, the M2e peptide of influenza A virus is a conserved region section, meaning it doesn't undergo too many mutations across the several kinds of influenza A strains. Therefore, to design a universal flu vaccine the M2e peptide can be targeted and then the immune system can be primed to generate antibodies.

3.But, it has a limited ability to trigger a strong and long-lasting immune response and this has represented a major roadblock in its clinical development. Vaccine Platform - Recently researchers have reported a novel vaccine platform to deliver M2e to immune cells. By deploying this platform, a single shot vaccine containing M2e was able to trigger long-lasting immune responses that could protect effectively against multiple strains of the flu.

4.This vaccine approach has the potential to Minimise the amount of M2e vaccine antigen and the need for strong adjuvants, Reducing potential side-effects, particularly in more vulnerable populations. Antigen is a substance that triggers the body's immune response against that itself. Adjuvant is a substance which enhances the body's immune response to an antigen.

### ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

1.The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country. It was set up in 1962 under Section IV of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

2.Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale pioneered the setting up of the Board, with its Headquarters at Chennai. The Board consists

## Assembly.

**India's goods exports grew 43.2% in 2021-22 to nearly \$418 billion, rising over \$125 billion over the COVID hit 2020-21. March saw the highest ever outbound shipments worth \$40.38 billion, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.**

**Days after the Punjab Assembly passed a resolution to transfer the Union Territory of Chandigarh to the State, the Haryana government has summoned a special session of the Assembly.**

**As Ukraine claimed its forces had retaken all areas around Kyiv, the Mayor of a liberated town said 300 residents had been killed during a monthlong occupation by the Russian Army, and victims were seen in a mass grave and still lying on the streets. Ukraine's troops have retaken more than 30 towns and villages around Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said on Saturday, claiming complete control of the capital region for the first time since Russia launched its invasion.**

**In what has been hailed as a major breakthrough, South Sudan's rival leaders sealed an agreement on Sunday on a key military provision of their stuttering peace deal. President Salva Kiir and his rival, Vice President Riek Machar, agreed on the creation of a unified armed forces command, one of several crucial unresolved issues holding up implementation of the 2018 deal to end the country's bloody five year civil war.**

**Negotiations between scientists and governments over a key United Nations climate report were going down to the wire on Sunday, as officials from major emerging economies insisted that it should recognise their right to development. The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a UN backed science body, is meant to show the paths by which the world can stay within the temperature limits agreed in the 2015 Paris accord. The agreement aims to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius this century. But with temperatures already more than 1.1C higher than the preindustrial baseline, many experts say that's only possible with drastic cuts to greenhouse gas emissions.**

**India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region goes back several centuries and the country stands for an open, balanced, rules based and stable international trade regime in the strategically vital region, President Ram Nath Kovind has said.**

of 28 Members.

**3.**The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years. The jurisdiction of AWBI is throughout the Country. The AWBI recognizes the Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs) including Gaushalas as per the request made by those organizations.

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SYSTEM

**1.**India has one of the world's largest Agricultural Research System viz., National Agricultural Research System (NARS) including ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). NARS is a very robust system and continuously strengthening its Agricultural Research Activities for the benefit of Indian farming community for producing various crops.

**2.**It is led by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). NARS aims at the assessment of location-specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement, and demonstrations. NARS has a research network of 102 ICAR Research Institutes, 11 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) and 73 Agricultural Universities spread across the country.

**3.**It has developed 1956 high yielding varieties/hybrids of 80 field crops since 2014 which include 173 less water requiring varieties/hybrids of cereals, oilseeds, pulses, fiber crops, forages and sugarcane.

**4.**It has contributed immensely to make India self-sufficient in food production and serves the agricultural technology and information needs of the country. Krishi Vigyan Kendras are an integral part of the NARS.

## BATTLE OF POLLILUR

**1.**The Painting Titled 'The Battle of Pollilur', this is another work from the treasury of Tipu Sultan that was recently. Known to be a patron of art, Tipu Sultan commissioned numerous significant paintings.

**2.**Titled 'The Battle of Pollilur', the work is nearly 32-foot long monumental painting. It depicts the victory of the Mysore army led by Haidar Ali, the ruler of Mysore, and his son Tipu, against the British East India Company forces in the Battle of Pollilur or the Battle of Perambakam (1780).

**3.**The work was commissioned by Tipu Sultan (the last ruler of Mysore), as part of a large mural for the newly built Daria Daulat Bagh in Seringapatam in 1784. Another memorabilia of Tipu is the "Magic Box"

## BAMIYAN BUDDHAS

**1.**The Taliban regime in Afghanistan assured the world of its intention to protect and conserve the Buddhist heritage in Mes Aynak. The earlier Taliban regime had destroyed several Buddhist related ancient sculptural and architectural treasures in Mes Aynak (2001). This naturally raised fears amongst many when the Taliban regime came back to power. However, the regime has assured the world of its intention to conserve the diverse Buddhist heritage. **2.**One of the primary reasons behind this is to ensure investment in the country since the regime is facing economic hardships ever since it came to power. About Bamiyan Buddhas The Bamiyan valley, in the Hindu Kush mountains, is situated along the river Bamiyan, and it was a key node of the early Silk Routes, emerging as a hub of both commercial and cultural exchange.

**3.**The Bamiyan Buddha statues, hewn from sandstone cliffs, are said to have dated back to the 5th century AD and were once the tallest standing Buddhas in the world. These statues were examples of a perfect blend of Gupta, Sassanian and Hellenistic artistic styles. Salsal and Shamana (two of the tallest Buddha statues in the region) as called by the locals were razed by the Taliban regime in 2001.

**4.**In 2003, UNESCO included the remains of the Bamiyan Buddhas in its list of world heritage sites. To mark 20 years of their destruction, on March 9, 2021, the statue of Salsal was "recreated" — a 3D projection was beamed at the alcove where it had stood.

## FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records)

**1.**CJI N.V. Ramana launches digital platform 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' The platform would be used by the court officials to instantly to send e-copies of the orders through a secured electronic communication channel to intended parties thus ensuring that judicial orders can be communicated

**Interacting with young students at the prestigious Institute of International Relations here on Saturday, President Kovind said India's approach is based on cooperation and collaboration and is elaborated through the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).**

quickly.

**2.**Through the use of this software orders that were passed by the high courts (HC) and the Supreme Court (SC) will be transmitted safely without any third-party interference. Bail orders will be communicated via FASTER and for authentication purposes, it will have the digital signatures of the notified nodal officers of the SC as well as the Institutional digital signatures. **3.**In this manner, without much loss of time, bail orders would be received by all the concerned parties and quick necessary actions will be taken at their end.