On November 23, eservices at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were crippled by what is being suspected to be a ransomware attack. Ransomware is a type of malicious software, used by cyber criminals, to infect a computer system by blocking access to the stored data by encrypting files. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is the national nodal agency that collects, analyses, and circulates inputs on cyberattacks; issues guidelines, advisories for preventive measures, forecasts and issues alerts; and takes measures to handle any significant cyber security event.

One hundred Centrally protected monuments will be illuminated for a week beginning Thursday when India assumes G¬20 presidency for a year. The monuments include Delhi's Qutub Minar and Purana Qila, Fort Vellore in Tamil Nadu, and the Golconda Fort in Hyderabad. The other monuments on the list include the Sarnath and Dhamek stupas, Fatehpur Sikri and Sikandra in Agra, the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram and the Charminar in Hyderabad. The Jageshwar temple in Uttarakhand, the Hazarduari palace in Murshidabad in West Bengal and the Ancient Palace in Leh are also part of the list.

A bid by the Assam police and forest personnel to catch alleged timber smugglers from Meghalaya led to the killing of six people at a place claimed by each State to be within its territory. Although the Assam government claims that the incident wasn't about the boundary issue, the fact that the two governments refer to the place of the incident by two names makes it apparent that the boundary dispute is intertwined.

While Meghalaya says the place is Mukroh in West Jaintia Hills District, Assam claims it is Mukhrow or Moikrang in West Karbi Anglong district. The incident has become fodder for pressure groups in poll bound Meghalaya to rail against the Sangma ¬led coalition government for failing to protect border residents. There have been reporting of stray cases of arson, vandalization of Assam registered vehicles, and attacks on security personnel and civilians.

Manufacturing and mining output contracted year on¬ year in the July¬September quarter, dragging Gross Value Added growth to a slower¬ than ¬expected 5.6%, which together with high inflation and weak exports combined to slow overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to a 6.3% pace, as per estimates released by the National Statistical Office. At a little over ₹75 lakh crore, India's GDP in the first half of 2022¬23 was 5.7% larger than the comparable pre-¬COVID level. The April to June quarter of this fiscal had witnessed GDP growth of 13.5%, with GVA expanding 12.7%.

China on Wednesday said it had expressed its concern to India over the joint India¬

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) TO HELP WASTE SEGREGATION WORKERS ACCESS GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Under this, UNDP will distribute Jan Dhan account kits to waste pickers or Safai Sathis. It will promote Financial Inclusion of Safai Sathis by moving them into the formal economy through access to government welfare programmes. It is facilitated through the UNDP's plastic waste management programme.

2. **About the programme:** Key objective of the programme is to help move the waste management from informal to formal. In India, it is launched in partnership with private organizations (like HDFC Bank, HUL etc.), to develop a sustainable model for plastic waste management and move towards a circular economy.

3. It includes establishment of 'Swachhta Kendra' or material recovery centres and improved socio-economic conditions of Safai Sathis. So far, it has collected and processed over 1,38,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste.

4. **Need for the programme**-As per UNDP survey, nearly 70% of Safai Sathis come from socially-backward groups and over 60% have no formal education. Also, only 21% reported access to Jan Dhan Yojana. India generates 15 million tonnes of plastic waste every year but only a fourth of it is recycled.

GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE (GEM) PLATFORM CROSSES 1 LAKH CRORE RUPEES GROSS MERCHANDISE VALUE FOR FY 2022-2023

1. **GeM is one stop National public procurement portal**, which functions under Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It was launched in 2016 to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers. Cumulatively, GeM has surpassed Rs 3 lakh crore Gross Merchandise value since inception.

2. **Features of GeM-** It facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs/ cooperatives. It is paperless, cashless and contactless platform giving end to end solution. General Financial Rules, 2017 mandates all Ministries or Departments to procure Goods and Services available on GeM from GeM. It is managed by GeM Special Purpose Vehicle, a 100% Government Owned, Section 8 Company.

3. **Significance of GeM:** Enhances transparency, efficiency, and speed in public procurement. Facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by Government Departments. Up-to-date user-friendly dashboard for buying, monitoring supplies and payments. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction etc. to facilitate users achieve the best value of their money.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (WMO) RELEASES ITS FIRST STATE OF GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES (SGWR) 2021 REPORT

1. Report assesses the effects of climate, environmental and societal change on Earth's water resources. This includes the conditions of streamflow, terrestrial water storage (TWS) and selected cryosphere parameters (see image).

2. **Key observations**-With increased melting of glaciers, annual glacier run-off increases at first, until a turning point, often called "peak water", is reached, upon which run-off declines. 74% of all natural disasters between 2001 and 2018 were water related. 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year.

3. It is expected to reach 5 billion by 2050. Continued melting of glaciers shows a clear trend towards an acceleration of mass loss on multidecadal timescales.

4. **Recommendations:** Invest in filling the capacity gap in collecting data at the national level. Increase sharing of hydrological data at the international level. Development of end-to-end drought and flood early warning systems. Working together as a global hydrological community on developing annual State of Global Water Resources etc.

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES CARBON CAPTURE UTILISATION AND STORAGE (CCUS) POLICY FRAMEWORK AND ITS DEPLOYMENT MECHANISM IN INDIA

1. Framework aims to develop and implement a practicable framework to accelerate research and development on CCUS in India. It explores the importance of CCUS as an emission reduction strategy to achieve deep decarbonization from hard-to-abate sectors, like, Steel, cement etc. GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE (GEM) PLATFORM CROSSES

U.S. military exercise, Yudh Abhyas, being conducted in Uttarakhand, about 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC). "The joint military exercise between India and the U.S. close to the LAC at the China India border violates the spirit of the agreements signed between India and China in 1993 and 1996. It does not serve the mutual trust between India and China," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told.

Former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, who led China during a decade of extraordinary economic growth, passed away in Shanghai on Wednesday, aged 96. Mr. Jiang's death comes at an extraordinary time for Chinese politics, and days after protests in many Chinese cities on a scale not seen since 1989, a year when the death of a proreform leader, Hu Yaobang, catalysed a prodemocracy student moment.

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said the various redevelopment projects of the Central government, including the "Jahan Jhuggi Wahin Makaan" and the PM¬UDAY schemes, are expected to benefit at least 1.35 crore residents of Delhi. Mr. Puri said the "Jahan Jhuggi Wahin Makaan" scheme will benefit 10 lakh slum dwellers in Delhi, while around 50 lakh residents of unauthorised colonies will benefit from PMUDAY.

1500 number of nuclear warheads China is likely to have by 2035, up from the current estimated number of 400, according to the Pentagon in a report. China's current nuclear modernisation exercise has exceeded the previous modernisation attempts in both scale and complexity, the report said.

₹24,680 crore, the amount by which outstanding dues of electricity distribution firms (discoms) towards gencos, transcos and traders have come down in the last six months. Five States have taken ₹16,812 crore loan while eight States have opted to make their own arrangements to pay back dues.

63,000 the Benchmark BSE Sensex touched for the first time on Wednesday, extending its winning momentum to the seventh day amid a largely positive trend in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows.

1 LAKH CRORE RUPEES GROSS MERCHANDISE VALUE FOR FY 2022-2023 CCUS encompasses technologies to remove CO_2 from the atmosphere, followed by recycling the CO_2 for utilization and determining safe and permanent storage options.

2. **Need of CCUS**-India is the 3rd largest emitter of CO_2 in the world. Help country to have CO_2 emissions by 2050 and to achieve net zero by 2070. Convert captured CO_2 to green urea, building materials etc., thus contributing to circular economy. Ensure sustainable development and growth in India, particularly for production of clean products and energy.

3. **Policy recommendations-** CCUS policy should be carbon credits or incentives based, to promote CCUS sector through tax and cash credits. Set up National Decarbonisation Fund for transition of Indian industry to a low carbon economy. Protect communities affected by climate change by ensuring distribution of economic value created by CCUS.

TRAI RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS ON 'LICENSING FRAMEWORK FOR ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING FOR SATELLITE EARTH STATION GATEWAY (SESG)

1. SESG, also known as Gateway Hub, acts as a bridge between space-based communication network and terrestrial communication network (refer image). It houses the equipment that convert Radio Frequency (RF) signal to an Internet Protocol (IP) signal for terrestrial connectivity.

2. **Key Recommendations-** Separate SESG License under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Service Area for it shall be at National Level. Only the companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013 shall be eligible to apply for grant of SESG Licence. Satellite communication (Satcom) refers to any communication link that involves the use of an artificial satellite in its propagation path.

3. **SatCom has two main components:** Ground segment (consists of fixed or mobile transmission, reception equipment) and Space segment (the satellite itself). Satcom in India: GSAT-10 communication satellite, INSAT-3A etc.

4. **Advantages of Satcom-** Provide data connectivity in remote locations due to its ability for rapid deployment. Enable development and growth in industry sector by augmenting geographical reach of telecom operators etc. Cheaper over long- distance telephone transmission. Used in global mobile communication, weather forecasting, radio/TV signal broadcasting, etc.

5. **Related News-** TRAI has also released its recommendations on "Use of Street Furniture for Small Cells and Aerial Fibre deployment ". Street Furniture refers to publicly owned structures like utility poles, billboards, lamp posts, traffic signals and public structures like bus stops etc. Major Recommendations: Amend the Right of Way Rules (2016) for clarity on Street Furniture; Infrastructure sharing by Controlling Administrative Authorities; Permission exemption for small cells etc.

AIRCRAFT LEASING

1. Recently, Government allowed Indian Airlines to take wide-body aircraft on wet lease for up to one year. Wet lease refers to renting of the plane along with operating crew and engineers.

2. In technical term, wet leasing is called ACMI, i.e., Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance, and Insurance. Dry lease is when the airline leases only the vehicle.

3. Damp Lease is the middle between two where an airline wet-leases a plane but uses its own cabin crew.

"Success is reaching your goal, Achievement is doing it your way."

Dr. Khan
(KSG)