

The 'Global Wage Report 2022-2023: The Impact of inflation and COVID-19 on wages and purchasing power' discuss the twin crises which created a "striking fall" in real monthly wages around the globe. Another report, the 'Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2022: Rethinking sectoral strategies for a human-centred future of work' stated that the Asia-Pacific region lost about 22 million jobs in 2022. There has been a significant gap in the average level of real wages between advanced G-20 countries and emerging G-20 countries such as India. The ILO states that the creation of decent formal wage employment is a prerequisite for a more equitable distribution of wages and income, and is a key contributor to equitable and sustainable wage growth.

Vizhinjam has been on the boil for the past four months with protesters mainly fisherfolk and their families laying siege to the under construction Vizhinjam port. The protestors have raised seven demands which include, a scientific study to assess the impact of the port work on the shoreline after stopping the construction of the port. The port is expected to leverage the growth of minor ports in Kerala and other regional ports, creating thousands of employment opportunities.

The G-20 Sherpas held the first round of "substantive discussions" on the key areas of India's G-20 Presidency in Udaipur on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. The first day's discussions included sessions on 'Technical Transformation', 'Green Development and Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE)', 'Global and Regional Economy: Prospects and Challenges' and an informal 'Chai pe Charcha' among the G-20 member countries.

The Supreme Court, for the first time in its 72-year history, is hosting a 'hackathon' event, a clear signal that it is looking to the public and the youth of the country to bring innovations to make justice delivery system more efficient. Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud said the event would be an opportunity to engage in "collaborative brainstorming".

After more than five years of its formation, the commission for the subcategorization of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) is now in the final stages of finishing its task of coming up with a formula to further classify the nearly 3,000 caste groups and preparing a report on it, according to multiple officials aware of the developments.

The Supreme Court on Monday said acts of charity or good work to help a community or the poor should not cloak an intention to convert them religiously

FIVE SOCIAL SECTOR MINISTRIES JOIN PM GATI SHAKTI

- Five key social sector departments** – health, women and child development, rural development and panchayat raj, education, and housing and urban affairs – have joined the PM Gati Shakti Scheme, aimed at cutting India's logistical costs Implementing agency: DPIIT (Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) of the commerce and industry ministry.
- How Gati Shakti will improve the functioning of these social sector departments:** Improved Planning of the projects Improved coordination among departments e.g., concerned departments can upload their GIS data (Geographic Information System) to be shared among other departments. Improved monitoring of projects Improved evaluation of the impact of the projects.
- About PM Gati-Shakti National Master Plan**-PM Gati Shakti Master Plan (2021), is a Rs. 100 lakh-crore project for developing 'holistic infrastructure'. It aims to ensure the speed (Gati) and Power (Shakti) of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with a focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs, and bringing down the logistics cost.
- Curbs red-tapism:** g., the Railways has started a 'Common Drawing Approval System' on an online platform, so all the approvals can be accessed on one portal. Increased coordination: Gati Shakti will bring together 16 infrastructure-related Ministries. Incorporation of various projects from different ministries: Gati Shakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Union ministries and state governments: Bharatmala, Sagarmala, UDAN, inland waterways, dry/land ports, etc.

CAG DATA ON PENSION BILLS FOR CENTRE AND STATES

- As per the latest data by CAG (titled 'Union and State Finances at A Glance' for 2019-20), expenditure on the pension has emerged as one of the major components of the Committed Expenditure of the Centre and states in recent years. Committed expenditure on revenue account mainly consisted of interest payments, expenditure on salaries, pensions and subsidies. If the Committed Expenditure is higher, it means that the government has lesser flexibility to determine the purpose for which revenue expenditure is to be incurred.
- What does the report say:** Expenditure on the 'salary and wages' of the Centre and three states – including Gujarat, Karnataka, and West Bengal – during 2019-20. The Centre's total Committed Expenditure accounted for 37 per cent of its total revenue expenditure of Rs 26.15 lakh crore in 2019-20 67 per cent on Interest Payment and Servicing of Debt. 19 per cent on expenditure on Pensions and Salary. 14 per cent Wages. Centre's pension bill was 132 per cent of its expenditure on salary and wages in 2019-20.
- FRBM Act (2003) Aim:** To make the Central government responsible for ensuring inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macroeconomic stability. Fiscal Limits: The Act envisages the setting of limits on the Central and state government's debt and deficits. The States have since enacted their own respective Financial Responsibility Legislation, which sets the same 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) cap on their annual budget deficits.
- Conclusion:** The recent political move of going back to the old pension scheme by some of the state governments such as Jharkhand, and Himachal Pradesh may aggravate the fiscal imbalance of the states.

WHAT'S THE EFFECT OF THE RUSSIAN OIL PRICE CAP, BAN

- Western countries, G7 and European Union have agreed to cap the price of Russia's oil exports (to \$60 per barrel) to limit the fossil fuel earnings that support Russia's budget, its military and the invasion of Ukraine.
- Price cap**-A price-cap regulation is a form of economic regulation that establishes an upper limit on the prices that a utility provider can charge. Impact of the price cap: Increase volatility in the Oil market: The price cap could have an uncertain effect on the price of oil as worries over lost supply through the boycott compete with fears about lower demand from a slowing global economy Hurt Russia's Finance: The price cap is meant to hurt Russia's finances while avoiding a sharp oil price spike if Russia's oil is suddenly

as payback. A Bench, led by Justice M.R. Shah, said conversion on the basis of a voluntarily felt belief in the deity of a different faith was different from belief gained through allurements. The court said it would examine such veiled intentions behind religious conversions through allurements by offering food, medicines, treatment and so on.

India's consumption of Russian oil is just one sixth of European consumption and should not be compared unfavourably, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in his talks with visiting German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Monday, defending the government's decision to increase the intake of Russian oil since the war in Ukraine. Ms. Baerbock's visit coincided with the launch of an "oil price cap" plan by the G-7 and European Union countries to withdraw shipping and insurance services to countries that buy Russian oil above the price of \$60 a barrel.

117 number of United Nations bodies and other international organisations whose contribution to Indian entities will not be covered under the stringent Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, according to the Union Home Ministry. Indian organisations receiving foreign funds should mandatorily be registered under the FCRA.

17 percentage, the decline in aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses of power distribution utilities in the financial year 2021-22 from 22% in FY21. Reduction in AT&C losses improves finances of utilities (discoms), enabling them to better maintain the system and buy power as per requirement and benefit of the consumers, a power Ministry statement said.

\$ 1129 million, Sri Lanka's earnings from tourist arrivals in the first eleven months of this year, the country's central bank has said, an impressive surge buoyed by the resumption of international flights and easing of curbs related to the coronavirus. The tourism sector is the main source of foreign exchange in the country.

taken off the global market. Insurance companies and other firms needed to ship oil would only be able to deal with Russian crude if the oil is priced at or below the cap.

3. **Impact on India:** Buyers in India might not go along with the cap. Russia or China or India could try to set up their own insurance providers to replace those barred by U.S., U.K. and Europe.
4. **Counter-measures by Russia:** Experts say a \$60 cap will not have much impact on Russia's finances. Russia (the world's No. 2 oil producer) has already rerouted much of its supply to India, China, and other Asian countries at discounted prices after Western countries shunned it even before the EU ban. Russia has said it will not observe a cap and will halt deliveries to countries that do. Fear of Black Marketing: Russia also could sell oil off the books by using "dark fleet" tankers with obscure ownership.
5. **Conclusion:** Experts view that the \$60 cap is way too high. A \$30 cap would "give Russia the financial crisis". But "\$60 is better than not agreeing at all".

DIGITAL LENDING:NO CLARITY SAY BANK AND FINTECH

1. Two months after the RBI issued guidelines on digital lending, Banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and fintech players are still awaiting clarity on many aspects, including the FLDG system.
2. **First Loss Default Guarantee (FLDG):** It is a lending model between a fintech and a regulated entity in which a third party guarantees to compensate up to a certain percentage of default in a loan portfolio of the regulated entities (REs – banks or NBFCs).
3. **Digital lending:** It involves giving and recovering loans through web platforms or mobile apps by digital lenders. Lending Service Providers (LSPs) are engaged by the REs to carry out some functions of RE in connection with lenders' functions on digital platforms. These LSPs may be engaged in customer acquisition, underwriting support, recovery of loans, etc. According to the RBI, as many as 600 out of 1100 lending apps currently available are illegal apps and stringent norms for digital lenders, including separate legislation to prevent illegal digital lending activities, are the need of the hour.
4. **The guidelines on digital lending:** The RE will have to – Disclose upfront the rate charged to the borrower of a digital loan, ensure that borrowers are aware of the products and Capture the economic profile of the borrowers before offering the loans. On FLDG, RBI advised the RE to follow directions on securitisation, especially, synthetic securitisation. In synthetic securitisation, a bank buys credit protection on a portfolio of loans from an investor. This means that if a loan in the portfolio defaults, the investor reimburses the bank for losses on loans in the portfolio up to a certain amount, which is the amount invested.

SOCIAL HOSTILITIES INDEX(SHI)

1. India tops the index on social hostilities relating to religion. The report was released by the Washington-based think tank Pew Research Centre.
2. The SHI measures acts of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups. The index comprises 13 metrics, including religion-related armed conflict or terrorism and mob or sectarian violence.
3. At 9.4 out of a maximum possible score of 10, India's Social Hostilities Index (SHI) in 2020 was worse than neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan. The study has recorded the targeting of minorities in India during the pandemic.



"You are unfit unless you are yourself."

DR. KHAN
(KSG)