

A major confrontation is on between the Union government and the Supreme Court. The current conflict has two triggers. One is the government's repeated public criticism of the Collegium system on the ground that it is "opaque". The other concerns a Ping-Pong battle between the Collegium and the government over the names being recommended for appointment in constitutional courts.

The Centre argues that the Collegiums, both at the Supreme Court and High Court levels, are delaying judicial appointments and that the NJAC was a good law thwarted by the court. The Supreme Court said that the Collegium system is the law as it exists now. The government has kept Collegium recommendations pending for no apparent reason. The court has accused the government of not appointing persons who are not "palatable" to it.

The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill clearing the decks for "mandate use of non-fossil sources", including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol for energy and feedstock and establish Carbon Markets in the country. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill in August.

3,774 number of children killed in Yemen's civil war between March 2015 and September 2022, according to the latest statistics published by the United Nations Children's Fund. Further, 7,245 children have been maimed in the conflict, which has pitted Houthi rebels against a Saudi-led coalition.

Indian and Chinese soldiers suffered "minor injuries" in a faceoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9, the Army said on Monday evening. The Hindu had earlier in the day reported the clash that occurred at Yangtse. Around 20 Indian soldiers and a much higher number on the Chinese side were injured, multiple sources had said.

Cooling vegetable and edible oil prices drove India's retail inflation down to 5.88% in November from 6.77% in October, the first time since January this year that consumer prices have risen slower than the 6% tolerance threshold set for the Reserve Bank of India. Food price inflation faced by consumers eased to an 11-month low of 4.67% from over 7% in October, but rural consumers faced a greater burden

UNITED NATIONS (UN) WATER SUMMIT ON GROUNDWATER (GW) 2022 CONCLUDES IN PARIS

1. **Summit was organised by UN-Water**, UNESCO, and International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) to bring attention to groundwater at highest international level.
2. **Summit will mark the completion of "Groundwater:** Making the invisible visible" campaign run by UN-Water throughout 2022. Summit uses UN World Water Development Report 2022 as a baseline and SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (GAF) to define actions towards more responsible and sustainable use and protection of this vital natural resource. In 2020, five pillars of SDG 6 GAF released namely data and information, capacity development, innovation, finance and governance.
3. **Recommendations by Report to promote GW-**Improve exploration, monitoring and analysis of GW resources to manage them by identifying how much GW we can extract, where and when. Protect Aquifers recharge areas from pollution. Ensuring groundwater access to all, helping to achieve SDG. GW is water stored in rocks and soil. It accounts for 99% of liquid freshwater on Earth. India is largest user of GW with a fourth of total global withdrawal. Concern with GW: Depletion of water tables, saltwater encroachment, drying of aquifers, water logging and salinity, etc.
4. **UN-Water:** It is a UN inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater and sanitation related matters.
5. **IGRAC:** It is a UNESCO Centre that works under World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), and financially supported by Netherlands. It specialises in regional- and transboundary-level assessment and monitoring of GW resources. One of IGRAC's flagship products is Global Groundwater Information System (GGIS).

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF 9TH WORLD AYURVEDA CONGRESS (WAC)

1. WAC was held in Goa under theme of 'Ayurveda for One Health', acknowledging close linkage between human beings' health with the health of all living beings and our shared environment. Ayurveda, i.e. science of longevity is oldest traditional medicinal system of India which promotes wellness along with treatment.
2. Deemed as 5th Veda, it traces its roots in Atharva Veda with Charak Samhita of Charaka, Sushruta Samhita of Sushruta and Astanga Hridaya of Vagbhata as the 'Great Trilogy of Ayurvedic Medicine'. Today, over 30 countries have recognised Ayurveda as a traditional system of medicine. In India, around 40,000 MSMEs are active in Ayush sector with an overall industry size of ₹1,50,000 crore approx.
3. **Challenges with Ayurveda:** Lack of documented process and products validation, issue in efficacy and quality assurance protocol and lack of health insurance approval.
4. **Initiatives to promote Ayurveda-**Ministry of AYUSH led to increased enthusiasm and trust towards Ayurveda. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Gujarat and All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi. Creation of Ayush Research Portal for Evidence-Based Research Data etc.

ISRO TO INTRODUCE L1 FREQUENCY IN ALL ITS FUTURE SATELLITES

1. It aims to promote civilian use of NAVigation with the Indian Constellation (NavIC) and thus, the next satellites, starting from NVS-01 onwards, will have an L1 band for civilian navigational use. NVS-01 satellite is set to replace one of ISRO's seven navigational satellites currently in space.
2. L1 frequency is most used frequencies in Global Positioning System (GPS). It will increase use of regional navigation system in wearable devices and personal trackers. NavIC currently broadcasts its Signal-in-space in 2 frequency bands: L5 and S band. NavIC frequency band.
3. NavIC or Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is ISRO's constellation of 7 satellites that is akin to US's GPS, European Union's Galileo, Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite System and Russia's GLONASS, and can be used to track location.
4. **NavIC offers two services:** Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users like military.

with a 5.2% price rise in food items, compared to just 3.7% for their urban peers.

55-60 number of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres in the country so far, against the target of 269, according to a parliamentary standing committee report. The report, tabled in the Lok Sabha, asked the government to expedite the process and set up the centres in every designated district at the earliest.

526 number of safety issues due to bird hits reported by domestic airlines between 2018 and October 2022, the Parliament was informed. Under civil aviation norms, aerodrome operators should take necessary action to identify, manage and mitigate the risk of collision between wildlife and aircraft, Minister of State for Civil Aviation V.K. Singh said.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit New York to participate in two high-level ministerial meetings at the UN Security Council on December 14 and 15. The meetings will take up reforms in the UN Security Council and the global counterterrorism campaign. During the visit, he will unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi on the UN premises.

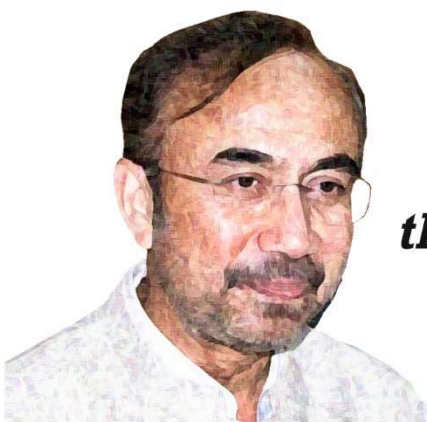
Iran on Monday executed a second man in connection with protests that have shaken the regime for almost three months, defying an international outcry over its use of capital punishment against those involved in the movement.

PARLIAMENT MUST EXAMINE AGE OF CONSENT ISSUE UNDER PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES(POCSO) ACT: CJI

1. CJI appeal was made as POCSO Act, 2012 poses difficulties for judges examining cases of consensual sex involving adolescents. CJI referred to 'India analysis of Judgements of Special Courts in West Bengal, Assam and Maharashtra - Romantic Cases under POCSO Act Study' by Enfold Proactive Health Trust and UNICEF-India.
2. As per this study, one in every four cases under POCSO Act constituted romantic cases. 93.8% cases ended with acquittals. In 46.6% cases, girl was between 16 to 18 years. POCSO Act is a special act to protect children (any person below age of 18 years) from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.
3. In 2019, it was amended to impose stringent punishment for sexual crimes against children. It provides for establishment of Special Courts for trials for early disposal of cases.
4. **Concern associated with POCSO Act:** High pendency and low conviction rate; lack of exclusive special courts, misused to punish adolescents involved in consensual sex, etc.
5. **Recommendations made by study-** Decriminalise consensual sexual acts involving adolescents above 16 years. Introduction of comprehensive sexuality education to help adolescents make informed decisions.

ORION'S LANDING IN PACIFIC OCEAN MARKED THE END OF INAUGURAL ARTEMIS 1 LUNAR MISSION

1. Uncrewed Orion capsule splashed down off the coast of Baja California, bringing an end to NASA's Artemis 1 moon mission after 2.3 million kilometres flight. Splashdown occurred on 50th anniversary of touchdown on moon of NASA's last lunar mission, Apollo 17. Orion performed a new landing technique called 'skip entry', designed to help spacecraft accurately splash down at landing site and reduce the force of gravity.
2. Orion entered the Earth's upper atmosphere and used the atmosphere and its lift to "skip" back outside the atmosphere only to re-enter once again. Artemis is first integrated test of NASA's deep space exploration systems: Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System (SLS) rocket. It is first in a series of increasingly complex missions that will enable human exploration to Moon and Mars.
3. Artemis 1 demonstrated Orion's heat shield can withstand high speed and high heat conditions when returning through Earth's atmosphere.
4. **Other moon exploration missions-Luna 2:** First spacecraft to impact moon spacecraft was launched by USSR. Apollo 11: First humans to land on moon was launched by USA. Chandrayaan 1: Launched by ISRO.



***"If you have a sharp vision,
you never see any negativity.
Clean your glasses,
the world has always been the same"***

DR. KHAN
(KSG)