

An ongoing case in the Supreme Court, to decide whether the ban that several States have imposed on purse seine fishing is justified or not, has revealed the fault lines between small, marginal, and large fishers, with the Centre and States also taking different sides on the issue. Purse seine fishing, popular on India's western coasts, uses a large vertical net to surround dense shoals of pelagic or midwater fish in the open ocean, and then draws in the edges like tightening the cords of a drawstring purse.

In some States, it is linked to concerns about the decreasing stock of small, pelagic shoaling fish such as sardines, mackerel, anchovies and trevally on the western coasts. The scientific community argues that climatic conditions, including the El Nino phenomenon, are responsible for the declining catch of such fish in the last 10 years. However, fishermen using traditional methods have placed the blame squarely on the rise in purse seine fishing, and fear a further fall in the availability of these small fish if the ban is lifted.

Researchers have found a neuroimaging signature to predict the intensity of drug and food cravings (Nature Neuroscience). Cravings to use drugs or to eat are considered driving factors for substance use or overeating. Cravings induced by drug or food related stimuli help predict drug use and relapse, unhealthy eating, and weight gain. They identified a neuro marker that predicted the intensity of drug and food cravings among users of nicotine, alcohol, and cocaine alongside matched controls.

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'IMPORT OF COAL- TRENDS AND ISSUES OF SELF RELIANCE' REPORT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL, MINES AND STEEL

- Trend**-The coal import has gradually increased from 43 million Tonne (MT) in 2006-07 to 215 MT in 2020-21. The import is to meet the rising demand for coal which is 1027 MT in 2021-22.
- Issues**-The supply of high-quality coal/ coking coal is limited. High freight and Port Handling Charges. Not pursuing acquisition of overseas coal blocks. Reluctance of the private sector in adopting new technologies.
- Measures taken**-To reduce coal import: Inter-ministerial committee to encourage sectors to eliminate imports of coal. The importers of the coal must register at the Coal Import Management System. To improve quality of coal supplied: Adaptation of blast free mining technique. To reduce Coal pricing: Improvement in man and machine utilisation, technologies advancement, minimizing expenditure on non-essential items.
- Recommendations**- Setting up more coal washeries to reduce dependence on imported coking coal. Mining in the new explored/developed sites after necessary environment and forest clearances. Auction more mines on a revenue sharing basis. Mechanisation of mines by adoption of newer technologies. Acquire overseas coal blocks.

THE COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG) FINDS TOP CPSES NOT FOLLOWING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE NORMS

- The review of Corporate Governance covered 72 listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under the administrative control of various Ministries.
- Key findings**-32 have less than 50% non-executive directors of the Board strength.37 CPSEs (51%) have independent directors but not women directors on their Board. 17 CPSEs (24%) have insufficient quorum of directors at the Board meeting, including at least one independent director. Corporate governance is the combination of rules, processes, and laws by which businesses are operated, regulated and controlled. The Companies Act, 2013 provides a formal structure for corporate governance by enhancing disclosures, reporting and transparency through enhanced as well as new compliance norms.
- SEBI monitors and regulates corporate governance of listed companies in India through Clause 49. CPSEs are also subject to the Guidelines on Corporate Governance for CPSEs issued by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in addition to Clause 49. These guidelines also encompass unlisted CPSEs, which are not covered by Clause 49. The guidelines deal with matters such as board of directors, audit committee, remuneration committee, subsidiary companies, disclosures, reporting, compliance, and schedule of implementation.
- Executive directors**- They have a dual role as employees of the company and as directors. Brings insider's perspective in the decision making.
- Non-executive directors**-They bring an outside perspective; may be representing a major shareholder.
- Independent directors**- Does not have a material relationship with a company and is neither part of its executive team nor involved in the day-to-day operations of the company.

TRAI RELEASES CONSULTATION PAPER ON 'LICENSING FRAMEWORK AND REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR SUBMARINE CABLE LANDING IN INDIA'

- Described as "Critical communication infrastructure" by United Nations in 2010, the submarine cables are the core infrastructure of digital age and data driven economy, around 99% of the world's digital international communications transit through the global submarine cable networks.
- A Submarine Cable System consists of: Dry Plant (Cable Landing Station on land) - is the location in a country where a submarine cable makes a landfall. Wet Plant (Submarine cables in the seabed) -of a submarine cable lies between the beach manholes and consists of Submarine Cable, Optical repeaters, Gain Equalizers, and Branching Units (BU).

There are many holy grails for parents with respect to their children's development and accomplishments, but the holiest must be their growing into adults with high Intelligent Quotient (IQ) and earning capacity. IQ, in turn, is tied closely to cognitive development, or the increasing ability of the growing child to think and reason. Growth faltering, as an easily measurable outcome of poor nutrition, was shown in many cross-sectional studies to be associated with poor cognitive development. However, this was not simple and was confounded by poverty.

Scientists working on Australia's Great Barrier Reef have successfully trialled a new method for freezing and storing coral larvae they say could eventually help rewild reefs threatened by climate change. Scientists are scrambling to protect coral reefs as rising ocean temperatures destabilise delicate ecosystems. The Great Barrier Reef has suffered four bleaching events in the last seven years, including the first ever bleach during a La Nina phenomenon, which typically brings cooler temperatures.

Initially developed as a system to intercept highflying aircraft by Raytheon Technologies, the Patriot was modified in the 1980s to focus on other threats such as ballistic missiles. Currently, Patriot batteries can defend against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, jets and "other threats". A mobile Patriot system includes a control centre, a radar station to detect threats, missile launchers to take out those threats and other support vehicles.

Family-run businesses, on an average, are more future oriented with long-term strategic goals, and more profitable in the long run even as they outperform non-family businesses, according to Peter Vogel, Director Global Family Business Centre at the IMD Business School. "Family businesses are less likely to lay people off despite a potential economic downturn more likely to... engage in philanthropy," Mr. Vogel said, addressing the Family Business Network chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-FBN).

A furious Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has issued a "last warning" to tribal village chieftains in Manipur, urging them to stop poppy cultivation in the vast mountain slopes immediately or "face life imprisonment". In a video message posted on social media on Thursday night, he thundered: "We shall never compromise on the issue since it is a question of survival or extinction of human beings."

3. **Significance of Submarine Cable**-Reliability and stability of submarine cable networks is high as compared with the terrestrial optical fibre cable network. Domestic submarine cables can be envisaged to improve digital connectivity and infrastructure of Tier-I and Tier-II cities on the Indian coast. The paper seeks to look at deployment challenges and ways to overcome them to promote domestic submarine cables in India. TRAI is regulating the access to essential facilities at a Submarine Cable Landing Station for accessing international capacity on the submarine cables terminating at various CLS in India.

SELF-RELIANCE IN EDIBLE OILS NEED OF HOUR, GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) MUSTARD TO PAVE AWAY

1. Recently, the government approved the environmental release of GM mustard DMH 11. GM technology is a disruptive technology that involves inserting DNA into the genome of an organism, giving it new or different characteristics. Purpose: To bring targeted change within the crop variety like change in growth or resistance to a particular disease.
2. GM Mustard DMH 11 is made through Barnase-Barstar System, a hybrid seed production system used in self-pollinated crops, increasing the crop yield and its adaptation - also known as hybrid vigour or heterosis. This system has been successfully deployed in countries like Canada, Australia, and America for many decades.
3. The toxicity, allergenicity, compositional analysis, field trials, and environmental safety studies show that it is safe for cultivation, for food and feed use. GM Mustard DMH 11 has been developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) at Delhi University.
4. **Significance:** Increase domestic production and productivity (approximately 28% higher yield), Reduce import of edible oils in the country. In 2021-22, India imported 14.1 million tonnes of edible oils (around 2/3rd of India's consumption).

81 CRORE BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA), 2013 TO GET FREE FOODS FOR ONE YEAR

1. The Government decided to provide free food grains to beneficiaries under the NFSA, 2013, as per their entitlement, for a year beginning January 2023. Earlier, the NFSA beneficiary families used to pay ₹1 for coarse cereals, ₹2 for wheat and ₹3 for rice per kg. The government has discontinued the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). It provides additional 5 kg of free food grains per month to NFSA beneficiaries.
2. **Reasons for discontinuation:** Lower food grain stock the combined food grain stock in 2022 stood at 305.69 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT), lower than 2021 (591.56LMT).
3. **Increased economic cost for rice-** Economic Costs consists of Acquisition Cost (MSP+ Procurement Incidental Cost) and Distribution Cost.
4. **Significance:** Ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of NFSA. Remove financial burden from the poorest of poor beneficiaries. NFSA 2013, provides food and nutritional security to beneficiary households, divided under two categories Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) It includes households headed by widows, terminally ill persons, disabled persons, persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support etc.



*"We are naturally endowed to do bad.
To do good you need to learn."*

DR. KHAN
(KSG)