

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna of the Supreme Court recused themselves from hearing a dispute among the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the allocation of the Krishna river water. Justice Chandrachud said both he and Justice Bopanna had had a word with each other earlier in the day and decided to withdraw from hearing the case. Justice Chandrachud is from Maharashtra and Justice Bopanna hails from Karnataka.

Nine sectors that account for about 85% of total employment in establishments with 10 or more workers hired two lakh more people in July-September 2021 compared to April-June 2021, according to the second round of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) released by the Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Monday. "The estimated total employment in the nine selected sectors from the second round of QES (July-September, 2021) came out as 3.10 crore approximately, which is 2 lakh higher than the estimated employment (3.08 crore) from the first round of QES (April 1, 2021)," the report stated.

Outward foreign direct investment (FDI) by Indian companies fell by over 8% to \$2.05 billion in December in the current fiscal, data from the Reserve Bank of India showed. The domestic firms had invested \$2.23 billion in overseas joint ventures and fully owned subsidiaries in December 2020. Of the total investment made by the Indian companies overseas during the month, \$1.22 billion was in the form of issuance of guarantees, \$464.39 million was equity participation and \$367.17 million investment was made through loans, as per the RBI data on Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI).

India's IT firms will benefit from an 'enormous wave of opportunities' in 2022 as the trends of increasing cloud adoption and digital transformation that dominated 2021 gather momentum and drive 20%-30% growth for the industry, forecast global tech analysts. "The opportunity is far bigger than just the post COVID recovery," said Peter Bendor Samuel, CEO at the Dallas-based sourcing research firm Everest Group. "It is a mega wave driven by digital transformation at scale... this

GOLD AND SILVER FUTURES

1. Gold and silver futures on Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) opened at marginally low price. A precious metals futures contract is a legally binding agreement for delivery of gold or silver at an agreed-upon price in the future. **Gold and silver futures contracts can offer, A hedge against inflation, An alternative investment class or a commercial hedge for investors seeking opportunities outside of traditional equity and fixed income securities.**

2. A futures exchange standardizes the contracts as to the quantity, quality, time, and place of delivery. Only the price is variable. With futures, you don't need to actually hold physical metal and you can leverage your purchasing power.

3. Hedgers use these contracts as a way to manage price risk on an expected purchase or sale of the physical metal. Holding futures has no management fees that might be associated with ETFs or mutual funds, and taxes are split between short-term and long-term capital gains.

NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL ORGANISATION

1. A lawyer says that the NACO's implementation of WHO recommendations to diagnose and treat advanced HIV disease faces multiple delays. After the first AIDS case in India (1986), in 1992, India's first National AIDS Control Programme (1992-1999) was launched and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) was constituted to implement the programme.

2. **NACO is a nodal agency for formulating policy & implementing interventions to prevent and control HIV in India. NACO comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.** Components - Prevention; Information, Education & Communication; Testing; Treatment; Laboratory Services; Mainstreaming & Partnership and Social Protection; and Strategic Information (SI). National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is a fully funded Central Sector Scheme implemented through State/ UT AIDS Control Societies (SACS) in States/Union Territories (UTs).

3. It is closely monitored through District AIDS prevention and control unit (DAPCU) in 188 high priority districts. Currently, NACP-IV (extension) is under implementation for the period 2017-20.

CARBON ENHANCED METAL-POOR STARS

1. Indian astronomers have traced the origin of a much higher fraction of elements heavier than iron than is expected in carbon-rich stars to the low-mass companions of these stars, from which the materials have been stolen.

2. The low-mass companion stars have further evolved to white dwarfs that are no longer detectable. The carbon-rich stars are known as the Carbon Enhanced Metal-Poor (CEMP) stars. CEMP stars show enhancement of carbon, and are characterised by diverse heavy elements abundance patterns. These stars are primarily classified into 4 groups, based on which groups of heavy elements are more abundant.

3. **These are mostly dwarf stars, sub-giant stars, or giant stars, and stars that belong to these evolutionary stages can't produce elements heavier than iron.** Formation - CEMP stars were formed from the ejected material of the first stars that formed after the Big Bang, carrying the chemical imprints of early Galactic chemical evolution. Heavier elements are produced mainly by two processes of nucleosynthesis- slow and rapid neutron-capture processes called s and r processes respectively.

4. **CEMP stars showing enhancements of s-process and r-process elements are known as CEMP-s and CEMP-r stars respectively. CEMP-r/s stars are subclass of CEMP stars that exhibit the enhancement of both s- and r-process elements.**

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have found that an intermediate process called i-process.

5. This i-process operating at neutron densities intermediate between those for s-process and r-process is responsible for the peculiar abundance pattern of CEMP-r/s stars. They have also put forward a new stellar classification criteria based on the abundances of barium, lanthanum and europium to distinguish

wave is enormous and big enough to drive doubledigit growth in the range of 20%30%, especially for firms that are equipped to meet the demand for talent.

The Power of the Dog and West Side Story on Sunday won the top film prizes at an untelevised Golden Globes that was largely ignored by Hollywood, with awards unveiled without any of the usual A-list glamour. Jane Campion's dark Western The Power of the Dog became only the second film directed by a woman to win the best drama prize. The film also won for best director and best supporting actor for Kodi Smit-McPhee.

The Supreme Court agreed to urgently hear a petition seeking the arrest and trial of people who made hate speeches, inciting violence towards Muslims, at the Haridwar Dharam Sansad. Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana assured senior advocate Kapil Sibal that the petition filed by former High Court judge Anjana Prakash and journalist Qurban Ali would be heard without delay.

Hundreds of Nagas took part in a twoday walkathon from Nagaland's commercial hub Dimapur to Kohima demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and justice for the 14 civilians killed by the security forces in Mon district in December 2021.

India and South Korea will hold a round of talks on bilateral trade led by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his South Korean counterpart Hankoo Yeo on Tuesday, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement. "The discussion will focus on addressing the large trade deficit, market access issues and nontariff barriers faced by Indian exporters. It will also feature investment related issues," said the statement.

A court in military ruled Myanmar sentenced on Monday ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to four years in jail on charges including possession of unlicensed walkie talkies, a source familiar with the proceedings said. The latest sentencing in legal proceedings that rights groups have criticised as a "farce and a courtroom circus" means she faces a sixyear jail term after two convictions last month.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that his country had defeated an attempted coup d'etat during historic violence last week, and insisted that Russian-

between the CEMP-s and CEMP-r/s stars.

SWEET REVOLUTION

1.Sweet Revolution KVIC rolls out innovative "Mobile Honey Processing Van" to support farmers and beekeepers in line with the "Sweet Kranti" (Sweet Revolution).

2.'Sweet Revolution' was launched by the Government of India in 2016 to promote beekeeping (apiculture) and associated activities. It is a strategic step to emphasize the increase in honey production, which can be a major contributor to doubling the income of the farmers. With the increase in income, the production of crops will also increase by 15%.

GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR

1.The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for the Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS). The Green Energy Corridor Project of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy aims at synchronizing electricity produced from renewable sources (solar and wind), with conventional power stations in the grid.

2.For evacuation of large-scale renewable energy, Intra State Transmission System (InSTS) project was sanctioned by the Ministry in 2015-16. It is being implemented by 8 renewable-rich states of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

3.The project is being implemented in these states by the respective State Transmission Utilities (STUs) allocating the work through a competitive bidding process. Funding mechanism consists of 40% Government of India Grant, 20% state equity and 40% loan from KfW, Germany (500 million EUR).

4.The Central grant is disbursed in two installments to the STUs: 70% advance on the award of contract, and 30% after successful commissioning and 3 months of performance testing.

VEER BAAL DIWAS

1.PM Modi has announced the government decision to mark December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh's sons. This is a fitting tribute to the courage of the Sahibzades and their quest for justice.

2.Sahibzades-Guru Gobind Singh ji had four sons – Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh. All four of his sons were initiated into the Khalsa and all were executed by Mughal forces before the age of 19. Sikhism honors the illustrious martyred sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji in the prayer of ardas for their valor and sacrifice as 'Char Sahibzade', that is the four princes of the Khalsa warrior order.

3.Significance of the day: The day marks when Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh attained martyrdom when they were executed by the Mughals (1705). The brothers were captured with their grandmother Mata Gujari, the mother of Guru Gobind Singh. They were imprisoned with their grandmother and put to death by cruel Mughals on the orders of Aurangzeb, who attempted to suffocate them inside a brick enclosure. At the time of martyrdom, the ages of Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh were 9 years and 6 years respectively. This sacrifice is seen as the bravest sacrifice for Dharma by any young boys in Indian history.

4.Guru Gobind Singh: He was the 10th Sikh guru. He was born at Patna, Bihar, India, on December 22, 1666. His birthday sometimes falls either in December or January or even both months in the Gregorian calendar. The annual celebration of the Guru's birthday is based on the Nanakshahi calendar. He became the Sikh guru at the age of nine, following the demise of father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru. He is known for his significant contributions to the Sikh religion, including the introduction of the turban to cover hair. He also founded the principles of Khalsa or the Five 'K's. He is also responsible for establishing the highest order in the Sikh community.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS AGREEMENT

1.Recently, Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) was signed between Australia and Japan to bolster security ties against the backdrop of rising Chinese military and economic might.

2.The Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), Japan's first with any country, will allow the Australian and Japanese militaries to work seamlessly with each other on defence and humanitarian

led troops called in to help quell the unrest would go home “soon”. operations.