

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

**\$2 billion, the amount to be invested by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to develop food parks in India to tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the west Asia, according to a joint statement released by the UAE, India, Israel and the United States. The parks will incorporate advanced climate technology to help maximise crop yields. The statement added that the U.S. and Israeli private sector companies would be invited to lend their expertise and offer solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project.**

**In India, more than 40% of cases are decided after three years, while in many other countries less than 1% of cases are decided after three years. Computer algorithms should decide on case listing, case allocation and adjournments with only a 5% override given to judges. All the courts in the country must switch to a hybrid virtual mode immediately and start disposing cases. Even after the COVID-19 crisis ends, it would be beneficial to continue hybrid virtual courts.**

**Forest Conservation Rules prescribe the procedure to be followed for forest land to be diverted for non-forestry uses such as road construction, and highway development. The latest version of the rules, which consolidates changes to the Act over the years from various amendments and court ruling, was made public on June 28, 2022. Prior to the updated rules, state bodies would forward documents to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) that would include information on the status of whether the forest rights of locals in the area were settled.**

**The government says the delay in implementing the four labour codes is due to the delay in framing rules by the States. The States are publishing draft rules and inviting comments from stakeholders on those draft rules. The Centre had also published draft rules for certain sections of the four codes. The trade unions are warning about protests if the codes are implemented. They say that the Centre will have to repeal it the way it repealed the three farm laws.**

**India's macro risks have receded in recent weeks and concerns about the fiscal deficit target being breached**

### I2U2

**1.Indian Prime Minister participated in the first-ever I2U2 Virtual Summit along with the heads of state of Israel, the UAE, and the US. 'I2U2' group, which has been called the "West Asian Quad", comprises of India, Israel, the U.S., and the UAE. This idea was articulated by U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. 'I2U2' group can become a feature of the Middle East region or the West Asian region, just like the Quad is for the Indo-Pacific.**

**2.Aim - I2U2 grouping's aim is to discuss "common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond". The aim is to encourage joint investments in the six areas of cooperation - water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.**

**3.With the help of private sector capital and expertise, the countries will look to Modernise infrastructure, Explore low carbon development avenues for industries, Improve public health, and Promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies. Both the I2U2 and the Abraham Accords will focus on increasing Israel's integration into the region.**

**4.Abraham Accords 2020-The Abraham Accords 2020are a joint statement between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Subsequently, the term was used to refer collectively to agreements between Israel and the UAE (the Israel-UAE normalization agreement) and Bahrain (the Bahrain-Israel normalization agreement).**

**5.These Accords had led to Israel formally normalising diplomatic ties with the UAE and two other countries in the region, marking an important shift in the stance of West Asian countries on Israel.**

### ASSESSING JUVENILITY

**1.The Supreme Court suggested the basis for deciding how juveniles aged between 16 and 18, accused of heinous offences such as murder, can be tried like adults. The Court said that the task of deciding whether juveniles aged 16 to 18, accused of heinous offences such as murder, can be tried like adults should be based on "meticulous psychological investigation". It said that the basis should not be left to the discretion and perfunctory wisdom of Juvenile Justice Boards and Children's Courts in the country. 2.Initial assessment - The task of preliminary assessment under section 15 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 is a delicate task that is done to assess the mental and physical capacity of these accused juveniles. The assessment is meant to gauge a child's ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he or she allegedly committed the offence.**

**3.Trial - If the Juvenile Justice Board is of the opinion that the juvenile should not be treated as an adult, it would not pass on the case to the children's court and hear the case itself. In that case, if the child is found guilty, he would be sent to juvenile care for 3 years. On the other hand, if the Board decides to refer the case to the children's court for trial as an adult, the juvenile, if guilty, would even face life imprisonment.**

**4.SC Ruling - The Supreme Court said that process of taking a decision, on which the fate of the child in conflict with law rests, should not be taken without conducting a meticulous psychological evaluation. It also discovered that there were neither guidelines nor a specific framework in place for conduct of the preliminary assessment.**

**5.The court asked the Centre and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights to consider issuing guidelines or directions in this regard. The court said the Board that assesses the child should have at least one child psychologist. It should further take the assistance of experienced psychologists or psychosocial workers.**

may be misplaced, the Finance Ministry asserted on Thursday, while conceding that the current account deficit (CAD) could, however, deteriorate this year mainly due to rising trade deficits. Identifying elevated inflation and a widening trade deficit as 'twin challenges' for the economy, the Ministry, however, emphasised that economic activity in the country remained resilient almost five months into the Russian-Ukraine conflict.

41.49%, the decrease in the donations that recognised national parties received during financial year 2020-21 from the previous fiscal, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Donations to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) decreased from ₹785.77 crore during FY 2019-20 to ₹477.54 crore during FY 2020-21. Meanwhile, the donations received by the Congress plunged from ₹139 crore during FY 2019-20 to ₹74.524 crore during FY 2020-21.

The total horticulture production in 2021-22 is estimated to be 341.63 million tonnes (MT), an increase of about 7.03 MT or 21% over the 2020-21 figure, according to the second advanced estimates of area and production of various horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry.

The U.S. and Israel signed a new security pact on Thursday reinforcing their common front against Iran, as President Joe Biden pledged to use "all" American power to stop the it from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Rating agency ICRA on Thursday said it expects price of domestic coal to remain high in the ongoing quarter as well given the supply challenges of the dry fuel during monsoon.

India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record \$26.18 billion in June, wider than the government's earlier estimate of \$25.63 billion, after the Commerce Ministry revised upwards both the exports and imports figures for the month. While goods exports increased 23.5% year-on year to exceed \$40.1 billion (preliminary estimate was \$38 billion), imports outpaced, surging 57.5% to \$66.3 billion on the back of higher purchases of coal, gold and petroleum products.

The European Commission cut forecasts for economic growth in the euro zone for this year and 2023 and revised up its estimates for inflation largely due to the impact of the war in Ukraine.

## CERVICAL CANCER & CERVAVAC

1.The Serum Institute of India (SII)'s vaccine Cervavac received the Drugs Controller General of India's (DGCI) approval for market authorisation. Cervical Cancer Cervical cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix — the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. It is a common sexually transmitted infection.

2.It is caused mainly due to the long-lasting infection with certain types of HPV. It is preventable as long as it is detected early and managed effectively. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer type and the 2nd most common cause of cancer death in women of reproductive age (15–44). As per the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO), India accounts for about a fifth of the global burden, with 1.23 lakh cases and around 67,000 deaths per year. Cervical cancer kills one woman every eight minutes in India.

3.Prevention - Screening and vaccination are two powerful tools that are available for preventive cervical cancer. All women aged 30-49 must get screened for cervical cancer even if they have no symptoms and get their adolescent daughters vaccinated with HPV vaccine.

4.Existing vaccines - Two vaccines licensed globally are available in India - a quadrivalent vaccine (Gardasil, from Merck) and a bivalent vaccine (Cervarix, from GlaxoSmithKline). Although HPV vaccination was introduced in 2008, it has yet to be included in the national immunisation programme. To know more about the Cervical Cancer, click here.

5.Cervavac-Cervavac is India's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) vaccine, and intended to protect women against cervical cancer. This vaccine is based on VLP (virus like particles), similar to the hepatitis B vaccine. It provides protection by generating antibodies against the HPV virus' L1 protein. The DGCI approval will allow the government to procure enough HPV vaccines to vaccinate nearly 50 million girls aged 9-14 years in India who are waiting to receive the vaccine.

## INTEREST ABEYANCE

1.The Mysuru City Corporation has announced a new interest abeyance scheme to collect pending water bills by keeping the interest on outstanding dues in abeyance. As per the scheme, if the bills are paid in one go, the interest on the amount will be kept in abeyance for six months and compound interest and additional interest will not be levied on that amount.

2.Abeyance is a condition of undetermined ownership, as of an interest in an estate that has not yet vested. It is a condition of being temporarily set aside.

3.Abeyance orders are used in cases where parties are interested in temporarily settling litigation while still holding the right to seek relief later if necessary. This allows an organization to 'settle' with the party without officially binding its actions in the future.

## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE VACCINES

1.WHO has released its 1st report on vaccines being developed to prevent infections caused by AMR bacteria. The report aims to guide investments and research into feasible vaccines to mitigate AMR. AMR: Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microbes evolve mechanisms that protect them from the effects of antimicrobials drugs. This makes infections harder to treat. All classes of microbes can evolve resistance. Fungi evolve antifungal Viruses evolve antiviral resistance.

2.**The silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance is of major growing public health concern (resulting in the death of nearly 5mn people yearly). Vaccines are still effective against Pneumococcal disease (Streptococcus pneumonia), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) Tuberculosis (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) and Typhoid fever (Salmonella Typhi). Nee for more effective vaccine: Current Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccines against tuberculosis (TB) do not adequately protect against TB, therefore the development of more effective vaccines against TB should be accelerated.**

3.Equitable and global access to the vaccines that already exist. Disruptive approaches are needed: The lessons from Covid 19 vaccine development and mRNA vaccines offer unique opportunities to explore for development of vaccines against bacteria.

4.Need to overcome challenges: Such as pathogens associated with hospital-acquired infections (HAI), difficulty in defining target population(s) among all admitted hospital patients; the

**Russian missiles struck Vinnytsia in central Ukraine, killing at least 20 people, including three children, in what President Volodymyr Zelensky called “an open act of terrorism”. The midday attack on the city hundreds of kilometres from the frontlines and invading Russian troops came as EU officials convened in The Hague to discuss war crimes in Ukraine.**

cost and complexity of vaccine efficacy trials; and the lack of regulatory and/or policy precedent for vaccines against HAIs. Easier regulatory requirement: Vaccine development is expensive, and scientifically challenging, and is associated with high failure rates, and therefore, the need for support from the government and private sector.