

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Cholera is a life threatening infectious disease and a public health hazard. It is caused by a comma shaped bacterium known as *Vibrio cholerae*. More than two hundred serogroups of this bacterium are known, of which only O1 and O139 are known to cause such infection that leads to epidemics and pandemics. Most of the serogroups only cause mild cholera like diarrhea and food-associated outbreaks. Of these two serogroups, O1 was responsible for seven pandemic waves, only to be temporarily displaced by O139. This emerged late and came up around 1992. It was first spotted in Chennai (then Madras). It was anticipated that this would cause the eighth round of pandemic but it subsided as mysteriously as it had originated.

Wastewater or sewage can tell us volumes about the health of a community. The idea here is very simple — most pathogens of interest, e.g., bacteria, virus or protozoa remain viable in the sewage environment for days. Wastewater-based health surveillance or environmental surveillance is an excellent tool for tracking the presence of different pathogens in the environment. All it needs is a regular and consistent testing of wastewater. It is quite economical and provides real time data, which makes it very useful for developing countries such as India where not everyone has access to healthcare.

Progress in medicine requires a steady pipeline of new therapeutics with desirable biological activities. An optimistic view holds that the rapid strides made on several technological fronts would make it easier to discover and formulate new drugs. An increased understanding of disease processes at the molecular level has yielded a long list of potential drug targets. Computer-aided “Rational Drug Design”, the making of these designed drug candidates by organic chemists, followed by high throughput screening — where automation is used to test drug candidates — should aid in new discoveries. Yet, the pace of introduction of new drugs has not matched expectations.

The World Health Organization has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC), one step below that of a “pandemic”. The monkeypox

NYAYA MITRAS

1. Nyaya Mitra aims to facilitate expeditious disposal of 15 years old pending cases in High Courts and Subordinate Courts. Nyaya Mitra was launched in April 2017, It aims at assisting the district judiciary in reduction of decade old pending court case.
2. Districts are selected based on highest pendency of court cases over 10 years of period sourced from National Judiciary Data Grid (NJDG) database. Nyaya Mitra (NM) is a retired judicial officer / executive officer having legal degree / background who is located at High Courts/ District Courts.
3. Key functions of the Nyaya Mitra includes providing assistance to the Judiciary in reduction of decade old pending court case, liaising with the different departments to fast disposal of cases, referring cases to Lok Adalat etc. 27 Nyaya Mitras engaged from April 2017-March 2019, assisted the courts concerned in disposal of 2019 old cases. For the year 2021-2022, 11 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged so far.

SAMTA NYAY KENDRAS

1. In a bid to create an inclusive society, a legal aid clinic for transgender persons has been set up. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Chandigarh in association with Chandigarh State Aids Control Society and the Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP), has opened a Legal Services Clinic, named as ‘Samta Nyay Kendra’.
2. **The objective of this Kendra is to exclusively provide legal services and counselling to transgender community to redress their legal grievances. It is set up under the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011.** The clinic will be functional on Wednesday and Saturday. Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers will be deputed on need-based assignments by the DLSA. Also, paralegal volunteers will be deputed from within members of the transgender community in an inclusive atmosphere.
3. The Kendra is also spreading legal awareness regarding various rights and entitlements of the transgender persons. Apart from Chandigarh, five such exclusive Legal Services Clinics have also been set up at locations having predominant transgender community in five districts of Tamil Nadu namely Namakkal, Tiruvallur, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Thanjavur.
4. In a landmark judgement in 2014 the Supreme Court recognised transgender persons as the third gender. The judgment dawned a new hope that transgender persons would ensure dignity of life that society accords to their counterparts — men and women.
5. **National Legal Services Authority-The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.** NALSA is housed at Supreme Court of India. In every State, State Legal Services Authority (SALSA) has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA.
6. The SALSA is headed by Hon’ble the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority. Similarly in every District, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District. The DLSA is situated in the District Courts Complex in every District and chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.

PRADHAN MANTRI JI-VAN YOJNA

1. “Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana” provide financial support for setting up Second Generation (2G) ethanol projects in the country. GoI launched Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme in 2003 for blending ethanol in Petrol to address environmental concerns due to fossil fuel burning. The target is to achieve 10% blending of Ethanol in petrol by 2022.
2. For this ethanol produced from molasses and non-food feed stock like celluloses and lignocelluloses material including

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outbreak has affected over 14,500 people in 72 countries. India has reported three cases so far. According to the WHO, a PHEIC represents “an extraordinary event, which constitutes a public health risk to other states through international spread”.

Fossilised inner-ear canals suggest that the moment mammals evolved to be warm-blooded occurred around 230-200 million years ago. Researchers hypothesised that hotter, more active bodies would have less viscous fluid in their vestibular system, which maintains balance and spatial orientation — and the inner ear’s shape would adapt in turn.

Data from Qatar suggest that natural immunity induced by infection with SARS-CoV-2 provides a strong shield against reinfection by a pre-Omicron variant for 16 months or longer. This protection against catching the virus dwindles over time, but the immunity triggered protects against severe disease, and this safeguard shows no signs of waning.

Woodpeckers regularly smack their heads into trees at a rate of 20 times per second, seemingly without doing damage to their brains. Researchers have long thought the birds were somehow cushioning these blows to their brains. They found that woodpecker heads moved just as fast as their beaks, and they don’t use shock absorption.

Hoatzins present an evolutionary enigma — one analysis of their DNA suggests that the birds’ closest relatives are cranes and shorebirds, and another found them to be related to a group that includes tiny, hovering birds, such as hummingbirds. This is forcing biologists to consider whether to rethink the shape of the standard ‘tree of life’ for modern birds.

Pakistan and China have decided to welcome “interested” third countries to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying it was “an open and inclusive platform” for mutually beneficial cooperation. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan’s Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea with Kashgar in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

A recent study indicates that more than 50% of habitats suitable for 37

petrochemical route can be used. As per 2017-18 blending of 4.2% was achieved. Therefore, an alternate route viz. Second Generation (2G) Ethanol from biomass and other wastes is being explored by MoP&NG to bridge the supply gap for EBP programme. In this direction, "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana" is being launched as a tool to create 2G Ethanol capacity in the country and attract investments in this new sector.

3.Objectives - Establish commercially viable projects for 2G Ethanol production. Provide remunerative income to farmers for their otherwise waste agriculture residues. Address concerns of environmental pollution caused by burning of biomass/ agriculture residues.

4.Help in meeting the targets envisaged in Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme promoted by Government of India & Government of India vision of 10% reduction in import dependence by way of reducing the use of fossil fuels. To create rural & urban employment opportunities. To contribute to Swachh Bharat Mission by supporting the aggregation of non-food biofuel feedstocks such as waste biomass and urban waste. Indigenisation of second generation biomass to ethanol technologies.

5.Funding – A maximum financial assistance of Rs.150 crore per project for commercial projects and Rs.15 crore per project for demonstration projects has been prescribed. This is meant for improving commercial viability as well as promoting R&D for development and adoption of technologies in the field of production of 2G ethanol.

6.Implementation - 12 Commercial Scale and 10 demonstration scale Second Generation (2G) ethanol Projects will be provided a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support in two phases: Phase-I (2018-19 to 2022-23): wherein six commercial projects and five demonstration projects will be supported. Phase-II (2020-21 to 2023-24): wherein remaining six commercial projects and five demonstration projects will be supported.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE GRAIN EXPORT

1.Deal Russian and Ukrainian officials have signed deals to end a standoff over grain exports brought on by the war in Ukraine. Ending a wartime standoff, Russia and Ukraine has signed separate identical agreements with the U.N. and Turkey to export Ukrainian grain as well as Russian grains and fertilizer. The war was endangering food supplies for many developing nations and could worsen hunger for up to 181 million people.

2.Russian and Ukrainian officials have blamed each other for the blocked grain shipments. Now the deal is seen as a beacon of hope for a world that is in a desperate need of Ukrainian and Russian exports to address the global food security challenges. U.S. welcomes the agreement in principle and wants Russia to be held accountable for implementing this agreement.

3.Ukraine is one of the world’s largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia’s invasion of the country and naval blockade of its ports have halted shipments. Some grain are being transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but the prices of vital commodities like wheat and barley have soared during the nearly five-month war.

4.The Deal - The deal makes provisions for the safe passage of ships. A control centre will be established in Istanbul staffed by U.N., Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian officials, to run and coordinate the process. Ships would be inspected to ensure that they are not carrying weapons. Also Ukraine wants no Russian ships to escort vessels as well as no Russian representative present at Ukrainian ports.

5.The agreement also includes points on running Ukrainian grain ships along safe corridors that avoid known mines in the Black Sea. As a result Ukraine is expected to export 22 million tons of grain and other agricultural products that have been stuck in Black Sea ports due to the war. The deal is expected to be implemented in next few days.

A NEW SPRAY COATING TO PROTECT SURFACES FROM VIRUSES, BACTERIA

1.Context: A sprayable coating which can prevent the surface spread of infection from bacteria and viruses, including Covid-19, over a sustained period has been discovered.

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species of bats in the Southern Western Ghats lie outside protected areas, potentially increasing threats faced by the animals due to poaching for their meat, habitat loss and stigma from local communities, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday said the media was running “kangaroo courts” on issues even experienced judges found difficult to decide. Concerted campaigns against judges, particularly on social media, and media trials affected judicial functioning, he said, adding that doing justice was not an easy responsibility. It is not easy to swallow when false narratives are created about the “easy life” led by judges, the CJI said.

2.The spray works in two ways: Repelling viruses and bacteria through an air-filled barrier Killing pathogens through microscopic materials if the layer becomes damaged or submerged for extended periods. It uses a combination of plastics.

3.Application: The coating can be applied to surfaces in public settings such as lift buttons, stair rails, and surfaces in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and restaurants. The coating is also safer than existing alternatives to disinfectant, with no harmful side effects.