

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

25TH JULY 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The process of connecting radio towers with each other via optical fibre cables is called fiberisation. It helps provide full utilisation of network capacity, and carry large amounts of data once 5G services are rolled out. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 2020 Independence Day speech, laid out the vision to connect every village in the country with optical fiber cable (OFC) in 1,000 days. To reach the targeted level of fiberisation, India requires about ₹2.2 lakh crore of investment to help fiberise 70% towers. Satellite communication also can facilitate 5G broadband connectivity to areas where it is not feasible to deploy terrestrial infrastructure like remote villages, islands or mountainous regions.

The much awaited auction for telecom spectrum, including for 5G airwaves, will begin on Tuesday. However, analysts do not anticipate aggressive bidding, given the sufficient availability of spectrum and limited number of participants. A total of 72,097.85 MHz (or 72 Ghz) of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put on the block. Airwaves across low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands, valued at ₹4,316 billion (\$56 billion) at least, will be put up for bidding.

A recent study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) has thrown up interesting insights on the elusive mountain cat and its prey species. The study under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies revealed a strong link between habitat use by snow leopard and its prey species Siberian ibex and blue sheep.

FIFA would ban All India Football Federation (AIFF) if the amendments to the AIFF's new constitution and elections to the national football body were not completed by the given deadlines. The IOA and Hockey India have also been warned by their respective international bodies for the delay in elections. All bodies are also under legal scrutiny for violation of the Sports Code. B The Sports Code was introduced in 2011 by the Central government, which wanted good governance practices in the management of sports. B If a body is found to be violative of the sports code, it can be put under a Committee of Administrators (CoA).

ANTI-MARITIME PIRACY BILL

1.Context: Government has come up with Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill 2019 will bring the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea into domestic law and enable Indian authorities to take action against piracy on the high seas. A pirate is a seaman, or robber who attacks, seizes or destroys any ship on the high seas and sometimes even harbours at the shore.

2.Status: India currently does not have legislation on matters of piracy on the high seas. India ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1995 but was yet to enact it through the bill.

3.Need for the bill: **IPC is not valid for foreigners in international waters: Previously, pirates were prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC). However, India's sovereignty is delimited by the outer boundary of its territorial waters— 12 nautical miles** from the coast. Acts of piracy committed by a foreigner outside India's territorial waters cannot be an offence under the IPC, and those accused in piracy cases have been acquitted due to the lack of jurisdiction.

4.Incidence of Piracy: the Gulf of Aden has been one of the deadliest areas in the oceans due to a large number of piracy incidents. Due to an increased naval presence in the Gulf of Aden, it has been observed that piracy operations are shifting towards the east and south, which increases their proximity to India's west coast. g. 18 Indians aboard a crude oil carrier were kidnapped off the coast of Nigeria last year.

5.Provisions in the Bill: Definition: Piracy is defined as an act of violence or detention by the crew or passengers of a private vessel or private aircraft on high seas, directed against another vessel or aircraft and/or people or property on board. Extra-territorial Jurisdictions: The Bill will apply to the sea beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), that is, beyond 200 nautical miles from India's coastline. However, it is unclear if it will apply to the EEZ that extends between 12 and 200 nautical miles from the coast of India.

6.Issues with the Bill: It is unclear how the overlap of the 14-year term and the life term will be determined since committing an act of piracy will necessarily include participation as well. Issue with the death penalty: Supreme Court of India has advocated for the use of extreme punishment in the "rarest of rare" According to the top court, the death penalty violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA(UNCLOS, 1982)

1.It is an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for marine and maritime activities. It divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.

2.It is a set of rules to govern the oceans and the use of their resources. It is based on the idea that all problems related to oceans are interrelated and need to be addressed by the global community as a whole.

3.UNCLOS governs all aspects of ocean space, including delimitation, environmental control, marine scientific research, economic and commercial activities, transfer of technology and the settlement of ocean-related disputes.

DSR TECHNIQUE NOT GAINING IN PUNJAB

1.Context: Despite the Punjab government's Rs 1,500 per acre incentive to farmers for adopting the DSR method, farmers are returning to the traditional method of puddled transplanting of rice in the majority of the paddy area (87% decline in DSR over last year).

2.DSR is the direct seeding of rice in which seeds are sown in the field rather than by transplanting seedlings from the nursery. It aims to sow short-duration and high-yield varieties. It is done through DSR machines which are used for planting seeds of rice directly into the fields.

3.Why does Punjab incentivise DSR? To save groundwater: Experts say that around 15% to 20% of groundwater can be saved by adopting DSR.

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Last week, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said it would be doing away with the practice of reverse auctions — when companies bid to offer the lowest price — while awarding contracts for setting up wind energy projects. However, wind industry experts say this alone will not necessarily improve the sector's fortunes. India has committed to installing 60,000 MW of wind power projects by 2022, but has met only two-thirds of the target.

2000 children who have died in specialised adoption agencies since 2014, according to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. As per the data, as many as 287 children died in specialised adoption agencies in 2014-15, 289 in 2015-16, 281 in 2016-17, 321 in 2017-18, 253 in 2018-19, 282 in 2019-20, 182 in 2020-21 and 132 in 2021-22. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani stated that 27,085 children have been adopted since 2014.

1456 number of seats for the NEET-PG 2021 that remained vacant despite five rounds of counselling including a special round, according to the government in Lok Sabha. The Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar was responding to a question on whether seats had remained vacant even after exhausting all permissible rounds of counselling. The Medical Counselling Committee of the Directorate General of Health Services has been entrusted to conduct counselling.

1100 number of migrants struggling to reach Europe who were picked up by ships in the Mediterranean Sea on Sunday. Italian vessels have recovered five bodies and rescued 674 people packed on a fishing boat adrift in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast, according to the Italian Coast Guard. European charities reported saving 500 more people. The Coast Guard said it was just one in a series of rescues in recent days in the Italian search and rescue operations in the central Mediterranean.

Ever since the first case of monkeypox in humans was identified in 1970, in the present Democratic Republic of the Congo, the virus has become endemic in parts of Central and West Africa. The designation of monkeypox as a PHEIC entails accelerating international efforts to contain the spread of the disease

4.Reasons for the decline in DSR: Lack of power and adequate water: Officials said that this year there were erratic power cuts. Also, canal water was not available in an adequate amount during the sowing time of DSR. Varied results: Both experts and farmers said that the results of the DSR depend on the farmer to farmer and soil types. Some farmers are getting more yield from this method, while some are getting less. Light soils are bad and heavy soils are good for DSR. Lack of technical know-how: The majority of the farmers in the state are still not much well-versed in the technique and after facing huge losses in wheat yield this year, they prefer the assured traditional method, instead of the experimental DSR.

5.Experts say DSR won't help much in saving Punjab's water: While traditional methods take around 5,000 litres to grow 1 kg of rice, with 15% to 20% water saving DSR will take around 4,000 to 4,200 litres which is also huge.

6.Haryana Model to save water: Government should adopt the Haryana government model to save groundwater wherein the Haryana government under its scheme "Mera Pani Meri Virasat" is offering Rs 7,000 per acre (along with insurance cover) to the farmers who will shun paddy crop and adopt other alternative crops like fruit and vegetables.

JUNGLE CRY

1.Paul Walsh led a team of tribal boys from Odisha to the TourAid Nations Cup for Under-14 in September 2007. Their story is now on the silver screen in the movie 'Jungle Cry'. Walsh, talking about founding Jungle Crows Foundation, a sports and social development organisation supporting children and young people as they grow and develop.

2.It shows how sports can have a transformational effect on the lives of the underprivileged. It gives them a platform and voice to show their skills.

3.It also shows societal ethics of working for the upliftment of underprivileged sections particularly children.

STRENGTHENING PHARMACEUTICALS INDUSTRY(SPI)

1.Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers unveiled three schemes in order to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the pharmaceutical sector. Three schemes are: Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS)- PTUAS would provide pharmaceutical MSMEs with a proven track record, in a bid to upgrade their technology.

2.It will provide a capital subsidy of 10% on loans up to Rs 10 crore. The minimum repayment period has been fixed at three months. Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF)-API-CF will help in strengthening existing pharmaceutical clusters' capacity to attain sustained growth. Under it, the assistance of up to 70 per cent of the project cost of Rs 20 crore (Whichever is less) will be provided.

3.Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS)-. It aims to create a database of pharma and medical device sectors. These schemes anticipate technology up-gradation, liquid waste treatment plants in clusters and the setting up of common research centres for pharma MSMEs. Schemes would help the small companies in upgrading their facilities to international manufacturing standards.

EU'S PALM OIL ROW WITH MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

1.Context: European Union previously decided to phase out the import of unsustainable palm oil by 2030. Indonesia and Malaysia say the EU's palm oil restrictions are unfair, "discriminatory", and "crop apartheid" and challenged the EU in the WTO.

2.Indonesia and Malaysia, are the world's two largest palm oil producers, accounting for 90% of the global production. However, most of it is produced on the plantation by clearing rainforests. ReFuelEU initiative: EU lawmakers adopted draft rules for the ReFuelEU initiative, which would mean 85% of all used aviation fuel would have to be "sustainable" by 2050.

3.About Palm Oil: It is an edible vegetable oil derived from the

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before it escalates into a pandemic. This would mean promoting countries to devise efforts to control transmission and coordinate sharing of key resources. There are no specific treatments available for monkeypox. Clinical management of monkeypox includes relieving symptoms and managing complications and preventing long-term effects.

Ukraine pressed ahead on Sunday with efforts to restart grain exports from Odesa and other Black Sea ports. This came a day after Russian missiles hit the port of Odesa, casting a doubt on whether Russia would honour a deal aimed at easing global food shortages caused by the war.

mesocarp (reddish pulp) of the fruit of the oil palms. Uses: As a cooking oil, in cosmetics, processed foods, cakes, chocolates, soaps, spreads, shampoo, and biofuel (the use of crude palm oil in making biodiesel is being branded as 'green diesel').

4.It is inexpensive and produces more oil per hectare as compared to other alternatives such as soybean. India is the biggest importer of palm oil (almost 40% of its need) Government initiatives: National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm(to boost India's domestic palm oil production by 3 times (till 2025-26)); Kharif Strategy 2021 for oilseeds; yellow revolution.