

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

People often keep a safe distance from red weaver ants as their sting inflicts a sharp pain and reddish bumps on the skin. Despite this, weaver ants are popular among the people, mostly of the tribes, of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha for the mouthwatering dish made of them — the Kai chutney. This savoury food item, rich in proteins, calcium, zinc, vitamin B12, iron, magnesium, potassium, sodium, copper, fibre and 18 amino acids, is known to boost the immune system and keep diseases at bay. In Odisha, scientists are now fine tuning their research to make a presentation for the Geographical Indications (GI) registry of Kai chutney. Applied under food category, the GI tag will help develop a structured hygiene protocol in the preparation of Kai chutney for standard wider use.

Sarojini Vana (Sarojini Forest) may be mistaken for a memorial to freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu. But this lush land of rich verdure is a celebration of Sarojini Mohanta, 42, a homegrown changemaker who has gone beyond the call of duty to create and nurture a forest on a denuded patch in the Bonai forest division in just two years.

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) judgment is a hugely significant and potentially transformative decision. It affirms that there is no place in the Constitution for a hierarchy of superhumans, lesser humans and non humans. The Court held that nonrecognition of gender identity violates the rights to equality and life, and that transgendered persons should not be compelled to declare themselves as either male or female. The lack of recognition of their gender identity curtails their access to education and results in discrimination in the exercise of their right to vote and secure employment.

The NIA was constituted in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008. The agency came into existence on December 31, 2008, and started its functioning in 2009. The NIA is a central agency which investigates all offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, and the offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties. The law under which the

MoEF PROPOSES AMENDMENTS IN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1986

1. Decriminalize provisions: The ministry has proposed the removal of imprisonment as a penalty for the “less severe” contraventions and replace it with monetary penalty. However, serious violations of EPA which lead to grievous injury or loss of life shall be covered under the provision of Indian Penal Code. EPA provisions will be in force for penal provisions of the single use plastic ban which has come into force from today. Current Provisions: Under the current provisions of the EPA, the violator can be punished with imprisonment up to five years or with a fine up to Rs 1,00,000, or with both.

2. Creation of an “Environmental Protection Fund”: To remit the amount of penalty About EPA: Enacted under Article 253 of the Constitution, the EPA came into force in 1986. The Act establishes “the framework for studying, planning, and implementing long-term requirements of environmental safety and laying down a system of speedy and adequate response to situations threatening the environment.

3. Three main entities responsible for environmental Laws in India: Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. Central Pollution Control Board at the National level. State Pollution Control Boards at the State level.

4. The main environmental laws in India are: Environmental (Protection) Act 1986. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981. Rules made under the above acts.

TAMIL NADU'S FOREST MAN

1. Environmentalist D Saravanan's efforts have turned over 40 hectares of barren land into a lush, indigenous forest called Aranya Forests. From once being a barren land with just a handful of trees, the forest today is home to more than 700 native plant species. The growth of the forest over the last three decades has had a huge ecological impact on the area, increasing the rate of rainfall and reducing air pollution.

2. How does he do it? The land where Aranya now stands had a unique topography of clay and Cuddalore sandstone structures, with no topsoil. The first step was to bring water into the land and prevent runoffs. For this, Saravanan built contour bunds to arrest water and maintain groundwater recharge. He also planted grass to relax the soil and restore moisture content. Next, to curb the spread of invasive species and preserve indigenous varieties, Saravanan travelled across the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu, from Chennai to Kanyakumari.

3. He visited sacred groves to collect indigenous seeds suitable for the land. He continues to plant trees and educate the local community and students on the importance of indigenous forests. He also works with local and regional authorities on forestry and wildlife management.

ASADHI BIJ

1. Kutchi community of Gujarat celebrates their new year on this day. Ashadhi Bij falls on the second day of Shukla paksha of Ashada month of the Hindu calendar.

2. The festival is associated with the beginning of rains in the Kutch region of Gujarat. During Ashadhi Bij, the moisture in the atmosphere is checked to predict which crop would do best in the coming monsoon.

STUDY TO TRACE GENETIC LINKS HARAPPAN RACE

1. Context: Top archaeologist behind Rakhigarhi, Harappan site to analyze DNA at CSIR-CCMB. Samples of the ancient DNA and modern-day samples collection will help in comparative analysis to understand the population composition.

2. Rakhigarhi Harappan site is spread over 550 hectares of which just 50 hectares are protected with the remaining area either having modern structures or agricultural fields.

3. It is a much bigger site than even Mohenjo-Daro which is about 300 hectares.

agency operates extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country.

64 percentage of youth who joined terror ranks in Jammu and Kashmir and were killed by security forces within a year. Citing data of terrorists neutralised between January 1 and May 31 this year, the officials said that only 26.6% of terror recruits lasted more than 12 months, while the fate of 9.3% of them were not known. South Kashmir continues to be the hotbed of terrorism in the valley as the region saw 59 terrorist killings by security forces in the first five months of this year compared to 31 such killings in central and north Kashmir.

118 number of fraud cases in private as well as public sector banks (PSBs) in FY22, down from 265 in 202021. Frauds in the banking sector involving sums of over ₹100 crore have declined, with banks reporting cases worth ₹41,000 crore in 202122 compared to ₹1.05 lakh crore in the previous year. For PSBs, the total number of fraud cases declined to 80 from 167 in FY21, while for private banks cases reduced to 38 from 98 in FY22. In terms of cumulative amount, it has come down to ₹28,000 crore from ₹65,900 crore for PSBs.

Russia claimed control over the last Ukrainian stronghold in an eastern province that is key to achieving a major goal of its grinding war.

The decision of the GST Council at its 47th meeting held last week in Chandigarh to impose a 5% tax on dairy products such as “prepacked, prelabelled curd, lassi and butter milk” and to increase the tax on dairy machinery and milking machines from 12% to 18% has drawn criticism from farmers’ organisations and milk cooperatives.

A 38 year old tribal woman is battling for life after being set ablaze allegedly by a group of people, including two women, for resisting their bid to encroach upon her family land in the Guna area of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. She is being treated for burns at Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal and her condition is said to be critical. Rampyari Bai belongs to the Saharia tribe, a particularly vulnerable tribal group.

As on July 1, the Union government owes funds to 15 States under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), show official data published on the Union Rural Development Ministry website. They

XI JINPING, IN RARE HONG KONG VISIT, HAILS CHANGE FROM CHAOS TO ORDER

1.The Chinese President said Hong Kong was “in a new stage of transitioning from chaos to order” on a rare visit to the Special Administrative Region (SAR). July 1, 2022, marked the 25th anniversary of the former British colony’s handover to China and also saw the swearing-in of new Chief Executive John Lee and his government. The tighter controls under a national security law imposed in 2020 have prompted some people to leave for Taiwan, Britain and other countries.

2.Background: Hong Kong, one of Asia’s richest cities and a global business centre with thriving film, publishing and other creative industries, returned to China on July 1, 1997, under an agreement that promised a “high degree of autonomy” for 50 years.

3.**Key Highlights: National security Law 2020: Beijing imposed the National Security Law in 2020 following protests that erupted over a proposed extradition law and spread to include demands for more democracy.** Banning of pro-democratic movements: The territory has banned commemorations of the ruling party’s violent 1989 crackdown on the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement.

4.Leveraging the potential of Special Administrative Regions(SARs): China’s strategy is to leverage the inherent economic, trade, and technological potential of two ‘Special Administrative Regions’ (SARs)-Hong Kong and Macau—to augment the growth of the mainland. Expanding cooperation: Beijing plans to build a high-quality ‘Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area’ so as to expand cooperation between these regions. Building platforms: It also encompasses building platforms such as Qianhai in Shenzhen, Hengqin in Zhuhai, Nansha in Guangzhou, and Shenzhen-Hong Kong ‘Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Zone’.

5.Raising national awareness and patriotism: The Communist leadership also seeks to systematically enhance cross-border exchanges and cooperation to raise national awareness and patriotism among citizens of Hong Kong.

6.Safeguarding national security: The leadership will effectively employ a combination of instruments including economic means, legal system enforcement mechanisms and coercive policing measures to control Hong Kong to safeguard national security and integrity. Parliament only for loyalists: China has introduced ‘patriots’ political reforms which ensure that only loyalists can run for parliament and top executive positions.

CLUBBING OF CASES

1.**A person cannot be prosecuted more than once for the same offence. Article 20(2) of the Constitution guarantees the right against double jeopardy. Multiple FIRs on the same incident would virtually mean multiple trials.**

2.Approaching the Supreme Court in such situations is a procedural safeguard against excessive litigation. Other judgements: In T T Anthony v State of Kerala, a 2001 verdict, the Supreme Court held that there cannot be a “second FIR” on the same issue.

3.In 2020, the Supreme Court in the case of Arnab Goswami v Union of India expanded this ruling and said that similar FIRs in different jurisdictions also violate fundamental rights.

HIVE-KILLING MITE:VARROA

1.Context: Australia is racing to protect honey bees after the discovery of a mite that has ravaged hives around the world About Varroa: Varroa destructor is an external parasitic mite that attacks and feeds on the honey bees Apis cerana and Apis mellifera. The disease caused by the mites is called varroosis. The Varroa mite can reproduce only in a honey bee colony.

2.It attaches to the body of the bee and weakens the bee by sucking fat bodies. Heavy infestations with the varroa mite cause a range of maladies among European honey bees that weaken and reduce populations, leading to colony death.

3.The parasite does not affect smaller, stingless native bees. Bees are some of the most important pollinators, ensuring food and food security, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity.

SCHEMES FOR MSME

1.Context: PM participated in the ‘Udyami Bharat’ programme and launched several key initiatives for MSMEs. RAMP Scheme: Raising and Accelerating MSME performance: Will help in

included West Bengal, where last week workers who have not been paid for five months took to the streets. Since January, the Union Rural Development Ministry has not released any funds to West Bengal, citing procedural lapses including absence of social audits to ensure transparency in implementation of the scheme.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Deputy Commissioner of Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district to submit an action taken report (ATR) on a complaint alleging harassment and false prosecution of some Chakma villagers. The complaint was lodged by the Chakma Development Foundation of India (CDFI).

capacity building and increasing the coverage of MSME schemes
CBFTE: Capacity building of First-time MSME Exporters scheme:
Increase export from the MSME sector
PMEGP: PM Employment Generation Programme: Under PMEGP, employment opportunities are provided to unemployed youth by assisting in setting up Micro-enterprise in the non-farm sector.

2.KVIC is the nodal body. Now, applicants can apply from Aspirational districts and can be transgenders as well. Also, the maximum project cost has been increased from 25 lakhs to 50 lakhs (for manufacturing) and from 10 lakh to 20 lakh (for the service sector).

3.MSME Sector: It contributes to 30% of India's GDP, nearly 50% of exports and creates over 10cr employment. Other Schemes for MSME: MUDRA Yojana, Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) etc.