

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Union Environment Ministry proposes to soften the provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) by replacing a clause that provides for imprisoning violators with one that only requires them to pay a fine. This, however, does not apply to violations that cause grave injury or loss of life. The proposed fines, in lieu of imprisonment, are five to 500 times greater than those currently levied. The Act currently says that violators will be punishable with imprisonment up to five years or a fine up to ₹1 lakh, or both. Were violations to continue, an additional fine of up to ₹5,000 daily during which such failure or contravention continues after the conviction would be levied. There is also a provision for jail terms to extend to seven years.

NATO's 30 allies signed an accession protocol for Finland and Sweden on Tuesday to allow them to join the nuclear armed alliance once allied Parliaments ratify the decision, the most significant expansion of the alliance since the mid-1990s. Separately, the bloc's Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana said that NATO has no current plans to send troops to Sweden and Finland.

There should be a dedicated hour during the Rajya Sabha proceedings to discuss the "import and implications" of the reports finalised by Parliamentary Standing Committees, a panel headed by former General Secretary and adviser P.P.K. Ramacharyulu has recommended. The panel was instituted by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu in January. The panel, in its extensive report that studied the working of the Rajya Sabha secretariat and other procedural issues, has made 130 recommendations.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been on a selling spree in India. June 2022 witnessed the worst sell-off since March 2020 — when India announced a nationwide lockdown — at ₹50,000 crore. Post-pandemic, recovery in the Indian economy has been uneven. As the industry was grappling with this challenge, came Russia's invasion of Ukraine which led to a rise in global prices. Add to this mix the U.S. Federal Reserve raising the benchmark interest rate starting March this year. All of these

## PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE

1.Planned obsolescence describes a strategy of deliberately ensuring that the current version of a given product will become out of date or useless within a known time period. It is a trick used by companies to turn a customer into a repeat customer, with or without their knowledge.

2.Producers and manufacturers of electronics and textiles use planned obsolescence to increase consumerism in a variety of ways. Tricks - In terms of hardware, the companies use inferior parts designed to decrease the life of a product to 2-3 years. Some products are inherently designed to make repair difficult or even impossible.

3.In terms of software, products are designed to lose functionality by excluding them from the software/ operating systems upgrades. Advantages - Planned obsolescence is great for goods manufacturers and for the economy because it keeps sales stable and even growing year after year by encouraging consumption. Society also benefits from constant investment in R&D&i.

4.Disadvantages - Planned obsolescence leads to an increase in electronic-waste. It is particularly dangerous today because electronics is the world's largest and fastest growing industry and is increasingly finding applications in all sectors of the economy. The National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2019 envisions positioning India as a global hub for electronics system design and manufacturing.

## TiHAN TESTBED FOR AUTONOMOUS NAVIGATION

1.TiHAN Testbed for Autonomous Navigation was inaugurated in the IIT Hyderabad campus to develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles. TiHAN - Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN) is a multidisciplinary initiative of the IIT-Hyderabad. It aims to make India a global player in the futuristic "Smart Mobility technology".

2.TiHAN is developing and deploying a real-time Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) utilising autonomous UAVs and ground/surface vehicles for many application sectors of the national importance of this decade.

3.TiHAN is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. TiHAN testbed - TiHAN testbed on Autonomous Navigations is a first of its kind futuristic autonomous navigation facility to develop unmanned terrestrial & aerial vehicles. 4.This testbed will provide a unique platform for high quality research between academia, industry and R&D labs both at the national and international level.

## NATIONAL IPR POLICY 2016

1.At a DST-Centre for Policy Research (DST-CPRs) meeting, the need for interventions in National IPR policy was highlighted. In 2016, the Union Cabinet has approved the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy. The IPR policy laid down the future roadmap for IPRs in India. The National IPR Policy brings to a single platform all IPRs.

2.It views IPRs holistically, taking into account all inter-linkages and thus aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It sets in place an institutional mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review. It aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario. The policy is entirely compliant with the WTO's agreement on TRIPS. The plan will be reviewed every 5 years in consultation with stakeholders.

3.Objectives of the NPR Policy-To create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society. To stimulate the generation of IPRs To have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest. To modernize and strengthen service-oriented IPR administration. Get value for IPRs through commercialization. To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR

have made Indian assets 'risky'. When FPIs sell their holdings and repatriate funds back to their home markets, the local currency takes a beating. With a weaker rupee, we have to shell out more funds to import the same unit of goods.

S. Jaishankar is expected to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali this week. The meeting comes ahead of two summits: the G-20 summit in November, and the SCO Heads of State Council in Uzbekistan in September where PM Narendra Modi will come face to face with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since the 2020 LAC standoff.

20 number of airports equipped with ambulifts to help flyers with disabilities or reduced mobility in boarding an aircraft under the Centre's Accessible India campaign, according to the Disability Affairs Department. These airports include Vijayawada, Kanpur, Port Blair, Jodhpur, Belgaum, Silchar, Jharsuguda, Rajkot and Hubli. The initiative has been taken to facilitate passengers in wheelchairs and on stretchers. 35 international airports and 55 domestic airports are now accessible to people with mobility issues.

\$ 750 billion, the estimated cost required for the reconstruction of Ukraine, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky. Speaking at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Switzerland, the Ukrainian President and a long line of government Ministers described the massive destruction and towering needs since Russia attacked Ukraine on February 24. In a video message, Zelensky said that the reconstruction of Ukraine was not the task of a single nation, but the task of the whole democratic world.

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, expressed his vision to build a Silk Road Economic Belt (SERB) and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (MSR), to break the "bottleneck" in Asian connectivity. Thus, the Belt and Road initiative was born. B The biggest project under BRI is in Pakistan, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over time, China pledged \$62 billion in low interest loans and financing from Chinese state owned banks and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). B Bangladesh, which joined the BRI in 2016, has been promised the second highest belt and road investment by China in South Asia after Pakistan. Multiple studies show

infringements. To strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

4.Implementation - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) shall be the nodal point to coordinate, guide and oversee implementation and future development of IPRs in India. But, the responsibility for actual implementation of the plans of action will remain with the Ministries/ Departments concerned in their assigned sphere of work. Public and private sector institutions and other stakeholders, including State governments, will also be involved in the implementation process.

#### GREEN CLIMATE FUND

1.In 2010, Green Climate Fund (GCF) was created by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is the world's largest climate fund. It is mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate-resilient pathways.

2.It is mandated to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African States.

3.This Fund tries to achieve the above goals by investing across 4 transitions, Built environment; Energy & industry; Human security, livelihoods and wellbeing; and Land-use, forests and ecosystems. This Fund tries to achieve the above goals by employing a 4-pronged approach, Transformational planning and programming - To maximise the co-benefits between mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development.

4.Catalysing climate innovation - By investing in new technologies, business models, and practices to establish a proof of concept. De-risking investment to mobilize finance at scale. Mainstreaming climate risks and opportunities into investment decision-making to align finance with sustainable development.

#### NATIONAL AIR QUALITY RESOURCE FRAMEWORK OF INDIA

1.The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government inaugurated the National Mission on "National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI)". This science-based integrated air quality resource framework will provide an all-inclusive guide to Collecting air quality data, Studying its impact and Implementing science-based solutions.

2.The NARFI was developed by the Bengaluru-based National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), with the support from the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (O/o PSA) to the Government of India. It is implemented by NIAS is a timely step in the right direction. It is an information mechanism to help decision-makers in government, municipalities, start-ups and in the private sectors to address air pollution issues in different climatic zones of India.

3.Research-based audited Information and industry-oriented solutions will be shared in an easy-to-understand format. The short-term basic training modules tailored for different groups such as active ground level staff in government establishments, implementers, media and policymakers, would be an integral part of the framework.

4.The NARFI will evolve around the following five modules or themes, Emission Inventory, Air Shed, and Mitigation Impacts on Human Health and Agriculture Integrated Monitoring, Forecasting and Advisory Framework Outreach, Social Dimension, Transition Strategy and Policy Solutions, Public-Industry Partnership, Stubble Burning & New Technologies.

#### CHENKURINJI

1.Context: Saving Chenkuringi from climate change The Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary derives its name from Gluta travancorica, a species endemic to the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve known as 'Chenkuringi' in local parlance.

2.Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in the Western Ghats, India, located in Kollam district of Kerala and comes under the control of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve. Properties: Medicinal properties and are used to lower blood pressure and treat arthritis.

3.The heartwood is quite sturdy with deep red colour thus attracting the wood industry. 'Save Chenkuringi', is a campaign

**that Bangladesh has been able to benefit from the BRI while maintaining diplomatic and strategic ties with both India and China.**

**The Centre has asked the State governments to take steps to increase the sowing of paddy in the wake of reports that the sown area has shrunk. At a conference of State Food Ministers on food and nutrition security of India here on Tuesday, Union Minister of Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal said the international demand for rice and wheat had increased, and asked the States to increase the sowing of paddy in this kharif season.**

to be implemented in various areas to create awareness regarding its conservation.