

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

India will strongly oppose continuation of moratorium on customs duties on ecommerce trade at the WTO's meeting in Geneva next month as it was adversely impacting developing countries, an official said. The official said allowing the moratorium to lapse was important for developing nations to preserve policy space for their digital advancement, to regulate imports and generate revenue via customs duties. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) members had agreed not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions since 1998 and the moratorium had been periodically extended at successive ministerial conferences (MC), which is the highest decision making body of the 164member organisation.

Israel signed a free trade deal with the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, its first with an Arab country, building on their U.S.-brokered normalisation of diplomatic relations in 2020.

Indian and Pakistani negotiators ended another round of talks as part of the Indus Water Treaty on "cordial" terms, said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), describing the 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission that took place in Delhi on May 30 and 31.

Video sharing platform YouTube blocked over a million videos in India during the first three months of this year – more than any other country in the world, according to its Community Guidelines Enforcement report released on Tuesday. As per the data shared, YouTube removed 11,75,859 videos in India for violating its Community Guidelines during January-March 2022 quarter.

8.4 percentage, the rise in production growth of eight infrastructure sectors in April on the back of better performance by coal, refinery products and electricity segments, according to official data. The output of the sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizer, steel, cement and electricity had expanded by 4.9% in March 2022 while it was higher at 62.6% in March 2021 due to low base effect. The output growth in April is the highest since October 2021 when the core sector grew by 8.7%.

## UNICORN

1.The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in a press release issued notifications on sharing a photocopy of Aadhar card to avoid any misuses. MeitY has advised the people not to share photocopy of their Aadhaar with any organisation because it can be misused. use a public computer to download electronic versions of the Aadhar.

2.If done so, they have to delete all the downloaded copies of e-Aadhaar permanently from the computer. **Only those organisations with a 'user licence' from the UIDAI could use Aadhar for establishing a person's identity. Hotels and cinema halls weren't authorised to collect photocopies of Aadhar.** Alternatively, a masked Aadhaar card can be used.

3.An Aadhaar number consists of 12 digits. A masked Aadhaar displays only the last 4 digits of the biometric ID replacing the first eight digits with characters like "xxxx-xxxx". However the government has withdrawn its notification claiming that it could be "misinterpreted".

4.It said that UIDAI had only advised Aadhaar card holders to exercise "normal prudence" in using and sharing their Aadhaar numbers. Government added that Aadhaar details, without biometric information, couldn't be used to impersonate a person.

## COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS

1.Chhattisgarh has become the second state in the country to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside a national park. CFR Area is the common forest land that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.

2.The community uses it to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village; and for seasonal use of landscape in case of pastoralist communities. Each CFR area has a customary boundary with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighboring villages. It may include forest of any category - revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest, DLC land, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.

3.**The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act or the Forest Rights Act (FRA) recognises two broad types of rights to forestland with forest-dwelling communities: Individual forest rights (IFR) and Community forest rights (CFR).** CFR rights under the Section 3(1)(i) of FRA provide for recognition of the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage the CFR.

4.These rights allow the community to formulate rules for forest use by itself and others and thereby discharge its responsibilities under Section 5 of the FRA. CFR rights, along with Community Rights (CRs), which include nistar rights and rights over non-timber forest products, ensure sustainable livelihoods of the community.

5.These rights give the authority to the Gram Sabha to adopt local traditional practices of forest conservation and management within the community forest resource boundary. **Significance - The FRA recognises the community's right to use, manage and conserve forest resources, and to legally hold forest land that these communities have used for cultivation and residence.** It also underlines the integral role that forest dwellers play in sustainability of forests and in conservation of biodiversity.

6.It is of greater significance inside protected forests like national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves as traditional dwellers then become a part of management of the protected forests using their traditional wisdom. Challenge - While CFR rights are an important empowerment tool, getting a consensus amongst various villages about their traditional boundaries often proves a challenge.

## SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION

1.Experts said that the 'System of Rice Intensification' method is

**India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to a four quarter low of 4.1% during the January-March period, from 5.4% in the preceding quarter, as manufacturing output shrank, provisional national income estimates released on Tuesday show. As a result, full year growth came in at 8.7% — a tad lower than the 8.9% pace projected in February. Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy is estimated to have grown 8.1% in 2021-22, slightly lower than the 8.3% projected by the National Statistical Office (NSO) earlier.**

**Fiscal deficit improved to 6.71% of the FY22 GDP over the revised budget estimate of 6.9% mainly on account of higher tax realisation. Unveiling the revenue expenditure data of the Union government, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said that the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was ₹15,86,537 crore (provisional). The Finance Ministry had in February estimated the deficit at ₹15,91,089 crore or 6.9% of GDP.**

**Australia's centre left Prime Minister Anthony Albanese named his Cabinet on Tuesday, including an "Assistant Minister for the Republic", despite the country being a constitutional monarchy. As the United Kingdom's 96-year-old Queen Elizabeth II prepares to celebrate her platinum jubilee, her recently elected government in Australia took a symbolic step toward her ouster.**

**In the most significant effort yet to punish Russia for its war in Ukraine, the European Union agreed to ban the overwhelming majority of Russian oil imports after tense negotiations that tested how far the bloc is willing to go to ostracise Moscow.**

**India needs to be prepared to tackle cases of monkey pox in view of the increasing reports of cases in non-endemic countries, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday while issuing "Guidelines on management of monkey pox disease". The Ministry confirmed that there are no reported cases of the infection in India.**

**Jammu and Kashmir Police constable Altaf Hussain Bhat and Group Captain Varun Singh of the India Air Force (IAF) were posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra posthumously by President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday.**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 11th instalment of the**

beneficial for the soil, environment and farmers. System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was first developed in Madagascar in the 1980s. It involves cultivating rice with as much organic manure as possible, starting with Young seedlings planted singly at wider spacing in a square pattern; and Intermittent irrigation that keeps the soil moist but not inundated, and Frequent inter cultivation with weeder that actively aerates the soil.

**2. It is a water and environment saving technique. It promises to save 15 to 20% ground water, and improves rice productivity. It gives equal or more produce than the conventional rice cultivation,** with less water, less seed and less chemicals. The net effect is a substantial reduction in the investments on external inputs. Working - First, the field is prepared by ploughing.

**3.** It should be laser levelled before transplanting for proper water management and efficiency for a good crop stand. Then irrigation is applied in the field which is not a flooding of field like traditional methods but less than that of a well irrigated field. Then 10-12 days old paddy plants along with soil particles around the root with minimum disturbance to the roots are transplanted in lines, which are marked at a distance of 10 inches from each other.

**4.** The purpose of making lines is to provide a favourable environment for growth and development of rice plants through such spacing. Unlike Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technique, which is suitable only for mid to heavy textured soils, SRI is suitable in all types of soil including less fertile soil as in such soil the number of seedlings can be increased to double.

**5.** Comparison - **Under SRI, 2kg seed is required to grow a nursery for one acre against 5kg seed required in the traditional method. In sowing from the day of transplanting till the crop turns 35-40 days fields are kept under. And then fields are filled every week till a few weeks before harvesting.** Unlike the traditional method, which requires continuous flooding, the SRI only needs intermittent irrigation.

**6.** Irrigation is given to maintain soil moisture near saturation initially, and water is added to the field when the surface soil develops hairline cracks. Weeds control - In DSR, when the weeds are major problem and weedicides are sprayed simultaneously at the time of sowing. In SRI, which permits greater weed growth because of alternate wetting and drying of fields, the weeds are incorporated into the soil by operating a cono-weeder between rows, which are made at the time of sowing. This adds nutrients to the crop like green manures.

#### **MICROBIAL DEFLUORINATION OF PFAS**

**1.** Engineers report the microbial defluorination of a Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) structure called fluorinated carboxylic acids (FCAs) by replacing carbon-fluorine bonds with carbon-hydrogen bonds. Under anaerobic conditions, a carbon-carbon double bond is crucial for the shattering the ultra-strong carbon-fluorine bond by microbial communities.

**2.** While breaking the carbon-carbon bond does not completely degrade the molecule, the resulting products could be relayed to other microorganisms for defluorination under aerobic conditions. PFAS are a group of over 9,000 chemicals used in countless industrial processes and commercial products since the 1940s.

**3.** As a result, PFAS have found their way into the water cycle and are now found in virtually every water source. These chemicals contain a bond between fluorine and carbon atoms that is the strongest single bond known, rendering PFAS non-biodegradable and resistant to conventional water treatment methods.

**4.** They wind up in the tissues of organisms, including humans, where they have been associated with some types of cancer, thyroid and liver problems, and likely other, still poorly understood, health problems.

**5.** The point of entry for the anaerobic microbes was a double bond between the carbon atoms located next to the carboxyl group of the FCA molecules. Trifluoromethyl branches on the double bond could further enhance the biodegradability. Microbes capable of doing this type of defluorination are not rare.

#### **RIVER KOSI**

**1.** Rivers lining tropical and desert regions are more likely to change directions, according to a new study. This is seen especially in the case of Kosi River. Kosi River is a transboundary river in Nepal and northern India. With its tributaries, the Kosi

**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKisan) scheme in Shimla on Tuesday. Under the scheme, ₹6,000 is given in three equal instalments to all land holding farmer families. The Centre said it would distribute ₹21,000 crore among more than 10 crore beneficiary farmer families. Each beneficiary would get ₹2,000 each in this instalment.**

**India and China on Tuesday agreed to hold the next round of talks between senior military commanders to continue the slow moving disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).**

drains the eastern third of Nepal and part of Tibet, including the country around Mount Everest. Some of its headstreams rise beyond the Nepalese border in Tibet.

**2.About 48 km north of the Indian-Nepalese frontier, the Kosi is joined by several major tributaries and breaks southward through the Siwālik Hills at the narrow Chatra Gorge. The river then emerges on the great plain of northern India in Bihār state on its way to the Ganges River,** which it enters south of Purnia. Because of its great outflushing of debris, the Kosi has no permanent channel in its course through the great plain of northern India.

**3.**It has long been notorious for its devastating floods, which long made vast tracts of northern Bihār unsafe for habitation or cultivation. Now a dam across the Chatra Gorge at Barakakshetra controls floods, permits irrigation of the floodplain, provides hydropower, and supports fish hatcheries. Maize is extensively cultivated on the sandy soils of the Kosi's basin.