

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

As the Centre has decided to ban the use of single use plastic from July 1, the hill State of Himachal Pradesh is all set to kickstart a buyback scheme in schools and colleges to purchase the singleuse plastic items from students in a bid to instil a sense of environment preservation by “catching them young”. Under the novel scheme, the students would be encouraged to bring single-use plastic items from their home and deposit it with the school, for which they will be paid ₹75 a kg by the government. “Across the State, we have 3,000 eco clubs in schools and in 100 colleges under the National Green Corps programme — these eco clubs are an association of student teachers that work to inculcate environmental awareness and protection.

Efforts are under way to popularise the inclusion of Amaranthus – a wide variety of leafy vegetables – as part of mixed cropping among farmers in Mysuru. Though known to be highly nutritious and still consumed but in a limited quantity it has economic benefits too and farmers can have multiple harvest to supplement their income. But cultivation was gradually on the wane and with it a slice of culinary culture.

The G7 group announced an attempt to compete with China’s formidable Belt and Road Initiative by raising \$600 billion for global infrastructure programmes in poor countries. The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, unveiled with fanfare by U.S. President Joe Biden and G7 allies from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the European Union, aims to fill a huge gap left as communist China uses its economic clout to stretch diplomatic tentacles into the furthest reaches of the world.

Surfshark VPN stated that taking such radical action that highly impacts the privacy of millions of people in India will most likely be counterproductive and strongly damage the IT sector’s growth in the country. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said that the rules are applicable to “any entity whatsoever”, regardless of whether they have a physical presence in India or not, as long as they deliver services to Indian users.

40 percent by which Russia cut gas supplies to Europe blaming delayed

WORLD FACING A WORST GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS

1.As per the UN, global hunger is on the rise, reversing decades of progress. Climate change, extreme weather events, conflicts and economic downturns are some of the factors driving growing food insecurity.

2.Status: As per the FAO report (Global Report on Food Crises): Around 193 million people in 53 countries or territories experienced acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels Acute food insecurity is at a record high. Hunger Hotspots: Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen are “hunger hotspots” facing catastrophic conditions. A total of 750,000people are already facing starvation and death in Ethiopia, Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, the Sahel region, Sudan and Syria remain “countries of very high concern” where conditions are critical, and deteriorating.

3.Children: Some 13.6 million children globally under the age of five are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Even if these children survive, they may suffer from stunting, which has life-long consequences. Rising inequality and economic instability could lead to social and political unrest in some of the worst-affected countries in the coming months.

4.Global Hunger Index 2021: India slipped seven places to rank 101 among 116 countries. The level of hunger in India was ‘serious’ according to the report. India and Food Insecurity: India has the largest stock of grain in the world (120 million tonnes) but still accounts for a quarter of the world’s food-insecure population. Estimates show that, in 2020, over 237 crore people were grappling with food insecurity globally, an increase of about 32 crores from 2019.

5.Causes of worldwide hunger: Violence and conflict: They remain the primary drivers of acute hunger, and conflict levels and violence against civilians have increased in 2022. Displacement: Conflict has led to new waves of displacement, forcing people to abandon their homes, land and livelihoods, reducing the amount of food locally available in their communities. In the Sahel alone, close to 2.8 million people have been internally displaced. Other reasons: The war in Ukraine has combined with the climate crisis, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unequal recovery to create a perfect storm of needs in developing countries.

SAFETY AT A PRICE FOR DELHI’S QUEER COMMUNITY

1.The pride month celebrations and the many LGBTQ+ friendly parties happening in Delhi, but queer safe spaces are rare. Since Section 377 of the IPC was decriminalised in 2018, Delhi has transitioned into a city where gay bashes in nightclubs, pride meets at cafes and gay-themed film festivals and book readings are routinely held. However, discrimination against the community is still prevalent in every stratum of society and many queer persons said they felt unsafe attending events because they feared getting “outed”.

2.LGBTIQ+: **LGBTQ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. These terms are used to describe a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.**

3.Difficulties Faced by LGBTIQ+ Community: Heterosexuality: They are experiencing intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and the threat of violence due to their sexual orientation than those that identify themselves as heterosexual. In-equality & Violence: They face inequality and violence in every place around the world. They face torture from people who mock them and make them realize that they are different from others. Deprived in Rights: In many countries, the rights enjoyed by opposite-sex couples are not enjoyed by same-sex couples. They are prohibited from those rights.

4.Isolation from society: They gradually develop low self-esteem and low self-confidence and become isolated from friends and family. Conflict in Family itself: Lack of communication between LGBT children and their parents often leads to conflict in the family. Many LGBT youths are placed in foster care or end up in juvenile detention or on the streets. Racial Discrimination:

equipment repairs in the Nord Stream 1 pipeline. The move left Germany and other states racing to find alternative supplies to head off the risk of rationing when winter comes. Europe fears President Vladimir Putin will use a scheduled maintenance programme on the pipeline from July 11 to 21 to turn the screws, putting a brake on efforts to refill inventories in retaliation for far reaching sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Russian missiles struck the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on Sunday as G7 leaders gathered in Germany to discuss further sanctions against Moscow.

Vastly expanded troop accommodation within 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western sector, long range artillery and rocket systems, upgraded air defence systems, expanded runways and hardened blast pens to house fighter aircraft — these are some of the major upgrades undertaken by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on its side in the past two years since the standoff in the eastern Ladakh began, according to intelligence inputs.

Iranian state television said on Sunday that Tehran had launched a solid fuelled rocket into space, drawing a rebuke from Washington ahead of the expected resumption of stalled talks over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

The Forest Department in Odisha is experimenting with a siren system, which would go off automatically sensing elephant herds crossing the National Highway to reduce human-elephant encounters. "We in association with a nongovernment organisation have started a pilot project on siren system to alert traffic to elephant movement. The system has been installed at two places at Ratasingha and Haldihabahal," said Dhenkanal Divisional Forest officer Prakash Chand Gogineni.

The Centre is set to launch a large-scale campaign to encourage Indians to fly the National Flag at their homes to mark the 75th Independence Day and has reached out to manufacturers and e-commerce sites to boost the availability of the Tricolour, according to officials aware of the programme. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Culture Ministry is planning on celebrating August 11 to 17 as "Independence Week" across the country.

Additionally, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face poverty and racism daily. They suffer from social and economic inequalities due to continuous discrimination in the workplace.

NORMS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF KIDS WORKING ON OTT PLATFORMS

1. The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has published draft guidelines to regulate child protection within the entertainment industry. While the "Guidelines to Regulate Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry" were issued by the Commission in 2011, today's draft increases the scope of the guidelines to cover social media and OTT platforms for the first time.

2. **New Guidelines: Registration: It has mandated that child artists and children being used in entertainment need to be registered with the District Magistrate. Any producer of any audio-visual media production or any commercial event involving the participation of a child** will now need to obtain the permission of the District Magistrate where the activity is to be performed. No exploitation: Parents, who are using children to make money, have to be held accountable. Provisions under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, etc., have been included in the guidelines.

3. **Disclaimer:** Producers will also have to run a disclaimer saying measures were taken to ensure there has been no abuse, neglect or exploitation of children during the entire process of the shooting. Child-specific considerations: The guidelines prohibit children from being cast in roles or situations that are inappropriate; consideration has to be given to the child's age, maturity, emotional or psychological development and sensitivity. Presence of guardian: At least one parent or legal guardian or a known person has to be present during a shoot, and for infants, a registered nurse needs to be present along with the parent or legal guardian.

4. **Police verification:** Every person involved in the production who may be in contact with children will have to submit a medical fitness certificate ensuring that they are not carrying an obvious contagious disease and police verification of the staff also needs to be carried out. Child's education: The producer also needs to ensure the child's education under the RTE Act, to ensure no discontinuity from school or lessons as well as adequate and nutritious food, and water to the children during the process of production and medical facilities.

BIODIVERSITY LOSS TO RAISE INDIA'S BANKRUPTCY RISK BY 29%

1. As per a study by British Economist, loss of biodiversity will downgrade the credit ratings of several countries, including India, increasing their bankruptcy risk. Status: Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (2020) warned that none of the 20 targets of Aichi (2010 to 2020) under the Convention of Biological Diversity, have been met by the global community. India amended its National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) to cover all 20 Aichi targets into 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs). As per India's 6th National Report, India is on track to achieve 9 out of its 12 NBTs.

2. **Economic loss out of ignoring biodiversity:** The team claimed that investors and corporations ignoring biodiversity loss from calculations could lead to market stability being undermined. They found that at least 58 per cent of the 26 countries would face a detrimental impact. Sovereign credit ratings are an independent assessment that determines the creditworthiness of a country.

3. **Sectors most affected:** "partial ecosystem collapse" of sectors such as fisheries, tropical timber production and wild pollination. (based on World Bank Prediction) Worst affected: China and Malaysia would be the worst affected with downgrades of more than six notches. On India: The downgrades to four notches for India and other countries means that they will be burdened with billions of dollars in interest. Twelve of the 26 countries analysed will be at the risk of bankruptcy.

4. **As nature loss reduces economic performance, it will become harder for countries to service their debt, straining government budgets and forcing them to raise taxes, cut spending, or increase inflation. Developing countries are**

25 lakhs people still facing difficulties in 27 flood hit districts of Assam, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority. As many as 2.33 lakh have taken shelter in 637 relief camps of the north eastern State, which had been battling floods and landslides for the past two weeks. Four more persons died on Saturday in the floods in different parts of Assam, raising this year's toll in the State due to flood and landslides to 121. Since March 1, the State has recorded 1,891.90 mm of rainfall.

already saddled with crippling debt burdens driven by COVID-19 and soaring prices, and the loss of nature will push these countries closer to the edge. India's debt burden is expected to increase to 8 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of March 2022.