

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The most prominent case of political defection was that of Haryana's Gaya Lal, originally an independent MLA who, in 1967, juggled between the two political parties for two weeks. The recurrence of this phenomenon led to the 1985 Anti Defection Law. The Anti Defection Law provided a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences. It accepted "split" within a party if at least one third of the members of the legislative party defect, and allowed the formation of a new party or "merger" with other political party if not less than two thirds of the party's members commit to it. Defections like these can only be stopped by extending the disqualification period from re-contesting to at least six years.

The Centre's policy think tank NITI Aayog has recommended steps to provide social security, including paid leave, occupational disease and accident insurance, support during irregularity of work and pension plans for the country's gig workforce, which is expected to grow to 2.35 crore by 2029-30. According to a study released by NITI Aayog on Monday, the number of gig workers is estimated to be 77 lakh in 2020-21. "India requires a framework that balances the flexibility offered by platforms while also ensuring social security of workers. The consequent platformisation of work has given rise to a new classification of labour — platform labour — falling outside of the purview of the traditional dichotomy of formal and informal labour," the study said.

The GST Council in its two day meeting starting Tuesday is slated to discuss an array of issues, including a mechanism for compensating States for revenue loss, tax rate tweaks in some items and relaxed registration norms for small online suppliers. Further, the Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising State counterparts, will also clear levying the highest tax rate of 28% on online games, casinos and horse racing. The GST Council will also consider a report of the panel of State ministers on making the e-way bill mandatory for intra State movement of gold/ precious stones worth ₹2 lakh and above and e-invoicing mandatory for all taxpayers supplying gold/precious stones and having annual aggregate turnover above ₹20 crore.

### ISKANDER-M MISSILE

- 1.Russia has promised its ally Belarus the delivery of Iskander-M tactical missile systems. The Iskander-M tactical missile systems are the nuclear-capable missiles, which can use ballistic or cruise missiles.
- 2.Codenamed as "SS-26 Stone", it is road-mobile; surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM). The missile is a transporter-erector launch system.
- 3.It can also fire ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs). The Iskander-M system has been exclusively used by the Russian military, whereas Iskander-E is the one meant for export.

### MAASAI TRIBES

- 1.There was tension in Tanzania, when police personnel arrived to reportedly evict Maasai tribes in the area in order to make way for Loliondo Game Reserve for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) royal family. The Maasai tribes are an indigenous ethnic group in East Africa.
- 2.They are semi-nomadic pastoralists settled in Kenya and northern Tanzania. The Maasai are among the foremost African ethnic groups, due to their distinct traditions, customs and dress and their residence near the many national game parks of East Africa.
- 3.Language - Maa, a language derived from Nilo-Saharan. They also speak the official languages of Tanzania and Kenya - Swahili, English.
- 4.Diet - Traditional diet of the Maasai people is derived mostly from their cattle. Though they don't often eat beef; they eat milk and blood which is harvested by puncturing the loose flesh on the cow's neck with an arrow.

### PSEUDOMOGRUS SUDHII

- 1.A new species of spider discovered from the Thar Desert of Rajasthan has been named as Pseudomogrus sudhii, after an Indian arachnologist.
- 2.Pseudomogrus sudhii is a new species of jumping spider of the salticidae family. This species inhabits dry grass blades of the desert. This species of jumping spider was found in the Desert National Park.
- 3.It is the first report of this genus from India. So far, 35 species of spiders of this genus have been discovered worldwide.
- 4.Threat - In Desert National Park, its habitat has been destructed as villagers are cultivating the land. Spiders are important creatures as they are pest-controllers.

### ANCOVAX

- 1.As COVID-19 cases rise across India, the Union Ministry of Agriculture has launched the Ancovax. Ancovax is India's first animal vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is vaccine for animals like dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits. It is an inactivated vaccine (killed vaccine) developed using the antigen (infectious part) of the Delta variant.
- 2.In addition, it uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant to boost the immune response. This vaccine is capable of neutralizing both Delta and Omicron variants. **It was developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE). The aim of the vaccine is to protect endangered animals such as lions and tigers.**
- 3.The vaccine can protect pets, and animals in the zoo. It can also prevent transmission of disease from companion animals to the humans.Carnivac-Cov Prior to Ancovax, Russia had registered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine for animals called Carnivac-Cov in 2021.
- 4.It generated antibodies against the COVID-19 virus in dogs, cats, foxes and mink. The vaccine contains an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 virus strain to elicit humoral and T cell-mediated immune responses in the animals. The vaccine has been developed to prevent animal-to-human viral transmission.

### AEROSOL STUDY ON TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

- 1.The Aerosol study of the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 gives

**Access to energy should not be a privilege of the rich and the poor also should have equal right to energy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. At a special session of the G7 summit in Germany, he said the clean energy sector had emerged as a major domain in India and developed economies should invest in this arena.**

**\$ 600 billion, the funding expected to be mobilised by the G7 leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden by 2027 to deliver transparent and game changing infrastructure projects in developing countries like India, in a move seen as a counter to Chinese President Xi Jinping's multi trillion dollar Belt and Road (BRI) Initiative. The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment was unveiled during the G7 Summit re-launching a scheme unveiled at last year's G7 talks in England.**

**India and the European Union (EU) on Monday resumed negotiations, after a gap of over eight years, for a comprehensive free trade agreement, a move aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two regions. Senior officials from both the sides will hold discussions till July 1.**

**Lashkare Taiba deputy chief and 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks planner Sajid Mir was sentenced by a Pakistan antiterrorism court in Lahore on terror financing charges in May this year, in a speedy trial completed just three weeks after he was arrested, three days before a U.S. Pakistan ministerial meeting and a month before the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary that gave Pakistan a reprieve.**

**The World Bank has approved a \$250 million loan to support the Government of India's road safety programme for seven States under which a single accident reporting number will be set up to better manage post crash events. The India State Support Programme for Road Safety, financed by the World Bank, will be implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The \$250 million variable spread loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 18 years, with a grace period of 5.5 years.**

**Households could get some relief this week as economists expect the Centre to raise the interest rates paid on small savings schemes for the July to September 2022 quarter, with the yields on 10 year government securities hitting a four-year high of 7.6% earlier this month. The rates of interest on instruments**

insight into the transmission characteristics of the novel coronavirus in air in hospital settings and in residential areas and public places. Sampling - A machine, which sucks in air, fitted with a filter on which a gel was spread was taken and worked in the target areas.

**2.**The samples collected from the filter were either Used to carry out an RT-PCR test to determine the presence of the virus, or Cultured by infecting vero cells in the lab (to find out if the collected virus samples were infectious).

**3.Findings - Virus was found in samples collected from COVID-19 wards. Outside, in the corridors and near the hospitals the virus was not detected, implying a dilution or removal of the virus. Having separate COVID-19 wards and negative pressure rooms are good, because infection does not spread very far.** Negative pressure rooms are isolation wards in hospitals to keep persons with infectious diseases.

**4.**The virus was detected even 20-25 feet away from infected persons. This means it is in the air for quite some time. That is why this study confirms that this virus is spreading through air. The virus was detected when they sampled the air in the toilet even 2 hours after an infected person had used it. So, when using public toilets, masks should not be removed, even if no one is present.

**5.**In a closed space, physical distancing alone is not helpful, because the virus borne on droplets can travel upto 20-25 feet. So, people should have their masks on, in closed space, even if they are 6-10 feet away from infected person. Air cleaning and circulation in closed rooms is important. Sterilization filters may be employed for air conditioning.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT AMENDMENT MAY BACKFIRE**

**1.**Child rights panels of three states (Bengal, Rajasthan and Punjab) joined the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), appealing to the Union government to roll back an amendment in the Juvenile Justice Act that makes certain offences against children non-cognisable. In 2021, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act-2015 as amended through Presidential assent. Previously, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) audit of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in 2020, had highlighted glaring issues with the running of childcare institutions.

**2.As per the amendments: Supervision by District Magistrate: DMs and ADMs will monitor the functioning of various agencies under the JJ Act in every district- including the Child Welfare Committees, the Juvenile Justice Boards, and the District Child Protection Units and the Special Juvenile Protection Units.**

**3.**Pan India Problems with the law: Discourages reporting: With this amendment, if anyone goes to the police station to register a complaint, the police will refer them to a magistrate for permission. Need of Complainant: In some cases, NGOs or child rights activists decide to report such instances directly to the police given that they are a cognisable offence (until the amended JJ Act is notified). But the police will look for someone to be made a complainant even when they can verify the complaint and register an FIR if it is a cognisable offence.

**4.**Directions of Magistrate: According to the Code Of Criminal Procedure, once the crimes are rendered non-cognisable, the police will be able to register an FIR only on the directions of a magistrate and a complainant will first have to approach the magistrate concerned to start the process.Loss of wages: Most children at CCIs whose parents are daily wage labourers do not want to engage with the legal process because that would force them to take time off from work, resulting in loss of wages.

### **SPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN GET AN EXCLUSIVE PARK**

**1.**Context: Karnataka State's first disabled-friendly park in Jawaharlal Bal Bhavan (JBB), Cubbon Park was recently inaugurated. Amenities provided: Designed in the shape of a turtle, the park consists of different zones for a wide range of physical, mental, therapeutic, and touch and feel activities.

**2.**The park has a specially designed sand table for children on wheelchairs and a special swing. Tactile pathways make it easier for visually-challenged children to navigate their way around the park.

**3.**To mitigate injuries from falls, all playing surfaces are made of a synthetic, non-toxic, and skid-proof rubber called EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer).

**like the Public Provident Fund and the National Savings Certificate, currently at 7.1% and 6.8%, respectively, have not been changed for eight quarters since a reduction was effected in the first quarter of FY21.**

**NATO will increase the strength of its rapid reaction force nearly eightfold to 3,00,000 troops as part of its response to an “era of strategic competition,” the military alliance’s secretary general said.**

**4.**Need for such disable friendly recreation places: Special children and their parents already struggle with numerous obstacles, biases, and misconceptions in their effort to lead full and capable lives. Instead of adding to their problems, parks or other such places must become a part of the solution by enabling children with disabilities to gain from free and unstructured play and learning just like other children.