

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

5680 number of complaints received by the anticorruption ombudsman Lokpal during 2021-22, of which over 5,100 are yet to be registered, according to a reply by Lokpal to an RTI query filed by a PTI journalist. Of the total complaints received in the last fiscal, 169 were in the format issued by the Centre and 5,511 were under non format category, it said. In March 2020, the government issued a format for filing corruption complaints against public servants with the Lokpal.

The 25hour countdown for the launch of the Indian Space Research Organisation's second dedicated commercial mission of New Space India Ltd., began on Wednesday. The PSLVC53, the 55th flight of ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle, will carry on board three satellites from Singapore. The satellites — DS-EO, a Singaporean Earth Observation Satellite, NeuSAR, Singapore's first small commercial satellite carrying a SAR payload, and SCOOBI satellite from the Nanyang Technological University — will be launched at 6.02 p.m. on Thursday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a proposal to digitise around 63,000 primary agricultural credit societies (PACS). Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said that PACS are the smallest unit in the cooperative sector and their computerisation will prove to be a boon for it. Mr. Shah said the PACS will be digitised at a cost of ₹2,516 crore, which will benefit about 13 crore small and marginal farmers.

\$3.25 billion, the retail sales reported by the Indian direct selling industry in 2021, maintaining India's 12th place in the global rankings, according to a report released by Washington based World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA). The Indian direct selling industry reported a growth of 7.7% in 2021 and had a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 15.7% in the last three years, grabbing the sixth position in the Asia Pacific region, the report added. The U.S. grabbed the first rank.

From July 18, tax hikes will kick in for over two dozen goods and

### PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT

1.The G7 countries have officially launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment in the Leaders' Summit in Germany. The G7 countries are the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, France, Germany, and Japan. The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) is a joint initiative to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries.

2.The PGII was first announced in G7 Summit in the UK in 2021. Back then, the US President Joe Biden had called it the Build Back Better World (B3W) framework. Collectively, the PGII aims to mobilise nearly \$600 billion from the G7 by 2027 to invest in critical infrastructure that improves lives and delivers real gains for all of our people.

3.The project is being seen as the G7 bloc's counter to China's 'Belt and Road Initiative'. The stated purpose of both the PGII and the BRI is to help secure funding for countries to build critical infrastructure such as roads, ports, communication setups, etc. to enhance global trade and cooperation. Purpose - The PGII is a values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership To meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low and middle-income countries and To support the United States' and its allies' economic and national security interests.

4.The PGII of the G7 is meant to be transparent, focused on building climate change-resilient infrastructure, and help in achieving objectives of gender equality and health infrastructure development. Loan, but not an aid - The PGII will finance the projects from both the government and the private sector. The fund is not "charity or aid", but loans. It will be beneficial for both the countries lending and receiving them.

5.**Pillars - The 4 priority pillars, which will define the second half of the 21st century, will drive all the PGII projects. The G7 grouping aims to tackle the climate crisis and ensure global energy security through clean energy supply chains.** The projects will focus on bolstering digital Information and Communications Technology (ICT) networks facilitating technologies like 5G & 6G internet connectivity and cybersecurity.

6.The projects aim to advance gender equality and equity. To build and upgrade global health infrastructure. For India - PGII will invest in companies that increase food security and promote both climate resilience and climate adaptation in India. It will improve the profitability and agricultural productivity of smallholder farms. Apart from India, projects have been announced in countries across West Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America.

### PROJECT 17A

1.The keel for the seventh ship (Y- 12654) of the P17A of Indian Navy was laid at M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai. Keel Laying is a major milestone activity in the construction of ships, symbolising formal commencement of the erection process of warships on the building berth.

2.The Project 17A programme was approved by the Indian Government in 2015 to enhance the combat capabilities of the Indian Navy. The Project 17A is a follow-on of the Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates. The Project 17A frigates are also known as Nilgiri-class stealth frigates. P17A ships have been indigenously designed by the Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Design Group).

3.Seven P17A Frigates under P17A class are being constructed by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), and by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) with MDL as lead yard. The Project 17A frigate will be powered by combined diesel and gas (CODAG) type propulsion system. These ships have stealth features.

4.Ships - The ships will be named after the names of hill ranges in India - INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, INS Udaygiri, INS Dunagiri, INS Taragiri, INS Vindhyagiri and INS Mahendragiri. The lead ship of the class, INS Nilgiri, was launched at MDL in 2019.

services, ranging from unbranded food items, curd and buttermilk to low cost hotels, cheques and maps, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council decided after a two day meet that concluded on Wednesday. Tax rates will be lowered for about half-a-dozen goods and services, including ropeways and truck rentals where fuel costs are included, and scrapped for items imported by private vendors for use by defence forces.

30 percentage, the increase in exports of marine products from India to \$7.76 billion during 2021-22 as against the \$5.96 billion in the previous fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry. India shipped 13,69,264 MT (metric tonne) of seafood worth ₹57,586.48 crore during 2021-22. Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of quantity and value. Its shipments stood at \$5.82 billion last fiscal year. The segment accounts for 75.11 per cent of the total dollar earnings. The U.S. is the largest market for frozen shrimp.

80 number of illegal immigrants from Myanmar who were apprehended from Manipur's Churachandpur district on Tuesday, according to the Manipur police. These illegal immigrants, who did not have any valid documents, were living in rented accommodations in Ngathal village and Vaal Veng of the district, the police informed. They added that among those apprehended 25 were men, 35 women and 20 children. A case has been registered against them. The adults will be produced before the court for remand.

On June 28, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced the signing of a MoU between Turkey, Finland and Sweden which has led to Turkey vocalising its support for the inclusion of both the nations in NATO. Turkey was initially against Finland and Sweden joining NATO. Though there were no direct issues between Turkey with Sweden and Finland, the former was against the latter for their position on the Kurdish issue.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday said the remarks of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) regarding the arrest of activist Teesta Setalvad were "unacceptable". MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi defended the arrest of Ms. Setalvad, and said the matter was being conducted in "accordance" with law.

Armies of India and Australia held the ninth Army to Army Staff Talks in Dehradun, which were focused on joint military exercises, training cooperation and preparing a

Construction of P17A ships differ in the very concept of warship building by adopting 'Integrated Construction' technology where the blocks are pre-outfitted before joining to reduce the build period of warships.

### **NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA**

1.A 108-ft bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda will be unveiled soon at the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru. Nadaprabhu Kempegowda is a 16th century chieftain of the Vijayanagara Empire.

2.He initially ruled from his ancestral land of Yelahanka, and later moved south to construct and rule from the fort of Bengaluru. Nadaprabhu is credited to be the founder of Bengaluru.

3.He conceived the idea of a new city while hunting with his minister, and later marked its territory by erecting towers in four corners of the proposed city. Kempegowda is also known to have developed around 1,000 lakes in the city to cater to drinking and agricultural needs.

### **SPECIAL AND DIFFERENT TREATMENT**

1.The World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements contain special provisions, which give developing countries special rights and allow other members to treat them more favourably. These are Special and Differential Treatment (S&D or SDT) provisions.

2.The special provisions include: Longer time periods for implementing agreements & commitments Measures to increase trading opportunities for these countries Provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries Support to help developing countries build the infrastructure to undertake WTO work, handle disputes, and implement technical standard Provisions related to least-developed country (LDC) members.

3.In the Doha Declaration (2001), ministers agreed that all special and differential treatment provisions should be reviewed, in order to strengthen them and make them more precise, effective and operational. 4.Selection Process - As a result of the self-selection process, there is a competition among the members to get the developing country status. It is visible that several advanced countries also taken developing country status.

5.At the Doha Ministerial Conference, a Committee was mandated to examine these special and differential treatment provisions. Later, at the Bali Ministerial Conference (2013) a mechanism was established to review and analyse the implementation of special and differential treatment provisions.

### **KIHOTO HOLLOHAN JUDGMENT**

1.The Supreme Court gave the 16 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs time to respond to the disqualification notice issued by the Deputy Speaker. In the context of the crisis, references have been made to the Supreme Court judgment in 'Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others' (1992) that upheld the sweeping discretion of the Speaker in deciding disqualification of MLAs.

2.The 'Anti-Defection Law 1985' or the 'Tenth Schedule' of the Constitution covers the disqualification of lawmakers and the powers of the Speaker in deciding such matters. A constitutional challenge to the 'Anti-Defection Law' was mounted, which was settled by the SC in 'Kihoto Hollohan'.

3.Petition - The principal question before the Supreme Court in the case was whether the powerful role given to the Speaker violated the doctrine of basic structure. [Doctrine of basic structure says that the judicial principle that certain basic features of the Constitution cannot be altered by amendments by the Parliament.] The petitioners in 'Kihoto Hollohan' argued whether it was fair that the Speaker should have such broad powers, given that there is always a reasonable likelihood of bias.

4.Judgment - The SC said that the Speakers/Chairmen hold a pivotal position in the scheme of Parliamentary democracy and are guardians of the rights and privileges of the House. They are expected to and do take far-reaching decisions in the Parliamentary democracy. Vestiture of power to adjudicate questions under the Tenth Schedule in them should not be considered exceptionable.

5.The SC also concluded that the judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/ Chairman and a quia timet action would not be permissible. Nor would interference be permissible at an

**roadmap for enhanced defence cooperation, the Army said in a statement.**

**The Maharashtra Cabinet cleared the decision to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to Sambhajinagar and Dharashiv, respectively, and passed the proposal to give the name of late farmer leader D.B. Patil to the under construction Navi Mumbai international airport.**

**Steps taken to check vehicle speed on roads in India could alone have the biggest impact on ensuring road safety by saving 20,554 lives annually, says a new Lancet study, which underlines that interventions focusing on four key risk factors such as speeding, drunk driving, non use of crash helmets and seat belts could prevent 25% to 40% of the 13.5 lakh fatal road injuries worldwide every year.**

interlocutory stage of the proceedings.

**6.Role of the Deputy Speaker - Article 93 of the Constitution mentions the positions of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Article 178 contains the corresponding position for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of a state.** Article 95(1) says: "While the office of Speaker is vacant, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Deputy Speaker".

**7.**In general, the Deputy Speaker has the same powers as the Speaker when presiding over a sitting of the House. All references to the Speaker in the Rules are deemed to be references to the Deputy Speaker when he presides.