

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Environment Ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee has recommended grant of environment clearance for Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd.'s expansion project in Tamil Nadu's Madurantakam taluk, around 3.7 km from the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. The green nod will, however, be subject to the judgment in a case against the company pending at the National Green Tribunal and orders of any other court of law, the panel said. It also laid down a few conditions. "No banned chemicals shall be manufactured by the project proponent. No banned raw materials shall be used in the unit. The project proponent shall adhere to the notifications/guidelines of the government in this regard," the panel said. It directed the firm to explore the option of recycling treated water in the unit to reduce freshwater demand.

India aspires to have a permanent presence with more research and satellite ground stations in the Arctic region, suggests a perusal of its Arctic Policy document officially unveiled last week. India now has a single station, Himadri, in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago, where research personnel are usually present for 180 days. India is in the process of procuring an icebreaker research vessel that can navigate the region. Through its existing satellites, India aspires to capture more detailed images to "assist in the development of the Arctic region". Eight nations — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Russia, Sweden and the United States — make up the Arctic Council. The region is home to about four million, a tenth of them being indigenous tribes.

The Income Tax Department is working to improve the "abysmally poor" tax literacy in the country so that the number of taxpayers and entities can be increased leading to enhanced collections, CBDT Chairman J.B. Mohapatra has said. He said the direct tax establishment — the government authority that primarily collects personal income tax, corporation tax and others — will do "everything possible" to see that the effective number of taxpayers who can add to the revenue kitty are enhanced.

The Income Tax Department has

INDIA'S DRAFT MEDICAL DEVICES POLICY

1. Recently, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers released an Approach Paper for the Draft National Policy for the Medical Devices, 2022.

2. Highlights of the Draft: **Building Competitiveness through fiscal and financial support for stimulating the development of the local manufacturing ecosystem with private sector investments.** Incentivise core technology projects and exports through tax refunds and rebates. Adopt Public-private partnerships to reduce the cost of healthcare and drive efficiency. Create a single-window clearance system for licensing medical devices.

3. Identify critical suppliers and promote local sourcing. Encourage cross-industry collaboration. Increase the share of medical technology companies in research and development to around 50%. A dedicated fund for encouraging joint research involving existing industry players, reputed academic institutions and startups. Incorporate a framework for a coherent pricing regulation to make available quality and effective medical devices to all citizens at affordable prices.

4. This Policy envisions that by 2047: India Will be having few National Institutes of Medical Devices Education and Research (NIMERs) on the lines of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPERs). It will be home & originator to 25 high-end futuristic technologies in MedTech (Medical Technology). It will have a MedTech Industry of USD100-300 Bn size with 10-12% of Global Market Share.

5. **Need for and significance of the policy: Nearly 80% of the medical devices currently sold in the country are imported, particularly high-end devices.** This new policy aims to reduce India's import dependence to nearly 30% in the next 10 years. The policy aims to increase India's per capita spending on medical devices. India has one of the lowest per capita spend on medical devices at \$3 compared to the global average of per capita consumption \$47.

6. Government initiatives so far: PLI Scheme for promoting domestic manufacturing of Medical Devices. Promotion of Medical Devices Parks. Medical devices has been recognised as a sunrise sector under the 'Make in India' campaign in 2014.

CONTROVERSY OVER BHAGAT SINGH PHOTOGRAPHED AT PUNJAB CM OFFICE

1. A photograph of Bhagat Singh in Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's office has run into a controversy. The new AAP Party CM has said that he dreams of creating an egalitarian Punjab that Bhagat Singh had dreamt of and sacrificed his life for. However, the basanti (yellow) turban Bhagat Singh is seen wearing in the photo is being objected to, primarily for the photo's lack of authenticity.

2. Issue now-**According to experts, there are only four original photographs of him. In one picture, he is sitting with open hair in jail, another shows him in a hat and two others show him in a white turban.** All other pictures showing him in yellow or orange turbans or even with a weapon in his hand are products of imagination.

3. Bhagat Singh was born in 1907 in Lyallpur district (now in Pakistan), and grew up in a Sikh family deeply involved in political activities. In 1923, Bhagat Singh joined the National College, Lahore which was founded and managed by Lala Lajpat Rai and Bhai Parmanand. In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), started by Sachindranath Sanyal a year earlier. In 1928, HRA was renamed from Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). In 1925-26 Bhagat Singh and his colleagues started a militant youth organization called the Naujawan Bharat Sabha. In 1927, he was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel).

4. **In 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai had led a procession to protest against the arrival of the Simon Commission. The police resorted to a brutal lathi charge, in which Lala Lajpat Rai was severely injured and later succumbed to his injuries.** To

accused a unicorn startup group, having an annual turnover of over ₹6,000 crore, of showing bogus purchases, making huge unaccountedfor cash expenditures and obtaining accommodation entries, amounting to about ₹400 crore.

More than 2,000 Tunisians rallied on Sunday, the country's independence day, against President Kais Saied and a project he launched to gauge public opinion on proposed constitutional reforms. Protesters in the capital shouted "the people want to overthrow the president" and "no to consultations".

North Korea fired suspected artillery pieces into the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after the North's latest missile launch ended in failure amid the country's recent burst of weapons testing activity. There is speculation that North Korea could soon try to launch its longest range ballistic missile to bolster its arsenal and dial up pressure on the U.S. to wrest concessions as negotiations remain stalled.

At least two people in Sri Lanka died while waiting in long queues for fuel, officials said on Sunday, as widespread shortages cause misery and hardship across the island nation. Sri Lanka is battling the worst economic crisis in its history as an independent nation, with a lack of foreign exchange to purchase vital imports shrinking the supply of essential goods.

Ukrainian authorities said that Russia had bombed a school sheltering 400 people in the besieged port of Mariupol, as Moscow claimed that it had again fired hypersonic missiles in Ukraine, the second time it had used the next-generation weapon on its neighbour

Yemen's Houthi rebels unleashed a barrage of drone and missile strikes on Saudi Arabia that targeted key facilities, including natural gas and desalination plants, Saudi state run media reported, temporarily cutting oil production at one site.

The price of diesel sold to bulk users has been hiked by about ₹25 a litre in line with a near 40% rise in international oil prices, but retail rates at petrol pumps remain unchanged, sources said.

There is no reason to be unhappy with the Indian position regarding the Ukraine crisis, the Australian envoy to India said here on Sunday.

take revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh and his associates plotted the assassination of James A. Scott, the Superintendent of Police. However, the revolutionaries mistakenly killed J.P. Saunders. The incident is famously known as Lahore Conspiracy case (1929). Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt threw a bomb on 8 April, 1929 in the Central Legislative Assembly, in protest against the passing of two repressive bills, the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill. The aim was not to kill but to make the deaf hear, and to remind the foreign government of its callous exploitation.

5.Trial: Both Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt surrendered thereafter and faced trial so they could further promote their cause. They were awarded life imprisonment for this incident. However, Bhagat Singh was re-arrested for the murder of J.P. Saunders and bomb manufacturing in the Lahore Conspiracy case. He was found guilty in this case and was hanged on 23rd March, 1931 in Lahore along with Sukhdev and Rajguru. Every year, March 23 is observed as Martyrs' Day as a tribute to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR POSH ACT

1.Kerala High Court has asked organisations associated with the film industry to take steps to constitute a joint committee to deal with cases of sexual harassment of women, in line with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013.

2.Vishaka guidelines-The Vishaka guidelines (legally binding) were laid down by the Supreme Court in a judgment in 1997. This was in a case filed by women's rights groups, one of which was Vishaka. The guidelines defined sexual harassment and imposed three key obligations on institutions — prohibition, prevention, redress. The Supreme Court directed that they should establish a Complaints Committee, which would look into matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace. The 2013 Act broadened these guidelines.

3.About the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013: The law against sexual harassment is commonly known as the prevention of sexual harassment or POSH Act, passed by Parliament in 2013.

4.Definition of sexual harassment: Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition And Redressal) Act, 2013 defines sexual harassment: It includes "any one or more" of the following "unwelcome acts or behaviour"committed directly or by implication: Physical contact and advances, Sexually coloured remarks, Showing pornography, A demand or request for sexual favours, Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

5.Need for stricter provisions: The 2013 Act has entrusted the powers of a civil court to the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)without specifying if the members need to have a legal background. This was a major lacuna given that the ICC formed an important grievance redressal mechanism under the framework of the act. The 2013 act only imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on employers for non-compliance with respect to the constitution of the ICC. This proved to be insufficient in ensuring that the employers constituted the ICC in a time-bound manner.

MERI POLICY MERE HAATH CAMPAIGN

1.'Meri Policy Mere Haath' campaign was launched recently in Hassan, Karnataka.

2.About the Campaign: The campaign is part of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. It is aimed at motivating all farmers in the country to insure their crops. Under this program, every farmer who has taken insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will get the policy documents at their doorstep.

3.Significance: The campaign empowers the farmers through crop insurance awareness and by bringing the insurance policy to their doorsteps. The campaign will also help in increasing the direct communication between the farmers and insurance companies.

4.About PMFBY: The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has successfully entered its seventh year of implementation with the upcoming Kharif 2022 season, completing six years of its implementation since its announcement on 18 February 2016.

Addressing the media here, High Commissioner Barry O'Farrel appreciated India's efforts in this regard and said Canberra is hopeful of concluding the early harvest trade deal by the end of the March.

FIRST CYCLONE OF 2022 NAMED ASANI

- 1.**A low pressure area that formed over the southwest Indian Ocean is expected to intensify into a cyclone this week.
- 2.**The Cyclone has been named The name was suggested by India's southern neighbour Sri Lanka.
- 3.**It is expected to travel along and off the coast of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands before it intensifies into a depression.