

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The creator ecosystem at YouTube contributed an estimated ₹6,800 crore to the Indian GDP and generated more than 6.83 lakh fulltime equivalent jobs in India in 2020, according to a report by Oxford Economics release. Number of channels in India having more than 1,00,000 subscribers now at 40,000, marking a growth in excess of 45% year on year, more Indian creators were finding audiences on YouTube. "Today, the number of channels earning at least ₹1,00,000 in revenue has increased 60% year on year [as of June 2021]. This continues to motivate more creative thinkers and doers, from across all backgrounds and geographies, to... build new ventures on YouTube."

The Beijing based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said on Thursday it was putting on hold and reviewing all projects in Russia and Belarus. The move comes amid sweeping sanctions and other financial measures aimed at Russia from a number of countries over its invasion of Ukraine. China is the AIIB's largest shareholder with a 26.5% voting share. India is the second largest, with 7.5%, followed by Russia, which has a 5.97% voting share. Belarus is also a member of the bank, which is headed by China's Jin Liqun. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel is a Vice President of the bank.

A large number of Indian students "continue" to remain "hostage" in a train station in Kharkiv, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday evening. The Russian leader's comments came hours after India said that its plans to evacuate nationals from the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv were disrupted as fighting in the city had resumed after a brief pause during Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of Japan and Australia took part in a suddenly convened "Quad Summit" hosted by U.S. President Joseph Biden on Thursday to announce a new mechanism for humanitarian assistance in the Indo-Pacific, and the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the region.

After the Supreme Court refused to accept the interim report filed by the Maharashtra State Backward Classes Commission recommending 27% reservation for OBCs in local bodies, the State Cabinet passed a

KATCHATHEEVU ISLAND

1. Recently, eight fishermen from Tamil Nadu were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy near Katchatheevu Island for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Katchatheevu is an uninhabited islet in the Palk Strait that was formed due to volcanic eruption in the 14th century.

2. This 285-acre land was owned by the Raja of Ramanathapuram. **Later, it became part of the Madras Presidency after the delimitation of Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait during British rule between the then governments of Madras and Ceylon.**

3. During the British rule, it was administered jointly by India and Sri Lanka. This island is strategically important for fishing activities. In 1921, both Sri Lanka and India claimed this piece of land for fishing and the dispute remained unsettled.

CLUSTER BOMBS

1. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and Ukraine's ambassador to the United States accused Russia of using cluster bombs and vacuum bombs in the ongoing war. **Cluster Bombs According to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, a cluster munition or a cluster bomb means a "conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms, and includes those explosive submunitions".**

2. Cluster munitions are non-precision weapons that are designed to injure or kill human beings indiscriminately over a large area, and to destroy vehicles and infrastructure such as runways, railway or power transmission lines. They are dropped from aircraft or fired from the ground or sea, opening up in mid-air to release tens or hundreds of submunitions or bomblets.

3. Many of these bomblets end up not exploding, but continue to lie on the ground, often partially or fully hidden and difficult to locate and remove, posing a threat to the civilian population for long after the war is ceased. The Convention on Cluster Munitions specifically identifies "cluster munition remnants", which include failed cluster munitions, abandoned cluster munitions, unexploded submunitions and unexploded bomblets. Countries that have ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions are prohibited from using cluster bombs.

VACUUM BOMBS

1. Vacuum bombs are also known as aerosol bombs, fuel air explosives, or thermo-baric weapons. A vacuum bomb consists of a fuel container with two separate explosive charges. **They use oxygen from the air for a large, high-temperature blast. They cause significantly greater devastation than a conventional bomb of comparable size.**

2. The weapons, which go off in two separate stages, can be fired as rockets from tank-mounted launchers or dropped from aircraft. Two stages - As they hit their target, a first explosion splits open the bomb's fuel container, releasing a cloud of fuel and metal particles that spreads over a large area.

3. A second explosion then occurs, igniting the aerosol cloud into a giant ball of fire and sending out intense blast waves that can destroy even reinforced buildings or equipment and vaporise human beings. Vacuum bombs are not prohibited by any international law or agreement, but their use against civilian populations in built-up areas, schools or hospitals, could attract action under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.

ISCHEMIC STROKE

1. A 22-year-old student from Punjab who had suffered an ischemic stroke and was undergoing treatment for about a month died in Ukraine. There are two types of stroke - ischemic and hemorrhagic. A stroke is a medical emergency, and prompt treatment is crucial. Early action can reduce brain damage and other complications.

2. An ischemic stroke is the more common type of stroke. It's also referred to as brain ischemia and cerebral ischemia. Causes - It

resolution to not hold polls till the quota is restored.

India's trade deficit, which shot back up to \$21.2 billion in February, is expected to stay elevated in the coming months and the current account deficit could widen to 2.6% of GDP in 2022/23, from 1.7% this year, Nomura said in a report on Thursday. "The surge in oil prices, amid a pickup in domestic demand, will significantly enhance India's import bill, aided by the broader rise in commodities and fertilizers and an anticipation that gold imports will remain high as investors look to hedge against market volatility and inflation," the Japanese financial services group said.

The Finance Ministry will start daily monitoring of the revenue receipts, including tax collections, as well as expenditure, from March 15. This, officials said, would help the government keep the fiscal deficit within stated targets.

India's sunflower oil imports fell 54% in February from the prior month as shipments from the Black Sea region were hit after Russia invaded Ukraine, four dealers told Reuters.

A crippling fuel shortage and consequent power cuts across Sri Lanka are threatening to worsen the island nation's persisting economic crisis, while sparking protests from citizens.

The Defence Ministry has Accorded In-Principle (AIP) approval to four projects under Make-I, government funded, and five under Make II, industry-funded, categories of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 which includes development of a light tank for the Army and communication equipment for the Indian Air Force. "The industry will be provided financial support for prototype development of these projects," the Ministry said.

The Income Tax Department on Thursday claimed to have detected irregularities on the part of a multinational group engaged in the distribution of telecom products and providing captive software development services. The department had initiated the searches on the premises of the company and its key office bearers in Delhi, Gurugram and Bengaluru on February 15. An agency source confirmed the group's identity as Huwaei.

The value of foreign portfolio investors' (FPI) holdings in domestic equities reached \$654 billion in three months ended December 2021,

is usually caused by a blood clot that blocks a blood vessel in the brain. This interrupts or reduces blood from flowing to the brain. This, in turn, will prevent brain tissue from getting oxygen and nutrients. Brain cells begin to die in minutes. Another cause is stenosis, or narrowing of the artery.

3. This can happen because of atherosclerosis, a disease in which plaque builds up inside your arteries. Transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) also known as a ministroke, occur when the blood supply to the brain is interrupted briefly. Having a TIA can mean you are at risk for having a more serious stroke.

4. Symptoms - Trouble speaking & understanding what others are saying. Paralysis or numbness of the face, arm or leg. Problems seeing in one or both eyes. A sudden, severe headache, which may be accompanied by vomiting, dizziness or altered consciousness. Trouble walking

WHO's PANDEMIC TREATY

1. Members of the World Health Organisation (WHO) held the first round of negotiations towards the Pandemic Treaty. The WHO adopted a decision titled "The World Together" at its 2nd special session since it was founded in 1948.

2. Under the decision, the WHO established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate the contents of the pandemic treaty in compliance with Article 19 of the WHO Constitution. The need for the pandemic treaty was felt after the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the shortcomings of global health systems.

3. The New pandemic treaty would signal high-level political action needed to protect the world from future health crises. This treaty is expected to cover aspects like data sharing and genome sequencing of emerging viruses and equitable distribution of vaccines and drugs and related research throughout the world.

4. Solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic have seen an inequitable distribution of vaccines so far, with poorer countries at the mercy of others to receive preventive medication. While the EU wants the treaty to be legally binding, the U.S., Brazil and India have expressed reservations about the same.

5. The legal nature of the treaty is yet to be defined. Article 19 of the WHO-Article 19 of the WHO Constitution gives the WHO the authority to adopt conventions or agreements on matters of health. A two-third majority is needed to adopt such conventions or agreements. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was set up under Article 19 and it came into force in 2005.

GHOSTS FLIGHTS

1. With the decline in flights for business or pleasure due to the ongoing pandemic, airlines that are attempting to maintain market share are complaining about the 'ghost flights' they are being forced to fly. A European Union (EU) regulation that dates back to 1993 requires European airlines to maintain empty or near-empty flights just to retain their take-off and landing slots.

2. This 'use it or lose it' system was employed to ensure that airlines have access to the busiest EU airports on the basis of principles of neutrality, transparency & non-discrimination.

This is done to avoid the slots from being handed over to other airlines that might be competitors or new market entrants. Usually, these airlines are required to use up to 80% of their slots to secure them.

3. Owing to the pandemic, this threshold was temporarily reduced to 50% of booked flights but as soon as this winter ends in March 2022, it is set to once again increase to 64%. Essentially, airline operators have to prove that they have adequate market demand that justifies their holdings. It is a reported fact that the aviation sector accounts for a considerable amount of carbon emissions worldwide.

SOURCE OF RUSSIA'S DISPUTE WITH NATO

1. Russian leaders have long been wary of the eastward expansion of NATO, particularly as the alliance opened its doors to former Warsaw Pact states and ex-Soviet republics in the late 1990s (the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland) and early 2000s (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia).

2. Their fears grew in the late 2000s as the alliance stated its intent to admit Georgia and Ukraine at an unspecified point in the future.

3. Russia demanding of NATO and the United States today- **Russia has put forth two draft agreements that seek explicit,**

a drop of almost 2% from the preceding quarter, according to a Morningstar report. This was largely on the back of a massive sell off by foreign investors and a correction in the Indian equity markets, especially in the large and midcap sectors.

legally binding security guarantees from the United States and NATO, respectively: The draft calls for NATO to end its eastward expansion, specifically, deny future membership to ex-Soviet states, such as Ukraine.

4.It would also ban the United States from establishing bases in or cooperating militarily with former Soviet states. It would block both signatories from deploying military assets in areas outside their national borders that “could be perceived by the other party as a threat to its national security.”