

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Noted architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi has been conferred with the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022, which is considered the world's highest honour for architecture.

18 percentage of the goods and services tax (GST) requested to be retained by the online skill based gaming industry instead of the 28% rate category (the highest category) it was assigned earlier, saying that the move will badly hit the \$2.2 billion sector. The increase in taxation would not only have a catastrophic impact on the industry but also encourage offshore operators who would circumvent Indian tax jurisdiction by hosting games in some other country, according to Games24x7 Co-CEO Trivikraman Thampy.

19 percentage of households in India that do not use any toilet facility according to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS). Even though India was declared open defecation free in 2019, the NFHS5 survey conducted in 2019-21 showed that despite a decrease in open defecation from 39% in 2015-16, the problem still persists in the country. Access to a toilet facility is lowest in Bihar (62%), followed by Jharkhand (70%) and Odisha (71%). According to the report, 69.3% of households have access to improved toilet facilities.

\$144 million, the amount the United Nations is seeking to fund in order to salvage a decaying tanker full of oil moored off the coast of Yemen. The ship's demise could cause an environmental disaster, the organisation informed on Wednesday. The amount includes the \$80 million needed to transfer more than one million barrels of crude oil the FSO (floating storage and offloading unit) SAFER is carrying in storage, according to David Gressly, the U.N. resident and humanitarian coordinator for Yemen.

The Supreme Court suspended pending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code, while allowing the Union of India to reconsider the British era law. "All pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124A of the IPC be kept in abeyance," a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana,

## PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY COMPLETE 7 YEARS

1. Social security schemes Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have completed seven years of their launch. When were the schemes launched? The schemes were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015.

2. **PMJJBY:** It is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason. Eligibility: Individuals in the age group of 18-50 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. Life cover of Rs 2 lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs 330 per annum. Achievements: 12.76 crore enrollments.

3. **PMSBY:** It is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident. Eligibility: Individuals in the age group of 18-70 years having a savings bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. Accidental death cum disability cover of Rs.2 lakh (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident. Achievements: 28.37 crore enrollments.

4. **APY:** It seeks to provide financial security and cover future exigencies for the people in the unorganized sector. APY is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the overall administrative and institutional architecture of the National Pension System (NPS). Eligibility: Open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years. Achievements: 4 Crore registrations.

## PUNJAB PROMOTING GREEN MANURE

1. Punjab Government is promoting the cultivation of green manure these days. The state government is providing a subsidy on the seed at the rate of Rs 2,000 per quintal. Green manure- These are crops grown specifically for maintaining soil fertility and structure. They are normally incorporated back into the soil, either directly, or after removal and composting. Green manure varieties are incorporated into the soil when the crop is 42-56 days old.

2. Examples: There are three main varieties of green manure, including Dhaincha, Cowpea, Sunhemp. Also some crops such as summer moong, mash pulses and guar act as green manure. Benefits- Helps in enhancing the organic matter in the soil. Meets the deficiency of the micronutrients. Reduces the consumption of the inorganic fertilisers. It is a good alternative to the organic manure. It conserves the nutrients, adds nitrogen and stabilises the soil structure. It decomposes rapidly and liberates large quantities of carbon dioxide and weak acids, which act on insoluble soil minerals to release nutrients for plant growth. It contains 15 to 18 quintals of dry matter, which also contains phosphorus, potassium, zinc, copper, iron and manganese, per acre and 20 to 40kg per acre of nitrogen.

3. Why is sowing of green manure important in Punjab- **Punjab's per hectare fertiliser consumption, which is around 244 kg, is one of the highest in the country and is also higher than the national average. Green manure can curtail this consumption to a large extent by 25 to 30% and can save huge input cost for the farmers.**

4. Regular use of chemical fertilisers such as urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP) lead to deficiencies of micronutrients like iron and zinc, especially in the soils where rice is cultivated thus affecting productivity. PH level of the soil in several parts of Punjab is more than 8.5 and 9 per cent. Green manure helps maintain it.

## TISSUE CULTURE PLANTS

1. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) recently conducted a webinar on "Export Promotion of Tissue Culture Plants such as Foliage, Live Plants, Cut Flowers, and Planting Material". The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) accredited tissue culture laboratories spread

ordered. It was argued in court that nearly 13,000 people were already in jail under the sedition provision.

A claim by the Centre that the President, and not the Tamil Nadu Governor, has “exclusive power” to decide on the plea for pardon by the Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict A.G. Perarivalan drew flak from the Supreme Court on Wednesday before it reserved the case for judgment. A three judge Bench, led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, said the government's argument, if taken on face value, would leave Article 161 (the constitutional power of Governors of States to grant pardon) a “dead letter”.

Inflation is now the biggest challenge for India's policy makers rather than the U.S. Federal Reserve's taper programme and measures like interest rate increases to stem rising prices could dent the fledgling consumption demand recovery from the pandemic not just in India but globally, a senior official said .

The fluid situation in Colombo port, where cargo operations were fully suspended on Tuesday in view of the tense situation in the island, has forced shippers from the South, especially Kerala, to seek alternative routes to cater to the needs of export-import community here. Kerala Exporters' Forum has urged all the members of the trade to route their Jebel Ali and West Asia cargo either via Cochin port Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai or Cochin Port-Mundra Port or via Chennai-Dubai.

Solomon Islands' Prime Minister dismissed criticism of a new maritime investment deal with China on Wednesday, saying there was nothing “sinister” in the draft agreement.

Sri Lanka's Central Bank chief on Wednesday warned that the economy would “collapse completely” unless political stability is urgently restored and a new government is appointed to run the crisis hit country.

Nobel laureate and crusader for the rights of children Kailash Satyarthi is headed to the fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Durban, South Africa, from May 15 to 20. His trajectory for the future though is to build support for an international social protection mechanism for all children and pregnant women in all low income countries, and he is campaigning

across India participated in the Webinar.

2.It is culturing plant seeds, organs, explants, tissues, cells, or protoplasts on a chemically defined synthetic nutrient media under sterile and controlled conditions of light, temperature, and humidity.

**3.Advantages of plant tissue culture: Quickly produce mature plants. Allows them to be moved with greatly reduced chances of transmitting diseases, pests, and pathogens. Storage of genetic plant material to safeguard native plant species.**

4.India's exports of tissue culture plants: In 2020-2021, India's exports of tissue culture plants stood at US USD 17.17 million, with the Netherlands accounting for around 50 per cent of the shipments. The top ten countries importing tissue culture plants from India are the Netherlands, USA, Italy, Australia, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia and Nepal.

5.Issues and challenges faced by tissue culture plant laboratories: Increasing power costs. Low efficiency levels of the skilled workforce in the laboratories. Contamination issues in the laboratories. Cost of transportation of micro-propagated planting material. Lack of harmonization in the HS code of Indian planting material with other nations. Objections raised by the forest and quarantine departments to the export of live planting material.

**6.APEDA is running a Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to help laboratories upgrade themselves so as to produce export quality tissue culture planting material.** It also facilitates exports of tissue culture planting material to diversified countries through market development, market analysis and promotion and exhibition of tissue culture plants at international exhibitions and by participating in buyer-seller meets at different international forums.

#### **RAILTEL LAUNCHES PM-WANI BASED “ACCESS TO ITS WIFI ACROSS 100 RAILWAY STATIONS**

1.It is Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme based access to Public WiFi services across 100 railway stations having 2,384 WiFi hotspots in 22 states. Launched by? RailTel, a “Mini Ratna (Category-I)” PSU, is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network on exclusive Right of Way (ROW) along Railway track.

2.It is under the ownership of Indian Railways. How it Works? To access this WiFi network, android users can download the mobile app ‘Wi-DOT’ available on Google Play Store. This app has been developed in close coordination with C-DOT.

3.PM-WANI is an ambitious program of the Department of Telecom (DoT) to connect all silo Wi-Fi networks for ease of use and proliferate broadband usage for the masses.

#### **PULITZER PRIZE**

1.A team of four Indian photographers from Reuters news agency — slain photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave — have won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography for their coverage of the Covid-19 crisis in India.

2.Pulitzer Prize is awarded for outstanding public service and achievement in American journalism, letters, and music. It is awarded in the name of Joseph Pulitzer, a newspaper publisher who gave money in his will to Columbia University to launch a journalism school and establish the Prize.

3.It was established in 1917 and is administered by Columbia University and Pulitzer Prize Board. Each winner receives a certificate and a US\$15,000 cash award. The winner in the public service category is awarded a gold medal.

**4.Indians/Indian origins who have previously won the Pulitzer: Gobind Behari: the first from India to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism in 1937. Jhumpa Lahiri: Geeta Anand: Siddhartha Mukherjee: Sanghamitra Kalita.**

#### **INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUPS(IBGs)**

1.The Army has identified a holding formation on the Western front and a Strike formation on the Northern borders to be converted into agile Integrated Battle Groups (IBG). What are they? IBGs are brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.

2.Each IBG would be tailor-made based on Threat, Terrain and Task and resources will be allotted based on the three Ts. They

**vigorously for this among the world leaders.**

**It is worrying that over 98% of gender based violence (GBV) survivors do not access healthcare, though such experiences may have long term physical and psychological consequences, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) said in a statement released on Wednesday on the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHSV) data on GBV.**

need to be light so they will be low on logistics and they will be able to mobilise within 12-48 hrs based on the location. Their structure: While a Command is the largest static formation of the Army spread across a defined geography, a Corps is the largest mobile formation.

**3.**Typically, each Corps has about three Divisions. The idea is to reorganise them into IBGs which are Brigade sized units but have all the essential elements like infantry, armoured, artillery and air defence embedded together.