

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

50 cities across India in which the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is set to launch Urban Meteorological Services (UMS), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General, India Meteorological Department said. The weather office had launched the UMS for Delhi NCR in June last year from 13 weather stations to provide current observations through Nowcast. Metro cities such as Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru are expected to see the launch of UMS in the first phase.

6523 Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings released into the sea from nesting sites this year in Goa. "Turtle conservation is being carried out at four nesting beaches in Goa: Morjim and Mandrem in North Goa, Agonda and Galgibagh in South Goa. Olive Ridley turtles are one of five marine turtles that visit these beaches and lay eggs from November to April. The Forest Department keeps the eggs in an artificial hatchery.

Maharashtra is set to become a one trillion dollar economy and will be the first State in the country to achieve this target, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari said.

Going ahead with its downsizing plan, the Indian Railways has announced the closure of the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA), Lucknow. Established in March 2016, the SRESTHA directorate, part of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), was tasked with the role of taking up longterm railway research projects requiring technological advancement.

4 crore women who underwent breast screening for detection of its cancer, while 3.16 crore others were screened for cervical cancer under the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani said. She added that 45 crore visits by women were registered in the last two years at the health and wellness centres set up under Ayushman Bharat, the Centre's health protection scheme, for primary health care. She said that only 11% of the workforce in the sector comprised of women.

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues hit a fresh high of ₹1,67,540 crore in April, with

## RULES FOR RESIGNATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF AN OFFICER

1.Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Shah Faesal, who resigned from the service in protest against the "unabated" killings in Kashmir in 2019, has been reinstated. Faesal's resignation, in January 2019, had not been accepted by the government, pending investigation into some of his posts on social media.

2.The resignation of an officer of any of the three All-India Services — IAS, the Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service — is governed by Rules 5(1) and 5(1)(A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958. An officer serving in a cadre (state) must submit his/her resignation to the chief secretary of the state. An officer who is on central deputation is required to submit his/her resignation to the secretary of the concerned Ministry or Department. Before forwarding the resignation to the central government, the concerned state is supposed to send information on the issues of dues and vigilance status, along with its recommendation.

3.The state checks to see if any dues are outstanding against the officer, as well as the vigilance status of the officer or whether any cases of corruption etc. are pending against him/her. In case there is such a case, the resignation is normally rejected.

4.Minister of State at the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) in respect of the IAS, the Minister for Home Affairs in respect of the IPS, and the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in respect of the Forest Service.

5.The central government may permit an officer to withdraw his/her resignation "in the public interest".

## ISSUES SURROUNDING SEDITION

1.NCP chief Sharad Pawar recently created a stir with his affidavit before the Bhima Koregaon inquiry commission, wherein he said that the archaic sedition law should be repealed. He said there were acts like Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in place that could effectively deal with these activities.

2.The section is being more misused than used these days; anyone who criticizes the government is arrested under the stringent sedition. In most of the cases innocents were being framed. If one looks at the recent cases where the sedition charges have been invoked, then most of them are fairly covered under other law and order provisions.

3.Arguments in Support of Section 124A: Section 124A of the IPC has its utility in combating anti-national, secessionist and terrorist elements. It protects the elected government from attempts to overthrow the government with violence and illegal means. The continued existence of the government established by law is an essential condition of the stability of the State. If contempt of court invites penal action, contempt of government should also attract punishment.

4.Section 124A of the IPC states, "Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the government established by law in shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine."

5.Recent views of Supreme Court: The Supreme Court, in June 2021, said "it is time to define the limits of sedition". The observation was made while dealing with the writ petitions filed by two news channels seeking the quashing of FIR and contempt petitions.

6.General observations made by the Court on Sedition: It is time we define the limits of sedition. Provisions of 124A (sedition) and 153 (promoting enmity between classes) of the IPC require interpretation, particularly on the issue of the rights of press and free speech.

revenues from goods imports rising 30% year on year and domestic transactions, along with services imports, rising 17%. The Finance Ministry said that April's revenues for transactions undertaken in March reflected a "faster recovery" of business activity, while industry experts attributed part of the surge to a massive uptick in input costs for producers, some of which is also visible in high retail prices as well as new and tighter input credit norms.

Top functionaries of the Union Labour and Employment Ministry said last week that the Ministry was working on a mechanism to process accident insurance claims by unorganised workers registered on the e-Shram portal, which has seen over 27 crore registrations so far. The portal was launched six months ago with the aim of creating a national database of unorganised workers and to facilitate social security schemes for them. Among the promises made then was that the workers would be eligible for ₹2 lakh as accident insurance.

Roughly 100 civilians have been evacuated from the besieged Mariupol steel plant in eastern Ukraine and are heading out of Russian controlled territory, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. The announcement came after the UN said a "safe passage operation" was ongoing at Azovstal, where Ukrainian forces say they and hundreds of civilians have been sheltering from Russian bombardment.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide Pakistan with a "sizeable package" of around \$8 billion to help the cash-starved country bolster dwindling forex reserves and revive its ailing economy, a media report said on Sunday. Pakistan has faced growing economic challenges, with high inflation, sliding forex reserves, a widening current account deficit and a depreciating currency.

Welfare of the Indian diaspora, the crisis in Ukraine and renewable energy are expected to be in focus during the three nation Europe tour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that starts on Monday. In a pre-departure press statement, Mr. Modi said his visit would strengthen the spirit of cooperation between India and the European countries.

The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the biggest bilateral trade pact between the two major economies, was activated on Sunday. The agreement was signed on February 18 between the two sides.

## 5G SERVICE ROLL-OUT LIKELY IN AUG-SEPT

1. Union Minister of Communications, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, recently said that the commercial rollout of 5G services could be expected from August-September 2022 onwards. The government is confident of resolving issues related to high spectrum pricing with the industry. 5G is the next generation of mobile broadband that will eventually replace, or at least augment 4G LTE connection.

2. Features and benefits of the 5G technology: Operate in the millimeter wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds. Operates in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum. Reduced latency will support new applications that leverage the power of 5G, the Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence. Increased capacity on 5G networks can minimize the impact of load spikes, like those that take place during sporting events and news events.

3. **Significance of the technology: India's National Digital Communications Policy 2018 highlights the importance of 5G when it states that the convergence of a cluster of revolutionary technologies including 5G, the cloud, Internet of Things (IoT) and data analytics, along with a growing start-up community, promise to accelerate and deepen its digital engagement, opening up a new horizon of opportunities.**

4. Challenges for 5G Roll-out in India: Procedural Delays: India's telecom sector is greatly affected by the procedural delays and their multiple issues. Affordability of Spectrum: Many countries around the world may already roll out 5G connectivity to its users but, in India, the 5G spectrum is yet to be allocated. Last-mile Connectivity: Catering to last-mile broadband connectivity in Tier-II, Tier-III cities and rural homes are challenging since India lacks optical fiber infrastructure and Greenfield deployment which has immensely affected last-mile connectivity. Affordable 5G Devices: On the consumer front, affordable 5G devices are yet to take their place in the market.

## LASER COMMUNICATION RELAY DEMONSTRATION(LCRD)

1. NASA recently demonstrated its Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). It was launched in December 2021. It is the agency's first-ever laser communications system. The LCRD will help the agency test optical communication in space.

2. **About LCRD: LCRD is a technology demonstration that will pave the way for future optical communications missions. The LCRD payload is hosted onboard the US Department of Defense's Space Test Program Satellite 6 (STPSat-6).** It will be in a geosynchronous orbit, over 35,000km above Earth.

3. Advantages of optical communications systems: Optical communications systems are smaller in size, weight, and require less power compared with radio instruments. A smaller size means more room for science instruments. Less weight means a less expensive launch. Less power means less drain on the spacecraft's batteries. With optical communications supplementing radio, missions will have unparalleled communications capabilities.

4. Laser VS radio: Laser communications and radio waves use different wavelengths of light. Laser uses infrared light and has a shorter wavelength than radio waves. This will help the transmission of more data in a short time.

## RECENT STEPS TO PREVENT CYBER BREACHES

1. India's nodal cybersecurity agency, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has taken the following steps to prevent Cyber Breaches: **All service providers, intermediaries, data center providers, corporates, and government organizations have to report cyber incidents within six hours of their detection. The new directions require virtual asset, exchange, and custodian wallet providers to maintain records on KYC** and financial transactions for a period of five years.

2. Companies providing cloud, virtual private network (VPN) will also have to register validated names, emails, and IP addresses of subscribers. Service providers will also have to provide information and assistance to CERT-In for any action taken to mitigate the impact of the cyber incident. To ensure the chain of events is accurately reflected in the time frame, service providers have been asked to connect and synchronize all their ICT systems clocks to the Network Time Protocol (NTP) Server of the

**The proposal to develop a jungle safari and trekking routes in Aravalis within Gurugram has been welcomed by wildlife and nature lovers, and conservationists in the region. While hoping that the fragile ecosystem of the Aravalis is not disturbed after it is opened for commercial tourism, wildlife experts feel that declaring the Aravalis a national park would ensure better protection for its forests and wildlife.**

National Informatics Centre (NIC) or National Physical Laboratory (NPL).

**3.**The directions have been issued under the provisions of sub-section (6) of section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 after CERT-In found certain gaps that were “causing hindrance to incident analysis”. Significance: CERT-In said these directions will enhance “overall cybersecurity posture” and guarantee “safe and trusted Internet” in the country.

**4.**NTP is a protocol used for reliably transmitting and receiving accurate time sources over TCP/IP-based networks. It is used for synchronizing the internal clock of computers to a common time source. Cyber attacks in the country: Cyberattacks on Indian organizations have more than doubled in recent years. For instance, ransomware attacks on Indian organizations in 2021 increased 218% year-on-year (YoY), reported security firm Palo Alto Networks.