

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The U.S. surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries. According to data with the Commerce Ministry, the bilateral trade between the U.S. and India stood at \$119.42 billion in 2021-22 as against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the U.S. increased to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22 from \$51.62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to \$43.31 billion from about \$29 billion.

94.11% share of 27.69 crore informal sector workers registered on the e-Shram portal who have a monthly income of ₹10,000 or below. About 72.5% of the enrolled workforce belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, according to the latest data. The proportion of informal workers getting a monthly income of ₹10,000 or below was 92.37% in the middle of November 2021 when total enrolments on the e-Shram portal were a little over 8 crores.

Members of the Indian community in Russia are mobilising relief supplies to support Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine. Earlier in May, Abhay Singh, an Indian origin Deputy of the Kursk City Assembly, handed over the first consignment of medicines to the local commander of the Russian forces in Kursk, near Ukraine Russia border. So far, the Indian community has sent two consignments of medicines under the initiative of Disha: Russian-Indian Friendship Society.

About two dozen Afghan women chanting "bread, work, freedom" protested in the capital on Sunday against the Taliban's harsh restrictions on their rights. Since seizing power in August, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during the two decades of U.S. intervention in Afghanistan. "Education is my right! Reopen schools!" chanted the protesters, many of them wearing face covering veils, as they gathered in front of the Ministry of Education.

Two days after issuing an advisory cautioning people against sharing a photocopy of their Aadhaar card, the Union government on Sunday withdrew the notification, claiming it could be "misinterpreted". In its

SREE NARAYAN GURU

1.The Karnataka government is caught in a controversy over the exclusion of text on reformer Narayana Guru in the new social science textbook of class 10. However, references to Narayana Guru were present in the chapter in the earlier version of the text.

2.Sree Narayana Guru was a catalyst and leader who reformed the oppressive caste system that prevailed in society at the time. He was born in 1856 in Chempazhanthy, a village near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Belong to the Ezhava caste, Narayan Guru had experienced discrimination from the upper caste of society. His philosophy always advocated social equality, education for all, and spiritual enlightenment.

3.Significant Contribution for Society: He gave the famous slogan "One Caste, One Religion, One God for All" (Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam, Manushyanu). In 1888, Narayana Guru consecrated the first temple of Lord Shiva, where an idol was ordained by a non-brahmin in Aruvippuram village of Kerala. His step sparked off the anti-caste revolution against the upper-caste Brahmin communities. In one temple he consecrated at Kalavancode, he kept mirrors instead of idols.

4.This symbolised his message that the divine was within each individual. In 1903, he established the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) as the founder and president. He had set up more than 40 temples across the state as an act of protest to permit lower caste people to enter temples.

5.Contribution to National Movement: He was in the forefront of the movement for universal temple entry and against the societal ills like the social discrimination of untouchables. He provided the impetus for Vaikom agitation which was aimed at temple entry in Travancore for the lower castes. He captured the essence of Indianness in his poems which highlighted the unity that lies beneath the world's apparent diversity.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES

1.The Parliament's Privileges and Ethics Committee has asked the Maharashtra Chief Secretary, DGP Maharashtra, Mumbai Police Commissioner and Superintendent of Women District Prison, Byculla (Mumbai) to appear before them for oral evidence, in connection with Navneet Rana's arrest case.

2.Navneet Kaur Rana, the Amravati MP, filed a complaint against several individuals and alleged that she was illegally arrested and treated inhumanely at a police station in Mumbai during the 'Matoshree-Hanuman Chalisa row.'

3.They are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can "effectively discharge their functions". Article 105 of the Constitution expressly mentions two privileges, that is, freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.

4.Sources: The Constitution. The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. It provides for freedom from arrest and detention of members under civil process during the continuance of the meeting of the House or of a committee thereof and forty days before its commencement and forty days after its conclusion.

5.Motion against breaches: When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament. A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege.

6.Role of the Speaker/Rajya Sabha (RS) Chairperson: The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under relevant rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

withdrawal statement on Sunday, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the parent body of the UIDAI, said the authority had advised Aadhaar card holders only to exercise “normal prudence”.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to announce a return to imperial measurements of pounds and ounces as a post Brexit move away from the European metric system to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next week.

Pakistan is expected to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June to resurrect an enhanced bailout package to support the cashstrapped country's sagging economy.

Russian and Ukrainian troops engaged in close quarter combat in an eastern Ukraine city on Sunday as Moscow's soldiers, supported by intense shelling, attempted to gain strategic footholds for conquering the region in the face of fierce Ukrainian resistance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release benefits under the PM Cares for children scheme for over 4,000 COVID19 orphans through video conference on Monday. At a ceremony to be conducted across all districts, children will receive school scholarships, health cards under the government's health insurance scheme called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as well as a passbook for the ₹10 lakh promised to all beneficiaries once they turn 23 years old. The beneficiaries identified so far stand at 4,345.

The Centre is planning to launch 'Jan Samarth' — a common portal for delivery of various schemes run by different Ministries and departments. As part of the Centre's vision of minimum government, maximum governance, the new portal plans to initially onboard 15 credit linked government schemes, sources said. The offerings will be gradually expanded as some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have involvement of multiple agencies.

A group of nongovernmental organisations has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to prod the Union Commerce Ministry into “proactively engaging” with a draft proposal at the World Trade Organisation TRIPS in Geneva to waive intellectual property rights governing COVID19 vaccines, drugs and diagnostics. Signatories include Pratibha Sivasubramanian of

1.The Law Commission is functioning without a Chairperson. The Commission, constituted for a term of three years, has not released any report after the tenure of the last Chairperson, Justice B.S. Chauhan, ended in August 2018.

2.The 22nd Law Commission was constituted by the Government on February 21, 2020. However, no progress has been made in the appointments till date.

3.About the law commission of India: It is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India. Originally formed in 1955, the commission is reconstituted every three years and so far, 277 reports have been submitted to the government. The last Law Commission, under Justice B.S. Chauhan (retd.), had submitted reports and working papers on key issues such as simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies and a uniform civil code.

4.Composition: Apart from having a full-time chairperson, the commission will have four full-time members, including a member-secretary. Law and Legislative Secretaries in the Law Ministry will be the ex-officio members of the commission. It will also have not more than five part-time members. A retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court will head the Commission.

5.Roles and functions: **The Law Commission shall, on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo motu, undertake research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms and enacting new legislation.** It shall also undertake studies and research for bringing reforms in the justice delivery systems for elimination of delay in procedures, speedy disposal of cases, reduction in cost of litigation, etc.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANISATIONS

1.The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) has marked its 30th year, at anniversary summit hosted by Moscow recently.

2.About Collective Security Treaty Organization: It is an intergovernmental military alliance (six countries) that came into effect in 2002. Its origin can be traced to the Collective Security Treaty, 1992 (Tashkent Treaty). The headquarters is located in the Russian capital of Moscow. The objectives of the CSTO is to strengthen peace, international and regional security including cybersecurity and stability, the protection on a collective basis of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the member states.

3.**Membership entail-CSTO membership means that member states are barred from joining other military alliances, limiting, for example, their relationship with NATO. Most importantly, membership presumes certain key security assurances** – the most significant of which is deterring military aggression by third countries. In the CSTO, aggression against one signatory is perceived as aggression against all. It however remains unclear whether this feature works in practice.

PARAM PORUL SUPER COMPUTER

1.PARAM PORUL, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer was inaugurated at NIT Tiruchirappalli recently. It has been established under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

2.How many Super Computers have been installed in the country so far? As per the ministry of science and technology's annual year-end review: Under the National Super-Computer Mission (NSM), four new Supercomputers have been installed since July 2021 at IIT-Hyderabad, NABI- Mohali, CDAC-Bengaluru and IIT Kanpur.

3.What is National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)? It is being implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY). Implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

4.**Focus of the mission: The Mission envisages empowering national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities. These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN).** The NKN is another programme of the government which connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high speed network. The Mission includes development of highly professional High Performance Computing (HPC) aware

Campaign for Access to Medicines, Diagnostics and Devices India, Forum for Medical Ethics Society, Mumbai and All India Drug Action Network.

human resource for meeting challenges of development of these applications.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the Centre is implementing various rail, road and air connectivity projects worth ₹1,34,200 crore in Northeast India. Addressing the “Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI)” conclave in Guwahati.

Caught between international pressure over how to engage with the Myanmar military junta regime and India’s own ties with its neighbour, the Union government is likely to not include the Myanmar Foreign Minister at the India ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ meeting to be hosted by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) in mid June.