

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The country's first of its kind gene bank project in Maharashtra, which received the approval of the State Cabinet last week and is to be implemented across the State, has the potential to use modern scientific methodology to separate the chaff from the grain from the massive pool of traditional Indian wisdom. It can also scout and introduce crop cultivars and livestock breeds for better adaptation to climate change and variability. "It is a collaborative process of knowledge generation, documentation, validation and propagation of successful community driven practices of conservation of biodiversity," said the executive summary of the gene bank program. The project covers all streams of pure sciences to social sciences in a bid to save biodiversity.

\$3 billion, the amount India has committed to debt ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year, according to the Indian High Commission. The island nation is going through its worst economic crisis since independence. On Monday, India had extended its current credit line by a further \$200 million to replenish Sri Lanka's rapidly depleting fuel stocks. The Indian High Commission also said that the \$1 billion credit facility for the purchase of food, medicines and other essential commodities was already operational.

The Press Club of India (PCI) and the Indian Women Press Corps (IWPC) said attacks on press freedoms had seen an exponential rise and that India did not fare too well in this regard, ranking 150 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by the Reporters Sans Frontières .

604 number of Palestinian detainees held without charge or trial by Israel as of May, the highest number since 2016, according to Israeli rights group, HaMoked. While Israel says it uses administrative detention to hold dangerous militants, Palestinians and the rights groups say that the system is widely abused with detainees held for months or years without seeing the evidence against them. The organisation added that 2,441 Palestinians are serving sentences after being convicted in military courts.

### BASAVA JAYANTI

1. Basava Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of Lord Basavanna, the 12th-century poet-philosopher, and the founding saint of the Lingayat faith. This year it falls on 3rd May 2021. About Basavanna, his thoughts and contributions: **Basavanna was a philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet and a social reformer during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka. Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals.**

2. He introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa (or, the "hall of spiritual experience"), which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in open. As a leader, he developed and inspired a new devotional movement named Virashaivas, or "ardent, heroic worshippers of Shiva". This movement shared its roots in the ongoing Tamil Bhakti movement, particularly the Shaiva Nayanars traditions, over the 7th- to 11th-century.

3. Basava championed devotional worship that rejected temple worship and rituals led by Brahmins, and replaced it with personalized direct worship of Shiva through practices such as individually worn icons and symbols like a small linga.

4. The Sharana movement he presided over attracted people from all castes, and like most strands of the Bhakti movement, produced a corpus of literature, the vachanas, that unveiled the spiritual universe of the Veerashaiva saints. The egalitarianism of Basavanna's Sharana movement was too radical for its times.

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN COURTS

1. Underlining the need to "encourage the use of local languages in courts" since a large section of the country's population "finds it difficult to understand the judicial process and rulings of the court," Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently said that such a move would help the common man relate to the judiciary.

2. **Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English Language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.** Under Article 348 (2), the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

3. Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, provides that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for purpose of judgments etc. made by the High Court for that State. The provision of optional use of Hindi in proceedings has already been made in the High Courts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

4. Language of Subordinate Courts: **The language of all courts subordinate to High Courts generally remains the same as the language on the commencement of the Civil Procedure Code 1908, till the state government determines.** There are two provisions regarding the use of language in subordinate courts.

5. Under Section 137 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the language of the district courts shall be similar to the language of the act. The state government has the power to declare any regional language as an alternative for the proceedings of the court.

### HALLMARKING OF GOLD

1. The second phase of the mandatory hallmarking vide Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2022 will come into force from June 01, 2022. The second

28 percentage, the rise in India's coal production to 66.1 million tonnes (MT) in April amid high demand from thermal power plants as the country grapples with power shortages. The overall coal production was at 51.6 MT in April 2021. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries produced 53.4 MT of coal, production by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) stood at 5.3 MT and captive mines produced 7.3 MT during the last month. The coal ministry stressed that it was planning to augment its dispatches further.

India exported merchandise estimated at \$38.19 billion in April 2022, a 24.2% increase from a year earlier but 9.5% lower than the record \$42.2 billion shipped out in March, official estimates released on Tuesday show. The trade deficit, however, expanded to \$20.07 billion from \$18.5 billion in March, as imports grew at a faster 26.6% pace to \$58.26 billion. Sequentially, goods imports declined 4.1% last month from March's level.

Moscow accused Israel of supporting "the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv," doubling down on an allegation from the Russian Foreign Minister that Adolf Hitler may have "had Jewish blood" which sparked international outrage.

China will play a "constructive" role in resolving tensions on the Korean peninsula, Beijing's top envoy to Pyongyang said on Tuesday. Beijing is Pyongyang's most important ally and economic benefactor, their relationship forged in the bloodshed of the Korean War in the 1950s.

Slovakia will seek an exemption from any embargo of Russian oil agreed by the European Union in its next set of sanctions against Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine, Slovakia's Economy Ministry said on Tuesday. The European Commission is preparing a sixth package of sanctions against Russia. EU executive may spare Slovakia and Hungary from an embargo on buying Russian oil, mindful of the two countries' dependence on Russian crude.

India and Denmark agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management.

Four years after the country's first anticorruption ombudsman to investigate complaints against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, was appointed and almost a decade after the Act was

phase of the mandatory hallmarking will cover additional three caratages of gold jewellery/artefacts viz. 20, 23 and 24 carats as mentioned in the Indian Standard IS 1417.

**2.The second phase will cover 32 new districts under the mandatory hallmarking regime wherein an Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHC) has been set up post implementation of the first phase of the mandatory hallmarking order.** The Centre notified the order on April 04, 2022.

**3.**The government had announced the phased implementation of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery with effect from June 16, 2021. In the first phase: Gold hallmarking will be available only in 256 districts and jewellers having annual turnover above Rs 40 lakh will come under its purview.

**4.**Hallmarking is the "accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles." So, it is like a "guarantee of purity or fineness" of precious metal articles. The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) operates a gold and silver hallmarking scheme in India.

**5.**Metals covered under the purview of hallmarking: Gold jewellery and gold artefacts. Silver jewellery and silver artefacts. The mandatory hallmarking will protect the public against lower caratage and ensure consumers do not get cheated while buying gold ornaments.

#### PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

**1.**Prof Ajay K Sood from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been appointed as the new Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the government of India. He succeeds Prof K Vijayraghavan from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru.

**2.About PSA: The office of the PSA, established in 1999, aims to provide advice to the Prime Minister and cabinet on matters related to science, technology and innovation.**

**3.**It is currently a Secretary level position. First PSA: P. J. Abdul Kalam.

#### CHARAK SHAPATH

**1.**The Dean of Madurai Medical College was removed on May 1 after a batch of new students were administered an oath in Sanskrit attributed to the ancient Indian sage Maharshi Charaka instead of the traditional Hippocratic Oath in English.

**2.**Shapath-Charaka Shapath or Charaka oath, is a passage from the Charaka Samhita, a text on Indian traditional medicine Ayurveda in Sanskrit, from 1st-2nd centuries AD. It is a guideline, like dos and donts, by a teacher to fresh medical students.

**3.Hippocratic Oath-It is an oath of ethics taken by physicians and has been widely used. It is attributed to the Greek physician Hippocrates. It was written in Greek in the 4th-5th centuries BC. Issue-The oath was administered in Sanskrit.**

**4.**It had triggered a controversy, coming as it did amidst an already brewing language row and Tamil Nadu's tensions with the Centre.

#### TRANSNISTRIA

**1.**Transnistria is a tiny breakaway region of Moldova. It lies between Moldova to its west and Ukraine towards its east. It now risks being dragged into the Russia-Ukraine war because of reports of a series of explosions in its territory.

**2.**Often described as a "remnant of the Soviet Union", Transnistria declared independence like Moldova did soon after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

**3.**Transnistria is not recognised as independent even by Russia and its economy is dependent on Russia for subsidies and free gas.

**4.**Most Transnistrians have dual citizenship of Russia and Transnistria or triple citizenship of Moldova, Transnistria, and Russia.

#### PK2

**1.**Researchers at IIT Mandi have identified a drug molecule that can be used to treat diabetes. **2.**The molecule, called PK2, is able to trigger the release of insulin by the pancreas, and can potentially be used as an orally administered medicine for diabetes.

#### KOILASTILA GAS FIELD

**passed by Parliament, the Lokpal of India will finally move into a swanky office at the World Trade Centre in Nauroji Nagar of south Delhi.**

**The Union government has sought more time to file its reply to petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the law on sedition.**

**1.**It was discovered recently in Bangladesh.

**2.**It has the capacity to produce 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD).

**3.**The first gas field in Bangladesh was made in Sylhet in 1955. Bibiyana Gas Field and Titas Gas field are its major locations for production of gas. It is estimated that Bangladesh has a remaining gas reserve of 11 trillion cubic feet.