

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

10TH NOVEMBER 2022

The Union Cabinet has approved new guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels, under which all stations holding permission — except for foreign channels and where it may not be feasible — will have to broadcast content on issues of national importance and social relevance for at least 30 minutes every day. The provision has been introduced as “airwaves/ frequencies are public property and need to be used in the best interest of society.” The eight listed themes include education and spread of literacy; agriculture and rural development; health and family welfare; science and technology; welfare of women; welfare of the weaker sections of society; protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and national integration.

Traders of universally prized Pashmina shawls are complaining that “obsolete testing methods” have resulted in many of their export consignments being flagged by Customs authorities for presence of Shahtoosh guard hair, which is obtained from endangered Tibetan antelopes. The traders claim the use of obsolete techniques such as “light microscopy” by the authorities has resulted in several cases of “false positives,” leading to their wrongful prosecution.

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards were revised in 2009 to include 12 categories of pollutants including PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter under 2.5 microns) — a noxious pollutant which can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory impacts. Multiple studies over the years, including the Delhi Pollution Control Committee’s (DPCC) 2019 report by IIT Delhi and Madras experts, found that the rapid growth in Delhi’s population, industrialisation, and urbanisation, and increase in motorised private vehicle fleet led to the high concentration of air pollutants.

One major argument for the failure to tackle Delhi’s pollution problems is that a large proportion of these polluting sources are present all year round and high pollution levels are mainly witnessed in winter months due to unfavourable meteorological conditions, meaning stop-gap and seasonal measures often yield unsatisfactory outcomes.

185 percentage, the year-on-year surge in the overall retail sales of electric vehicles (EVs), including

CENSUS, NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER (NPR) DATABASES NOTIFIED AS CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE (CII)

1. Earth, moon and sun will align to produce a total lunar eclipse for the last time until 2025. A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth casts its shadow completely over a full moon, blocking the reflection of all direct sunlight from the lunar orb and dimming the colour of the moon to a reddish hue, hence the term “blood moon.”

2. This is only possible when the orbits of the Earth, moon and sun align so that the moon is directly behind Earth relative to the sun. Otherwise, the moon passes above or below Earth’s shadow because its orbit around Earth is usually tilted relative to Earth’s orbit around the sun.

3. Why red? The reddish appearance of the lunar surface — the moon does not entirely disappear from view — is caused by rays of sunlight around the outer edge of the eclipse shadow, or umbra, being filtered and refracted as it passes through Earth’s atmosphere, bathing the moon indirectly in a dim copper glow. The degree of redness depends on atmospheric conditions that vary with levels of air pollution, dust storms, wildfire smoke and even volcanic ash.

14th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP14) TO RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS ADOPTED THE WUHAN DECLARATION

1. Ramsar convention, adopted in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. A wetland is defined as any land area that is saturated or flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently such as lakes, mangroves, peatlands, estuaries, coral reefs etc. The Wuhan Declaration calls for practical actions to promote conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use of wetlands worldwide.

2. **Key priorities of Wuhan declaration: Take measures to halt and reverse wetland loss globally. Incorporate wetlands into national actions to contribute to domestic legislation, plans and implementation of SDGs.**

3. Define strategic goals and priority areas for wetlands in partnership with civil society stakeholders, academia and private sector. Importance of healthy wetland ecosystems as nature-based solutions for climate mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. Also, another report presented at COP14 stated that information on 75% of wetlands included in the list of Ramsar Sites is outdated.

4. Parties to Ramsar Convention are required to update information for their Ramsar Sites at least once every six years. Six Sites in India (including Keoladeo National Park, Loktak lake etc) are also required to provide updates.

COP27: ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GREENWASHING SAYS UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Remarks were made at launch of report of UN Expert Group that slammed greenwashing and weak net-zero pledges by growing number of non-State actors. Since Paris Agreement (2015), number of non-state actors are making net-zero pledges to showcase environmental concern.

2. Coined by Jay Westerveld in 1986, greenwashing is practice of marketing a company or organization as being environmentally friendly when in practice its activities pollute the environment.

3. **Recommendations of UN Expert Group Avoid net-zero pledges from becoming a toxic cover up by making pledges in line with UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scenarios, having interim targets every five years starting in 2025 etc.**

4. Transition plans must be detailed on how it is being made and how it will address needs of workers in fossil fuel industries and sectors affected by the transition. Promises must be accountable and transparent by standardizing progress report. Governments must ensure a level playing field to transition to a just, net-zero future.

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passenger vehicles (PEV), in India to 1.11 lakh units in October, according to automobile dealers' body FADA. The total passenger EV sales rose 178% to 3,745 units in October 2022 as against the 1,346 PEVs retailed in the year-ago period.

14,000 number of dropouts to re-join their schools during the just concluded fourth phase of the Back-to-Village (B2V) programme in Jammu and Kashmir, according to officials. The readmission of 13,977 school dropouts into schools, stands out as the biggest achievement of the programme.

Justice Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud was sworn in as the 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Droupadi Murmu at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday. He took the oath in English and in the name of God.

2.49 lakh, the number of voters aged above 100 in India, according to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. Moreover, there are 1.8 crore voters over 80 years of age, Mr. Kumar said after flagging off a bicycle rally in Pune to create awareness about voter registration as part of the national launch of a special summary revision of the voters' list.

\$ 4.5 billion, the amount the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to loan Bangladesh to stabilise the country's economy. Bangladesh is the third South Asian nation after Sri Lanka and Pakistan to secure a bailout package from the IMF to tide over the sharp rise in food and energy prices caused by the pandemic and inflation due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

11,000 number of people laid off by Facebook parent Meta, about 13% of its workforce, as it contends with faltering revenue and broader tech industry woes, CEO Mark Zuckerberg informed its employees. The job cuts come just a week after widespread layoffs at Twitter under its new owner, Elon Musk.

In the latest escalation of its running battle with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Kerala government on Wednesday decided to remove him as Chancellor of State universities, seeking to replace him with "renowned academic

INDIA JOINS MANGROVE ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE (MAC) AT COP27 SUMMIT

1. Launched by UAE in partnership with Indonesia, MAC aims to scale up and accelerate conservation and restoration of the mangrove forests. Australia, Japan, Spain and Sri Lanka are other members. It aims to raise awareness on the role of mangroves as a nature-based solution to climate change.

2. About Mangroves- Mangroves are salt tolerant plant communities serving as transition between marine and terrestrial environments. They are found in tropical and sub-tropical intertidal regions characterized by: High Rainfall (between 1,000 to 3,000 mm), temperature range (26OC-35OC) and calm water with sufficient sediments to set down roots.

3. Provide a wide range of ecosystem services (see image).

Initiatives taken in India for protection of mangroves Central Sector Scheme under National Coastal Mission Programme on 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs.' Regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification. Integrated Coastal Zone management Project in Coastal stretches of Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal.

EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL ACTION PLAN UNVEILED AT CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP27)

1. Executive Action for 2023-2027, by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), identifies key areas for advancing universal disaster risk knowledge, and outlines priority actions required to achieve this. It provides actions required to achieve the UN target of ensuring protection by early warning system (EWS), to every person, within 5 years.

2. EWS reduce harm to people and damage to assets ahead of impending hazards, including storms, tsunamis etc. Building on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, action plan calls for a targeted investment of US\$ 3.1 billion between 2023 and 2027 to advance four Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) pillars (refer image).

3. **Significance of Early Warnings for All- Increased number of recorded disasters due to human-induced climate change and more extreme weather events.** Providing Economic benefits as spending just \$800 million on such systems in developing countries would avoid losses of \$3-16 billion per annum.

4. Damage reduction as just 24 hours' notice of an impending hazardous event can cut the ensuing damage by 30%. Half of the countries globally are not protected by MHEWS. Coverage is even worse for developing countries.

PRARAMBH (THE BEGINNING) MISSION

1. Prarambh is maiden mission of Hyderabad-based space start-up "Sky root Aerospace" that is set for launch from ISRO's launchpad at Srihari Kota. With this mission, Sky root Aerospace is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket (named Vikram-S rocket) into space.

2. Vikram-S rocket is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle. Sub-orbital flight is those which are travelling slower than orbital velocity - meaning it is fast enough to reach outer space but not fast enough to stay in an orbit around the Earth.

LAB GROWN BLOOD

1. In first such clinical experiment ever conducted, researchers in UK have infused blood that has been grown in a laboratory into human subjects. How is the blood grown in lab? Process starts with a normal donation of a pint of blood (around 470ml).

2. Magnetic beads are used to fish out flexible stem cells that can become a red blood cell. These stem cells are encouraged to grow in large numbers in the labs. And are then guided to become red blood cells.

3. Significance: to manufacture vital, but ultra-rare, blood groups; for people who depend on regular blood transfusion etc.

MIDDLE EAST GREEN INITIATIVE

1. MGI 2022 summit was held recently. It is a Saudi Arabia led regional dialogue on climate launched in 2021 to bring together

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experts". The State Cabinet on Wednesday resolved to request the Governor himself to promulgate an ordinance removing him from the position. This would divest him of his powers as Chancellor, and at one stroke, render the Raj Bhavan remote from all aspects of university governance.

leaders from across the MENA region (Middle East/North Africa) and beyond.

2.Aims of MGI- Reducing carbon emissions from regional hydrocarbon production by more than 60%. Plant 50 billion trees across the Middle East and restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land. It can help in reducing global carbon levels by 2.5%.