

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

On Tuesday, leaders of the G-20 nations will gather at Bali's Nusa Dua resort for the 17th summit of the world's most advanced economies. G-20 countries represent 85% of the global GDP, 75% of global trade and 66% of the world population. The motto for this G-20 is Recover Together, Recover Stronger. The leaders will engage in discussion over three sessions: on Food and Energy security, Health Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, and Digital Transformation. Significantly, next year the "Troika" of G-20 will be made up of emerging economies for the first time: with India, Indonesia and Brazil- an indicator of the shift in the global economic agenda towards the Global South.

The Union government is pushing to set up 740 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students- One each in every sub-district that has at least a 20,000 odd Scheduled Tribe population in that area. In 2018-19, at the bidding of Prime Minister, the Cabinet approved the revamping of the EMRS scheme. The new guidelines gave the Union government more power to sanction schools and manage them. The new guidelines set a target up an EMRS in every tribal sub-district and introduced a "population criteria" for setting them up. The new guidelines also reduced the minimum land requirement from 20 acres to 15 acres.

Being the official language of courts and commerce in Jammu and Kashmir, Persian adorned verbal transactions in the Valley up until 1889, when Urdu replaced it under Maharaja Pratap Singh, the third Dogra ruler. Now an exhibition of Persian manuscripts by Khwaja Muhammad Amin Darab, poet and chronogram writer, here puts a spotlight on the fast-fading language in Kashmir. The exhibition is an attempt to revive the language in the Union Territory.

Bilateral trade between India and Norway has doubled to \$2 billion over the past two years, Norway's Ambassador to India, Hans Jacob Frydenlund said. Mr. Frydenlund elaborated on Norway's interests in climate investments, clean energy and ocean technology, among others.

India's retail inflation cooled to 6.77% in October from 7.41 % in September, slipping below the 7% mark for the first time in 3 months and only the second time since

## RESEARCHERS LOOK TO NANOPARTICLES FOR TREATING CANCER

1.Nanomaterials (particles less than 100nm in length) based cancer treatment help alter drug toxicity profile with enhanced surface characteristics to deliver an optimal concentration of drugs at tumour sites. Conventional therapies face challenges in delivery of drugs and cause unwanted side effects due to toxic nature and higher doses of medicines.

2.Nanomaterials hold significant promise to improve disease diagnosis and treatment based on their unique features, such as their: Higher surface to mass ratio to other particles. Quantum properties. Ability to adsorb and carry other compounds.

3.**Advantages of nanomaterials in drug delivery-Allow targeted and efficient delivery as nanostructures are able to penetrate tissues and are easily taken up by cells. Enables delivery of drugs that are poorly water soluble.** Remain in blood circulation for a long time, releasing incorporated drug in a controlled fashion.

4.Concerns related to use of Nanomaterials: difficult to distinguish toxicity of drug from that of the nanoparticle, nanoparticle-based drugs may increase toxicity in other organs etc.

## EXTRA-REGIONAL FISHING FLEETS PRESENT IN INDIAN OCEAN: INDIAN NAVY

1.As many as 392 reported incidents of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) were monitored in 2021 in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), mostly in Northern IOR. Chinese and European Union countries fishing vessels were observed in IOR.

2.IUU monitoring is done by Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC), nodal agency for maritime data fusion set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. IUU fishing violates both national and international fishing regulations and undermines global efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries. According to FAO, IUU is responsible for loss of 11-26 million tonnes of fish each year.

3.Initiatives taken against IUU-WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies. Cape Town Agreement and Agreement on Ports State Measures (India is not a signatory to both). Regional fisheries management such as Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement under United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

4.As per UNCLOS, coastal nations are responsible for addressing IUU within their respective EEZ. Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) of Quad (India, Australia, Japan and U.S).

## 19TH INDIA-ASEAN SUMMIT HELD IN CAMBODIA

1.It also commemorated 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue. 2022 is being celebrated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

2.**Key highlights of the summit-Both sides elevated ties to comprehensive strategic partnership (CSP) to focus on specific areas including maritime security, projects in Indo-Pacific, Cybersecurity, and inter-operability of digital financial systems etc.** CSP will enable cooperation in areas like energy, health, investments in Make in India, technology, climate change, etc. India announced an additional outlay of \$5 million for ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund. Expedite review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA).

3.India-ASEAN relations-Political: India began formal engagement with ASEAN in 1992 as a "Sectoral Dialogue Partner" and agreed to forge a strategic partnership in 2012. Economic: Both signed AITGA, ASEAN-India Agreement for Trade in Services. Currently, two-way trade is worth \$110 billion.

4.Cumulative FDI's (dominated by Singaporean investments) from ASEAN to India, between 2000-2021, was \$117.88 billion.

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April's eight-year high mark of 7.8%. This is the 10th month in a row that inflation has been over the 6% upper tolerance threshold mandated for the Reserve Bank of India.

At the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm el-Sheikh, India on Monday announced its long-term strategy to transition to a "low emissions" pathways, which is premised on expanding its nuclear power capacity by at least three folds in the next decade, apart from becoming an international hub for producing green hydrogen and increasing in the proportion of ethanol in petrol.

The Supreme Court on Monday said religious conversions by means of force, allurements or fraud may "ultimately affect the security of the nation and freedom of religion and conscience of citizens" while directing the centre to step in and clarify what it intends to do to curb compulsory or deceitful religious conversions. "There may be freedom of religion, but there may not be freedom of religion by forced conversion. This is a very serious issue.

Tiruchi Collector M. Pradeep Kumar on Monday said the orders for deporting four Sri Lankan convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, who are currently lodged in a special camp in Tiruchi, are expected in 10 days.

1.7 billion dollars, the amount in loans taken from China, by three key loss-making Sri Lankan state-owned enterprises, to be considered as government debt, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Monday. Sri Lanka defaulted on its foreign debt in April. The International Monetary Fund has said that its borrowings must be "sustainable" to unlock any new external funding.

5 lakhs, the number of people in India who are estimated to have had a missed or delayed tuberculosis diagnosis in 2020 due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a study. The researchers found that over 1.5 million people in 45 high-burden countries had a missed or delayed tuberculosis diagnosis in the first year of the pandemic.

73% by which unauthorised entries at the European Union's external borders rose in the first 10 months of 2022, the highest level recorded since 2016. In October alone, about 36,500 people crossed the EU

Security cooperation through forums like ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting+ (ADMM+) etc. Connectivity through India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Project etc.

## PROPOSED GENERAL NETWORK ACCESS (GNA) REGULATIONS MAY END UP FAVOURING BIGGER PLAYERS: EXPERTS

1.Regulations were released by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to streamline regulatory framework for country's power transmission. This is in keeping with concept of one nation, one grid. GNA regulations seeks to do away with pre-determined point-to-point transmission access to instead enable both access or drawl on the entire transmission corridor to generators and procurers. 2.Users at present must pay long-term charges under point-to-point connectivity regime and charged for any deviations from agreed path. GNA will enable them to supply from any point.

3.Benefits of GNA-Provides more flexibility and the possibility of open access to the buyers and sellers of power in terms of scheduling. Encourages investments in the generation and transmission sectors, while moving towards a predominant market-determined pricing structure. Ensures reliable transmission access to power utilities irrespective of their power purchase contracts.

4.Concerns Raised-Could potentially favour the bigger players in the sector. Complexity and uncertainty in demand assessment. State discoms may find it challenging to assess the number of open access customers that may source power from outside the state.

## A DECADE OF PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012

1.POCSO Act, 2012 is a comprehensive law enacted with the objective of protecting children from a slew of sexual offences like sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. It was amended in 2019 making punishment under the act more stringent, including death penalty for aggravated sexual assault.

2.Key Features of the Act Child-friendly mechanism for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through special courts. It is gender neutral and prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence. Defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years. Provision to establish Special Fast Track Courts for speedy trial. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and its state counterpart monitor implementation of law.

3.Challenges/Concerns related to POCSO Act, 2012 High pendency particularly after Covid-19 (approximately 85%) and low conviction rate (around 14% only). Lack exclusive Special Courts and Special Public Prosecutors. Procedural lapses in investigation and lack of victim protection and support Several High Courts raising issue of higher age of consent under the act.

## INDIAN SKIMMER(RYNCHOPS ALBICOLLIS)

1.Indian skimmer is seen in huge flocks during winter at the Coringa wildlife sanctuary (Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh). Distribution: Found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India. Chambal river is an important nesting site for Indian Skimmer.

2.IUCN status: Endangered Major Threats: Habitat degradation, Excessive and widespread increases in disturbance, Predation by corvids like House crows etc.

## GLOBAL DASHBOARD FOR VACCINE EQUITY

1.Dashboard is a joint effort by UN Development Programme, World Health Organization and University of Oxford. It combines the latest data on the global roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines and provide insights for policy makers on implications of vaccine inequity for socio-economic recovery, jobs and welfare.

2.Key data Accessibility: Only around 26.62% people in Low Income Countries (LICs) have been vaccinated with at least one dose against 72.8% in High Income Countries (HICs).

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borders illegally, 47% more than the year-ago year old. This was mainly due to people abusing the region's visa-free access.

To streamline disclosure requirements, markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed mandating the top 250 listed companies to confirm or deny any information reported in the mainstream media, which may have material effect on the listed entity.

## SUPERABRASIVE TOOLS

1. An IIT Madras team developed a new technology that can produce a new-generation of super abrasive tools for advanced grinding applications. Super abrasive are a class of tools used in precision grinding for many industries.
2. Such tools contain natural diamond, manmade diamond, cubic boron nitride etc. Team used advanced chemical bonding technology to meet high productivity and energy-efficient material removal requirements of such tools.