

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH NOVEMBER 2022

Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India's largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041, Uttar Pradesh government officials have told. This means that tourist vehicles will be banned from the entire Braj region, which includes famous pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi. Instead, only electric vehicles used as public transport will be allowed into the area. All 252 waterbodies and 24 forests in the area will also be revived, officials privy to the U.P. government's draft redevelopment plan said.

China outlined plans to further expand the global reach of its home-grown Beidou satellite navigation system, billed as its alternative to the U.S.'s Global Positioning System (GPS). A white paper released by the Chinese government said Beijing is "strengthening regional cooperation with organisations such as ASEAN, the African Union, the League of Arab States, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States". Beijing has, since 2020, also made an outreach to South Asia and is already working, or in discussion with, a number of countries in the region, including Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, over adopting the Beidou satellite (BDS) navigation system.

China said it had named 11 bridges along its key Tibet-Xinjiang highway, parts of which run through Aksai Chin, after four Chinese soldiers killed in the June 2020 Galwan Valley clash. Eleven bridges along the G219 national highway, which today runs along China's western borders and initially began as an artery through Aksai Chin linking Tibet and Xinjiang — its construction in the 1950s on land claimed by India triggered tensions eventually leading up to the 1962 war — have been named after the four PLA soldiers and their hometowns in China.

The Supreme Court upheld the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2014 of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as "legal and valid" while reading down certain provisions. Most important, the court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to allow eligible employees who had not opted for enhanced pension coverage prior to the 2014 amendments, to jointly do so with their employers within the next four months. The court struck down a requirement in the 2014

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY UNDER MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RELEASES PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX (PGI) 2020-21

1.It is index for evidence based comprehensive analysis of school education system across State/UTs. Under this, States are graded and not ranked to discourage the practice of one improving only at the cost of others, "thereby casting a stigma of underperformance on the latter".

2.It pinpoints the gaps and helps States/UTs in prioritising the areas for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level. The first PGI was released in 2017-18. The PGI structure comprises of total weightage of 1000 points across 70 indicators, which are grouped under 2 Categories viz., Outcome and Governance Management(GM). These categories are further divided into 5 domains, viz., Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E) & Governance Process (GP).

3.Key findings Improvements over previous years: The top-most score in 2017-18 was Level IV which improved to Level II in 2020-21. No state has performed below Level VII in 2020-21 whereas in 2017-18 12 States/UTs were below Level VII Best Achievers: 7 States and UTs have attained level II. Inter-State Disparity: Kerala obtained the maximum score (928) and Arunachal Pradesh minimum (669).

FOR FIRST TIME, RBI HOLDS MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC) MEETING TO DISCUSS REPORT ON MISSING INFLATION

1.RBI WILL submit a report to the government on its failure to keep the retail inflation rate below 6% for three consecutive quarters beginning January 2022. RBI will have to mention the remedial actions and an estimated time within which inflation target will be achieved.

2.About Inflation targeting-It means bringing the inflation to a targeted level within a specific time horizon. RBI adopted flexible inflation targeting (FIT) through the signing of Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (MPFA) in 2015. Section 45-ZA of the RBI Act, 1934 requires that the central government in consultation with RBI, determine inflation target in terms of Consumer Price Index (CPI), once in every five years.

3.Currently, the inflation target has been set at 4% (with the upper tolerance level of 6% and the lower tolerance level of 2%) for the 5-year period 2021 to 2026. MPC, constituted by Central Government under RBI Act 1934, determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target.

4.It has 6-member of which three are from RBI including the Governor (having casting vote) who is the ex officio Chairperson. MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) RELEASES ADAPTATION GAP REPORT 2022

1.It is an annual publication which looks at progress in planning, financing and implementing adaptation actions. Adaptation gap is the difference between actually implemented adaptation and a goal set by society, determined largely by preferences related to climate change impacts.

2.Highlights of report Global efforts in adaptation planning, financing and implementation are not enough to prepare vulnerable communities around the world to adapt to the rising risks from the impacts of climate change. At least 84% of Parties to the UNFCCC have established adaptation plans, strategies, laws and policies. International adaptation finance flows are 5-10 times lower than required and this gap continues to grow.

3.Recommendation of good adaptation practice-Genuine inclusion of stakeholders like local communities, indigenous peoples etc into decision-making; Transparency, accountability and predictability of support; Integration of adaptation into national development priorities, strategies and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Investment in local capabilities, capacity- building and democratic governance structures etc.

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amendments that employees who go beyond the salary threshold (of ₹15,000 per month) should contribute monthly to the pension scheme at the rate of 1.16% of their salary.

Twitter India team has been "significantly" impacted by the global layoffs at the social networking platform with the majority of the about 250 member team being fired, a week after Elon Musk acquired the company for \$44 billion, according to sources.

The Army has approved five Project Sanction Orders (PSOs) for the development of niche technology by the Indian industry under the Make-II route of defence procurement. It includes high frequency manpacked software defined radios, drone kill systems, infantry training weapon simulator, medium range precision kill systems and 155mm terminally guided munitions. The MakeII projects are essentially industry funded, involving design, development and innovative solutions by Indian vendors for development of prototypes.

Elaben Bhatt, a legendary figure in postIndependent India, passed away in Ahmedabad on November 2. Her demise is a grievous loss to the nation. SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) pioneered by her was one of the most innovative and successful experiments in India in the field of social development. SEWA empowered women in India in the comprehensive sense of the term on a scale never witnessed before. It simultaneously provided employment to women and promoted cooperative production, consumption and marketing of textiles which constituted the core of India's industrialisation. It also decisively influenced the course of trade unionism and labour movement in India.

Myanmar's military has begun taking delivery of a batch of Russian made combat jets, a monitoring group said, the latest hardware shipped from Moscow as activists accuse the junta of hitting civilians with air strikes. In 2018, under the Aung San Suu Kyi government, the junta purchased six Sukhoi Su30s from Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said civilians should be taken out of Moscow occupied Kherson in

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOFTWARE AND SERVICES COMPANIES (NASSCOM) RELEASES REPORT ON GIG WORKERS

1. Report underscores that nearly two-third of the organisations employed gig workers as of 2022, up from 57% two years ago. Focus on requirement for specialised skills, employee demand and cost optimization enabled organisations to use the gig model for technology roles traditionally restricted to HR and support functions.

2. Top three segments for gig employment were - Software development, UI/UX design, and data analytics. However, proportion of gig workers remains less than 5% of the total workforce of organisations having more than 2,000 full-time employees. The Code on Social Security, 2020 defines a Gig worker as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship.

3. **Significance of Gig economy-Low-entry barriers and hence holds enormous potential for job creation in India. Platforms offer flexibility and choice of labour to women and Persons with Disabilities in particular. Minimizes costs and expenses as businesses are able to hire off-site workers** which reduces the need to maintain expensive workspaces Allows individuals to earn extra income thus enhancing the per capita income.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RELEASES UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION PLUS (UDISE+) 2021-22 REPORT ON SCHOOL EDUCATION

1. This system was developed by Department of School Education & Literacy in the year 2018-19 to overcome the issues related to erstwhile practice of manual data filling in paper format. UDISE+ 2021-22 captures additional data indicators like digital library, number of books available in school library, etc.) to align with the NEP 2020 initiatives.

2. Key findings of UDISE+ 2021-22-Student Enrolments: Total students enrolled in school education from primary to higher secondary stood at 25.57 crore (marginally increased from 2020-21). Total enrolment of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) in 2021-22 showed improvement of 3.45% over 2020-21. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) which measures the general level of participation has improved in 2021-22.

3. **Teacher engagement: More than 51% are female teachers. In 2021-22, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) showed an improvement since 2018-19. Enrolment of girls: Gender Parity Index (GPI) value at all level of school education is 1 or more implying more participation of girls** in the school education. Number of schools - Total number of schools in 2021-22 declined in comparison to 2020-21 due to closure of private schools and grouping/ clustering of schools by various States.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE LAUNCHES PORTAL FOR NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL FARMING (NMNF)

1. NMNF portal contains all the information about the mission, resources, implementation progress, farmer registration, blog etc., which will be useful for the farmers. It will help in promoting natural farming in the country.

2. About NMNF-It aims at creating institutional capacities for documentation and dissemination of best practices and make practicing farmers as partners in promotion strategy. Key Objectives of the mission - To promote alternative system of farming for freedom from external purchased inputs, cost reduction etc. To popularize integrated agriculture-animal husbandry models based on desi cow and local resources. To create standards, certification procedure and branding for Natural Farming products. NMNF at National Level is steered through a National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture.

3. About Natural Farming-Natural Farming (BhartiyaPrakratikKrishiPaddhati (NF-BPKP)) is a chemical free farming system based on livestock and locally available resources and rooted in Indian tradition. It relies on: adoption of diversified multi-cropping systems, desi cow based on-farm inputs for nutrient and soil enrichment Various botanical concoctions for

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southern Ukraine, where Russian forces have been leading evacuations since mid October as Kyiv's forces advance. "Those who live in Kherson should be removed from zones of dangerous fighting," Mr. Putin told young volunteers from the occupied Ukrainian territories on Red Square as Moscow celebrated Unity Day.

plant protection.

4. Benefits: Preserve natural flora and fauna, Restore soil health and fertility, Cost-effective farming practice, Use of natural/local resource-based input etc.