

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH NOVEMBER 2022

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted an in-principle (Stage 1) clearance for the diversion of 130.75 sq. km of forest on Great Nicobar Island for the mega ₹72,000 crore project that includes a trans-shipment port, an airport, a power plant and a greenfield township. The project implementation agency is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO). The area is nearly 15% of the thickly forested Great Nicobar Island that is spread over 900 sq. km. This will be one of the largest single such forest diversions in recent times.

India's upcoming presidency of the G20 grouping is a matter of pride and a great opportunity for the country in its 75th year of Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. Mr. Modi made the remarks after unveiling the logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency during an online event. India will assume the presidency of the powerful grouping from the current chair Indonesia on December 1. The G20, or Group of 20, is an intergovernmental forum of major developed and developing economies.

The UN's chief called on Tuesday for an end to a "toxic coverup" by companies as a sweeping report said they cannot claim to be net zero if they invest in new fossil fuels, cause deforestation or offset emissions instead of reducing them. Antonio Guterres said businesses as well as cities and regions should update their voluntary net zero pledges within a year to comply with the recommendations by UN experts, as he trained his sights on fossil fuel firms and "their financial enablers".

Treatment of journalists and human rights defenders, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and custodial torture are expected to dominate the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of India at the Human Rights Council in Geneva that will take place on Thursday. In "Advance Questions" submitted to the council, Belgium has called the CAA "anti-minority", and asked India if the law would be repealed. Similar concerns have been raised by the United States, which has highlighted "hate speech", "internet shut downs" and the issue of hijab in Karnataka.

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

BEAVER BLOOD MOON

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.

PROTECTED SYSTEM/CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION

1. The websites and applications related to the decennial Census exercise and the National Population Register (NPR) were recently notified as a "protected system" or "Critical Information Infrastructure" under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2008.

2. **About Critical Information Infrastructure/protected system: According to the IT Act, Critical Information Infrastructure means the computer resource, the destruction of which, shall have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety.**

3. The IT Act states that the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare any computer resource directly or indirectly affecting the facility of Critical Information Infrastructure, to be a protected system.

4. The notification means that any tampering or unauthorised access to the data associated with such a protected system will be punishable by 10 years of imprisonment.

BLENDED BASMATI RICE

1. Government will disallow the blending of more than 15% non-basmati rice with basmati rice for the product that is sold as blended 'Basmati' Rice. Reasons behind the move: Government intends to ensure that the purity of Indian Basmati Rice doesn't dilute due to excessive blending.

2. Rice blended with more than 15% non-basmati rice will be called 'blended Rice' instead of 'blended Basmati Rice'. Basmati rice has its origin in the Indian subcontinent and has a unique fragrance (due to 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline).

3. India is the largest producer (over 70% of global production). GI tag has been provided to Basmati grown in some of the states such as Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand etc. 2-Acetyl-1-pyrroline is an aroma compound and flavour that gives freshly baked bread, jasmine rice and basmati rice, the spice pandan, and bread flowers their customary smell.

PURCHASE OF GOLD

1. Central Banks the world over are buying Gold as the economic uncertainty grows. As per the World Gold Council, Indian Central Bank (RBI) bought over 191 tonnes of gold worth Rs 85,010 crore in Q3 2022. Reasons: The current global inflation (Energy and Food prices) and risk of recession have led to growing uncertainty in the world economic situation.

2. The demand for gold increases during inflationary times due to its inherent value and limited supply. As it cannot be diluted, gold is able to retain value much better than other forms of currency. As gold carries no credit or counterparty risks, it serves as a source of trust in a country, and in all economic environments, making it one of the most crucial reserve assets

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has begun field studies to put in place an early warning system in the Himalayan States against major and sudden floods, rockslides, landslips, glacier lake bursts and avalanches and to prevent Chamoli kind of disasters in future.

\$ 1 trillion, the external financing developing countries need to secure in a year for climate action by working with investors, rich countries and development banks, according to a report. The report released ahead of the COP27 summit in Egypt said that the funding was required to cut emissions, boost resilience, deal with damage from climate change and restore nature and land.

265 number of Diplomate of National Board (DNB) postgraduate medical seats granted to government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir across 20 districts. According to the Health Ministry, this step will not only benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but also provide the opportunity to train doctors in their own region.

300 number of suspected migrants rescued by the Singapore authorities, after their boat started sinking, according to Sri Lankan Navy. They claimed that one Sri Lankan citizen on the boat contacted the navy seeking help. Sri Lankans have been undertaking illegal boat journeys to escape the economic crisis in the country.

2000 years, the age of the 20 bronze statues discovered by archaeologists, almost perfectly preserved in Tuscany. The statues depict deities venerated at a sanctuary in San Casciano dei Bagni, established first by the Etruscans and then expanded under the Romans, according to Italy's culture ministry.

On November 4, a three judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled in a case where the EPFO appealed various orders favouring employees issued by the Kerala, Rajasthan, and Delhi High Courts. The order provided relief to some employees.

The Supreme Court upheld the amendments to the pension scheme made by the government in 2014, which restricts even membership of the scheme up to a wage ceiling of ₹15,000. One section of current employees (and by extension members of the pension scheme who were contributing to the pension

worldwide, alongside government bonds. However, higher gold imports carry the risk of a high current account deficit (CAD) and Gold is also the preferred mode of avoiding taxes for Hawala Operations.

3.The World Gold Council is the market development organisation for the gold industry. It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, with the aim of stimulating and sustaining demand for gold.

22ND LAW COMMISSION

1.After two and a half years, the 22nd Law Commission of India has been constituted with Justice (ret'd) Rituraj Awasthi as its head. Commission would have a tenure of three years.

2.**Terms of reference of 22nd Law Commission: Identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy** and suggest ways of improvement and reform Suggest such legislation as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

3.The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body that is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, with definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law. The Commission makes recommendations to the Government (in the form of Reports) as per its terms of reference.

4.The Law Commission was first constituted in 1955 and has so far submitted 277 reports. According to the Law Ministry's website, the "Law Commission of India provides excellent thought-provoking and vital review of the laws in India".

NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARDS

1.Florence Nightingale was a British Nurse, Statistician and social reformer, born in Florence, Taly (1820). Her effort during Crimean War (1854-56), by curing patients, calculating mortality data and showing how improvements made in sanitary methods would reduce the number of deaths, won her recognition.

2.She is also known as the land with the lamp and the founder of modern nursing. National Florence Nightingale Awards was instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to recognize meritorious service rendered by nursing professionals in India To mark the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale, WHO announced the year 2020 as the year of the Nurse and Mid-Wife.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES(POCSO)

1.The POCSO Act brings tribals in the Nilgiris into conflict with the law, as youth under the age of 18 in relationships within or outside marriage are subject to the Act's stringent provisions. In another case, the High Court of Karnataka recently stated that the Law Commission of India will have to rethink the age criteria in the POCSO Act for having consensual sex.

2.About the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act: The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development led the introduction of the POCSO Act in 2012. The Act was designed to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography offences, as well as to provide for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offences. The Act was amended in 2019 for enhancing the punishments for specific offences in order to deter abusers and ensure a dignified childhood.

3.**Salient features: A gender-neutral law: The POCSO Act establishes a gender-neutral tone for the legal framework available to child sexual abuse victims by defining a child as "any person" under the age of 18. Not reporting abuse is an offence:** Any person (except children) in charge of an institution who fails to report the commission of a sexual offence relating to a subordinate is liable to be punished.

4.No time limit for reporting abuse: A victim can report an offence at any time, even a number of years after the abuse has been committed. Maintaining confidentiality of the victim's identity: The Act prohibits disclosure of the victim's identity in

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fund as of September 1, 2014) stand to benefit from the order. Those excluded include those who retired prior to September 1, 2014 without exercising the joint option in the unamended scheme, since they had already exited the membership. D While the court granted partial relief to the employees, it also gave some consideration to the Union government's argument that it would be stretched for funds to pay higher pension.

The chiefs of Indian and French Air Forces on Tuesday joined the Air Exercise Garuda-VII in Jodhpur. While Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V.R. Chaudhari flew a sortie on an IAF Rafale fighter, French Air and Space Force (FASF) Chief General Stéphane Mille flew on an IAF Su30 MKI fighter. "Ex GarudaVII is also the first occasion for the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the light combat helicopter (LCH) Prachand to participate in any international exercise,".

any form of media, except when permitted by the special courts established under the act. 5.New obligations under the POCSO Rules 2020: Any institution housing children or coming in regular contact is required to conduct a periodic police verification and background check of every employee. Such an institution must impart regular training to sensitise its employees on child safety and protection. The institution has to adopt a child protection policy based on the principle of zero tolerance for violence against children.