

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Haryana State Drugs Controller have ordered that all manufacturing activity at Maiden Pharmaceuticals in Sonapat be stopped on grounds of deficiencies found following an inspection of the company's facilities, a senior Health Ministry official has confirmed. The World Health Organization (WHO) on September 29 informed India's national drug regulator that it was providing technical assistance and advice to the Gambia, where children had died after suspected to use of the medicines manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals contaminated with diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol.

8 number of satellites carried by Japan's space agency which failed after lift off. The rocket had to be aborted by a self destruction command and is the country's first failed rocket launch in nearly 20 years. Wednesday's failure ended success records for the Epsilon series since its first launch in 2013. The rocket is believed to have fallen into the sea.

With global prices for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) surging, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹22,000 crore 'onetime grant' to public sector oil marketing firms to cover losses over the past two years in domestic LPG cylinder supplies. The cylinders are supplied at regulated prices to consumers by the public sector oil marketing players. Though international prices for LPG have risen by 300% between June 2020 and June 2022, the increased costs have not been fully passed on to domestic LPG users to insulate them from fluctuations in global prices, as per a communique from the government.

Retail inflation accelerated to a five month high of 7.41% in September, from 7% in August, as food inflation surged sharply to 8.41% last month — the steepest level in 22 months. September's retail inflation was the highest since April, when price rise quickened to an almost eight year high of 7.79%, and economists warned that the latest negative surprise could force the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to opt for further interest rate increases beyond the widely expected 0.5 percentage point increase in the December monetary policy.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the Hindi versions of first-

## MAHAKAL LOK CORRIDOR PROJECT PHASE I INAUGURATED AT MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE IN UJJAIN

1. Mahakal Lok corridor project aims the About Mahakaleshwar temple (dedicated to Lord Shiva) and its adjoining area in Ujjain district (MP). It will help in enriching the experience of pilgrims visiting the temple by providing them with world-class modern amenities.

2. About Mahakaleshwar temple The origin of Mahakal temple can be traced to the Pre-historic period. Puranas narrate that it was first established by Prajapita Brahma. Kalidasa in Raghuvansam described this temple as 'Niketana'. Also, in Meghadutam, Kalidasa gives a fascinating description of Mahakala temple.

3. The present five-storeyed structure was built by the Maratha general Ranoji Shinde in 1734, in the Bhumija, Chalukya and Maratha styles of architecture. Bhumija style is one of the earliest traditional temple styles to be developed in Maharashtra. The main feature of identification of such temples had been its star-shaped plan and the sikhara. Upper components of the temple rested on the strong and well-designed pillars and pilasters.

4. Sculptural art of the temple includes sculptures of Nataraja, Ravananugraha etc. It is the only jyotirlinga facing the south, while all the other jyotirlingas face east.

5. A Jyotirlinga is a representation of Lord Shiva in Hinduism. There are 12 Jyotirlingas. Somnath and Nageshwar in Gujarat, Mallikarjuna in Andhra Pradesh, Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh, Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, Bhimashankar, Triyambakeshwar and Grishneshwar in Maharashtra, Viswanath at Varanasi, Baidyanath in Jharkhand, and Rameshwar in Tamil Nadu.

## RBI AMENDED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANIES (ARCS)

1. It was based on recommendations of the committee to undertake comprehensive review of the working of ARCs. Key provisions are: Allowed ARCS with minimum net owned fund of ₹1000 crore to act as resolution applicants under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016.

2. Earlier, Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI Act) prohibited ARCs from doing other activities than that of securitisation or asset reconstruction, without RBI's permission. IBC provides for a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.

3. Raised minimum capital requirement for setting up an ARC to Rs 300 crore from the existing Rs 100 crore in a phased manner. Changes in corporate governance norms, like, to constitute an Audit Committee, which shall comprise of non-executive directors only.

4. About ARC ARC has been set up to provide a focused approach to Non-Performing Assets resolution on recommendations of Narasimham Committee- II. It is a company registered under Section 3 of SARFAESI Act, 2002. It is regulated by RBI as a Non-Banking Financial Company.

## SATARK NAGRIK SANGATHAN (SNS) RELEASES REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS (IC) IN INDIA, 2021-22

1. Key findings of the report Backlog: Nearly 3.15 lakh complaints or appeals are pending with the ICs. Delay in appointment of the ICs by Centre and states is the primary reasons for the backlogs. Vacancies in ICs: In Jharkhand and Tripura all posts of ICs including that of the Chief are vacant.

2. Time required for disposal of an appeal/complaint: CIC would take 11 months, whereas many SICs may take more than 2 years. Reluctant to impose penalties: ICs did not impose penalties on erring officials in 95% of the cases. Opaque functioning: 69% of ICs have not published their annual report for 2020-21. Sex ratio: Only 5% of the positions being occupied by women.

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year MBBS textbooks in Bhopal on October 16. With this, Madhya Pradesh will inch closer to becoming the first State to provide medical education in Hindi. The scheduled launch comes at a time when the Chief Ministers of two southern States have voiced their reservations against the move of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, headed by Mr. Shah, to employ Hindi as a medium of instruction in key institutions in the Hindi speaking States, and regional languages elsewhere.

China's foreign policy appears to be caught between, on the one hand, presenting itself as the saviour of the UN centred world order and globalisation — building, as Mr. Xi has christened, “a community of shared destiny” — and on the other, pursuing China's core interests ever more aggressively, regardless of the consequences. The launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013 was Mr. Xi's signature foreign policy initiative and a platform to stake China's claim to global leadership. But Beijing today is facing criticism for rising debt levels in many partner countries and for unsustainability in some of its projects.

The seesawing India-China relationship during the Xi decade, from the highs of two “informal summits” in Wuhan in 2018 and Mamallapuram in 2019, to the still ongoing border crisis triggered by the Chinese military's multiple transgressions has plunged relations to the lowest level since the normalisation of ties in the 1980s.

The Indian Railways will soon launch highspeed freight trains on the Vande Bharat platform. The superfast parcel service is aimed at capturing high value and time-sensitive cargo consignments now being moved using other forms of transport.

The Supreme Court ordered States and their police forces to stop prosecuting free speech on social media under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act which was declared unconstitutional by the court in a judgment seven years ago. The court found it both “distressing” and “terrible” that the police had continued to pick out people and prosecute them under the draconian Section regardless of the fact that the highest court in the country had struck down the law as “vague” and “chilling”.

3.Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities. If the information sought is denied then the RTI applicant can file an appeal against the decision of the Public Information Officers (PIOs).

4.PIOs are officers designated by the public authorities in all administrative offices under it to provide information under the Act. ICs (at centre and state level) are final appellate authority under the RTI.

## MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS LAUNCHES FIRST OF ITS KIND PILOT PROJECT ON FFV-SHEV

1.These Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV) will run on 100% petrol as well as 20-100% blended ethanol and electric power. FFVs have an internal combustion engine (ICE), but instead of regular petrol, it can run on blended fuel (petrol with ethanol or methanol).

2.Hybrid EVs are powered by an ICE and one or more electric motors, which uses energy stored in batteries. It can be Mild hybrid or strong hybrid. SHEV can either run purely on electric power (for a specified distance, usually short) or on power from the IC engine, or both.

3.A strong-hybrid's battery can be recharged completely by the engine and through regenerative braking. Regenerative braking captures the kinetic energy from braking and converts it into the electrical power that charges the vehicle's high voltage battery. In a mild-hybrid, there's an integrated starter generator coupled to a Li-ion battery which can be used to power the air conditioning system or other devices in the vehicle.

4.**Advantages-Dual benefit of higher ethanol use and greater fuel efficiency. Enhances driving performance. Solutions for multiple problems like pollution, oil import bill and glut in sugar production.**

## GOVERNMENT OFFERS 42 HYDROCARBON BLOCKS FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATEST AUCTION UNDER HELP

1.It includes, 26 oil and gas blocks and 16 blocks for prospecting for coal-bed methane (CBM). CBM is an unconventional form of natural gas found in coal deposits or coal seams. Generally, it consists predominantly of methane gas, although it can contain trace amounts of ethane, carbon dioxide and water.

2.Bid rounds are being held under the 2016 policy, called Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP). About HELP (replaced New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP): A Single license that will cover Exploration and Production (E&P) of all types of hydrocarbon viz. conventional oil and gas, coal-bed methane, shale oil, gas hydrates, etc.

3.Launch of Open Acreage Licensing (OALP) mechanism which allows the investors to carve out blocks of their choice by assessing E&P data. Adoption of Revenue Sharing Contract model (earlier contracts were based on concept of profit sharing where profits were shared between Government and the contractor after recovery of cost).

4.Reduced royalty rates, no Oil Cess, marketing and pricing freedom. Round the year bidding, an easy, transparent and swift bidding and awarding process.

5.**Significance of HELP-improved 'Ease of Doing Business' in E&P sector, Focus was shifted from 'revenue' to 'production' maximization, Enhanced domestic oil and gas production, Substantial investment due to attractive and liberal terms etc.**

## MOWCD EXPANDS THE MANDATES OF 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP)' SCHEME, FOCUS ON MULTI-MINISTERIAL CONVERGENCE

1.Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has revised its flagship 'BBBP' scheme to include: Skilling of girls in non-traditional livelihood options where women are historically under-represented, Examples- Mobile repairing, LED light making etc. Increasing their enrolment in secondary education particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects. Raising awareness about menstrual hygiene.

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**Despite a setback to trade talks over comments by the British Home Secretary last week, officials in both the U.K. and India said they hope to conclude the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement fairly soon, if not ahead of its “Deepavali deadline” of end-October.**

**In line with the national focus on reducing carbon emissions, the Army has put into plan a road map to induct electric vehicles (EV) wherever possible considering the operational commitments, sources said. The move will help significantly reduce dependence on fossil fuels.**

**2.** Promulgating elimination of child marriages. Ministry also launched the operational manual to implement the scheme in districts. It contains: BBP activity calendar for guided interventions District Score Card as special mechanism of performance ranking of districts. Expands the ministerial convergence beyond Ministry of education and ministry of health and family welfare to other ministries like Ministry of skill and development, Ministry of youth affairs and sports, etc.

**3.** About BBBP-It was launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Now, the scheme has been revised and implemented as a component of the Sambal sub-scheme under Mission Shakti. It has been expanded to cover all the districts of the country. There is no provision for DBT or creation of capital asset under it.