

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

The General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) is meeting in Delhi for four days from October 18. The head of Interpol is the President who is elected by the General Assembly. He comes from one of the member nations and holds office for four years. The day to day activities are overseen by a fulltime Secretary General also elected by the General Assembly. All contact of a country's law enforcement agency with Interpol is through the highest investigating body of the land. The CBI assumes this role in India.

A big cat's skin that no one saw is behind the survey of the 'ghost of the mountains' in India's easternmost tiger reserve. The snow leopard has never been spotted nor recorded in the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The 1,985 sq. km reserve bordering Myanmar has an elevation varying from 200 metres to 4,571 metres above sea level.

The Centre has accorded infrastructure status to data centres with at least 5 MW capacity, according to a recent notification. The move will help data centre firms get easier access to credit at lower rates and attract foreign investments. Data centre capacity is measured as power consumed, reflecting the scale of servers they host.

With winter approaching and instances of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana rising, the Union Environment Ministry announced a ₹50 crore scheme on Thursday to incentivise industrialists and entrepreneurs to set up paddy straw pelletisation and torrefaction plants. Paddy straw made into pellets or torrefied can be mixed with coal in thermal power plants. This saves coal as well as reduces carbon emissions that would otherwise have been emitted were the straw burnt in the fields, as is the regular practice of most farmers in Punjab and Haryana.

India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution on Wednesday that condemned Russia's "illegal" referenda and attempts to annex parts of Ukraine, saying New Delhi's decision is "consistent" with its "well thought out national position" and the country is ready to support efforts at de-escalation while insisting on finding peaceful solution through diplomacy.

## INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD MOST LIKELY TO STAY BACK IN DEVELOPED NATIONS: REPORT

1. Report titled 'International Migration Outlook 2022', released by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, found that: Students from China (22 per cent) and India (10 per cent) account for the largest share of foreign students in OECD countries. Indian students tend to have a higher stay rate than the overall international student population. E.g., Among students admitted in 2015, 71% of Indians held work permits in Canada by 2020 while the relative figure for China was 18%.

2. Impact on Home country Positives: Broaden domestic students' career and networking opportunities; Remittances; acts as human bridges for increased people-to-people ties, technical assistance etc. Negative: Money outflow and Brain Drain leading to reduced domestic innovation potential; slowing business growth and national development.

3. Government measures to reverse the trend Teachers Associateship for Research Excellence, National Post-Doctoral fellowship programme etc. to engage and retain domestic talent. Brain Gain initiatives, like VAJRA Faculty Scheme to harness the technical, economic and social capital of overseas Indians.

## INDIA BEARS WORLD'S HIGHEST HEALTH, ECONOMIC BURDEN DUE TO LEAD POISONING: REPORT

1. The report about lead poisoning was prepared jointly by government think tank Niti Aayog and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh had the highest average blood lead levels.

2. Sources of Lead-Lead(Pb) is a naturally occurring toxic metal found in the Earth's crust. Other sources include: Mining, smelting and refining industries as primary contributors while unorganized sectors (e.g. scrap dealers) as secondary contributors. Household Products such as Cosmetic Products, Ayurveda medicines etc. Lead present in printed circuit boards and batteries due to unscientific recycling Potteries (e.g. utensils and glazed ceramic wares), water bodies etc.

3. Health Impacts of Lead-Small exposure leads to symptoms like headaches, nausea, irritability, tiredness and stomach ache. Large exposure affects brain development, especially in children and lowers IQ. Lead exposure makes the body susceptible to anaemia as it prevents formation of haemoglobin. Premature birth; reduced birth weight and slow growth in newly-borns.

4. Steps Required-Enforce legislation regulating E-waste recycling and proper formal recycling. Policies to exclude the use of Pb in gasoline and paint, ceramic potteries, cosmetics and medicines. Pb parameters are to be included in national drinking water quality standards. Targeted research and intervention study with scientific management, treatment and remediation of Pb.

## CABINET APPROVES NEW SCHEME PM-DEVINE

1. Union Cabinet has approved Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) for the coming four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding. Implemented by: Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

2. Objectives Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti; Support social development projects based on felt needs of the NE; Enable livelihood activities for youth and women; Fill the development gaps in various sectors.

3. Significance of PM DevINE Funding for projects in infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture and livelihood would help improve the standard of living of people. State-specific projects such as bamboo link road in Mizoram, for the transport of bamboo from forests would help bamboo growers. Would complement the existing schemes in the region.

4. Other Initiative-North East Special Infrastructure Development

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DELHI: VIJAY NAGAR 9717380832 & OLD RAJENDER NAGAR 9811293743 | JAIPUR: 8290800441 | PATNA: 7463950774 | RANCHI: 9939982007  
BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & CHANDRA LAYOUT 7619136662 | BHOPAL: 7509975361 | INDORE: 7314977441 | IMPHAL: 9650245599  
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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a NextGen Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which will one day replace operational systems like the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), ISRO Chairman S. Somanath has said. PSLV, often dubbed the 'trusted workhorse', "will have to retire" one day, Mr. Somanath said during a three day Engineers Conclave 2022, which opened at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Valiyamala, on Thursday. In NGLV, ISRO is understood to be looking at a cost efficient, three stage, reusable heavylift vehicle with a payload capability of 10 tonnes to Geostationary Transfer Orbit.

69 % by which wild populations of monitored animal species have plummeted in the last 50 years, according to a report by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The report found that the main drivers of wildlife loss are habitat degradation due to development, exploitation, the introduction of invasive species, pollution and climate change.

39 % of job cardholding households, interested in working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), which did not get a single day of work during the COVID year 2020-21, a survey said. The survey was conducted by Azim Premji University along with the National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations.

2.7 \$ billion, the start-up funding in India in the third quarter of 2022, a two year low, as per the PwC India report. Only two start-ups in India attained unicorn status in the July-September period of 2022, mirroring a global trend of the decline in the number of new unicorns this last quarter, said the report titled 'Startup Deals Tracker Q3 CY22'.

Unlike previous fact finding reports on the February 2020 riots, the 'Uncertain Justice' report is authored by a former judge of the Supreme Court, three high court retired judges and a retired IAS officer. It relies heavily on legal documents including FIRs, chargesheets, and orders passed by courts. The material analysed in the report demonstrates that the Delhi Police failed to prevent the violence even though there were enough warning signs since January 2020 indicating a tense buildup.

Scheme, to improve NER's infrastructure cover projects relating to connectivity enhancing tourism and supply of water and power etc. North East Venture Fund, first and only dedicated venture fund for NER, aims to promote business growth and skill development. Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East.

## NGT IMPOSED FINE ON DELHI GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO MANAGE WASTE AT LANDFILL SITES

1. Around 80% of the legacy waste at the three landfill sites — Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla — was not remedied in Delhi. Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, under Environment Protection Act 1986, state that only non-recyclable, non-biodegradable and non-combustible waste should go to a sanitary landfill. As per CPCB, in 2020-21, Total quantity of Solid waste generated in the country is 1.6 lakh tonnes per day, of which 1.5 lakh tonne per day is collected at a collection efficiency of 95.4%. 50 % of waste is treated and 18.4% is landfilled.

2. Challenges in handling Solid waste in India-Lack of Funding to address the MSW problem. Poor Implementation of rules and regulations. Segregation is not done at source and unorganised segregation facilities. Lack of trained manpower.

3. Harmful Effects of improper treatment of solid waste-Toxic gases are emitted from landfills, such as methane, which can start fire. Increases in the risk of severe health implications such as birth defects, low birth weight, and in adjoining areas. Leaching of harmful chemicals into the ground and water supply.

4. Incineration involves the combustion of organic materials into bottom ash, flue gases, particulates, and heat that can be used to generate electricity. Gasification: process that converts organic or fossil-based carbonaceous materials at high temperatures (>700°C), without combustion, with a controlled amount of oxygen and/or steams into carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide. Pyrolysis: in which waste/material is exposed to high temperature, and in the absence of Oxygen.

## RBI ANNOUNCES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR INTER-OPERABLE REGULATORY SANDBOX(IoRS)

1. The SOP is prepared by the inter-regulatory technical group (IRTG) on fintech, chaired by RBI's fintech department and representatives of SEBI, IRDAI, IFSCA, PFRDA and the central government. It provides a framework to regulate newer fintech products and services falling in the ambit of more than one financial regulator (see image).

2. IoRS is 'a mechanism to facilitate testing of innovative hybrid financial products / services falling within the regulatory ambit of more than one financial sector regulator'. Key highlights of the framework The dominant feature of the product will determine influence of the regulator and regulator under whose jurisdiction such feature will be principal regulator (PR) and others will be associate regulators (AR). The dominant position will be decided in two ways: type of enhancement to the existing products like loans, deposits, etc., number of relaxations sought by the entity for undertaking the test under IoRS.

3. International Financial Services Centres Authority will be PR for Indian FinTechs having global ambition and foreign FinTechs seeking entry to India. IRTG on FinTech will resolve any coordination issue between PR and AR etc.

## LIVING PLANET REPORT 2022 RELEASED BY WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

1. The report, released every two years, measures how species are responding to pressure in the environment due to biodiversity loss and climate change. Title: Building A Nature-Positive Society.

2. Key findings 69% decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish, across the globe in the last 50 years. Highest decline was in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Freshwater populations have declined the most, with an average 83% decline between 1970 and 2018. About 50% of warm water corals have already been lost and warming of 1.5 degrees celsius will lead to a loss of 70-90% of

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Additionally, the report states that there was a targeted application of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) by the state. The Constitutional Conduct Group had envisioned the report to contribute to the understanding of the riots and the after effects.

India desires “normal” relations with Pakistan, but it must take “credible, verifiable and irreversible actions” to end cross border terrorism, said Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi, slamming India’s neighbour for supporting terror groups and for attacks on minorities, in response to a speech made by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, at a conference in Kazakhstan. Speaking at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Astana, Ms. Lekhi also announced that India would host a number of high profile conferences on countering terror this year.

warm water corals.

**3.Suggestions-Report mentions Trade, Development and Environment Hub (TRADE Hub), a multi-country, interdisciplinary collaboration that seeks to understand international trade systems and their social and environmental impacts.** Calls for diversification in food production, particularly across cropping and animal systems. Highlights urgent need to address the sustainability of natural resource supply chains, given the impact they have on nature and people. Suggests to adopt a cross-sectoral, integrated approach, to promote solutions with co-benefits and avoid solutions with trade-offs between biodiversity, climate and other SDGs.

**4.**Report also provides Living Planet Index (LPI). LPI is measure of state of world's biological diversity based on population trends of vertebrate species from terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats. LPI has been adopted by the Convention of Biological Diversity as an indicator of progress towards its 2011-2020 targets and can play an important role in monitoring progress towards the post-2020 goals. WWF is an international nongovernmental organization founded in 1961, headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.