

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Saturday rejected the Global Hunger Index (GHI) that ranked India 107 among 121 countries. The GHI is a peer-reviewed annual report that endeavours to “comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels”. As per the Ministry, the report lowers India’s rank based on the estimates of the Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population.

It elaborates that the U.S. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimate is based on the ‘Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)’ survey module that bears a sample size of 3,000 respondents. It stated that the data represented a miniscule proportion for a country of India’s size. The GHI website explains that while FAO uses a suite of indicators on food security, the GHI only uses the PoU obtained through food balance sheets based on data reported by member countries, including India.

Appointments and transfers of judges in the constitutional courts is a participatory consultative process between the Supreme Court and the government. But there is a disturbing pattern of the government unilaterally delaying or segregating names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium. The Three Judges Case establishes the primacy of the Collegium, led by the CJI, in making judicial appointments. ‘Chief Justice of India’ here means the collective opinion of the Collegium.

The executive element in the appointment process of judges to senior positions is reduced to the minimum so that any undue influence is eliminated. It was for this reason that the word ‘consultation’ instead of ‘concurrence’ was used in the Constitution.

Chairing a meeting of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) society on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted its members to adopt an “one person, one lab approach”. Several of India’s eminent scientists, industrialists and secretaries of scientific ministries are members of the society. The “one person, one lab approach” would require them to make at least 23 visits a year to an assigned CSIR lab and convey the society’s scientific expectations to lab staff, persons who attended the meeting told.

CENTRE DIRECTS ADVERTISING AGENCIES TO ENSURE STRICT COMPLIANCE OF GUIDELINES ON SURROGATE ADVERTISEMENTS

1.This comes after it found that some alcohol and tobacco brands violate surrogate ad norms. It has been observed that many alcoholic drinks are being advertised under the garb of music CDs, club soda etc whereas the chewing tobacco and gutkha has taken the veil of fennel and cardamom. Moreover, many such brands are employing major celebrities that accentuates the negative impact on the impressionable youth amongst others. Surrogate ads are banned under the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022.

2.These guidelines were released by the Central Consumer Protection Authority to “protect the consumers” and “to ensure that consumers are not being fooled with unsubstantiated claims, exaggerated promises, misinformation and false claims”. Surrogate advertising is the strategy of advertising a product that cannot be advertised openly as their advertising is otherwise prohibited or restricted by law.

3.Advertisers instead create ads that help in building a brand, and without naming the actual product that is being indirectly advertised. These advertising came into India in the mid-1990s after the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 read with Cable television Rules, 1994, banned direct liquor, tobacco and cigarette advertisement.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS GRANTS ‘IN-PRINCIPLE’ APPROVAL OF THREE BULK DRUG PARKS (BDPS) TO THREE STATES

1.Approval has been granted to Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh under Promotion of BDP scheme. A bulk drug, also called an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), is key ingredient of a drug or medicine, which lends it the desired therapeutic effect or produces the intended pharmacological activity. Despite India being 3rd largest pharmaceutical industry (by volume) in world, it is primarily dependent on bulk drug import particularly from China.

2.Promotion of BDP scheme was launched in 2020 with a financial outlay of Rs. 3,000 crores to develop 3 mega BDPs in the country and to: Reduce manufacturing cost of bulk drugs in the country and increase the competitiveness of the domestic bulk drug industry. Establish a dominant position in the global market by providing easy access to standard testing & infrastructure facilities.

3.Help industry meet environmental standards. Exploit benefits arising due to optimization of resources and economies of scale. Under the scheme Grants-in-Aid to States by the Centre, with a maximum limit of Rs. 1000 Crore per BDP, would be provided.

4.Other initiatives taken for domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs-**Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for domestic manufacturing of key starting material (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates (DIs) and API. PLI for Pharmaceuticals.**

INDIA TRANSFERRED ON AN AVERAGE OVER 9 MILLION DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER (DBT) PAYMENTS PER DAY

1.According to data shared by Ministry of Electronics and IT, more than Rs 24.8 lakh crore has been transferred through DBT mode since 2013, Rs 6.3 lakh crore in the financial year 2021-22 alone.

2.DBT programme was launched in 2013 to directly transfer subsidy to the underprivileged with aim of: Reforming government delivery system by re-engineering the existing process in welfare schemes for simpler and faster flow of information/funds. Ensuring accurate targeting of the beneficiaries, de-duplication and reduction of fraud. DBT leverage JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobiles) trinity to transfer benefits in a leakage-proof, and timely manner.

3.Primary components in implementation of DBT schemes include Beneficiary Account Validation System, a robust

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India's private sector investment announcements soared 66% between July and September to nearly ₹5.7 lakh crore, compared to the first quarter of 2022-23, even as there was a worrying dip in the execution rate for outstanding projects already committed to. Though the first quarter (Q1) of the year had reported a 20.5% sequential dip in new investments, second quarter (Q2) was boosted by super mega projects like Vedanta's ₹1.54 lakh crore plans to produce chips in Gujarat, driving a sharp 41% jump in investment projects, investment monitoring firm Projects Today said.

₹ 75,000 crore, the amount withdrawn by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from the Indian equity markets in the first two weeks of October on concerns of monetary policy tightening by the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks. With this, the total FPI outflow this year has reached ₹1.76 lakh crore so far.

75 number of Digital Banking Units (DBUs), inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi including two of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. In the Union Budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the setting up of DBUs to commemorate 75 years of independence. Eleven banks in the public sector and 12 in the private sector are participating.

12 percentage, the average hike in wage for employees of four public sector general insurance companies effective from August 2017, under the General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, the Finance Ministry has notified. The officers and employees will get arrears for five years.

Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched MBBS textbooks in Hindi, making Madhya Pradesh the first State in the country to offer medical education in the language. Mr. Shah called the initiative a moment of "renaissance and reconstruction" for the education sector in India.

Tamil Nadu has flagged serious security concerns over the increased presence of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China in Sri Lanka. An alert issued by the State's

payment and reconciliation platform integrated with RBI, NPCI, Public & Private Sector Banks etc. DBT disburses benefits for more than 400 schemes under various ministries/departments.

4. Significance of DBT: eliminates intermediaries thus save time and cost, brings transparency and reduces instances of pilferage, eliminate ghost beneficiaries etc. Challenges Converting non-cash subsidies/services into cash requires a more comprehensive evaluation. Value of transfers is not indexed to market prices and inflation. Access to banks/ATMs and markets may vary across locations.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT AIMS TARGET OF 300 BILLION USD ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION BY 2026

1. Report titled 'Globalise to Localise' for electronic sector was prepared by India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). It highlights how India could achieve electronics production target of US\$300 billion and exports of US\$120 by 2025-26.

2. The report stressed the need to create a competitive domestic ecosystem of ancillary suppliers through technology upgradation. Status of electronic sector in India The electronics sector of India contributes around 3.4% of the country's GDP. The electronics industry is a 76 bn dollar manufacturing economy with 16 bn dollar of exports, with a target of 21 to 25 bn dollars of exports in next year.

3. Electronics as a sector has jumped to the 6th largest export from India in 2022. India's domestic production in electronics has increased \$ 29 Bn in 2014-15 to \$ 67 Bn in 2020-21. (Increase of 2.3x) Mobile phones constitute the single largest component of electronics exports from India and India is the 2nd largest mobile manufacturer in the world.

4. **Scheme for Electronic sector-PLI for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing PLI for IT Hardware Industrial Land Bank Portal Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS).**

CRIMINALITY IN THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (NDPS) ACT, 1985

1. Recently Supreme Court dismissed a petition seeking to declare certain provisions of the NDPS Act 1985, invalid. Petition had sought to decriminalize personal consumption of drugs under the NDPS Act as criminalisation enhanced stigma and prevented the treatment of health issues which were related to drug use.

2. Also, Karnataka High court recently observed that nowhere in the NDPS Act is bhang referred to as a prohibited drink or prohibited drug. The NDPS Act is the main legislation that deals with drugs and their trafficking. Various provisions of the Act punish production, manufacture, sale, possession, consumption, purchase, transport, and use of banned drugs, except for medical and scientific purposes.

3. It authorizes Central Government to take necessary measures for the identification, treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation of addicts, and preventive education. Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was constituted and empowered to coordinate all activities for the administration and enforcement of the Act.

4. **Other issues with the NDPS act: Majority of cases are filed against drug users instead of drug peddlers, No provision for compulsory treatment of addicts under this Act, Offence on consumption is vague.**

UNION CABINET APPROVES SIGNING OF MOU WITH NEPAL ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

1. MoU helps in the field of biodiversity conservation, to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of forests, wildlife, environment, and climate change. It will also include restoration of corridors and interlinking areas and share knowledge and best practices. India has Transboundary Protected Areas (TPA) with Nepal. For ex: Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) located in the northeast corner of Nepal near the border with India and Tibet.

2. Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) spread across the Indian states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and the low lying hills of

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intelligence agency a few days ago said the activities of the Chinese in the neighbouring country is a concern to national security and called for intensified vigil along the coastline.

India would be taking over the Group of Twenty (G20) presidency at “a time when there are so many challenges”, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said. Speaking to reporters, towards the end of her visit to Washington for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings, Ms. Sitharaman said that the current G20 President, Indonesia, had been through “a very difficult year” in the context of the geopolitical tensions. This had resulted in the G20, which met in Washington this past week, not agreeing to a joint communique. Indonesia had, instead, issued a “G20 Chair’s Summary”.

Nepal.Sacred Himalayan Landscape whose 74% area falls in Nepal, 25% falls in Sikkim of India and the remaining falls in Bhutan.

3.Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) is other transboundary landscapes across the Eastern Himalayas that connect Bhutan with North East India. As per IUCN, TPA is an area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more borders between states, and whose constituent parts are dedicated to protection and maintenance of biological diversity through legal or other effective means.

4.Importance of TPAs-Building greater ecological integrity by increasing the size of the area under conservation management.Maintaining or strengthening ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change. Enhance cooperation in trans-border trade and tourism planning. Cultural heritage benefits as many protected areas and wider conservation areas have significant spiritual and cultural values.