

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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About 150 years ago, British colonialists brought batches of what they thought were a single species of the northern giraffe to India, from their other colonial possessions in Africa. These now comprise a captive population of 29 northern giraffes across the country. A recent genealogical study of the largest captive herd in India at the Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata has confirmed that the giraffes in this facility, at least, are most likely "critically endangered" Nubian giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis*) or the endangered Rothschild giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*).

The Ministry of Railways announced the closure of the Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops (COFMOW), New Delhi, with effect from December 1, 2022. Keeping in line with the recommendations of the Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, on the rationalisation of government bodies, the Railway Board confirmed the winding up of the four decade old organisation that contributed significantly towards the modernisation of workshops across the railway network, sources in the Railways said.

₹110 the amount by which the government increased the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat to ₹2,125 per quintal on Tuesday. The MSP for mustard was raised by ₹400 to ₹5,450 per quintal for the current crop year to boost the production and income of farmers. MSP is the rate at which the government buys grain from farmers.

Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka has won the 2022 Booker Prize for his second novel *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, described by the judges as a whodunnit and a race against time.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for enhanced global cooperation to defeat the threats of terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking, poaching and organised crimes, stating that there can be no safe havens for the perpetrators of such offences. "When threats are global, the response cannot be just local. It is high time that the world came together to defeat these threats," Mr. Modi said at the inaugural address at the four day 90th Interpol General Assembly meet.

RULES NEED TO BE CALIBRATED TO ADDRESS RISKS FROM BIG TECH: REPORT BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

1. Report highlighted the risks emanating from the inter-linkages between big-tech companies and their role as critical service providers for financial institutions. It calls for balancing between promoting efficiency, protecting data privacy and ensuring financial stability (see image).

2. **Risks associated with Big Tech sector in Financial services: Barrier in creating a level playing field to promote innovation in the fintech space.** Big-Tech can create products and establish a presence with greater ease vis-à-vis nascent fintechs.

3. Complex governance structure of big techs limits the scope for effective oversight and entity-based regulations. Bigtechs have the potential to become dominant players raising competition and data privacy issues. Regulatory framework suggested Ensuring Competition and Market Contestability, limiting dominance of bigtechs.

4. Securing Data Protection and Data-Sharing, by measures like EU's General Data Protection Regulation. Development of a framework that aligns both entity and activity-based regulations. Monitoring Operational Resilience by strengthening the regulations on outsourcing activities.

5. Regulatory frameworks to keep up the pace with innovations to contain the vulnerabilities. BigTech are large technology conglomerates with extensive customer networks with core businesses in social media, telecommunications, internet search and e-commerce. Examples include Amazon, Microsoft, Apple Inc. etc.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS LAUNCHES MEASURES TO REFORM FERTILISER SECTOR

1. Reforms have been announced in the backdrop of the PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022. Key reforms include Launch of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana - One Nation One Fertiliser scheme: Under this, all subsidised soil nutrients - urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash, and NPK - will be marketed under the single brand Bharat. Since fertilizers must meet the nutrient-content specifications of Fertilizer Control Order, there is no product differentiation among different brands for each type of fertilizer.

2. **Significance:** Help farmers overcome confusion over brand-specific choices; prevent criss-cross movement of fertilisers reduce high freight subsidies. Inaugurated 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK): Government plans to develop more than 3.25 lakh fertiliser shops across the country as PM-KSK.

3. PMKSK will help in: catering to a wide variety of needs of the farmers and provide agri-inputs (fertilisers, seeds, implements), testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilisers; generate awareness among farmers; provide information regarding various government schemes; ensure regular capacity building of retailers at block/district level outlets. Also, 'Indian Edge', an e-magazine on fertiliser was also launched.

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL(NGT) REPORT CONFIRMS MINING IS RAMPANT IN ARAVALLIS

1. Report of a joint committee, formed by NGT to ascertain the extent of illegal mining in Aravalli has reported mining activity at several locations in the region despite prohibitory orders. Mining of major and minor minerals in Aravalli hills in Faridabad, Gurugram and Mewat was banned by the SC, first in 2002 and then in 2009. This was banned to restore the traditional ecological value of the hills. Earlier, CAG had also highlighted alarming level of Ecological degradation in Aravallis.

2. **Significance of Aravallis Aquifer recharge: Several water streams originate from Aravalli. Also, with their natural cracks and fissures, they function as NCR's most critical water recharge zone. Climate: During monsoons,** the mountain range guides the attenuated monsoon clouds

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The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the Centre not to implement the recommendations made in the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language submitted by its chairman to the President of India. The parliamentary panel has recommended Hindi as the medium of instruction in Central institutions of higher education in Hindi speaking States and regional languages in other States.

30 % of Ukraine's power stations that were destroyed by Russian forces in repeated strikes that targeted energy infrastructure and caused blackouts across the country, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky. Several regions of Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv, were experiencing power cuts after a new round of strikes hit energy facilities.

20 % of stake, state owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) overseas arm ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), is applying to retake in Russia's Sakhalin1 oil and gas project. Sakhalin1 is OVL's cash cow and without it, the company would be a loss making entity. Sakhalin1 is one of the oldest investments of OVL, where it has recovered all the money it has sunk in.

30 basis points, the hike by the nation's largest lender State Bank of India, in savings deposit rates for large accounts. Banks have been witnessing a flight of money to other asset classes. For many months, deposit growth has not been keeping pace with credit growth which in the first half averaged at 14.8% while deposits have been lower at 9.5%.

58 number of people killed in more than a week of inter rebel fighting in Syria's Turkish held north. The flareup has allowed Al Qaeda linked fighters to gain ground, according to war monitor Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The clashes since October 8, in a area near the Turkish border, have been among the deadliest in years, killing 48 rebels and 10 civilians.

Citizens belonging to different religions and denominations follow different property and matrimonial laws which is an "affront to the nation's unity", the government said in the Supreme Court. Article 44 (Uniform Civil Code) divests religion from social relations and personal law, it maintained. The preliminary submissions are part of recent

eastwards, thus helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains.

3.In the winter months, it protects the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus and Gangetic) from the cold westerly winds from Central Asia. Wildlife: Aravalli are home to large number of wild species and with destruction of Aravallis chances of man - animal conflict rises.

4.About the Aravalli-It is an almost 700km-long mountain range that starts from Gujarat, travels through Rajasthan and Haryana before finishing at Raisina hill, Delhi. They have been denuded over the past four decades owing to mining, deforestation and over-exploitation of its fragile and ancient water channels.

PROMOTION OF REGIONAL LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION

1.Madhya Pradesh has become the first State to offer medical education in Hindi language with the launch of Hindi version of the MBBS book. Earlier, ten states have accepted regional languages as a medium of instruction for engineering courses. National Education Policy 2020 calls for promotion of regional languages in education.

2.Other initiatives taken to promote regional languages Translation of 22 books of Diploma & Under Graduate level in 9 scheduled Indian languages by the All-India Council of Technical Education.

3.Grant for publication of University Level Books in regional languages by Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology. 'Bahubhaashak', a software tool provides for real-time translations of lectures in multiple languages with the help of artificial intelligence etc. It was developed by IIT Bombay and funded by MEITY under National Language Translation Mission.

4.Benefits of Education in Regional Languages Increase enrolment and better learning-outcomes through improved learning. Strengthen cultural roots through increased proficiency in regional languages and reduce brain drain. Keep language a medium of expression by discouraging its use to judge a person's capability and abilities.

5.Obstacles to promotion of Regional Languages Multi-linguistic nature of Indian society, increasing resources required and increasing fears of imposition of language. Availability of quality teachers to teach professional courses in regional languages. Placement concerns as regional languages limit job opportunities.

GOVT FORMS EXCLUSIVE BENCHES AT 3 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNALS (DRTs) TO RESOLVE CASES ABOVE RS 100 CRORE

1.Government has created these exclusive benches at DRTs in Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi. This has been done in view of a long-standing demand by banks to get more focus on high-value cases.

2.Significance of this move High-value cases are estimated to be numbering only 1%, but the amount wise constitutes 80% of claims. Presently, lot of privately held companies in India are registered as partnerships or family concern. These cannot be tried under the insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC) in the National Company Law Tribunal which deals with companies only. Also, data from RBI show that DRTs had ₹2.25 lakh crore of debt pending under litigation as of March 2021.

3.About DRTs The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act (RDB Act), 1993 provides for establishment of DRTs with original jurisdiction and Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) with appellate jurisdiction.

4.Objective of these tribunals is to provide expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions. It also hears cases filed under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act,2002. At present, 39 DRTs and 5 DRATs are functioning across the country.

GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX (MPI) 2022 RELEASED

1.MPI 2022, titled 'Unpacking Deprivation package to reduce Multidimensional Poverty', was released by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations

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affidavits filed by the Union Law Ministry to petitions, which was filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, seeking directions from the top court to the government to remove “anomalies” and frame uniform divorce law and uniform guidelines for adoption and guardianship of children.

India does not believe in a hierarchical world order where a few countries are considered superior to others, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, addressing the 2nd India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) at the Def Expo 2022. He invited African countries to explore Indian defence equipment and technologies, stating that India has emerged as a leading defence exporter in recent years. “We do not believe in making or becoming a client or satellite state, and so, when we partner any nation, it is on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect. Forging relations comes naturally to India, as we work towards mutual economic development,” he said.

Development Programme (UNDP). It was first launched in 2010. **2.Key highlightsGlobal Across 111 countries, 1.2 billion people — 19.1%— live in acute multidimensional poverty. COVID19 pandemic had set progress in reducing MPI values back by 3–10 years. India specific findings India has largest number of poor people worldwide, followed by Nigeria.** More than one in five children are poor. MPI value fell from 0.283 in 2005/2006 to 0.069 in 2019/2021. 41.5 crore people exited poverty during the 15-year period between 2005-06 and 2019-21.

3.In rural areas, 21.2% of people are poor as compared to 5.5% in urban areas. India is the only country in South Asia where female-headed households are poorer than male-headed households.

4.MPI is based on a deprivation profile for each household and person based 10 indicators spanning health, education and standard of living. In comparison, National MPI released by NITI Aayog is based on 12 parameters- bank account, antenatal care apart from 10 parameters of Global MPI.