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Nearly half a century since it came into existence, the government is looking to revamp and restructure the National Informatics Centre (NIC) — its the technology arm — to help the organisation keep pace with the growing need for digital technologies in the country. The Centre has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of a consultant for NIC's organisational restructuring. The NIC comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and it was established in 1976 with the objective to provide technologydriven solutions to the Central and State Governments.

They moved from Kerala to Italy for higher studies, work and seeking better lives. But for these football maniacs, there was no better life without the beautiful game. Moving from a football crazy State to a country where football is almost a religion, they took their game to a new level. Come Sunday, Adlers Lombard, a Keralitesrun football club in Italy, will begin its journey in the Italian football system by competing in the CSI (Centro Sportivo Italiano) Regione Bergamo, a lower division football league competition consisting of 12 teams. The club formed in 2019 plays the 7aside football format. It is the first of its kind, with 15 Keralites among its 20member roster, to play in an Italian league.

Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday raised the policy repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.9%, with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das citing the 'persistence of high inflation that necessitated the withdrawal monetary of accommodation to restrain broadening of price pressures and contain second round effects'. "This action will support medium term growth prospects," Mr. Das added. The committee also voted by a 5:1 majority to "remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward".

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced a 15 point Winter Action Plan issuing a public appeal for unity and cooperation both among governments and citizens as the pillars of the fight against air pollution. While the ban on the manufacture and sale of firecrackers continues in the Capital, Mr. Kejriwal said the government will spray biodecomposer over a

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- **1.**Solar geoengineering, also known as solar radiation management (SRM), is a term used to describe a group of hypothetical technologies that could, in theory, counteract temperature rise by reflecting more sunlight away from the Earth's surface.
- **2.**Although SRM technologies could theoretically lower global warming, they do not aim to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Commonly proposed solar geoengineering technologies Stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI): involves injecting tiny reflecting particles, known as aerosols, into the upper atmosphere to cool the planet.
- **3.**Marine cloud brightening (MCB): involve using ships to spray saltwater into the clouds above the sea. Once airborne, the salt particles act as "cloud condensation nuclei", leading to larger and brighter clouds which reflect away sunlight. High-albedo crops and buildings making rooftops and walls brighter. For eg. by painting them white.
- 4.Ocean mirror: involve using a fleet of sea vessels to churn up millions of tiny microbubbles on the ocean surface. Cloud thinning: "remove" cirrus clouds from the atmosphere which absorb large amounts of long-wave radiation. Space sunshades: sending a giant mirror or fleet of mirrors into orbit in order to reflect away more sunlight.

NOW ALL WOMEN ARE ENTITLED TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION: SUPREME COURT

- **1.**In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court declared that unmarried women are also entitled to seek abortion of pregnancy in the term of 20-24 weeks arising out of a consensual relationship. The issue relates to whether the exclusion of unmarried woman, whose pregnancy arises out of consensual relationship, from Rule 3B of the Medical Term Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Rules is valid.
- **2.**Rule 3B mentions the categories of woman whose pregnancy in the duration of 20-24 weeks can be terminated. Key highlight of the Judgement Prohibiting unmarried or single women with pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks from accessing safe and legal abortion care is violative of her: Rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity and privacy (Article 21), and Right to equality before law and equal protection (Article 14).
- **3.**Extended the benefits of the MTP Act to minors who engage in consensual sexual activity by exempting doctors from disclosing their identity to the local police. Held that the meaning of the words "sexual assault" or "rape" under the rules of the MTP Act includes a husband's act of sexual assault or rape committed on his wife.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION(ILO) LAY DOWN GUIDELINES TO TACKLE STRESS IN WORKPLACES

- **1.**According to the WHO, work and mental health are closely intertwined. A safe and healthy working environment supports mental health, and good mental health enables people to work productively. Depression and anxiety are thought to account for 12 billion lost workdays annually, costing the world economy close to \$1 trillion.
- **2.**Key measure suggested by the report Prevent work-related mental health conditions through psychosocial risk management, Protect and promote mental health at work, especially through training and interventions that improve mental health literacy, Support workers with mental health conditions to participate fully and equitably in work, and Create an enabling environment with cross-cutting actions to improve mental health at work.
- 3.Importance of improving Mental health at Work-To uphold the human right to good health, including mental health. To advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 3 on health and SDG 8 on

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larger area for free to tackle stubble burning. He said the government's efforts to confront air pollution had started bearing fruit and PM10 levels in 202122 were down by 18.6% compared with 201718 levels as per the Centre's National Clean Air Programme report.

The University Grants Commission has issued guidelines for engaging "Professors of Practice" distinguished experts from different fields at institutions of higher education who need not have an educational qualification and maybe paid through corporate sponsorship or an honorarium. Experts who have made "remarkable contribution" in fields such as engineering, science, social sciences, among others and with an experience of at least 15 years will be eligible. They will be exempted from the requirement of publications and other criteria stipulated for recruitment of faculty members.

The border guarding forces of India and Nepal agreed to develop a mechanism to prevent the illegal entry of third nation citizens through the open border.

In a first such move against oil U.S. shipments to India, the Treasury department announced it had imposed sanctions against a petrochemical Mumbai based company among several entities accused of selling Iranian petroleum products. The company, Mumbai based Tibalaji that was accused of purchasing shipments that were then sent to China, is the first Indian entity to face the U.S. under designation unilateral sanctions passed in 2018 19, after the U.S. Trump administration's decision to walk out of the nuclear deal, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran.

President Droupadi Murmu gave away the National Film Awards for the year 2020 under various categories at the 68th edition of the ceremony on Friday.

The result of the first largescale study of the Central Government's National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 (NCRC) data, released recently by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), states that hospital mortality among COVID patients in the country was higher among those admitted with chronic

decent work for all.

4.Reduce exclusion at the workplace and increase economic security of individuals/households. Benefit enterprises through a larger labour market and higher productivity. Save government expenditures on healthcare and welfare support.

UNESCO LAUNCHES LIST DOCUMENTING 50 ICONIC INDIAN HERITAGE TEXTILES

1.The document 'Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile' lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, mentions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.

2.Textiles documented include Toda embroidery and Sungadi from Tamil Nadu, Himroo weaves from Hyderabad and Bandha tie and dye weaving from Sambalpur. Kunbi weaves from Goa, Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat, Himroo from Maharashtra and Garad-Koirial from West Bengal.

3.Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery from Karnataka, Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari from Thanjavur. About Indian textiles Traditional Indian textiles can be divided into -Embroidered textiles (Phulakri, chikankari), resist dyed textiles (Bandhani, Ikat), Printed textiles (Kalamkari, Bagru prints) and hand-woven textiles (Banaras Brocades, Kashmir Shawls) etc.

4.The specialty in the weave of the textiles in each region is developed based on location, climate and cultural influences India earns about 27% of its total foreign exchange through textile exports. It also contributes around 3% to the GDP of the country.

STATES' MAHATMA GANDHI NREGS UNDER LENS OVER POSSIBLE MISUSE OF FUNDS

1.As reported, some states have been using more than permitted Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) funds to build rural infrastructure instead of generating livelihood opportunities for rural needy.

2.As per guidelines, sixty percent of the scheme allocation in a year has to be utilized for agriculture and allied activities and 40% for asset or infrastructure creation, administrative purposes and wages. This has impacted the creation of livelihood opportunities and has led to a spike in the centre's expenditure under the scheme.

3.About MGNREGA-MGNREGA, 2005 is a bottom-up, peoplecentered, demand-driven, self-selecting and rights-based programme to provide guaranteed employment. It is implemented in all rural districts of the country. Resource transfer from Centre to States is based on the demand for employment in each State. Types of works under MGNREGA include Public Works Relating to Natural Resources Management - Water conservation and water harvesting structures, irrigation etc.

4.Individual Assets for Vulnerable Sections - Improving productivity of lands of households, infrastructure for promotion of livestock etc. Common Infrastructure for National rural livelihood mission (NRLM) Compliant Self-Help Groups. Rural Infrastructure- all-weather rural road connectivity, individual household latrines etc.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO) RELEASES GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX (GII) 2022

1.The GII 2022 captures the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 economies and tracks the most recent global innovation trends. Ranking is based on two sub-indices Innovation Input Sub-Index Innovation Output Sub-Index.Key highlights of the report India climbs to the 40th rank from 46th rank in 2021 making it the topmost innovative lower middle-income economy in the world.

2.For the twelfth consecutive year, Switzerland ranks first in GII followed by the US. GII 2022 puts its hopes in two novel innovation waves: Digital Age innovation wave built on supercomputing, artificial intelligence and automation that is on the verge of making ample productivity impacts across all sectors – including services.

3.Helping to achieve scientific breakthroughs in basic sciences of all fields; and Deep Science innovation wave built on

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and tuberculosis.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have warned they will carry on with attacks in neighbouring Iraq until they disarm Kurdish groups that they have accused of spreading unrest in the Islamic republic. The Guard Corps on Wednesday launched a barrage of missile and drone strikes on Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, killing 14 people including a U.S. citizen.

kidney and liver disease, malignancy breakthroughs in biotechnologies, nanotechnologies, new materials and other sciences that are revolutionizing innovations in four fields of key importance to society: health, food, environment, and mobility.

> 4.NITI aayog releases India Innovation Index Report annually drawing on the broad framework of GII that ranks states and UTs on their innovative performance to build healthy competition among them.