

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

25TH OCTOBER 2022

The CCI, the country's competition watchdog is empowered under the Competition Act, 2002, to check whether companies especially large tech companies are not eliminating healthy competition in the market and creating a monopoly. The CCI said that due to Google's various agreements with manufacturers, one of its major revenue earning apps, Youtube, gained a significant edge over competitors in the online video hosting platforms market.

The mention of Google's antitrust practices with regard to Youtube was the distinguishing factor between the CCI probe and the EU probe of Google in 2018. Google is already facing two other antitrust probes by the CCI. In June 2021, the Commission ordered a probe into allegations that Google had abused its dominant position with Android in India's smart television market and in November 2020, the CCI had initiated a probe to look into allegations that Google abused its dominant position to push its payments system.

Five new Basmati varieties, developed by a group of scientists led by Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), in 2020 and 2021 are all set to bring revolutionary changes in the way this type of paddy is cultivated in the country. Three of the five varieties can resist two common diseases of paddy. The other two can save 35% of the water now required as the seeds can be directly sown, obviating the need for transplanting seedlings. These two seeds are resistant to herbicides too, helping the farmers control weeds more efficiently. In the next three years, all of the five seeds will have the combined qualities of disease and herbicide resistance, Dr. Singh says.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest rocket, Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3), which took off from the second launch pad (SLP) of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota at 12.07 a.m. on Sunday has successfully put into orbit 36 satellites of the U.K.-based OneWeb. The 43.5metre LVM3 weighing around 644 tonnes carried 36 satellites weighing 5,796 kg. OneWeb's satellites separated successfully from the rocket and were dispensed in nine phases, with signal acquisition on all 36 satellites confirmed. With this launch, LVM3 has made its entry into the global commercial launch market.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SELECT DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT (SC) AND NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (NGT) OF INDIA" REPORT

1. Commissioned by NITI Aayog, the report is prepared by Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), a Jaipur based policy research and advocacy group. Objective of the study is to build a narrative to support better sensitivity of economic impacts of judgments by the judiciary and will serve as useful inputs for the training of judicial officers.

2. According to the report, the government had lost revenue worth Rs 8,000 crore from mid-2018 to mid-2021, due to five major environment-related judgements passed by the SC and NGT. Also, around 16,000 workers lost their jobs.

3. Recommendations made by study - Sensitising judges - Judicial officers to be exposed to (basic) economic issues so as to enable them to recognise the need for a holistic and balanced decision and approach.

4. Bring expert opinion - It aims to assist judges on cases that involve economic impacts. Larger public good - In cases where strict adherence to legal provisions may lead to substantive economic losses, the decision-making of the SC should be guided by the larger public good.

5. Public discourse - Among key policymakers, members of the judiciary, and academia for promoting an economically responsible approach by the judiciary.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (MoSJE) APPROVES NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR MECHANISED SANITATION ECOSYSTEM (NAMASTE)

1. NAMASTE, central sector scheme, is a joint initiative of MoSJE and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices. It has been approved for four years from FY 2022-23 to 2025-26. 500 cities (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under first phase of NAMASTE.

2. NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes: **Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India. All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers. No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter.** Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and empowered to run sanitation enterprises. All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternate livelihoods.

3. Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at national, state and ULB levels to ensure monitoring of safe sanitation work. Increased awareness amongst sanitation service seekers. NAMASTE will merge with and replace Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) which provides assistance to manual scavengers and their dependents.

4. India banned manual scavenging practice under Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. Since 2017, 351 people have died while cleaning septic tanks and sewers.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY APPROVES STARTUP LOAN FOR MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIALISING "COMPOSTABLE" PLASTIC

1. Rs 1.15 crores loan assistance was provided to M/s TGP Bioplastics, a first-generation start-up for manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic to mitigate usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP). Currently, the cheapest degradable polymer is Polybutylene adipate terephthalate (PBAT).

2. Compostable plastic: This project has received seed funding under NIDHI Prayas (DST), Niti Aayog and UNIDO for the prototype development. India had banned manufacturing, importing, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified SUP, which have low utility and high littering potential, all across the country in July 2022. It costs Rs. 280-300/kg, whereas conventional plastic raw materials cost around Rs. 90/kg.

3. It is a unique blend of Thermoplastic-Starch (TPS)-glycerin with some chemical modifications that provides higher strength

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The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country on Sunday, a week later than normal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. India witnessed a normal monsoon season for the fourth consecutive year with 925 mm rainfall which was 106% of the long-period average (LPA) of 880 mm. "The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the remaining parts of the country on October 23," the IMD said.

220 number of people killed in South Sudan in two days of tribal fighting, making it one of the deadliest bouts of tribal violence in recent years. The unrest added to the woes of the African nation mired in political chaos. Violence in the Blue Nile province, which borders Ethiopia and South Sudan, reignited earlier this month over a land dispute.

2 crore, the number of viewers who tuned into the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match on the digital streaming platform, Disney + Hotstar. The game recorded the highest ever viewership beating the previous record of 1.4 crore recorded between the two teams at the Asia Cup recently. The match was also screened on the screens of PVR and Inox which reported large influx of people.

On October 18, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Maharashtra's deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis signed a 'definitive agreement' for handing over 47.5 acres of Railway land in Dadar for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project. The cost of the project is estimated to have gone up by almost six times from ₹4,000 crore in 2004 to ₹26,000 crore in 2019. Now it is estimated to be around ₹28,000 crore. Phase 1 of the project includes redevelopment of specified areas comprising slum and non-slum sections, buildings and chawls.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping began his unprecedented third five year term on Sunday in even firmer control of the ruling Communist Party after filling the newly announced Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC) with all of his allies. As many as four allies of Mr. Xi, 69, were on Sunday appointed to the PBSC that was announced after the first meeting of the new Central Committee, which was unveiled on Saturday following the conclusion of the CPC congress.

with low manufacturing cost (~Rs 180/kg). The granules prepared from this composite can be moulded into any shape and used as per the requirement. It further breaks down into natural substances once thrown out. The company targets a production capacity of 880 MT per annum.

4.About NIDHI – PRYAS Scheme-Department of Science & Technology has launched a NIDHI program (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) under which programmes for setting up of incubators, seed fund, accelerators and 'Proof of concept' grant for innovators and entrepreneurs have been launched.

5.Under NIDHI, PRAYAS (Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring innovators & Startups) programme has been initiated in which established Technology Business Incubators (TBI) are supported with PRAYAS grant to support innovators and entrepreneurs with grants for 'Proof of Concept' and developing prototypes.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION TAKES STEPS FOR MODERNIZING FOOD GRAIN STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

1.The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) proposed a new model for development of grain Silos across the country i.e., Hub & Spoke Model in Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode. The surplus grains are stored with government agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI), and Central and State Warehousing Corporations.

2.Significance of storage Government initiatives for modernization of storage facilities Silos are declared as sub Mandi yards which brings ease of procurement for farmers and leads to reduction in logistics cost. Ensures a steady supply of gains. Economic development, infrastructure development & employment generation in the country.

3.Protects the quality of perishable and semi-perishable products. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme under which New Godowns are being constructed by FCI mainly through Private Participation. Gramin Bhandaran Yojana is a capital investment subsidy scheme which works towards the construction and renovation of the godowns in the rural areas.

4.The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides assistance for cold chain infrastructure development including that of cold storages under the scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation infrastructure.

5.About hub and spoke model-It is a transportation system that consolidates the transportation assets from standalone locations referred to as "Spoke" to a central location named as "Hub" for long-distance transportation.

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG) OF INDIA ON CONSERVATION OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

1.Report contains observation on whether steps taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to conserve India's coastal ecosystems have been successful. Key Findings National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) still not notified as a permanent body and was functioning as an ad-hoc body.

2.Recommendations Conservation of Coastal areas in India SCZMAs and NCZMA be made as permanent bodies. State/UT Coastal Zone Management Authorities (SCZMAs/UTCZMAs) were either not reconstituted (Karnataka) or there were delays in reconstitution (Goa, Odisha and West Bengal). Projects approved despite inadequacies in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports.

3.Project proponent carry out in-depth ecological evaluation before granting them clearances. Mapping and preparation of Management Plans for coral reefs, turtle nesting sites etc Integrated Management Plans for Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas yet to be prepared by coastal states.

4.Notifications under Environment Protection Act, 1986 to regulate activities along coasts. Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZ) 2019 classifies coastal area into different zones (refer infographic) to manage infrastructure activities and regulate them. Three institutions responsible for implementation

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In an unprecedented move, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan directed the Vice-Chancellors of nine universities in Kerala to tender their resignations by 11.30 a.m. on Monday. Mr. Khan, the Chancellor of varsities, issued the order after the Supreme Court annulled the appointment of M.S. Rajasree as Vice-Chancellor of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU).

\$6.30 billion, the amount of debt that Pakistan has asked China to rollover as it is maturing in the next eight months: The cash strapped country is under pressure from western institutions and governments to seek rollover of Chinese debt, currently standing at \$26.7 billion including public and publicly guaranteed debt.

of CRZ are:NCZMA at Centre, SCZMAs/UTCZMAs in every coastal State and UT, District Level Committees in districts with a coastal stretch.

5.CRZ-I-Areas which are ecologically sensitive.CRZ II-Areas within the existing municipal limits/other urban areas which are substantially built-up. CRZ III-Relatively undisturbed /do not belong to either CRZ-I or II; This includes coastal zone in the rural areas, areas within existing municipal limits or other urban areas which are not substantially built up. CRZ-IV-Designated to water area from Low Tide Line to twelve nautical miles on sea ward side and inland waters influenced by tide.