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Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Secretary Apurva Chandra said the Ministry would deregulate uplinking for satellites in the new Uplinking-Downlinking Guidelines slated to be released soon. Speaking at the India Space Congress 2022, Mr. Chandra said the move would make India an uplinking hub for neighbouring countries. He said broadcasting channels in the country used 592 foreign satellites for uplinking and downlinking and "\$102 million has been paid as remittance to foreign satellite companies. If we are to have more Indian satellites, the remittance will be far less and will provide a great opportunity to Indian satellite companies.

Social media users will now have the option to appeal against the grievance redressal process of the platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, before an appellate panel to be formed by the Centre government, with the notifying the amendments to the IT intermediary rules on October 28. "The central government shall, by notification, establish one or more Grievance Appellate Committees within three months," according to the gazette notification.

Each committee, which will have the power to overturn content moderation decisions made by social media platforms, will consist of a chairperson and two wholetime members appointed by the Centre, of which one will be a member exofficio and two shall be independent members. The new law follows multiple standoffs between the Centre and social media platforms over content moderation and pulling down of content.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology raised several questions on implication on data privacy of citizens with vague definitions of "public interest" and "national security" in the draft Indian draft Telecommunication Act, 2022, at a meeting to discuss the draft law on Friday. The members, according to sources, expressed concern about the draft law preceding the Data Privacy Bill, without providing the necessary safeguards. "The draft law has serious loopholes that can be misused for infringing on privacy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Central laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) had given an impetus to the system in a decisive fight against

PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST OF DEATH ROW CONVICTS IS ESSENTIAL, SAYS SUPREME COURT

- **1.**In a significant order, SC has reiterated the importance of conducting a psychological evaluation of convicts who have been awarded death sentences. It called for: Psychological evaluation of condemned prisoners by expert doctors Access to them by mitigating investigators.
- **2.**It held this will provide assistance to Court to have an independent and holistic picture of the physical and mental condition and background of the condemned person.
- **3.**Death Penalty or capital punishment is the execution of an offender sentenced to death after conviction by a court of law for a criminal offense. Constitution give power to President of India and the Governor respectively to grant pardon and to suspend, remit or commute death penalty in certain cases.
- **4.**Landmark judgements related to death penalty: Bachan singh v/s state of Punjab: Supreme court pointed out only in the rarest of rare cases that are brutal, the death penalty should be imposed.
- **5.**Machhi Singh and others v the state of Punjab: Supreme court stressed weighing aggravating factors of the crime against the mitigating factors of the criminal before awarding death penalty.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES GUIDELINES TO SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT OF PLANT VARIETIES

- **1.**The guidelines shall be applicable for all organizations involved in research, development and handling of the Genome Edited Plants under Sites Directed Nucleases (SDN)-1 and SDN-2 categories. They are expected to speed up development of plant varieties and reduce the time of approval.
- 2.Earlier, SDN-1 and SDN-2 categories of Genome Edited Plants were provided exemption from some of the stringent regulations under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. SDN technology helps to introduce specific small changes at the site of the DNA break. It takes advantage of the targeted DNA break and the host's natural repair mechanisms.
- **3.**Such targeted edits result in a new and desired characteristic, such as enhanced nutrient uptake or decreased production of allergens. Genome edited plants derived from SDNs are generally classified under three categories as: Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN)-1, a site-directed mutagenesis (production of genetic mutations) without using a DNA sequence template; **4.**SDN-2, a site-directed mutagenesis using a DNA sequence template; and SDN-3, site-directed insertion of gene DNA sequence using a DNA sequence template. SDN-1 and SDN-2 do not lead to the insertion of foreign DNA.

ALL STATES TO HAVE NIA OFFICES BY 2024 TO COUNTER TERRORISM: UNION HOME MINISTER

- **1.**Union Home Minister highlighted that it is the collective responsibility of states and the Centre to effectively tackle transborder crimes.
- **2.**About NIA-It is Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in the country. It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs. It was created under NIA Act of 2008 following Mumbai terror attack of 2008. It is empowered to: Take suo motu cognisance of terror activities in any part of India and register a case, Enter any state without permission from the state government, and Investigate and arrest people.
- **3.**NIA amendment act, 2019 gave the agency powers to also probe crimes involving human trafficking, counterfeit currency, sale of prohibited arms. Currently, it has 12 regional offices. Issues in functioning of NIA: Constitutional validity of the NIA as policing and public order lie under the states. Powers focus only on investigation, not on prevention.
- 4.Steps taken to promote Centre -State collaboration in crime prevention:-Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems. I4C i.e. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre has been formed. Cyber Crime Portal has been created. A

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terrorism. The Prime Minister said the police should be equipped to face not only those Naxals who hold a gun but also those who wield a pen and mislead the youth by exploiting their emotions. Such forces who get "international support" should not be allowed to take root as they were detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country, he said.

In poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, the Centre's move to bring the Hatti community under the ST list has sparked anger among some groups.

Visakhapatnam Pitching as administrative capital is a practical and pragmatic decision, says Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Mr. Reddy said financial viability, spirit decentralisation and administrative convenience were decision on Vizag as administrative capital. "Vizag is a pragmatic idea as it is the lone biggest city with infrastructure needed for a capital city," he asserted.

Sections among Tulu and Kodava speakers in Karnataka have demanded priority for their languages too in the draft of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022, which aims to ensure the "extensive use and propagation" of Kannada in State. They have sought that various dialects spoken within Karnataka should get protection under the ambit of the Bill.

The international community should rise above political differences and defeat the challenge of terrorism, said External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on Friday at the Special Meeting of the Counter Terror Committee of the UN Security Council. Paying homage to victims of the 26/11 terror strikes in Mumbai, Mr. Jaishankar reminded that the UNSC failed to proscribe of the Pakistan organisations and individuals that were involved in the terror strikes in Mumbai.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched 75 infrastructure projects constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) spread across six States and two Union Territories during his visit to Ladakh. These projects included 45 bridges, 27 roads, two helipads — one each in Hanle and Thakung in Eastern Ladakh and one carbon neutral habitat, a Defence Ministry

system to connect National Intelligence Grid (NatGrid) has been set up. Private Security Agency Licensing Portal has been created.

JHARKHAND GOVERNOR SOUGHT A "SECOND OPINION" IN A CASE OF OFFICE-OF-PROFIT

- **1.**Governor had sent the matter of Chief Minister's disqualification as an MLA for holding office of profit to the Election Commission of India. Office of profit is interpreted as a position that brings to the officeholder some financial gain, remuneration, or benefit.
- **2.**It is not defined in Constitution or Representation of the People Act of 1951. Under Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of Constitution, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the central or state government. Provisions also protect a legislator if the office in question has been made immune to disqualification by law.
- **3.**Questions of disqualifications in respect of office of profit shall be referred to the President and Governor. However, they shall obtain the opinion of the Election Commission and shall act accordingly.
- 4. Rationale behind Office of profit-To avoid the conflict of interests between the duties and interests of an elected member. To maintain the autonomy of the legislature and preserve the separation of powers.
- **5.**Supreme Court observations on office of profit-In Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy (2001) it has listed certain factors while considering 'office of profit': whether the government is the appointing authority. whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment.
- **6.**whether the government pays the remuneration. what is the source of remuneration. In Jaya Bachchan v. Union of India case, it held that what is relevant is whether the office is capable of yielding a profit or pecuniary gain and not whether the person actually obtained a monetary gain.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION RELEASES GLOBAL TB REPORT 2022

- **1.**Key findings- global Estimated number of deaths from TB increased between 2019 and 2021, reversing years of decline between 2005 and 2019. (Attributed to Covid-19 pandemic.) Around 10.6 million people were diagnosed with TB in 2021, an increase of 4.5% from 2020. TB is the second leading infectious killer after COVID-19 (above HIV/AIDS).
- **2.**India specific findings-With 28% of cases, India has the highest TB patient count. Gap between estimated TB incidence and reported number of people newly diagnosed is highest in India (24%). India was among the three countries that accounted for most of the reduction in 2020 (67% of the global total). Top five risk factors of TB: undernutrition, HIV infection, alcohol use disorders, smoking, and diabetes. **3.**TB is caused by bacillus Mycobacterium tuberculosis which typically affects lungs (pulmonary TB) but can affect other sites. Most common medications used to treat TB include isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, pyrazinamide etc.
- **4.**Currently, Bacillle Calmette-Guerin (BCG) is the only licensed vaccine available for prevention of TB. It spreads from person to person through air.
- **5.**Additional information-Drug-Resistant TB: Multidrug Resistance TB (MDR): resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin. Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB): resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, plus any fluoroquinolone and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs. Totally drug-resistant tuberculosis (TDR-TB): resistant to all first- and second-line TB drugs.
- **6.**Steps taken by India to check TB-India's vision to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of global target by WHO i.e., 2030. National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination 2017-2025 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. National Tuberculosis Elimination Program . TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign. Nikshay Poshan Yojana for nutritional support to TB patients.

BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA (BCCI) ANNOUNCES PAY PARITY

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statement said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised India's foreign policy regarding the crisis in Ukraine and described Prime Minister Narendra as patriot". the 19th the Valdai Addressing annual meeting of Discussion Club on the theme "A Post Hegemonic World: Justice and Security for Everyone" on Thursday, Mr. Putin said he was considering attending the G20 summit in Bali next month. "India has come a long way from a British colony to an independent country with which we have special ties. Prime Minister Modi is a great patriot who is able to pursue independent foreign policy," said the Russian President at the discussion forum, which was set up in 2004 as a platform for dialogue on international issues.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday mooted the idea of 'one nation, one police uniform'. He was addressing the State Home conference on internal Ministers' security Faridabad. issues in Haryana. "On the lines of 'one nation, one ration card'; 'one nation, one mobility card'; 'one nation, one sign language', we should think of 'one nation, one police uniform'. This will benefit the police personnel as quality product will be available. The production of belts, caps and uniform will be on a mass scale," he

- **1.**With this, India has become the second country in international cricket to implement equal pay for men and women players, first being New Zealand. Pay parity means ensuring that employees in the same job and location are paid fairly relative to one another, regardless of their gender or ethnicity.
- 2.Gender pay gap in India: India ranked 135 among a total of 146 countries in the Highlight global gender gap index 2022 Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to World Inequality Report 2022.
- **3.**Reasons for pay gap Under-representation in leadership: Fewer women in management and leadership positions, especially at higher levels. Time out of the workforce: Women are more likely to take career breaks to raise children or care for the older.
- **4.**Feminized jobs: Gender stereotyping results in certain jobs being held predominately by women, and that leads to "female jobs" being undervalued for purposes of wage rate determination. Differential education access: Girl children are sometimes kept out of schools or made to drop out of school early.
- **5.**Efforts to address gender pay gap-Legislations like Minimum Wages Act in 1948 and Equal Remuneration Act in 1976, Code on Wages, 2019. Studies show that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act helped reduce the gender pay gap.
- **6.**Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act of 2017, which increased the 'maternity leave with pay protection' for all women working in establishments employing 10 or more workers. Global: ILO's Equal Remuneration Convention, Equal Pay International Coalition led by ILO etc.