

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND OCTOBER 2022

Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city of India for the sixth year in a row, while Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest State in the country. Surat is the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai ranks a close third in the category of cities with a population more than a lakh. Tirupati received the best city award in Safai Mitra Suraksha category, while Haridwar in Uttarakhand received the award for the best Ganga town in more than one lakh population cities. Shivamogga in Karnataka received the fast mover city award.

The State awards saw Madhya Pradesh emerge as the Cleanest State in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies", relegating Chhattisgarh, the cleanest State of the previous three years, to second place. Maharashtra emerged as third cleanest State. Similarly, Tripura got the cleanest state award in the "less than 100 urban local bodies category", dislodging Jharkhand, which had won in the last two consecutive years. Jharkhand and Uttarakhand received the second and third spots respectively.

Many parts of China are just emerging from an extreme heatwave that was followed by a severe drought and out of season wildfires. Some 360 million people experienced temperatures above 40°C at some point during the two-month long heatwave. The Yangtze River basin, which is home to nearly one third of China's population, received up to 80% less rain than the 30year average for that period. The severity of these events shows how important it is becoming to study several extreme weather events together.

China's Zhurong rover has peered under the surface of Mars and has found evidence of two huge floods that shaped the landscape. Since May last year, Zhurong has been exploring Utopia Planitia, in Mars's northern hemisphere. Images from the rover's ground penetrating radar found layered patterns under the surface, which are made of sedimentary rocks carried in by two major floods around 1.6 billion years ago.

An analytical study of medicinal fungi carried out by researchers from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai (IMSc), shows that some chemicals they secrete may find use as novel drugs. They used

BETA LAUNCH OF OPEN NETWORK FOR DIGITAL COMMERCE (ONDC) IN BENGALURU

- 1.The objective of the beta test is to allow consumers to experience the network for the first time and gather feedback before a pan-India roll-out.
- 2.ONDC is globally first-of-its-kind initiative, launched by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), to control digital monopolies and make the industry more inclusive for buyers and sellers alike.
- 3.ONDC goes beyond the current platform-centric digital commerce model where the buyer and seller have to use the same platform to be digitally visible and do a business transaction. So under ONDC, a buyer registered on Amazon, for example, may directly purchase goods from a seller on Flipkart. It fosters open networks developed on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and network protocols, and independent of any specific platform.
- 4.Incorporated as a private sector non-profit company in 2021, it is modelled around Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The task to integrate e-commerce platforms on ONDC has been assigned to Quality Council of India.
- 5.Significance of ONDC-Large scale democratisation of the digital commerce field. Wider access to sellers especially to kirana store owners and greater access to consumers.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION SERIOUS INVASION OF PERSONAL LIBERTY: SC

- 1.The Supreme Court has ruled that "preventive detention is a serious invasion of personal liberty". Thus whatever little safeguards the Constitution and the law authorizing such action provide must be strictly adhered to.
- 2.The bench referred to the 1982 Supreme Court decision in the 'Ashok Kumar vs Delhi administration' case which said preventive detention is devised to afford protection to society. The objective is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept before he does it and to prevent him from doing.
- 3.**In Ram Manohar Lohia v. State of Bihar, SC underscored that only the most severe of acts could justify preventive detention. Preventive detention (PD) refers to taking into custody an individual who has not committed a crime yet but the authorities believe him to be a threat to law and order.**
- 4.Though the Constitution of India gives protection against arrest and detention under Article 22 (1) and 22 (2), these protections are not available to a person arrested or detained under preventive detention laws (Article 22(3)). Multiple laws such as Code of Criminal Procedure, NDPS Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act etc permit PD.In India over 1.1 lakh people were placed under PD in 2021, highest since 2017.

18TH MEETING OF THE PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION (POPRC-18)

- 1.The committee concluded its review of four of the five chemicals under consideration. It recommended listing of Dechlorane Plus (flame retardant) and UV-328 (stabiliser) under Annex A of the Stockholm Convention.
- 2.On medium chain chlorinated paraffins (flame retardant) and Long-Chain Perfluorocarboxylic Acids (PFCAs), risk management evaluations will be prepared for consideration at the next Committee meeting. On chlorpyrifos (Pesticide), committee decided to defer its consideration of the draft risk profile.
- 3.**About Stockholm Convention-It is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from POPs. POPs are chemical substances that persist in environment for a long period, bio-accumulate in living organisms, adversely affect human health/ environment and have the property of long-range environmental transport.** It is legally binding. India ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2006.
- 4.Ministry of Environment had notified the 'Regulation of POP

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BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & CHANDRA LAYOUT 7619136662 | BHOPAL: 7509975361 | INDORE: 7314977441 | IMPHAL: 9650245599
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a database, MeFSAT (Medicinal Fungi Secondary Metabolites And Therapeutics), which compiles information on 184 medicinal fungi, including mushrooms. The researchers analysed the structure of 1,830 secondary metabolites of medicinal fungi. Secondary metabolites are chemical compounds that fungi produce when they are stressed. They enhance the fungus' ability to survive. The work has been published in the preprint server BioRxiv.

Hyderabad has a long and rocky relationship with cheetahs. The spotted cats were kept as pets by the historic city's nobility as showpieces of royalty, and for the British colonialists, they defined India's exotic wildlife. The last sighting of a cheetah in India was in Hyderabad in 1957, when the unfortunate animal fell into a well and could not be saved. In 2007, the Indian government set up a spanking new Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LACONES) on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The laboratory had the mandate of resurrecting extinct animals, including cheetahs.

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in September rose 26% year on year to ₹1,47,686 crore, with revenue from goods imports jumping 39% and that from domestic transactions and services imports yielding 22% more than in September 2021. This is the seventh successive month that revenues from the indirect tax have remained above ₹1.4 lakh crore and marks the eighth such occasion since the GST regime was implemented in July 2017.

India was among four countries that abstained on a draft resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) condemning the so called referenda organised by Russia across four regions of Ukraine. Hours before Friday afternoon's voting in New York, Russian President Vladimir Putin "annexed" four regions inside Ukraine's internationally recognised borders — Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk and Donetsk — based on the results of Russian organised referenda in these regions.

The much awaited tiger safari project of the Uttarakhand government is under scanner after a Forest Survey of India (FSI) report stated that over 6,000 trees were illegally cut in the Corbett Tiger

Rules' in 2018, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) HIKES REPO RATE BY 50 BPS, LOWERS GROWTH FORECAST TO 7 PER CENT

1. The hike in repo rate comes as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has not achieved its inflation target for three quarters. It is the fourth rate hike since May 2022, with the repo rate (also known as policy rate) reaching 5.9%. Repo Rate is the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks.

2. RBI also suggested calibrated withdrawal of monetary accommodation, i.e. withdrawing its attempts to expand the money supply to boost the economy. Under the flexible inflation targeting framework, the MPC target is 4% CPI inflation target with +/- 2% as upper and lower tolerance limit. As per RBI Act of 1934, the RBI will now send a report to the Central Government on Reasons for failure to achieve target; Remedial action proposed; and Estimated time-period to achieve target.

3. Reasons for High Inflation-Series of supply shocks starting from pandemic lockdowns, elevated commodity prices and Ukraine war, adding to it. Tightening of global financial conditions (global rate hikes to curb inflation) and the possible decline in demand (due to rate hike) poses downside risk to growth.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES COMMERCIAL 5G SERVICE

1. 5G (5th generation) is a next generation mobile network technology after 4G LTE networks. It is not a single technology but an amalgamation of various technologies such as: Massive multi-user MIMO (Multiple input multiple output) enabled network.

2. Small cell stations to connect the base stations and users seamlessly. Mobile Edge Computing that brings cloud computing closer to the user physically. Beam forcing which can be visualized as a laser beam between transmitting entity and the user.

3. 5G is believed to accelerate the adoption of cloud gaming, AR/VR technology, Internet of Things, etc. and usher into wider use areas than 4G.

4. This includes areas such as healthcare, FinTech, Agriculture and Livestock, Smart Applications, Education, etc. Comparison between 4G, 5G and 6G.

GOVERNMENT REVIEW SHOWS MORE THAN 6MT STUBBLE MAY BE BURNED THIS YEAR

1. As per the latest government review, stubble generation in 2022-2023 will increase by nearly 1.37 million tonnes in states adjoining the Delhi NCR and over 6 mt may go up in smoke due to stubble burning. Also to curb it, adjoining states have been directed to closely monitor and implement Action Plan on management of stubble burning, submitted to the Commission for Air Quality management (CAQM).

2. CAQM is a statutory body established under 'The CAQM in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021'. Delhi Government has also launched its '15-point winter action plan' to combat air pollution. Reason for stubble burning Farmers use less labor-intensive methods such as the combine harvester leaving behind rice stubble.

3. With as little as 10 days between rice harvesting season and the sowing of wheat, farmers often turn to stubble burning. Control Measures In-Situ: Use of bio-decomposer to control stubble burning, use of crop residue management machinery.

4. **Ex-Situ: Use of paddy straw in biomass power generation, bio-ethanol production, co-firing in thermal plants etc., use as cattle fodder,** use in furnishing material and packaging etc.

EXCHANGE-TRADED COMMODITY DERIVATIVES(ETCDs)

1. SEBI has framed rules for registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to trade in cash settled non-agricultural ETCDs. SEBI discontinued the Eligible Foreign Entities (EFEs) route (allowed in 2018) due to non-participation.

2. ETCDs are the derivatives traded on stock exchanges in a regulated environment with commodity as the underlying asset. E.g. gold, crude oil, silver etc. Advantages of ETCDs: Standardization, Presence of an Intermediary, Market Depth due

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Reserve (CTR) against the permission for 163 for the Pakhru Tiger Safari. The State Forest Department, however, denied the FSI's claims, and said that there were some technical issues which needed to be resolved before finally accepting the report.

In the next five years, the Army's Regiment of Artillery will see major force accretion with the induction of several guns, including indigenous ones. It includes the Dhanush, Sharang, M777 Ultra Light Howitzer (ULH), additional K9Vajra howitzers and the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS). Operationalisation of the seventh regiment of the M777 is under way, and the induction of all 145 guns, contracted from BAE Systems, should be completed in the next few years, a defence source said.

to Liquidity, and Elimination of default risk.

HYBRID POWER PLANT

1. Adani Green has commissioned the world's largest Hybrid power plant of 600 MW Solar and 150 MW wind power project in Jaisalmer. Hybrid Power Plants are those power plants which generate electricity from two or more sources, usually renewable, with one connection point. E.g. Solar + Wind, Solar + Hydraulic, Solar + Biomass etc.

2. Benefits of Hybrid Power Plants: Reduced intermittency of renewable energy power, improved supply stability, increased capacity factor and optimization of transmission network utilization etc. Negatives: High installation cost, complicated controlling process etc.