

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

From September 1, District Magistrates (DM) have been empowered to give adoption orders instead of courts. All cases pending before courts have to be now transferred. The revised rules have parents, activists, lawyers and adoption agencies worried as cases already before courts for the past several months will have to be transferred and the process will have to start afresh. The Central Adoption Resource Authority says there are nearly 1,000 adoption cases pending before various courts in the country. Adoptions in India are governed by two laws — the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

Almost 60 years after becoming collateral damage to one of the fiercest battles between Indian Army soldiers and Chinese invaders, a village in Arunachal Pradesh is fighting a war to protect a sacred forest from a project that aims to prevent a repeat of 1962. However, the 217 families of Nyukmadong, an off the highway village in West Kameng district, seem to be losing the fight against the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), a wing of the very Army their ancestors had aided during the Chinese aggression six decades ago. The villagers said more than 80% of the 36sq. km sacred forest has been destroyed for an alternative “strategic” road to Sela. More than the “heritage trees” felled along the alignment of the 34km road from Banga Janga Gompa to Naga GG (BJGNGG).

56,000 number of new machines to be distributed to Punjab farmers for managing paddy stubble and to stop stubble burning in the upcoming paddy harvesting season. This will take the tally to 1,46,422 machines. Between 2018 and 2022, 90,422 machines have been given to farmers. Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is a major reason behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November.

Ukrainian forces kept pushing north in the Kharkiv region and advancing to its south and east, Ukraine’s Army chief said on Sunday, a day after their rapid gains made Russia abandon its main bastion in the area. President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed Ukraine’s advance in the northeast Kharkiv province as a potential breakthrough. “I believe

## BASIC SKILLS ARE POOR IN HINDI, BUT POORER IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

1. Foundational learning of students in Hindi is poor but their performance in regional languages in some States was even worse, according to a survey by the Union Ministry of Education and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
2. Key Highlights: National Report on Benchmarking of Oral Reading Fluency Aim: It aims to assess the foundational learning of children at the end of class 3. Hindi: Around 53% of class 3 students in 18 States surveyed either lacked or had limited knowledge and skills in reading and comprehending the Hindi language.
3. Proficiency in regional language: Kannada: Analyzed in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala- 59% of students either lacked or displayed limited skills. Assamese: 67% of students couldn’t perform well in Assam and Meghalaya. Malayalam: 56% of students couldn’t read or comprehend Malayalam properly Khasi: 61% of students couldn’t perform well Urdu: Assessed in 13 States, 65% of learners couldn’t perform well.
4. Skills in math: The study found that the most basic knowledge and skills in numeracy were either lacking or limited in 48% of Class 3 students. Worst performers: Among the States, Tamil Nadu was the worst performer, followed by Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir. Limited skills with numbers: In all, there were 11 States with more than 50% of students who either lacked or had limited skills with numbers.
5. Knowledge and skills: The survey divides learners on the basis of their knowledge and skills into four categories: Those who lack them. Have limited proficiency. Sufficient competency. Those who are superior. The sample included: State government schools. Government-aided schools. Private recognised. Central government schools.

## BETTING ON GREEN HYDROGEN TO FULFILL ENERGY NEEDS IS RISKY

1. As per the study published in the journal Nature Energy, Green hydrogen would likely supply less than 1 per cent of final energy globally by 2035. What is green hydrogen? Hydrogen when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint. Challenges for green hydrogen: Low investment. Low stage of technology for sustainable production. The challenges in ramping up the supply of electrolyzers — a device in which green hydrogen is produced. Electrolysis capacity is still tiny compared to where we need to be in 2050 for Net Zero emissions scenarios.
2. Recommendations: Implementing strong policies could reverse the setbacks. Fostering green hydrogen growth will therefore require strong dedication, coordination and funding along the entire value chain. Carbon pricing should always form the basis of climate policy. Carbon pricing is a policy tool that puts a tax on producers of greenhouse gas emissions. Accelerating the roll-out of crucial zero-carbon technologies like electric mobility and heat pumps. These technologies make more efficient use of scarce renewable electricity.
3. Significance for Green hydrogen: India, being a tropical country, has a significant edge in green hydrogen production due to its favourable geographical conditions and abundant natural resources. Producing hydrogen from renewables in India is likely to be cheaper than producing it from natural gas.
4. Efforts in this regard: National Hydrogen Mission (increase production to 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2030 to meet about 40 per cent of domestic requirements.) Green hydrogen and green ammonia policy that offers 25 years of free power for any new renewable energy plants set up for green hydrogen production before July 2025. EU set a target of achieving 10 million tonnes of domestic renewable hydrogen production.

## EXPANDING GREEN COVER

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that this winter is a turning point, and it can lead to the rapid de-occupation of Ukraine,” Mr. Zelensky said. “We see how they (occupiers) are fleeing in some directions. If we were a little stronger with weapons, we would deoccupy faster.”

The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme has rolled out in Rajasthan with the objective of providing economic support to the poor and needy families living in the cities through work to be provided on demand for 100 days in a year. B Those in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing within the limits of urban local bodies are eligible to demand and get employment in the identified segments.

The sale by the United States of F16 military aircraft to Pakistan, announced in 2005, was celebrated as a sign of deepening strategic ties between Islamabad and the Bush administration in Washington. Privately, however, the U.S. acknowledged the “reality” that the F16 programme would not change India’s “overwhelming air superiority over Pakistan.” In fact, the cables bluntly assert that the F-16s would be “no match for India’s proposed purchase of F18 or equivalent aircraft.” Fully aware of such limitations, the U.S. continued to press ahead with the deal, and the leaked cables document hectic parleys to bring it to fruition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Samarkand in Uzbekistan this week to attend the first in person summit of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) countries since the COVID19 pandemic, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) late on Saturday arrested a person said to be the mastermind behind a slew of Chinese shell companies operating in the country, from a remote part of Bihar while he was attempting to cross the border through the land route.

The Union Health Ministry’s “adopt a TB patient” (Nikshay Mitra) initiative — probably the only one of its kind in the world — announced on Friday had 1,78,443 TB patients and 1,667 Ni-kshay Mitras (donors) enrolling till Sunday evening. The programme was brought in to fill the critical “community” element into

1. Indian Express Fazilka district of Punjab has become a trendsetter in expanding forest cover. As of 2021, according to data from the Forest Research Institute, the district had just 1.34 per cent forest cover, one of the lowest in the state.

2. They launched a pilot project called “My village, My Forest”. The idea was to target an unused one-acre plot of land in Kuharianwali village and develop a “forest” by applying the so-called Miyawaki method. In less than a year, the efforts have borne fruit with the area now full of firm plants such as kachnar, neem, Arjun, Ashok, Jamun, guava and others.

3. Benefits of this project: The forests give residents of the villages a sense of belonging. As these forests are being raised by our villagers, it gives us a sense of belonging, a desire to protect and conserve them. The workforce required for making lakhs of saplings is coming from Mgnrega.

4. **Miyawaki method: The Miyawaki method, which was devised by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki in the 1980s, is a technique to create micro forests over small plots of land. Achieving this goal requires planting a wide variety of plants in a fairly dense manner** so that the plot of land has different layers of a forest such as shrubs and canopies and not just trees.

## DARA SHIKOH

1. On the occasion of releasing the Arabic Version of “Majma Ul-Bahrain” of Dara Shikoh Vice President said that India has a glorious heritage of not only ‘tolerance’ for others’ views, but a unique culture of ‘engagement’ with all views – a culture of pluralism and syncretism.

2. **Majma-ul-Bahrain (which means ‘Confluence of Two Oceans’) throws invaluable light on the similarities between religions and helped bring stronger unity among the people of India. In this book ‘Majma-ul-Bahrain’, Dara Shikoh listed one by one, all the commonalities between Hinduism (Vedanta) and Islam (Sufism) and came to the conclusion that the difference between Islam and Hinduism is only verbal.**

3. About Dara Shikoh: Eldest son of Shah Jahan, he is described as a “liberal Muslim” who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions. Known as a pioneer of the academic movement for interfaith understanding in India. In 1655, his father declared him the Crown Prince but was defeated by Aurangzeb, his younger brother.

4. Works: His most important works, Majma-ul-Bahrain (Mingling of Two Oceans) and Surr-i-Akbar (Great Mystery) are devoted to the cause of establishing connections between Hinduism and Islam. Proficiency in Sanskrit and Persian, enabled him to play a key role in popularising Indian culture. He translated the Upanishads and other important sources of Hindu religion and spirituality from Sanskrit to Persian.

## CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND SHG FOOTPRINT

1. The Ministry of Rural Development announced a nationwide campaign for the inclusion of women who are left out of the umbrella of SHGs under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Rural Livelihood Mission.

2. Self-Help Groups (SHGs): It can be defined as a self-governed, peer-controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic backgrounds and having a desire to collectively perform a common purpose.

3. They are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. India has over 74 lakh SHGs under DAY-NRLM.

## RELOOK AT THE FEWW FOR 50% SEATS IN PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGES

1. The Madras High Court directed the National Medical Commission (NMC) to reconsider an office memorandum issued by HC. HC insisted that the fee for 50% of the seats at deemed-to-be universities and self-financing medical colleges be on a par with the fee collected by government medical colleges.

2. Key Highlights: Issues with NMC Memorandum: The judges said it has failed to consider the possibility of the poor students, who could not gain a seat on merit for lack of coaching. Section 10 (1)(i) of the NMC Act: The Chief Justice upheld the

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**India's fight towards eliminating TB by 2025 under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.**

**Taragiri, the third stealth frigate of the Project 17A, was launched on Sunday by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) here. The ship has been built using integrated construction methodology which involves hull blocks construction in different geographical locations and integration/erection on slipway at MDL. The keel of Taragiri was laid on September 10, 2020, and the ship is expected to be delivered by August 2025.**

constitutional validity of this provision. It empowers the NMC to frame guidelines for the determination of fees and other charges in respect of 50% of the seats in private medical institutions and deemed-to-be universities. Regulation of fee structure: The Chief Justice said the fee structure at the deemed universities should also be regulated to avoid the exploitation of students.

**3. National Medical Commission:** The Center notified the 33-member NMC by the National Medical Commission Act. Members: Chairman. 10 ex-officio members. 22 part-time members appointed by the Central government.

**4. Functions of NMC: Policies: Laying down policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals. Requirements: Assessing the requirements of human resources and infrastructure in healthcare.** Compliance: Ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils with the regulations made under the Bill. Guidelines: Framing guidelines for determination of fees for up to 50% of the seats in the private medical institutions.