

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Eight cheetahs from Namibia will depart from the capital Windhoek in a chartered flight and land in Jaipur. From here they will be transported in a helicopter and, after a 40-minute journey to the Kuno National Park (KNP) will be released on September 17 into a dedicated, 'quarantine' enclosure under the watch of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, officials from the Union Environment Ministry said.

6.3 million number of people in crisis hit Sri Lanka facing moderate to severe food insecurity, according to a joint report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), which also warned that their situation would worsen if adequate lifesaving assistance and livelihood support is not provided. Two consecutive seasons of poor harvests led to a nearly 50% drop in production coupled with reduced imports of food grains due to foreign exchange constraints.

The Union Health Ministry is planning to launch a nationwide, mega voluntary blood donation drive, called the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, on September 17, with an aim to collect one lakh units of blood. The drive hopes to create a database of donors who can be called upon at times of emergency. The Ministry has sent a letter to all the States and the Union Territories, stating that the drive would continue till October 1, the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (NVBDD).

The government is working on developing electric highways powered by solar energy that will facilitate the charging of heavy duty trucks and buses, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday. Addressing an event organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Mr. Gadkari reiterated that the government wanted to develop India's public transport system on electricity.

India may need up to 28 gigawatts of new coal-fired power plants by 2032 to meet power demand that is expected to more than double from the current 404.1 GW, a government advisory body said, signalling more increases in coal use by the world's third largest greenhouse gas emitter.

VEMBANAD LAKE

1. Vembanad Lake is shrinking and its unique biodiversity is under threat of ecological decay. Vembanad Lake is also known as Punnamada Lake, Kochi Lake, Vembanad Kayal and Vembanad Kol. It is one of the largest lakes in Kerala and the longest lake in the country. It is the second largest wetland system in India after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.

2. The lake has its source in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankoil, Pampa and Manimala. The lake lays right by the Arabian Sea, with a narrow reef separating it from the sea. Geographical Features in the Lake - The Pathiramanal island or the Midnight sands is a small beautiful island in the Lake.

3. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake. In 2019, Willingdon Island, a seaport located in the city of Kochi, was carved out of Vembanad Lake. The 1252 m long saltwater barrier, Thanneermukkom, was built to stop saltwater intrusion into Kuttanad. The Nehru Trophy Boat Race (Vallam Kali) is a Snake Boat Race hosted in the lake every year in the month of August.

4. Recognition - The government of India has recognised the wetland under the National Wetlands Conservation Programme. In 2002, it was included in the list of wetlands of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention. Threats - The lake is facing serious environmental degradation due to Recurring floods, Unauthorised constructions on its banks, Increased pollution, Reduction in water spread area and Increased weed growth.

HOYSALA TEMPLES

1. The Union Culture Ministry announced that the Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka are India's official nominations for the UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023. The Hoysala Temple is also known as the Hoysaleswara temple or 'Halebidu' temple.

2. **It is said to be the largest monument in Halebidu, a town in Karnataka and erstwhile capital of the Hoysala Empire. This 12th-century temple, which is dedicated to Lord Shiva, was sponsored by King Vishnuvardhana.** This temple shows a basic Dravidian style, but also show a strong influence of 'Bhumija', which is seen in central India, along with 'Nagara' traditions of northern and western India.

3. The temple follows the Shaivism tradition, but includes themes from Vaishnavism and Shaktism, too, along with images from Jainism. The sculptures inside the temple depict scenes from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavata Purana.

4. In the 14th century, Halebidu was plundered by the Delhi Sultanate, which resulted in its ruin and neglect. The temples are protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which takes care of their conservation and maintenance.

INDIA ACCEPTS THREE PILLARS OF IPEF

1. India accepts three out of four pillars of the US-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). The four pillars of the IPEF are trade; tax and anti-corruption; supply chain resiliency; and clean energy and decarbonisation.

2. India has decided to become part of the following components of the framework, Resilient economy (supply chain), Fair economy (anti-corruption and tax), and Clean economy (decarbonisation and infrastructure).

3. However, India did not join the connected economy (trade) pillar, which deals primarily with trade and commitments to the environment, labour, digital trade and public procurement.

ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS

1. Juul Inc, a dominant player in the Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) market, agreed to pay money to settle claims by 34 US states and territories that said its marketing led to an increase in teenage vaping. The Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are battery-powered devices that produce an aerosol made by heating an "e-liquid", usually containing

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India's retail inflation resurged to 7% in August from 6.71% in July, fuelled by a 7.62% uptick in food prices paid by consumers, even as industrial output growth in July dropped to the lowest level since April at just 2.4%, with output levels dropping 2.75% month on month. This is the eighth successive month that retail inflation has stayed above the central bank's upper tolerance threshold of 6% inflation for the economy, and constitutes a setback to households' spending power among the poorer sections.

The situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Theatre has been stable and "no major changes or palpable shift of stance" has been noted since the standoff in eastern Ladakh, Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General R. P. Kalita said here. There were reports of continued infrastructure development by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and it was being monitored constantly, he said.

The Supreme Court fixed the hearing in 220 petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) of 2019 on October 31 and said it will refer the case to a three judge Bench. The petitions came up before a Bench of Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit and S. Ravindra Bhat on September 12 after a hiatus of many months. The hearing of the case was interrupted by the pandemic.

67,000 number of cattle to die since the outbreak of the lumpy skin disease (LSD) in July, prompting a massive effort to vaccinate cattle in over eight States which have the most number of cases, according to the Union government. The disease has spread mainly in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. There are some stray cases in Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

2% percentage the deceleration in India's industrial production growth in July, a four month low, due to a poor performance by the manufacturing, power and mining sectors, according to official data. The previous low in industrial output growth was recorded at 2.2 % in March this year. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 6.7% in April, 19.6% in May and 12.7% in June. Factory output, measured in terms of IIP, had expanded 11.5% in

nicotine, flavourings and other chemicals.

2.The ENDS products include e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, e-pipes, vaping devices and vape pens. While some e-cigarettes look like regular cigarettes, others are slickly designed, often resembling everyday items like pens or USB drives. ENDS were originally marketed to help smokers quit the habit or as a safer alternative to cigarettes. They have become very popular among young people, often attracting non-smokers as well.

3.Apart from highly addictive nicotine, e-cigarette aerosol can also contain harmful substances like heavy metals and cancer-causing agents. The US Centre for Disease Control claims that while e-cigarettes have the potential to help adult smokers if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes, they can still cause harm.

4.**Legal Status of e-Cigarette Market in India-In 2019, the Indian government banned the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of all Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) products.** Punishment for breaking the law ranges from a fine of 1 to 5 lakh rupees, as well as imprisonment for 1 to 3 years.

5.Those found storing the devices shall be facing imprisonment of up to 6 months and/or a fine up to Rs 50,000. A report by Prescient and Strategic Intelligence in 2019, months before ENDS were banned, showed a thriving e-cigarette market in India. Despite a formal ban, e-cigarettes and vapes are available at cigarette shops and various online marketplaces.

FGD TARGET

1.The Indian government extended a deadline for coal-fired power plants to install equipment to cut sulphur emissions by two years to 2025. Thermal utilities, which produce 75% of the country's power, account for some 80% of industrial emissions of sulphur and nitrous-oxides in India. Initially, India had set a 2017 deadline for thermal power plants to install Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) units to cut sulphur emissions.

2.That was later changed to varying deadlines for different regions, ending in 2022, and further extended last year to a period ending 2025. Recent Order - The Power Ministry had pushed for an extension, citing higher costs, lack of funds, COVID 19-related delays and geopolitical tension with neighbouring China, which has restricted trade.

3.The recent order said that the power plants would be forcibly retired if they do not comply to the norms on sulphur emissions by end-2027. The order said that the plants near populous regions and the capital New Delhi will have to pay penalties to operate from end-2024, while utilities in less polluting areas will be penalized after end-2026.

WHY CLOUDBURST FORECAST IN INDIA STILL REMAINS ELUSIVE

1.Cloudbursts are defined by the amount of rainfall. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), 100 mm of rain in an hour is called a cloudburst. Usually, cloudbursts occur over a small geographical region of 20 to 30 sq. km.

2.In India, cloudbursts often occur during the monsoon season, when the southwesterly monsoon winds bring in copious amounts of moisture inland. **The moist air that converges over land gets lifted as they encounter the hills. Cloudbursts, hence, occur mostly over the rugged terrains of the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, and the northeastern hill States of India.**

3.The heavy spells of rain on the fragile steep slopes trigger landslides, debris flows, and flash floods, causing large-scale destruction and loss of people and property.

KUSHIYARA RIVER TREATY BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

1.A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on sharing of the waters of the Kushiya river(distributary of the Barak river)which flows through Assam, and then on to Bangladesh.

2.**What is the Kushiya agreement? Under the agreement, Bangladesh will be able to withdraw 153 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Kushiya which will solve the**

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July 2021. The manufacturing sector expanded 3.2% in July compared to 10.5% recorded in the year ago period.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has written to State governments, asking them to immediately implement the revised adoption rules requiring adoption orders to be passed by District Magistrates (DMs) instead of courts with effect from September 1.

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Catherine Colonna will visit India on September 14 and 15, the French government has announced.

water crisis for farmers of Sylhet.

3.How will Bangladesh use the water? The water of Kushiya will be channelled through the Rahimpur Canal project in Sylhet. Rahimpur canal is the only supplier of water from the Kushiya to the region. India's objection to the Rahimpur Canal: Security issues: The dyke and other infrastructure along the canal interfered in border security as Kushiya itself forms part of the border between the two sides.