

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Eastern Economic Forum was established in 2015 to encourage foreign investments in Russia's Far East. As of 2022, almost 2,729 investment projects are being planned in the region. During the forum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed the country's readiness in expanding trade, connectivity and investments in Russia. India is keen to deepen its cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, maritime connectivity, healthcare, tourism, the diamond industry and the Arctic. India has vested interests in both the EEF and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and has worked towards balancing its involvement. The IPEF is a vital platform for India to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Samarkand late on Thursday evening, just ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Head of States meeting, where he will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since the April 2020 LAC standoff, as well as Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Mr. Modi was the last of the leaders of the eight SCO members to arrive in Samarkand and missed both the presummit dinner hosted by Uzbekistan President Shovkat Mirziyoyev, and tree planting that all the leaders undertook, leading to speculation that Mr. Modi's late arrival was meant to avoid any inconvenient "photoops" while India's relationship with China and Pakistan remain tense.

₹5,000 the gap between the monthly earnings of non-SCs and non-STs and the wages of persons from the SC/ST communities, according to a report by Oxfam India. As per the 'India Discrimination Report 2022', which highlights bias in accessing jobs, the mean income for SCs and STs in urban areas, who are regular employees, is ₹15,312 as against ₹20,346 for those belonging to the general category. This means that the general category is earning 33% more than SC/STs.

Pulling up the States for the delay in completion of the Narendra Modi government's flagship rural household scheme — Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) — the Union Ministry of Rural Development has come up with a set of penalties that the State governments will have to

## BOARD OF TRADE

1.The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry chairs the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Board of Trade. The Board of Trade meeting was focused on Export target setting, The New Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) (2022-27), and The strategies and measures to be taken in order to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports.

2.The Board of Trade (BOT) been reconstituted by merging Council for Trade Development and Promotion with Board of Trade in 2019. This Board advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade. It provides a platform to state governments and UTs for articulating state-oriented perspectives on Trade Policy to boost manufacturing and exports.

3.It also acts as a platform to Government of India for appraising State Governments and UTs about international developments affecting India's trade. It is an important mechanism for deliberations on trade related issues with industry bodies, associations, export promotion councils, and state and UT governments.

4.Exports have been one of the most defining features of the government's efforts to make India a developed country by 2047, a vision articulated by PM Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address this year.

## TRIPLE DIP LA NINA

1.The Australian Bureau of Meteorology confirmed the occurrence of the 'Triple dip' La Niña phenomenon. The La Niña weather pattern is one of the three phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). La Niña is caused by large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

2.La Niña is also the opposite of the widely-known El Niño, which only occurs when the Pacific Ocean water is higher than normal. 'Triple dip' La Niña phenomenon means that the La Niña phenomenon has occurred for the third consecutive year in the Pacific Ocean. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) had stated that it is exceptional to have three consecutive years with a La Niña event.

3.**Its cooling influence is temporarily slowing the rise in global temperatures - but it will not halt or reverse the long-term warming trend. The WMO has stated that this phenomenon would last until at least the end of the year, and for the first time this century, span 3 consecutive northern hemisphere winters to become a 'triple dip' La Niña.**

4.The India Meteorological Department states that, since the 1950s, La Niña lasting for more than two years has been recorded only on six instances. Reasons for 'Triple dip' La Niña - The continuing La Niña may be good for India but not for some other countries. Under climate change conditions, one must expect more such instances.

5.El Niño has been associated with rising heatwaves and extreme temperatures, such as in parts of the US, Europe and China recently. India's Northeast monsoon rainfall remained subdued during past La Niña events, but the 2021 monsoon is an exception in recent years. In 2021, the southern Indian peninsula experienced its wettest recorded winter monsoon since 1901, receiving a whopping 171% surplus of rainfall between October and December.

## ARATTUPUZHA VELAYUDHA

1.Arattupuzha Velayudha was born into a well-off family of merchants in Kerala's Alappuzha district. He challenged the domination of upper castes or 'Savarnas' and brought about changes in the lives of both men and women. He was known as the Morning Star of the Kerala Renaissance. Arattupuzha's role in initiating social reforms - He built two temples in the villages of Arattupuzha and Thanneermukkom.

2.These temples were dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, in which

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bear for any further delay. West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, along with Assam, are the leading four States who are far behind their targets. This is the first time, since the scheme started in April 2016 with a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses, that the Union Government has introduced a penalty clause. The initial deadline for the scheme was March 2022, which owing to the COVID19 pandemic was extended by another two years till March 2024.

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme rolled out for students of Classes I to V in government schools is not a freebie; in fact it is the foremost duty and responsibility of the State government to ensure its children are fed. Such schemes are the face of a government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that it was the government's aim to resolve inter boundary disputes in the northeast and strike a conciliation with all armed insurgent groups in the region before 2024. Mr. Shah was speaking at the signing of a tripartite memorandum of settlement between the Government of India, the Assam government and eight armed Adivasi groups of Assam.

1,486 The death toll in Pakistan floods. Unprecedented floods have submerged huge swathes of Pakistan. Authorities state that hundreds of thousands of people are still sleeping in the open air after the disaster. The deluge, brought by record monsoon rains and the glacial melt in northern mountains, has impacted 33 million people out of a population of 220 million, sweeping away homes, vehicles, crops and livestock in damages estimated at \$30 billion.

\$ 750 million, the amount of additional aid the U.S. announced on Wednesday for the Syrian people. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the UN Security Council that the new assistance "will bring immediate relief to millions of refugees and displaced persons. it will help humanitarian partners provide clean water, food, hygiene and relief supplies, shelter, protection services, and critical health and nutrition assistance, and it will include support for early recovery programs.

What is "so principally, so fundamentally wrong" in singling

members of all castes and religions were allowed entry. In 1858, he led Achippudava Samaram strike at Kayamkulam (Alappuzha) to earn women belonging to Kerala's oppressed groups their right to wear a lower garment that extended beyond the knees.

3. In 1859, this was extended into the Ethappu Samaram strike, the struggle for the right to wear an upper body cloth by women belonging to backward castes. In 1860, he led the Mukkuthi Samaram at Pandalam, for the rights of lower-caste women to wear 'mukkuthi' (nose-ring), and other gold ornaments. Apart from issues related to women, Arattupuzha also led the first-ever strike by agricultural labourers in Kerala, the Karshaka Thozhilali Samaram, which was successful. He also established the first Kathakali Yogam (area-based schools for the classical dance form Kathakali) for the Ezhava community in 1861.

4. He was a master of Kalaripayattu, Kerala's traditional martial arts, which is also considered the oldest of its kind in India. Panicker was murdered by a group of upper-caste men in 1874 at the age of 49. This makes him the 'first martyr' of the Kerala renaissance. Recognition - In 1869, he was given the title of 'Panicker' by the then-king of Travancore. In 2005, the Kerala government inaugurated the Arattupuzha Velayudha Panicker Research Foundation & Cultural Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

5. **Nangeli-Nangeli was an Ezhava woman who is said to have lived in the 19th century in Alappuzha, Kerala. Nangeli is believed to have cut off her breasts to protest the 'breast tax' imposed by the Kingdom of Travancore on women belonging to lower castes.**

6. Kayamkulam Kochunni - He is a Robin Hood-like figure in 19th century Alappuzha. The stories about him are an integral part of Kerala's folklore. A shrine is dedicated to him at Kozhencherry in the Pathanamthitta district, and a small museum at Varanapalli in his native Kayamkulam.

## TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

1. The Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) - world's largest container carrier - has taken the lead by re-routing its ships to keep away from colliding the blue whales. Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) is a routing measure aimed at the separation of opposing streams of traffic by appropriate means and by the establishment of traffic lanes.

2. A TSS area is an area in the sea where navigation of ships is highly regulated. Each TSS is designed to create lanes in the water with ships in a specific lane all travelling in (roughly) the same direction. A TSS is typically created in locations with large numbers of ship movements and vessels travelling in different directions and where there might otherwise be a high risk of collisions.

3. TSSs are indicated on an admiralty chart in purple, one that has been touched upon even by those starting out their career at sea in all probability. These are imaginary lines that don't have actual representation through borders on location.

4. But they are complied with by all vessels out at sea as conformity to it is mandatory as per Rule 10 of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs). The first Traffic Separation Scheme was established in the Dover Strait in 1967.

## CAMEROON VOLCANIC LINE

1. A sudden change in the colour and smell of Lake Kuk, in north-west Cameroon, has caused panic among the locals. Fears are driven by an incident that happened 36 years ago at Lake Nyos. Both Lake Kuk and Nyos are crater lakes located in a region of volcanic activity known as the Cameroon Volcanic Line. The Cameroon volcanic line consists of a string of volcanoes that extend from the Atlantic Ocean into Republic of Cameroon.

2. The current period of volcanic activity started approximately 38 Ma ago and extends to the present. The volcanoes here cross the oceanic-continental boundary. The rocks of this volcanic line range in composition from picro-basalt and basalt through intermediate compositions to phonolite and rhyolite. Silica saturated rocks are largely confined to the continental portion of the province.

3. Incidents - Around 36 years ago, Lake Nyos emitted lethal gases (mainly carbon dioxide) that was released from the Earth's

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out economic criterion for grant of reservation, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit asked on its third day of hearing petitions challenging the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced 10% quota for 'economically weaker sections' (EWS) of society. Is it that they do not belong to a homogenous group? Is it cast in stone that they beneficiaries of reservation] should belong to a homogenous group? Why cannot economic criterion be a ground for the state's affirmative action?" Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, on the Constitution Bench.

Rival Naga extremist groups have refreshed a 13yearold reconciliation treaty to "move forward" together for an honourable solution to the 'Naga political issue'. The issue pertains to the peace deal signed between the Centre and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim or the NSCN (Isak Muivah) and the Naga National Political Groups (NMPGs) comprising seven other organisations, including the factions of the Myanmar based Khaplang group.

mantle. This carbon dioxide gas had been accumulating at the bottom of the lake for centuries. Two years earlier, Lake Monoum, about 100km south-west of Lake Nyos, killed 37 people.

4. There are 45 crater lakes in the Cameroon volcanic line that could contain lethal amounts of gases. Other lakes around the world that pose a similar threat include Lake Kivu at the border of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lake Ngozi in Tanzania and Lake Monticchio in Italy.

**5. Managing dangerous lakes - Authorities should immediately restricted access to the lakes where there is a release of gas. Due to the dynamic and active nature of the Cameroon Volcanic Line, there is a possibility that volcanic gases can seep into the lake at any moment.**

6. An onsite scientific investigation would determine with certainty the abnormal behaviour of the lakes. An additional step would be for a carbon dioxide detector to be installed the potentially dangerous crater lakes. This would serve as an early warning system for lethal gas releases.