

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

21ST SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

In an alarming assessment, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres told world leaders on Tuesday that nations are “gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction” and aren’t ready or willing to tackle the major challenges that threaten the future of humanity. Speaking at the opening of the General Assembly’s annual top level meeting, the UN chief pointed to the war in Ukraine, multiplying conflicts around the world, the climate emergency, the dire financial situation of developing countries, and recent reversals of progress on such U.N. goals as ending extreme poverty and providing quality education for all children. “Our world is in peril — and paralysed,” Mr. Guterres said. Stressing that cooperation and dialogue are the only path forward, he warned that “no power or group alone can call the shots.”

The Mumbai Police have ordered the prohibition of cattle transportation in the city to prevent the spread of the lumpy skin disease (LSD). The order came into force on September 14 and will stay in place till October 13. The disease has killed 127 cattle in Maharashtra, having spread to 25 districts. The contagious viral infection has spread in cattle in more than 10 States and Union Territories so far. D Lumpy skin disease is caused by the lumpy skin disease virus which affects the lymph nodes of the infected animal, causing the nodes to enlarge and appear like lumps on the skin. The cutaneous nodules, 2–5 cm in diameter, appear on the infected cattle’s head, neck, limbs, udder, genitalia, and perineum. The nodules may later turn into ulcers and eventually develop scabs over the skin.

The spread of the disease can lead to “severe” economic losses according to FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The disease leads to reduced milk production as the animal becomes weak and also loses appetite due to mouth ulceration. The income losses can also be due to poor growth, reduced draught power capacity and reproductive problems associated with abortions, infertility and lack of semen for artificial insemination. Movement and trade bans after infection also put an economic strain on the whole value chain.

18.23 lakh, the number of new subscribers who registered with the

INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1.The ninth session of the governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) began in Delhi. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) is known as Plant Treaty or Seed Treaty.

2.The Plant Treaty was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2001. ITPGRFA finally entered into force in 2004 after 13 countries deposited their instruments of ratification with the Director-General of the FAO.

3.The Plant Treaty is a legally-binding international instrument that aims to: Establish a global system to provide farmers, plant breeders and scientists with access to plant genetic materials; Ensure that recipients share the benefits that they derive from the use of these genetic materials with the countries where they originated; and Recognize the enormous contribution of indigenous people and farmers as traditional custodians of the world’s food crops.

4.There are 131 organizations that are party to the ITPGRFA (130 countries and 1 intergovernmental organization, the European Union). The multilateral system supports agricultural research and development as well as global food security by providing each member access to important food and forage crops.

5.Benefits - Under this system, a global pool of plant genetic resources has been created and made available to all members. A total of 64 crops species are included in this pool and these account for as much as 80% of global food required. As many as 1,000 samples of plant genetic resources are exchanged each day. The benefits can be both non-monetary and monetary in nature. These include both monetary and non-monetary benefits.

SERIES FUNDING

1.Insuretech player Zopper has raised \$75 million in series C funding led by Creaegis. Many companies have to complete a number of fundraising rounds before getting to the initial public offering (IPO) stage. These fundraising rounds allow investors to invest money into a growing company in exchange for equity/ownership.

2.The initial investment is known as seed funding. It is followed by various rounds known as Series A, B, and C. A new valuation is done at the time of each funding round. Valuations are determined by various factors, including market size, company potential, current revenues, and management. Seed Funding Seed Funding is also known as seed financing, seeding round, etc.

3.It is the very first money that many enterprises raise -whether they go on to raise a Series A or not. Some startups may raise pre-seed funding in order to get them to the point where they can raise a traditional seed round, but not every company does that. Seed funding is used to take a startup from idea to the first steps, such as product development or market research.

4.Seed funding may be raised from family and friends, angel investors, incubators, and venture capital firms that focus on early-stage startups. Angel investors are perhaps the most common type of investor at this stage.

5.**Pre-Seed Funding-Pre-seed funding is the earliest stage of funding, so early that many people don’t include it in the cycle of equity funding. At this stage, founders are working with a very small team (or even by themselves) and are developing a prototype or proof-of-concept.** The money to fund a pre-seed stage typically comes from the founders themselves, their families and friends, and maybe an angel investor or an incubator.

RIPARIAN FORESTS

1.A new study has found that increasing Costa Rica’s riparian forests can improve its water quality, carbon storage. Riparian

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DELHI: VIJAY NAGAR 9717380832 & OLD RAJENDER NAGAR 9811293743 | JAIPUR: 8290800441 | PATNA: 7463950774 | RANCHI: 9939982007
BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & CHANDRA LAYOUT 7619136662 | BHOPAL: 7509975361 | INDORE: 7314977441 | IMPHAL: 9650245599
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Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in July, a 24.48% rise compared to the year-ago period, according to the provisional payroll data of EPFO. Around 10.58 lakh members of the total new members have come under the social security cover of EPFO.

5,664 number of Bru refugees, who have been included in the electoral rolls in the north eastern State so far. Of the total number of Bru people who were uprooted from Mizoram's Mamit district following ethnic clashes in 1997, 14,000 are expected to get enrolled in the voter list of Tripura, officials informed.

1,559 death toll from floods caused by record monsoon rains and glacial melt in northern Pakistan, the country's disaster management agency said. At least nine people died on Monday of infectious and waterborne diseases that have attacked thousands of people in flood hit Pakistan, government data showed.

China remains a formidable challenge and has increased its presence not only along India's land borders, but also in the maritime domain by leveraging antipiracy operations to normalise its naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said. Admiral Kumar was speaking on the security challenges that India faces.

The 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) of society does not erode the rights of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes or the Other Backward Classes, Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal submitted before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit on Tuesday. Mr. Venugopal, for the Centre, said the EWS quota was given independent of the already existing 50% reservation granted for the backward classes, that is, the Scheduled communities and the OBCs.

The village head of one of the last settlements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh's Chushul said on Tuesday that in the past year, at least three large grazing areas near the village have been turned into "noman's land" or "buffer zones" after Indian troops pulled back from patrolling points in the Kugrang Valley that includes patrolling points (PP) 15, 16 and 17.

forest (RF) has many sacred groove. Because of sacred groove, RF gets protected by local people and forest dwellers.

2. Riparian forests have huge ecological significance, playing an important role in both nature and human populations. Among their many functions are Preserving plant and animal species, Preventing bank erosion, and Helping to prevent flooding by retaining water.

3. Riparian forests are categorically associated with rivers and thus have a naturally limited distribution. Historically, rivers have dwindled as a result of loss of area to agriculture and intensive cultivation of poplar trees.

INDIA DISCRIMINATION REPORT 2022

1. Recently, "India Discrimination Report 2022" was released by the non-profit Oxfam India. The women, religious minorities - including Muslims - and historically oppressed communities, such as Dalits and Adivasis continue to face discrimination in getting jobs, livelihoods, and agricultural credit. A new report showed that labour force participation rate (LFPR) of women in India was just 25% in 2021.

2. It is considerably lower than Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa, it added citing the latest World Bank estimates. LFPR of women was 42.7% in 2004-05, and the significant decline indicates the withdrawal of women from the workforce despite rapid economic growth during the same period. Reason - The low participation was largely due to gender discrimination in wages and opportunities.

3. Wages are lower for women 83% because of discrimination and 17% due to lack of education and work experience. Suggestion - The Indian government will have to offer incentives for better pay, training, skills acquisition and job quotas to prospective employers to encourage the hiring of women to close the gender gap.

4. **Basis - The findings were based on extensive analysis of government data from 2004-2020. The aim is to understand the inequality and discrimination when it comes to access to jobs, income, health and agricultural credits across the country.** In 2019-20, 60% of all men aged 15 years and above had regular salaried and self-employed jobs.

5. The figure was 19% for women in the age group. The report found that there is also a significant gap in the earnings between men and women in the case of regular and self-employment in urban areas. The average earning of a man is nearly 2.5 times that of a woman.

PROCESS OF INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION FROM THE ST LIST

1. The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to add several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in States such as Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. Recent change - The communities approved for inclusion in the ST list are The Hatti tribe in the Trans-Giri area of Himachal Pradesh, The hill tribes of Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran of Tamil Nadu, The Binjhia community in Chhattisgarh and The Gond community in certain districts of Uttar Pradesh.

2. Most of these communities had been either included in the list of Scheduled Castes (SC) or Most Backward Classes till now. Process - The process of adding or removing a community from SC or ST lists begins at the level of the concerned State or UT. A State government may choose to recommend certain communities for addition or subtraction from the list of SCs/STs based on its discretion. Following this, the proposal to include or remove any community from the Scheduled List is sent to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs from the concerned State government. After this, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through its own deliberations, examines the proposal, and sends it to the Registrar General of India (RGI).

3. Once approved by the RGI, the proposal is sent to the National Commission for SCs or National Commission for STs. Following this, the proposal is sent back to the Union government, which after inter-ministerial deliberations, introduces it in the Cabinet for final approval. After this, a bill will be introduced to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

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The southwest monsoon rainfall, 7% more than normal, has started to withdraw. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday that the system had begun retreating from parts of southwest Rajasthan and Kutch. The “normal” or average date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan was September 17. The withdrawal of the monsoon was based on meteorological conditions such as an anticyclonic circulation (dry air that is the opposite of a cyclone), the absence of rain in the past five days and the water vapour imagery indicating dry weather conditions over the region.

China has offered Pakistan’s visiting Army Chief technical help as the country deals with record floods, but did not announce any substantial financial assistance which its “all-weather” ally has been seeking. Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka, facing financial stress, have been engaged in long running talks with Beijing for assistance, but with negotiations in both cases having made little headway, both countries have turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Their new IMF commitments are now likely to impact their owed payments to China, which has lent the two countries more than \$26 billion in the past five years.

4. This has to be passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. After the bill has been passed, the President has to assent for the inclusion or exclusion of any community in the ST or SC lists. The final decision rests with the President’s office issuing a notification specifying the changes under powers vested in it from Articles 341 and 342.

5. **Data-According to the STs in India as revealed in Census 2011, there are said to be 705 ethnic groups listed as STs under Article 342. Over 10 crore Indians are notified as STs, of which 1.04 crore live in urban areas.** The STs constitute 8.6% of the population and 11.3% of the rural population.