

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the rules governing The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022. The Act was passed in March by the Parliament. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under MHA will be the one stop agency for storing and preserving the data of arrested persons. The State governments can also store the data, but it shall provide compatible application programming interfaces for sharing the measurements or record of measurements with the NCRB. The notified rules state that samples of those detained under preventive Sections such as 107, 108, 109, 110, 144, 145 and 151 of the CrPC shall not be taken unless such person is charged or arrested in connection with any other offence punishable under any other law.

The Hemant Soren cabinet of Jharkhand has approved the proposal to use 1932 as the cut off year for the domicile policy of local inhabitants, provided that the Union government puts it in ninth schedule of the Constitution. Different tribal organisations and groups have been demanding 1932 as the cut off year to decide the domicile policy because of the land survey and revenue register done in 1932 in large parts of the State. As per the proposed domicile policy, people who have their names or their ancestor's name in the land records of 1932 or before, will be considered as local inhabitants of Jharkhand. The ninth schedule contains the list of Central and State laws which cannot be challenged in courts. This is to keep the Act from judicial review in the future.

Kuldip Singh, Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), said on Wednesday that Bihar was free of leftwing extremism now and security forces had made inroads into areas in Jharkhand that were once inaccessible due to the presence of Maoists. Mr. Singh said the fight was in its final stages, and the number of districts affected by violence stood at 39, down from 60 in 2010. He said the number of most affected districts, accounting for 90% of the violent incidents, had reduced from 35 in 2015 to 25 in 2021. These districts are mostly in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Telengana and Andhra Pradesh.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called up 3,00,000 reservists to fight in Ukraine and

## SUPER EARTHS

1. Super-Earths are bigger, more common and more habitable than Earth itself. Super Earths are a class of planets unlike any in our solar system. They are more massive than Earth yet lighter than ice giants like Neptune and Uranus. It can be made of gas, rock or a combination of both. They are between twice the size of Earth and up to 10 times its mass.

2. Most Super Earths' orbit cool dwarf stars, which are lower in mass and live much longer than the Sun. Based on current projections, about a third of all exoplanets are super-Earths, making them the most common type of exoplanet in the Milky Way. They are much easier to detect and study than Earth-sized planets and are ideal targets in the search for life.

3. To detect life on distant exoplanets, astronomers will look for biosignatures, byproducts of biology that are detectable in a planet's atmosphere. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope is not optimised for exoplanet research. But the best chances for finding signs of life in exoplanet atmospheres will come with the next generation of giant, ground-based telescopes including.

4. The 39-meter Extremely Large Telescope. The Thirty Meter Telescope, the 24.5-meter Giant Magellan Telescope. These telescopes are all under construction and set to start collecting data by the end of the decade.

## BENCH STRENGTH AND BINDING NATURE OF JUDGMENTS

1. A Constitution Bench has recently decided that a decision delivered by a Bench of largest strength is binding on any subsequent Bench of lesser or coequal strength. **The Supreme court stated that the majority decision of a bench of larger strength would prevail over the decision of a bench of lesser strength, irrespective of the number of judges constituting the majority.**

2. It is the strength of the Bench and not number of Judges who have taken a particular view which is said to be relevant.

3. However, a Bench of lesser quorum cannot disagree or dissent from the view of law taken by a Bench of larger quorum. Quorum means the bench strength which was hearing the matter.

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC)

1. The NAAC is an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC). It assesses and certifies Higher-level Educational Institutions (HEIs) with gradings as part of accreditation. Only higher education institutions that are at least six years old, or from where at least two batches of students have graduated, can apply for NAAC accreditation.

2. The accreditation is valid for five years. The ratings of institutions range from A++ to C. If an institution is graded D, it means it is not accredited. The major problem with the ratings is the current approach of assessment is "input-based".

3. In other words, NAAC relies heavily on self-assessment reports of applicant institutions. The data is then validated by NAAC expert teams, followed by peer team visits to the institutions. It is alleged that the education institutions influence the peer review teams.

## CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE NORMS

1. Union Government introduces new rules for Child Welfare Committee panel members and Chairpersons. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Amendment) Model Amendment Rules 2022 was implemented recently. It bars a person associated with an organisation receiving foreign funds to be a Chairperson or member of the Child Welfare Committees (CWC).

2. **The rules also says that any person working in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 in any NGO or organisation will also be ineligible to be on a CWC. It adds that those who have "any family member" or "close relation" working for an NGO will also be disqualified to be on a CWC.** A person representing someone running a child care

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backed a plan to annex parts of the country, hinting to the West he was prepared to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia. It was Russia's first such mobilisation since the Second World War and signified the biggest escalation of the Ukraine war since Moscow's February 24 invasion. It followed battlefield setbacks for Russian forces, who have been driven from areas they had captured in northeast Ukraine in a counter-offensive this month.

110.87, The level at which the dollar index, which measures the greenback's value against other major currencies, jumped on Wednesday, its highest level since 2002. The dollar's new two decade high was prompted by Russia's President Vladimir Putin's decision to mobilise more troops for the conflict in Ukraine.

43.2 percentage by which Ukraine's grain exports are down in the 2022/23 season so far. The government has said Ukraine could only harvest 5052 million tonnes of grain this year, down from a record 86 million tonnes in 2021. Exports so far include 3.95 million tonnes of corn, 2.30 million tonnes of wheat and 598,000 tonnes of barley.

74 percentage of deaths globally due to noncommunicable diseases (NCD) like heart disease, cancer and diabetes according to the World Health Organization (WHO). A report from the UN health agency shows that so called NCDs, which are often preventable and caused by an unhealthy lifestyle or living conditions, kill 41 million people every year.

19 percentage of prisoners, released on interim bail or emergency parole from different jails of the national capital over the past two years, who are yet to return, according to data shared under the Right to Information Act. Of the 5,525 prisoners released on interim bail and emergency parole, 1,063 of them are yet to return to serve their remaining sentences.

The Union government on Tuesday appointed veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, former Supreme Court judge K.T. Thomas, and former Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda as trustees of the PM CARES Fund, the Prime Minister's Office said on Wednesday. A meeting of trustees was held on Tuesday where the

institution or member of the Board or Trust of any NGO can also not be on a CWC.

3. Retired judicial officers have also been omitted from the category of persons who can be considered for appointment to a CWC. Child Welfare Committees CWCs are constituted by the State government under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

4. It was tasked with giving necessary directions for care and protection of children who are abused, exploited, abandoned or orphaned. It can also order an inquiry to ensure their safety and well-being and give an order for their rehabilitation either in family-based care such as through restoration to family or guardian, adoption, foster care or send them to child care institutions.

5. According to the JJ Act, 2015, the CWC will function as a Bench. It shall have the powers conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of First Class. But, experts opined that these rules will reduce the pool of human resource available for appointments to CWC.

## JOYMALA'S CASE

1. The ongoing dispute between the Tamil Nadu and Assam has brought into focus the prevailing lacunae over private ownership of elephants in India. Joymala, an elephant leased by Assam to Tamil Nadu, was reported to be mistreated and legal battles are underway at Madras and Gauhati High Courts. India has about 2,675 captive elephants according to an RTI filed in 2019.

2. A majority of these elephants, about 1,821, are under private ownership and are used for entertainment, tourism and religious purpose. The ownership of at least one out of every four captive elephants held by private individuals was not supported by the relevant documentation. It is illegal to buy or sell elephants in India and the rules only allow for elephants to be exchanged or donated to temples or between private individuals.

3. Tamil Nadu reportedly has only one elephant without an ownership certificate. Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh account for 96% of elephants in captivity without ownership certificates. Assam is home to the highest number of elephants without any ownership certificates, with 335 out of 905 captive elephants not having any documents to prove ownership.

4. Also, in many cases, one ownership certificate is used multiple times for different animals when they are transported within the country. DNA profiling of the captive elephants needed to be undertaken so that they could be identified and tracked.

## INDIA SETS GOAL: WORLD LEADER IN TOURISM BY 2047 AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

1. A declaration 'Dharamshala Declaration' was adopted at the end of the conference which sets out long-term and short-term goals for the country in the tourism sector. Key highlights of the Declaration Tourism sector to recover to the pre-pandemic level by mid-2024. Achieve \$250 billion contribution of Tourism to the GDP by 2030.

2. Make India a World leader with a revenue goal of \$1 trillion by 2047. Focus on sustainable and responsible tourism. Bring in necessary interventions, including visa reforms, ease of travel, traveler-friendly immigration facilities at airports and openness to international travel.

3. Indian Tourism Sector India is ranked 10th among 185 countries in terms of travel & tourism's total contribution to GDP in 2019; contributing 6.8% of GDP. It is a labor-intensive sector, accounting for 39 million jobs (2020) and has a significant impact on trade, investment, social inclusion etc.

4. India's Strength: India offers rich historical, cultural and geographical diversity including World Heritage sites, biogeographic zones, national parks, beaches etc. Challenges: Infrastructure, Security, impact of pandemic on tourism (registering 74.9% negative annual growth rate in Foreign Tourist arrivals in 2020) etc.

## BIG TECH IN FINANCIAL SYSTEM POSES CONCENTRATION RISK: RBI GOVERNOR

1. It was pointed that enormous amounts of consumer data is

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**newly appointed members and other trustees, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were present. The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

**On the second day of the governing body meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the issue of farmers' rights remained the focal point of discussions. The Union Agriculture Ministry said India stood for the creation of an option for implementation of farmers rights, and proposed that use of Global Information System (GIS) for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture needs capacity building among contracting parties.**

**A 14thcentury ceremonial sword that was sold in Hyderabad to a British General in the early 20th century is set to return to India. The sword is among the seven objects being repatriated by Glasgow Life, which manages Glasgow's museums. While the objects were described as stolen, the acquisition document for the sword says it was purchased from Maharaja Kishen Pershad.**

being generated and leveraged upon by a Big Tech by virtue of their huge customer base. Such developments raise concerns on concentration risk and potential spillovers as their level of engagement with the financial system strengthens in the years to come.

**2.**In emerging markets and developing economies (EMDES), Big-Tech firms provide broader range of financial services like lending, insurance and asset management including payments option. Risk associated with Big-Tech into financial stability Interruptions or delays in the service will have the potential to create large-scale issues in financial services.

**3.**Market dominance that could lead to innovation being replaced. Big Tech platforms that could facilitate cross-border fraud, theft, and money laundering. Challenges of regulation, supervision, and enforcement against BigTechs located in other jurisdictions.

**4.**In related news, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched 3 products — RuPay Credit Cards on UPI, UPI Lite, and Bharat Bill Pay Cross Border Bill Payments for enabling safe & easier payment transactions.