

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

An avalanche monitoring radar, the first of its kind in India, has been installed in North Sikkim by the Army and Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment. It can detect avalanches within three seconds of its trigger and will assist in saving lives of troops and reducing damage to property. The radar was made operational by DGRE, a lab under the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), which is involved in forecasting and mitigation of avalanche hazards faced by the Army in the Himalayan region.

The Central government has announced a special tourist circuit encompassing five key sites associated with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dalit scholars and Ambedkarites, however, argue that the five spots or the "Panchateerths" selected for the circuit do not do justice to Ambedkar's "real legacy" and have been chosen to just fit into the "localised and nationalistic" narrative of the government. According to Ambedkar scholars, there are a host of other sites like Raigarh district of Maharashtra where Dr. Ambedkar led the Mahad Satyagraha, Pune where he held the first negotiations with Mahatma Gandhi in Yerwada jail on a separate electorate for depressed classes, and Sri Lanka where he attended a Buddhist conclave.

The five cities in the tourist circuit as announced by the government are Mhow (his birthplace), London (where he resided and studied), Nagpur (also studied here), Delhi (where he passed away) and finally Mumbai (where he was cremated).

Foreign Ministers of the Quad group of countries – India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan – met on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday to sign a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership into effect. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the world was going through a difficult period – listing the Ukraine conflict and climate events, and said that it was especially important for the Quad to further the "constructive agenda" it had set up for itself and work together to deliver public goods.

Reform of the United Nations has been a central theme of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the United Nations this week, and on Thursday, he met with his

## NITI AAYOG TO DRAFT POLICY FOR WATER TRADING ON TRADING PLATFORMS

- 1.NITI Aayog is working on draft policy regarding trading in water on commodity exchanges like gold, silver and crude oil. Water trading refers to buying, selling or leasing water access right enabling water to be transferred from one user to another.
- 2.Market price of water reflects its demand and supply. It is already practiced in Australia, Chile, USA among others. In 2020, first tradable water price futures index was launched on Chicago Stock Exchange. Benefits of Water Trading Better price discovery leading to efficient use of resources and encourage water saving. Increased flexibility to manage water availability and water use.
- 3.Reduce government expenses on drought relief measures. Insure farmers against drought. Attract investments in water economy through increased business opportunities. Concerns over Water Trading Politically sensitive issues due to greater impact on poor and marginalized sections of society.
- 4.Against religious and cultural traditions of community considering water with spiritual value. Promote privatisation of water resources (public good or a basic human right), leaving the state with no control over them.

## WORLD METROLOGICAL ORGANISATION RELEASES GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (GOOS) REPORT CARD, 2022

- 1.Report has been released annually since 2017 in partnership with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and other GOOS partners. GOOS is a permanent global system for observations, modeling, and analysis of marine and ocean data. It highlighted biological observations for the first time and identifies gap in system. It pointed at inequality in operational services across oceans like Indian, Atlantic and Southern Ocean.
- 2.**Key findings Oceans take up 26% of 40 gigatons of carbon emitted to atmosphere annually (48% remains in atmosphere while terrestrial biosphere takes rest). Only 5% cent of platforms at sea carry biogeochemical sensor, including carbon dioxide sensors.** Argo profiling float array is providing 15% less data as compared to pre-pandemic.
- 3.Investment in strengthening capacity to collect data. Ensure access to FAIR data (findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability). Early warning systems are essential to reduce coastal zones risks and communities which are at risk from rising sea levels. Improve forecasting of ecosystem services provided by phytoplankton.
- 4.It maintains global array of about 3,800 floats that measure pressure, temperature and salinity of upper 2,000 metres of world's ocean. This is a major component of both GOOS and Global Climate Observing System, providing near-real time data (on temperature, salinity) for ocean and atmospheric services.

## ASIAN PALM OIL ALLIANCE (APOA) FORMED BY FIVE SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

- 1.It is formed by apex edible oil industry associations of five major palm oil importing countries, including- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India will manage its secretariat. Asia accounts for 40% of global palm oil demand with India as largest importer accounting for nearly 15% (13-14 million tonnes).
- 2.Based on idea to gain collective bargaining power and make imports sustainable, APOA will work to Change negative image of palm oil and ensure that it is recognised as a high-quality, economical, and healthy vegetable oil. Safeguard economic and business interests of palm oil consuming countries and increase its consumption in member countries.
- 3.About Palm Oil It is edible vegetable oil produced from palm fruit of *Elaeis Guineensis* (African oil Palm) or *Elaeis Oleifera* (indigenous to South and Central America). It is rich in Vitamin A and E with no trans fatty acids; commonly used in food products and industrial applications.

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counterparts from Germany, Brazil and Japan under The Group of Four (G4) banner following the BRICS meeting. The group is primarily focused on UN Security Council (UNSC) reform, and permanent membership for G4 members. On Thursday, they reiterated their commitment to pushing forward reform and expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of progress.

In a move that could offer mobile phone users a big relief from spam calls and fraudulent messages, the government has proposed to make it mandatory that the identity of a person sending a message or calling should be visible to the receiver irrespective of the platform used for communication. "All of you know that there has been a rise in cases where people get a call saying I am calling from XYZ bank seeking financial details leading to fraud... or you get threats from unknown numbers... so we have introduced a lot of points for user protection and to prevent cyberfraud..." Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Rescue missions over the past one year have made the Tamil Nadu Forest Department more familiar with the ways of the elephant. In this period, the department has successfully reunited three elephant calves that got separated from their herds in the Nilgiris district. Officials and staff who worked on these "complicated" operations said multiple factors dictated whether these efforts to reunite the lost calves were successful. Also, these efforts were helping them to better understand elephant behaviour and their complex social structures.

Moscow would terminate energy supply to countries if it feels the prices offered were unfair and if they join the western campaign to stop Russian energy flow, said Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov.

With the aim of eradicating child marriage, Nayagarh, a tiny Odisha district, has adopted a unique initiative by scrupulously recording information on all adolescent girls in the district. From birth registration date to Aadhaar number, from family details to skill training, information of 48,642 adolescent girls can be found in registers named Aliva.

At least 36 people have been killed in an Iranian crackdown on protests over the death of Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini in police custody, a

4.National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), Centrally Sponsored Scheme for self-reliance in edible oil. Oil Palm Area Expansion under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Increasing minimum support prices of oilseeds crops.

## INDIGENOUS TOYS TO PROMOTE LEARNING IN ANGANWADI CENTRES

1.Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has deployed a novel method of promoting indigenous toys for learning among very young children. It includes terracotta toys from Gujarat, Kondapalli and Etikoppaka toys of Andhra Pradesh, Channapatna toys of Karnataka, and Bamboo toys of Tripura.

**2.These local, indigenous and DIY (do it yourself) toys are used in anganwadi centers to educate children and their families about healthy living and good nutritional practices.**

**MoWCD has compiled a State-wise national repository of indigenous toys and shared with States and UTs.** States are directed to share and exchange their local their local play materials, folk stories as well as indigenous toys with each other.

**3.To ensure diversity, states are paired with each other (E.g. Andhra Pradesh with Punjab).Benefits of Learning with Toys:** Promotion of experiential learning, teamwork and social interaction. Better learning outcomes in mathematics, languages, science etc.

**4.Connect students with their own cultural heritage.** Boost the local toy industry through demand creation. Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship in toys sector.Estimated to be around \$1.7 billion, India's toy market is largely unorganized with a high influx of China made toys. To promote 'made-in-India' toys, Government has made Bureau of Indian Standards certification mandatory for imports and increased custom duty.

## AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (ABPM-JAY) COMPLETES FOUR YEARS

1.Launched in 2018 under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It is world's largest health assurance scheme. It provides yearly medical insurance of Rs 5 lakh to at least 10.74 crore marginalised families for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Key features It is a Centrally Sponsored scheme and component of Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

**2.Funding pattern is in ratio of 60:40 for States and UTs with legislature; 90:10 for North Eastern States and three Himalayan States (J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), and 100% for UTs without legislature.** Beneficiary identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census, 2011. No cap on family size and age in scheme. Covers pre-existing diseases and benefits are available across country. National Health Authority is implementing agency.

**3.Significance of PM-JAY Reduced Out of Pocket expenditure:** Approx 4 crore poor people have got free hospitalized treatment. Increased access to quality health and medication: Over 37 million hospital admissions through network of 25,000 hospital. An enabler of affordability and accountability in health system. Timely treatments lead to improvement in quality of life. Additionally, PM-JAY will be extended to informal sanitation workers to expand its outreach to grassroots-level workers through government schemes.

**4.For this, premium will be funded from National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE), central sector scheme.**Benefits of Learning with Toys: Promotion of experiential learning, teamwork and social interaction. Better learning outcomes in mathematics, languages, science etc. Connect students with their own cultural heritage. Boost the local toy industry through demand creation. Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship in toys sector.

## VOSTRO ACCOUNT

1.UCO Bank has become first lender to receive RBI's approval to open vostro account with Gazprombank of Russia for rupee trade.

2.Vostro account is an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank of correspondent bank/s of the partner country for trading. For example, HSBC vostro account

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**New York based rights group said. Amini, 22, died last week after her arrest by the Islamic Republic's feared morality police for allegedly wearing a hijab headscarf in an "improper" way, and news of her death sparked widespread outrage.**

is held by SBI in India.

**3.**It'll cushion rupee from market volatility and help Russia as it cannot use SWIFT system (system used by banks for payments in foreign currency) due to sanction. Vostro comes from Latin word for "Yours".

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