

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

A party with neofascist roots has won the most votes in Italy's national election, setting the stage on Monday for talks to create the country's first far right led government since the Second World War with Giorgia Meloni at the helm as Italy's first woman Premier. Italy's lurch to the far right immediately shifted Europe's geopolitics, placing the eurosceptic far right Brothers of Italy in position to lead a founding member of the European Union and its third largest economy.

The Union government is pushing tech giants to make smartphones compatible with its homegrown navigation system within months, worrying the likes of Samsung, Xiaomi and Apple who fear elevated costs and disruptions as the move requires hardware changes. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive for self reliance, India has over the years expanded the use of its regional navigation satellite system called NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

Semiconductors are the thumbnail-sized building blocks of almost every modern electronic device. The semiconductor chip-making process is complex and highly exact, having multiple steps in the supply chain such as designing software for chips and patenting them through core Intellectual Property (IP) rights. D According to the Electronics and IT Ministry, semiconductor demand in India would increase to \$70-\$80 billion by 2026 with the growing demand for digital devices and electronic products. The modified scheme now provides uniform 50% fiscal support for all nodes. Besides, it will provide 50% of capital expenditure for other steps of the process as well (chip design and ATMP).

The Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry has blocked 45 videos from 10 YouTube channels for allegedly containing hateful speech against religious communities with the potential to cause communal disharmony. Based on inputs from intelligence agencies, the Ministry issued directions for blocking the videos under the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The blocked videos had a cumulative viewership of more than 1.3 crore. "The content included fake news and morphed videos with the intent to spread hatred among religious

INDIA'S FIRST 'FLEX FUEL' CAR TO BE LAUNCHED BY TOYOTA

1. Toyota is set to launch India's first 'flex fuel' car, with the goal of reducing the country's reliance on imported fossil fuels for transportation. Flex Fuel, or Flexible Fuel Vehicle (FFV) has an internal combustion engine which is capable of operating on gasoline as well as blend of gasoline & ethanol up to 83%. Flex-fuel engines are capable of running on 100% petrol or ethanol and are already available in countries such as Brazil, USA and Canada.

2. FFVs have one fuel system, and most components are same as those found in a conventional petrol-only car. Flex-fuel, or flexible fuel, is an alternative fuel made of a combination of gasoline and methanol or ethanol. Engine Control Module (ECM) is calibrated to accommodate higher oxygen content of ethanol.

3. Pros of FFVs-Lowers harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulphur, and carbon and nitrogen oxides. Reduce oil imports for fueling vehicles. Help in addressing surplus food grains problems (can be used in making ethanol). Flexible with the choice of Fuel. Increased farmers income. Other types of vehicles as per fuel includes: Mono-fuel vehicle (operates on natural gas only) and Bi-fuel vehicle (two independent fuel systems).

4. Cons of FFVs-Require additional investment from auto companies in production lines and technology transfers. Ethanol can cause corrosion and damage to engine. Use of water intensive crops like sugarcane. Ethanol is not as economical as gasoline as it does not provide same level of fuel efficiency.

INDIA ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF "INNOVATION ROADMAP OF THE MISSION INTEGRATED BIOREFINERIES" (IRMIB) AT GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY ACTION FORUM

1. The roadmap is developed by co-leads (India and Netherlands) based on inputs from Brazil, Canada, UK and European Commission. IRMIB aims to fill the void by: identifying gaps and challenges in current biorefining value chains, prioritising Eight key actions to support the Mission, guiding the Mission's overall path in achieving its goal.

2. Mission Integrated Biorefineries (MIB) is the 7th mission under Mission Innovation (MI) which was launched in April 2022. MI is a global initiative catalyzing a decade of action and investment in research, development and demonstration (RD&D) to make clean energy affordable, attractive and accessible for all. MI consists of 22 countries and EU.

3. India is a founding member. MIB aims at greater international collaboration and financing for Energy RD&D during the next five years. Goal: To develop and demonstrate innovative solutions to accelerate the commercialization of integrated biorefineries.

4. Target: To replace 10% of fossil-based fuels, chemicals and materials with bio-alternatives by 2030. It prioritizes eight collaborative actions organized around 3 Pillars of Supporting Research, Development and Demonstration. Accelerating Pilots and Demonstrations. Improving Policy and Market Conditions.

5. **BENEFITS OF MIB-Fill the void by identifying gaps and challenges in current biorefining value chains, Providing a strategy framework to policymakers to establish a rising RD&D portfolio, Specific financing proposals across the entire spectrum of vital Biorefinery technologies.** Help in a virtuous cycle of public and private investment.

RUSSIA BACKS INDIA, BRAZIL FOR PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP IN U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

1. During the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, Russian Foreign Minister expressed his support for India, becoming a permanent member of the Security Council. Merits warranting India's permanent seat in UNSC India's strict adherence to the principle of Panchsheel which is based on Mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality and

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communities. Examples include false claims such as the government has taken away the religious rights of certain communities; violent threats against religious communities; declaration of civil war in India, etc.

The rupee plunged to another record low against the dollar on Monday owing to further strengthening of the U.S. currency against other major currencies. The rupee's continuing slide will adversely impact importers, students studying abroad and outbound travellers. The Indian currency fell for the fourth consecutive session, closing at 81.67 compared with Friday's 81.09.

60 percentage of innocuous tweets the Central government asked Twitter to block, according to the petition filed by the microblogging platform against the Central government's orders. Twitter challenged the orders on grounds of violation of freedom of speech and the authorities not issuing notice to the alleged violators.

20 quadrillion, the number of ants that live on Earth, according to a study published by researchers at both the University of Hong Kong and the University of Würzburg in Germany. The study further shows that the world's ants' mass collectively constitutes about 12 million tonnes of dry carbon, equal to about one-fifth of the total weight of humans.

The Centre has decided to reduce the number of awards given to scientists and medical researchers on the grounds that they are restricted to only "really deserving candidates", says the record of a meeting chaired by Ajay Bhalla, Home Secretary. Several Ministries made presentations on the awards given by their respective departments. The DST gave 207 awards, of which four were National Awards, 97 were private endowment awards, 54 were lecture, scholarship or fellowship based awards and 56 were 'internal awards'. The participants then agreed to retain only the national awards and do away with the rest. The department could start a new scheme for scholarship/fellowship with "suitable honorarium and full justification and detailed guidelines.

People belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities in the State list but not in the Central list

peaceful coexistence. India is also part of the G20 and is often invited to take part in the G7.

2. India has just become the 5th largest economy. It's one of the largest contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping missions. India, as a leading global power, has called for reforms like inclusivity, representation, and democratisation of international institutions.

3. A permanent membership to India in UNSC will ensure representation of the developing and underdeveloped world. UNSC is one of the 6 main organs of the UN established with primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Currently, it has 5 permanent members (USA, UK, Russia, France, and China) and 10 non-permanent members, including India, appointed for 2-years term.

4. **G-4 Nations: The group is primarily focused on U.N. Security Council (UNSC) reform, and permanent membership of the body for G4 members. L.69 group: It includes primarily developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, all united by a common desire to achieve comprehensive reform.**

GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME MAKE IN INDIA COMPLETES 8 YEARS

1. Make in India initiative, launched in 2014, facilitates investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure. It has substantial accomplishments across 27 sectors which include strategic sectors of manufacturing and services as well.

2. Progress & Key achievements under Make in India FDI inflows in India doubled to \$83.6 billion, highest ever in FY2021-22 from US \$45.15 billion in 2014-2015. Import of toys in FY2021-22 have reduced by 70%. Production Linked Incentive scheme across 14 key manufacturing sectors was launched to strengthen domestic manufacturing, boosting export potential etc. Incentive scheme was launched to build a semiconductor, display, design ecosystem in India.

3. National Single Window System to improve Ease-of-doing-business (EODB). As per World Bank, India's rank in EODB has improved from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020. Prime Minister's GatiShakti programme for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.

4. One District, One Product initiative to help districts by identifying, promoting, and branding a product. Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 promote manufacturing and production of goods and services in local industry to enhance income and employment.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE TO LAUNCH SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN (SVS) RANKING OF CITIES

1. SVS will rank 131 cities in country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), 2019 for reducing air pollution up to 40% by 2025-26. Key highlights of SVS Ranking will be based only on actions taken by cities to improve air quality in different domains and not on measurement of air quality parameters to rank cities.

2. Annual self-assessment by cities as per framework provided on PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities). PRANA portal is for monitoring of implementation of NCAP. 131 cities are categorised into three groups based on population i.e. 47 cities (population more than 10 lakh), 44 cities (between 3 to 10 lakh), and 40 cities (less than 3 lakh).

3. Three best-performing cities in each group will be given cash awards in spirit of competitive federalism. NCAP, launched by MoEFCC, reduces Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) concentrations by at least 20% in next five years, with 2017 as base year for comparison.

4. It includes 123 Non-Attainment Cities (NAC) which exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 5 consecutive years.

ROHINI SOUNDING ROCKETS

1. ISRO will launch a Rohini RH-200 sounding rocket during the World Space Week celebrations (4-10 October). Rohini Sounding

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will be eligible to apply for posts and services of the Government of India under the EWS quota criteria, provided they fulfill all other requirements, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has said in a list of FAQs it has put out on how to recruit under the 10% reservation provided for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Monday launched a nationwide competition for individuals and groups to come up with ideas for making toys out of waste. The Ministry said in a statement that it was launching the 'Swachh Toycathon' in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "clarion call for making the toy industry environment friendly". Speaking at the launch of the online platform for the competition, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi asked people to come up with innovative solutions to meet the demand for toys.

Rockets is a two-stage rocket capable of climbing to a height of 70 km bearing scientific payloads.

2.The 1st sounding rocket was launched in 1963 from Thumba (beginning of Indian Space Programme). ISRO started to launch indigenous sounding rockets in 1965.

3.Applications: Probe upper atmospheric regions; Space research; Test or prove prototypes of new components/subsystems intended for use in launch vehicles and satellites.