

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) earlier this year discovered Buddhist caves and stupas, and Brahmi inscriptions, dating back to the 2nd century, and Hindu temples from the 9th-11th centuries, and possibly the world's largest Varaha sculpture also dating to the same period, at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. The Varaha sculpture is among the many monolithic sculptures of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu discovered by the ASI at the national park earlier this year. The exploration took place 84 years after the last such effort in 1938.

6 percent of the total volume of Switzerland's glaciers lost this year due to a dry winter and repeated summer heatwaves, shattering previous ice melt records, a report revealed. Three cubic kilometres of ice — three trillion litres of water — have melted away. According to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, the melting of ice is one of the key threats from climate change.

1.52 million, the number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India in 2021 compared to 2.74 million in 2020, a negative growth of 44.5%. India received 677.63 million domestic tourist visits in 2021, an increase of 11.05% from 610.22 million in 2020, the report said. Travel and tourism created 79.86 million (direct and indirect) jobs.

The Union government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for another three months from October 1. This will allow beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act to continue to get five kg of food grains per person per month till December 31. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting here on Wednesday. This would help the poor and vulnerable sections in the festive season, the Centre said. The scheme has been in operation since April 2020. Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Bank of Baroda, said the impact of the decision on fiscal deficit would be marginal.

Iran's state has both elected and unelected branches and the unelected branch is more powerful than the former. The President, Parliament (Majles) and the Assembly of Experts are directly elected, while the Supreme Leader, the Guardian Council and the Expediency Council are appointed by the clergy. The Supreme Leader is

## GOVERNMENT RELEASES INDIA TOURISM STATISTICS 2022 ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD TOURISM DAY

1. According to data highlighted in the report, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions saw the foreign tourist arrivals in India dip by 44.5% in 2021.

2. Other key highlights The top countries from which foreign tourists arrived in India included the U.S., the U.K., Bangladesh, Canada, Nepal, Afghanistan and Australia. Number of Indian nationals departing the country saw a rise of 7.3% in 2021. The UAE was the top destination for Indians in 2021, followed by the U.S., Qatar, Oman and the U.K. Only 1.64% of all tourists worldwide comes from India. Domestic tourism in India saw a minor revival with an increase of 11.05% India's ranking in the global Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) is 54th in 2021.

3. Steps taken by government to promote tourism industry-Swadesh Darshan Scheme, a Central Sector scheme launched in 2014-15 for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits. 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD Scheme) launched in the year 2014-2015 which focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience. Draft National tourism policy to transform our tourist destinations.

## WARMING OF OCEANS, A REASON WHY HURRICANES ARE GETTING STRONGER, FASTER

1. Experts believe that warming the ocean is one of the key reasons for such strengthening hurricanes. Relation between Warming Oceans and strengthening hurricanes Warmer oceans, higher winds - Storms gather strength over the ocean, and the warmer the water, the more power they pick up.

2. Since 1901, sea surface temperatures have risen by an average of 0.14 degrees Fahrenheit per decade, as per data from US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Winds intensify more rapidly - Warmer oceans also make the rate of intensification more rapid. Researchers have found that the likelihood of a hurricane undergoing rapid intensification has increased to 5 per cent from 1 per cent since the 1980s.

3. Hurricanes are tropical storms that form in the Atlantic Ocean with wind speeds of at least 119 kilometers (74 miles) per hour. Cyclones and typhoons are other types of tropical storms which are formed in the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean and northwestern Pacific Ocean respectively.

## MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION LAUNCHES IEC CAMPAIGN ON FORTIFIED RICE

1. The campaign was launched to popularise and create awareness about the benefit of Fortified Rice specially in Tribal Areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana Rajasthan, Kerala.

2. Fortification is the process of adding Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK), containing FSSAI prescribed micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12) to normal Rice (Custom Milled Rice) in the ratio of 1:100 (Mixing 1 Kg of FRK with 100 Kg custom milled rice).

3. This process is done in the rice mills at the time of milling of rice. Fortified rice are nearly identical to traditional rice in aroma, taste, and texture.

4. Benefits-Aids nutritional security Helps in fighting anemia and malnutrition in the country Prevents cretinism, goiter, thyrotoxicosis, brain damage Improves foetal and neonatal health Fortified rice is being distributed under: Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (erstwhile Integrated Child Development scheme). Centrally sponsored pilot scheme on "Fortification of Rice & its Distribution under Public Distribution System.

## SUPREME COURT (SC) ALLOWS ELECTION COMMISSION

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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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both the political leader and spiritual guide of the Islamic Republic. Unlike the President, the Supreme Leader doesn't have any fixed term. Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has had only two Supreme Leaders — Khomeini (who died in 1989) and Khamenei. The Constitution mandates the 88-member Assembly of Experts to elect the Supreme Leader. The Assembly, which also has the authority to oversee and dismiss the Supreme Leader, is directly elected, but the candidates are strictly vetted by the Guardian Council, whose members are directly or indirectly picked by the Supreme Leader.

₹ 44,762 crore, the cost at which the government extended its programme to provide free rations to the poor by three months. The scheme to provide five kg of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore people every month, which was supposed to end on Friday, will now run through December 31, 2022.

₹12.83 crore, the worth of Bitcoins frozen by the Enforcement Directorate as part of an ongoing money laundering probe against a Kolkata based mobile gaming app firm that is alleged to have duped a number of people. The accused was transferring the "illegally earned" amount through the gaming app to overseas locations.

Senior advocate R. Venkataramani has been appointed the new Attorney General (AG) by President Droupadi Murmu for a period of three years, the Law Ministry announced.

To frame general guidelines in "thin air" to restrict Government Ministers, MPs, MLAs or public leaders, including political party presidents, from making unguarded, derogatory and hurtful statements in public may prove "difficult", a Constitution Bench prima facie said. Justice B.V. Nagarathna said "reasonable restrictions" on the right to free speech under Article 19(1) (a) were already there under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The judge asked whether it was right on the part of the court to impose a further law on free speech over and above the restrictions already imposed under Article 19(2). There are other remedies already available like civil/ criminal injunctions, torts, general laws, etc.

## OF INDIA (ECI) TO DECIDE WHO REPRESENTS THE POLITICAL PARTY SHIV SENA

- 1.The SC allows ECI to decide on plea of two different groups for the real Shiv Sena tag, symbol. Election Symbols(Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empower the ECI which group is representative of a recognised national and state party if rivalry arises in the party.
- 2.The decision of ECI is binding. Splinter group of the party (other than the group that got the party symbol) had to register itself as a separate party, and could lay claim to national or state party status only on the basis of its performance in state or central elections after registration. For splits in registered but unrecognised parties, the EC usually advises the warring factions to resolve their differences internally or to approach the court.
- 3.In almost all disputes decided by the EC so far, a clear majority of party delegates/office bearers, MPs and MLAs have supported one of the factions. Whenever the EC could not test the strength of rival groups based on support within the party organisation (because of disputes regarding the list of office bearers), it fell back on testing majority only among elected MPs and MLAs.

## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT UPDATES TARGETS UNDER NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME(NCAP)

- 1.Under the NCAP, the MOEFCC has updated the target for reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) to 40% by 2026. NCAP was launched in 2019 to bring a 20%-30% reduction in pollution levels from PM2.5 and PM10 particles by 2024, using 2017 pollution levels as a base.
- 2.It is coordinated by the Central Pollution Control Board. Funding of cities is based on the level of PM10 Under this programme, city-specific action plans have been prepared which include measures for strengthening the air quality monitoring network, reducing emissions, increasing public awareness, etc. The target was updated due to an overall improvement in PM10 levels in 2021.
- 3.20 cities, have met the national standards for annual average PM10 concentration (60 microgram per cubic metre). 95 of the 131 non-attainment cities (NACs) have witnessed an "overall improvement" in PM10 levels in 2021.
- 4.NACs are cities whose air quality did not meet the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) of 2011 to 2015. PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities) portal monitors the implementation of NCAP.

## INDIA, NEPAL AGREE TO TAKE FORWARD SAPTA KOSI HIGH DAM PROJECT

- 1.Sapta Kosi High Dam is a multipurpose project proposed to be constructed on the Sapta kosi River to control floods in south-east Nepal and northern Bihar and to generate hydropower.
- 2.Significance of hydro-power cooperation in Indo-Nepal relations-For India, it can address the severe deficit in coal-based power plants by providing an alternative way. For Nepal, it is expected to provide self-sufficiency and increase foreign exchange through export. Help India minimise the geopolitical influence of China and firm its presence in Nepal.
- 3.Recently, an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Nepal and India to develop the West Seti and Seti River (SR6) projects which was abandoned by China. Earlier in 2018, China withdrew from the project citing issues of resettlement and rehabilitation. The project can also be extended to other regional partners under the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) framework for cross-border energy cooperation.
- 4.Measures to be taken to improve hydro-power cooperation Conducting proper study of investment scenario, at the preliminary stage Revised electricity rates and power sharing by Indian authorities to adequately meet Nepal's power needs. Both the riparian states engaging as equals to address each other's concerns effectively.
- 5.The Saptakoshi is the largest river of Nepal comprised of seven large tributaries, namely Tamakoshi, Arunkoshi, Dudhkoshi, Tamurkoshi, Bhotekoshi, Sunkoshi and Indrawati.

## SITTANAVASAL CAVE

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Russia installed officials in four breakaway regions of Ukraine reported huge majorities of votes in favour of joining Russia as the U.S. planned a UN resolution condemning the referendums as “shams” and Russia remained defiant. The U.S. was also preparing a new round of sanctions against Russia should it annex Ukrainian territory and a \$1.1 billion arms package for Ukraine that will be announced soon, U.S. officials said on Tuesday.

1. Sittanavasal Cave is a 2nd-century Tamil Śramana complex of caves in Sittanavasal village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu. Sittanavasal was an abode for Jain saints. The paintings in the temple were excavated around fourth to sixth centuries using the fresco-secco technique (a process that dispenses with preparation of the wall with wet plaster).

2. The colours are a mixture of plant dyes and mineral elements (lime, lamp black), and clay pigments (ochre for yellow and terre verte for the greyish-green). These paintings resemble to the works in Ajanta and Ellora.