

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri gave away awards to the winners of the Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive Cities Awards, 2022. The Belagavi Smart City's system for those with disabilities to access education and healthcare was awarded the top prize in the category of implemented solutions. The awards were an initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs and the United Nations in India for addressing the city level challenges of accessibility and the inclusion for persons with disabilities, women, girls and senior citizens, a statement said.

West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim and Union Territory of Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu have not uploaded a single alert on CriMAC since the portal was launched in March 2020.. The platform meant to share information and coordinate action among law enforcement agencies on serious criminal incidents, including human trafficking. The application run by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) aims to help in early detection and prevention of crime incidents across the country.

India's first indigenously developed vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, CERVAVAC, will likely cost ₹200-400 a shot and be commercially available later this year, Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India (SII), said on the side lines of a launch event.

An Indian Army contingent comprising troops from 7/8 Gorkha Rifles is participating in the multilateral strategic and command exercise 'Vostok2022' which commenced on Friday at the training grounds of the eastern military district in Russia. The exercise also includes participation by the Chinese People's Liberation Army. "The exercise is aimed at interaction and coordination amongst other participating military contingents and observers," the Army said in a statement. The exercise is scheduled to be held from Sept. 01 to 07.

India's gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) were ₹1,43,612 crore in August, 28% higher than a year ago. Revenues from import of goods soared 57% during the month while domestic transactions and import of services yielded 19% higher taxes than in

CHALLENGING THE SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT, 1954

1.Context: The Supreme Court dismissed a writ petition challenging provisions of the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954 requiring couples to give a notice declaring their intent to marry 30 days before their marriage. petition seek? Article 21: This provision in the act violates the right to privacy of the parties. Article 14: The requirement violates the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution since no other laws prescribe such a requirement.

2.Provisions that have been challenged- Section 5 of the SMA: It requires couples getting married under it to give notice to the Marriage Officer 30 days before the date of marriage. Section 6: It requires notice to be entered into the Marriage Notice Book maintained by the Marriage Officer, which can be inspected by "any person desirous of inspecting the same. Section 7: It provides the process for making an objection such as if either party has a living spouse, is incapable of giving consent due to "unsoundness of mind" or is suffering from a mental disorder resulting in the person being unfit for marriage or procreation. Section 8:It Specifies the inquiry procedure to be followed after an objection has been submitted.

3.Court said: SC rejected the writ petition on the grounds that the petitioner(35- year-old Athira Sujatha) was no longer an aggrieved party as she had already solemnized her marriage under SMA.

4.Rules and laws in different states: Haryana: The Haryana government has laid down 16 prerequisites which ask couples to issue a notice in a newspaper and that such notices be sent to their parents. No-objection certificate: In certain States, couples have to seek a no-objection certificate from their parents. Maharashtra: The Maharashtra Department of Registration and Stamps publicly shares the details of couples marrying under SMA on its website.

5.How do these provisions make couples vulnerable? Harassment by anti-social elements: Public notices have been used by anti-social elements to harass couples getting married. Officers' incompetence: There have been instances, where marriage officers have gone over and beyond the law and sent such notices to the parents of the couple. Example: Muslim woman in Delhi being confined to her house by her parents in March 2020.

6.Special Marriage Act: The SMA is a law which allows the solemnization of marriages without going through any religious customs or rituals. People from different castes or religions or states get married under SMA in which marriage is solemnized by way of registration.

THE MANY WAYS OF HELPING SRI LANKA

1.Context: India has assisted with nearly \$4 billion to Sri Lanka. How can India help? Provide Liberal loans. Sharing technical expertise or knowledge. Helping the country upgrade skills in different areas of economic activity.

2.Engagement areas: Agriculture and allied activities: India can help Sri Lanka develop its dairy sector. Sri Lanka imports a considerable quantity of milk powder from India and annually imports dairy products worth \$315 million. Poultry sector: India can share its knowledge on the productivity of wheat which is largely used as the primary ingredient in domestic poultry feed. Energy projects: Provisional approvals for the Adani Group's wind power projects of over \$500 million in the Northern Province.

3.MSME sector: Programmes including the 'Digital MSME' and 'RAMP' (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) can provide leads to the MSME sector. School education: India can expand its scheme of establishing smart classrooms and modern computer labs to cover all those institutions teaching children of hill country Tamils, the most underprivileged section in Sri Lankan society. Higher education: Indian universities can consider setting up satellite campuses in Sri Lanka.

4.Training employees of the public sector: A collaborative project can be conceived for training second and third rung employees of the public sector. Culture front: India can arrange

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August 2021. This is the sixth successive month when GST revenues have been over the ₹1.4 lakh crore mark, the Finance Ministry said, stressing that GST collections have risen 33% till August this year, compared to the corresponding period of 2021 22, and are “continuing to display very high buoyancy”.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reached a staff level agreement with crisis hit Sri Lanka, in a first step before extending a \$2.9 billion loan package that the Fund has made contingent on assurances from the island nation’s creditors.

2.7 crore, the number of social media posts in India, against which technology conglomerate Meta took action in July, the company said in its monthly transparency report. The company took action against 2.5 crore posts on Facebook and 20 lakh posts on Instagram to comply with Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. On Facebook, action was taken against 1.73 crore of spam content, followed by 27 lakh posts related to “adult nudity and sexual activity”.

The purpose of single use plastics is to use them once or for a short period of time before disposing of them. There is a greater likelihood of single use plastic products ending up in the sea than reusable ones. B The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibited the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of plastic carry bags whose thickness is less than 75 microns. To ensure the effective enforcement of the ban, national and State level control rooms will be established, as well as special enforcement teams for the purpose of checking the illegal manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastics.

In 2012, the SC banned export of iron ore pellets from Karnataka with an aim to prevent environmental degradation. B Following the ban, the Supreme Court directed the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to draw up a reclamation and rehabilitation plan to reverse the environmental damage caused by illegal mining. B Taking cognisance of the course correction by the government, it relaxed its 2011 order since the situation had now “changed for the

for greater numbers of Buddhist monks to visit religious places. 5.Way forward: Engagement: There is enormous scope for India to engage in a constructive way with its southern neighbour, which is known for performing better than most other economies in Asia. Equitable distribution of developmental programmes: India can ensure that the proposed development programme is equitably distributed in coverage.

PUNJAB BANS SARPANCH PROXIES(PANCHAYAT/SARPANCH PATI)

1.Context: Male kin of women can’t attend meetings of Panchayat as the Punjab government order. ‘Sarpanch pati’, where men relatives (mostly husbands) of elected women run the office in place of them. (even shown in the recent web series Panchayat).

2.Issues with ‘Panchyat Pati’: Most of the women’s sarpanches do not attend meetings that take place at the district/block/village. Defeats the purpose of reservation for women in Panchayat. Study says, more than 80 per cent of women sarpanches are proxy sarpanches even today. Punjab had implemented a 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions.

3.Benefit of women reservation in Panchayat: A 2010 study published by the India Policy Forum, organised by the NCAER, noted that “villages with female leaders experienced increased female participation and responsiveness to female policy concerns”.

4.Previously, the Panchayat Raj department of Madhya Pradesh had asked to take action against relatives of elected women representatives who administer the official oath on her behalf.

INDIA MANAGED TO GET MANY THINGS RIGHT DURING COVID, SAYS WORLD BANK

1.India managed to get many things right in its management of the pandemic including putting in place a central procurement agency says the world bank Report.

2.India’s successful management of the pandemic: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Strengthening Project: jointly funded by World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Expert panel: An expert panel was also put in place to develop specifications for overalls, goggles, and N95 masks which supported the Health Ministry’s long-term market development and production of Emergency Medical Equipment (EME) in India.

3.Preventing fraudulent business practices: Indian agencies caught a company from Singapore trying to dispatch millions of substandard Chinese KN95 masks to India in 2021 by forging a third-party Inspection Certificate.

4.Empowered inter-ministerial groups: India managed efficient distribution of medical supplies nationwide and had early restrictions. Testing laboratories: India managed to scale up from 18 to over 2,500 testing laboratories rapidly within four months and become ready to face future pandemics and health emergencies.

INDIAN NAVY’S ENSIGN

1.PM will unveil the new naval ensign (flag) for the Indian Navy in Kochi on the sidelines of the commissioning of India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard Limited. What is the Saint George’s Cross? The red cross on a white background is known as the Saint George’s Cross and is named after a Christian Warrior Saint who is believed to have been a crusader during the third crusade. (This cross also serves as the flag of England).

2.Background: After Independence, on August 15, 1947, the Indian defence forces continued with the British colonial flags and badges and it was only on Jan 26, 1950, that a changeover to Indianised pattern was made, however, in the Navy’s flag Union Jack was replaced with the Tricolour, and the George’s Cross was retained. In 2014, the words ‘Satyamev Jayate’ were included on the flag below the Ashoka emblem in the Devanagiri script.

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better”.

India and China are weighing a first meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in almost three years, even as a chill remains in relations with an as yet unresolved border crisis and increasingly sharp recent exchanges. While this meeting could come as early as mid September, with both leaders currently expected at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, the G20 meet in mid November in Indonesia, where both have confirmed their attendance, offers another possibility.

The UN accused China of serious human rights violations that may amount to “crimes against humanity” in a report examining a crackdown on Uighurs and other ethnic groups. Beijing on Thursday denounced the assessment as a fabrication cooked up by Western nations.

LA NINA CONDITIONS ENTER 3RD YEAR, 6TH TIME SINCE 1950

1.In an uncommon phenomenon, La Niña conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific Ocean since September 2020 have entered the third year.

2.La Niña is when the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) along the central and equatorial Pacific Ocean are colder than normal, which, favours the Indian summer monsoon.

3.However, La Niña years are also infamous for frequent and intense hurricanes and cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. The opposite is El Niño, that is, warmer SSTs prevail over these regions.