

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

In a first of its kind initiative, the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has announced the setting up of India's first dark sky reserve at Hanle in Ladakh in the next three months. Hanle, which is about 4,500 metres above sea level, hosts telescopes and is regarded as one of the world's most optimal sites for astronomical observations. However, ensuring that the site remains well suited for astronomy implies keeping the night sky pristine, or ensuring minimal interference to the telescopes from artificial light sources such as electric lights and vehicular lights from the ground.

A dark sky reserve is a designation given to a place that has policies in place to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial light interference. The International Dark Sky Association is a U.S. based non-profit that designates sites as international dark sky places, parks, sanctuaries and reserves, depending on the criteria they meet. Several such reserves exist around the world but none so far in India.

A 5G based connected future is upon us. That means deploying services in a world filled with 4G compatible devices. So, telecom operators have two options. They can either build a non stand alone (NSA) or a standalone architecture. In an NSA framework, the operator can use their existing installed capacities and LTE architecture to deploy 5G services while implementing a new radio access network (RAN). The SA model, on the contrary, is a pureplay 5G architecture that provides operators full range of the fifth-generation capability and lets them slice the network. In this architecture, RAN and the core are completely new.

The Lokpal is conceived of as a body which will inquire into allegations of corruption. It is basically an investigative body whose task is to conduct prompt and fair investigation and the prosecution of cases of corruption. The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act delegates the power to States to establish by law the Lokayukta to deal with complaints relating to corruption against public functionaries. Section 14 of the Lokayukta Act which has now been amended said that if the Lokayukta is satisfied on the complaint against the public servant being substantiated that he should not continue to hold the post held by him. However, an investigative body does not have the legal authority to

THE NPT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK SHAKY

1. The Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) concluded last week in New York. What is the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)? The NPT is a multilateral treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons including three elements: Non-proliferation, Disarmament, Peaceful use of nuclear energy. The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. The Treaty does not affect the right of state parties to develop, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. India is one of the only five countries that either did not sign the NPT or signed but withdrew.

2. NPT's success and weakness: Weakness: Consensus document: Since 1970, when the NPT entered into force, only four of the 10 review conferences have concluded with a consensus document. Differences among members: the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia were earlier always on the same page, but now Russia has adopted a different point of view. The difference in 2022 was that it pitched Russia against the West.

3. No discussions: No meaningful discussions or negotiations on nuclear disarmament have ever taken place in the NPT framework. Withdrawal from ABM treaty: S withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2002 on the grounds that it unduly constrained its missile defence activities. US withdrawal from INF: In 2019, the U.S. decided to quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. It had obliged both the US and Russia to get rid of all ground-launched missiles with a range of 500-5,500 km.

4. Success: Talks between the US and Russia: Arms control talks between the U.S. and Russia did take place and succeeded in bringing collective arsenals from about 65,000 in the early 1980s to less than 12,000. Four countries have tested and developed nuclear arsenals: In the last 50 years, only four more countries have gone on to test and develop nuclear arsenals — India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan, despite apprehensions that by the 1980s, there would be close to 25 nuclear powers. Reagan-Gorbachev declaration: All that the five nuclear-weapon-states parties to the NPT reiterated at the conference., the 1985 Reagan-Gorbachev declaration that 'a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought'.

SPARK PROGRAM

1. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), has started the Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) for Ayurveda (BAMS) students studying in recognised Ayurveda colleges. Aim: To help students develop an acumen for research and to further support and incentivise their research ideas.

2. The selected fellows will be offered financial support of Rs.50,000 under the fellowship. Initially, there will be a total of 100 seats per session and further details may be accessed at the program portal.

3. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS): It is an autonomous body of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. It is an apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in the Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa systems of medicine.

4. The mission of CCRAS: To aim for AYUSHMAN Bharat To develop CCRAS into a dynamic, vibrant and model research organization. **To bring-up modern scientific knowledge, and technology to explore Ayurveda scientific treasure. To attain global leadership in research.**

JIGYASA 2.0

1. Ministry of S&T recently organized Jigyasa 2.0 for the renewable fuel program About Jigyasa Jigyasa, a student-scientist connect programme by CSIR in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalyaya and is aimed at connecting school students and scientists so as to extend students' classroom learning with

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direct the public servant to resign his post on the basis of its findings. Also in cases involving a Chief Minister, the Governor can dismiss him only when he loses his majority in the Assembly and refuses to step down.

1.64 lakh number of suicides recorded in India in 2021 — an average of nearly 450 daily or 18 every hour. These are the highest figures ever recorded in India. Of those who died by suicide, there were nearly 1.19 lakh males, 45,026 females and 28 transgenders, the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India - 2021' report showed. A sharp rise in such deaths has been noticed in 2020 and 2021 owing to the pandemic. In 2020, the number of suicides stood at 1.53 lakh.

1.55 lakh number of lives lost in road crashes across India in 2021— an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour — the highest death figures recorded in a year, according to official data. There were 4.03 lakh road accidents across the country last year in which 3.71 lakh were injured, according to the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India - 2021' report. The rate of deaths per thousand vehicles in 2021 (0.53) was higher than that of 2020 (0.45) and 2019 (0.52).

₹3,500 crore, the penalty imposed on the West Bengal government by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the huge gap between waste generation and treatment. The panel said that the State does not appear to be prioritising the setting up of sewage and solid waste management facilities. The NGT noted that of 2,758 million litres of sewage generated per day (MLD) in urban areas and a treatment capacity of 1,505 MLD, only 1,268 MLD is being treated.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's September 5-8 India visit is expected to focus on issues that can help her counter negative factors ahead of the election scheduled next year. Apart from engaging Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a political dialogue, the visiting leader is likely to focus on water sharing, energy cooperation, uninterrupted commercial flow and greater connectivity.

In a first, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Mongolia from September 5 to 7. "The upcoming visit is the first-

that of a very well-planned research laboratory-based learning. 2.It would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers. 3.The program will also enable the students and teachers to visit CSIR laboratories and participate in mini-science projects.

CAN CIVIL SERVANTS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.A senior IAS officer, Smita Sabharwal from Telangana, tweeted from her personal account in support of Bilkis Bano and questioned the Gujarat government's decision, sparking off a row over whether she was in breach of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules of 1964. As a bureaucrat, was she wrong in tweeting this? Yes she was wrong as : Disciplinary rules. They prevent a government servant from becoming a member of a political organization, or any organization of such a nature, or expressing herself freely with regard to anything that has to do with the governance of the country. She is not a stakeholder in the decision-making process.

2.She was right: Laws by the legislature: A fundamental right cannot be curtailed except by a valid law made by a legislature. Lipika Paul v. The State Of Tripura: The court said, a Government servant(the petitioner) is not devoid of her right of free speech, a fundamental right which can be curtailed only by a valid law." Subject to not crossing the borders laid down in the Conduct Rules which were applicable in Tripura. Kerala High Court: One cannot be prevented from expressing his views merely because he is an employee.

3.Is Rule 9 of Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules violation of Article 19 of the Constitution: Rule 9: No Government servant shall make any statement of fact or opinion, which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central Government or a State Government. Conduct rules: Freedom of speech is given in the Constitution, but these are Conduct Rules and they are imposed because there has to be some discipline in an organization for that organization to function.

4.Is it time to 'un-gag' civil servants when it comes to commenting on government decisions? Creating more transparency about policies through social media is the duty of a government officer. It can be taken on a case-by-case basis.

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

1.MoEFCC has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 on August 12, 2021 India has signed a resolution to draw up an agreement (under UNEA, India is a party to it) that will make it legally binding for signatories to address the full life cycle of plastics, from production to disposal. What is single-use plastic? As the name suggests, it refers to plastic items that are used once and discarded. E.g., plastics used in packaging items, bottles (shampoo, detergents, cosmetics), polythene bags, face masks, coffee cups, cling film, trash bags, food packaging etc.

2.Status: As per the Minderoo Foundation report (2021): single-use plastics account for a third of all plastic produced globally, with 98% manufactured from fossil fuels. India features in the top 100 countries of single-use plastic waste generation - at rank 94 (the top three being Singapore, Australia and Oman). India's domestic production of SUP is 8 million metric tonnes annually, and its import of 2.9 MMT. India's per capita generation is 4 kg.

3.SUP is a cause of concern-Harm environment: Single-use plastic also accounts for the majority of plastic discarded - 130 million metric tonnes globally in 2019 — all of which are burned, buried in landfills or discarded directly into the environment. GHG emission: On the current trajectory of production, it has been projected that single-use plastic could account for 5-10% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

4.How will the ban be enforced? Monitoring by CPCB: The ban will be monitored by the CPCB from the Centre and by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) that will report to the Centre regularly. Stop raw materials supply: for example, to all petrochemical industries — to not supply raw materials to

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ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Mongolia will further consolidate the defence cooperation and strategic partnership between the two countries,” the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. He is also scheduled to travel to Japan for the 2+2 Ministerial dialogue.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday said the empowerment of women and tribal communities was at the core of the State’s governance model under his government. He said this at a function where he was conferred the Capital Foundation ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ in New Delhi, in recognition of his distinctive and outstanding leadership qualities. The award was conferred to him in the presence of former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana.

industries engaged in the banned items. Directions to industries: SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees will modify or revoke consent to operate issued under the Air/Water Act to industries engaged in single-use plastic items.