

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Income Tax (IT) Department conducted “surveys” at two think tanks and a charity organisation on suspicion of irregularities related to financial transactions. The agency did not clarify the reasons for the surveys. Highlighting the difference between a “search” and a “survey”, another agency official said the former was an exhaustive exercise covering all the locations linked to the assessee and would involve seizure of documents, cash and valuables. However, a “survey” operation was limited in its scope given that the agency visited the commercial premises usually during the office hours, could only impound the transaction records for scrutiny and seek clarifications from the persons concerned.

10 lakh number of people who need to be trained in the next five years for air quality management, according to a new report. It also states that around 50,000 jobs could be created in the sector. The report has been prepared by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iForest) with the support of the World Bank Group. It highlights the need for a national-level programme to develop the capacity of all stakeholders — cities, State and central agencies, private sector, NGOs — to effectively tackle air pollution.

47 percentage of antibiotic formulations used in India’s private sector in 2019 that were not approved by the central drug regulator, a study published in The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia revealed. The research also found that Azithromycin 500mg tablet was the most consumed antibiotic formulation (7.6%) in India. The total defined daily dose (DDD) — the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug in adults — consumed in 2019 was 5,071 million, out of which 2,408 million were centrally unapproved formulations.

\$ 1 billion, the amount required urgently to avert famine in Somalia, the UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths predicted. The fund would be needed in the coming months and early next year when two more dry seasons are expected to compound the historic drought that has hit the Horn of Africa nation. Up to 7.1 million people across Somalia need urgent assistance to treat and prevent acute malnutrition and

FLOPPY DISKS

1. Decades after the floppy disks became obsolete and were phased out globally, Japan has announced that it will finally do away with floppy disks and other outdated technology in a bid to modernise its bureaucracy. A floppy disk is a removable disk storage device used to store electronic data, like computer data and programmes.

2. It was first developed by IBM in 1967, as an alternative to buying hard drives, which were extremely expensive at the time. The floppy disk was popularly used between the 1970s and 1990s. It is only able to store about 800 KB of data, which is about 0.0008 GB.

3. Early computers did not have CD-ROM drives or USB; floppy disks were the only way to install a new program on a computer or back up your information from a computer. The first floppy disks measured about 8 inches and were difficult to store as they got dirty very easily. Later, size was reduced to 3.5-5.5 inches.

PRECISION FARMING

1. Precision farming or precision agriculture (PA) is a technologies system approach to re-organise the total system of agriculture towards Low-input agriculture, High-efficiency agriculture, Sustainable agriculture and Environment-friendly agriculture. PA is also known as satellite agriculture, as-needed farming and site-specific crop management (SSCM).

2. Precision agriculture is an approach to farm management that uses information technology (IT) to ensure that crops and soil receive exactly what they need for optimum health and productivity.

3. **Reasons to prefer precision farming-To increase agriculture productivity. Prevents soil degradation. Reduction of chemical application in crop production. Efficient use of water resources. Dissemination of modern farm practices to improve quality, quantity and reduced cost of production.** Developing favourable attitude Precision farming changing the socio-economic status of farmers. In India, one major problem is the small field size. More than 58% of operational holdings in the country have size less than one hectare (ha).

INCOVACC

1. iNCOVACC nasal COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for primary immunisation in those 18 and above by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The iNCOVACC is India’s first nasal COVID-19 vaccine. It has been developed by Bharat Biotech. It is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilised spike protein.

2. It is a ChAd36-SARS-CoV-S COVID-19 (Chimpanzee Adenovirus Vectored) recombinant vaccine. The iNCOVACC serves as an instrument for primary immunisation against Covid-19 in adults in the 18+ age group and it is meant for restricted use in emergencies only.

3. For the time being, it can be administered only to the unimmunised. The vaccine is stable between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius for easy storage and distribution.

WEST-AN I-STEM INITIATIVE

1. Recently, a new I-STEM (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map) initiative called Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST) was launched. The I-STEM is a national web portal that is the gateway for researchers to locate the specific equipment/facilities they need for their R&D work and identify the one that is either located closest to them or available the soonest.

2. **The WEST programme will cater to women with a STEM background and empower them to contribute to the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem. Through the WEST initiative, I-STEM shall provide a separate platform to women researchers, scientists, and technologists for**

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reduce the ongoing hunger related deaths, according to an analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification or IPC.

India has summoned officials of Wikipedia, in response to cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Wikipedia page being edited with misleading information that stated he was a "khalistani". To increase Wikipedia's reliability and also to prevent vandalism and disruptive edits, there are restrictions on edits to the content that Wikipedia hosts. One of these restrictions is to allow certain "protections" to be accorded to particular articles. An article may have varying degree of protection depending on the vulnerability of the article to vandalism, disruption and abuse.

In the case of social media platforms, platform owners such as Meta or Twitter are responsible for exercising due diligence in content moderation through individuals on their payroll. However, in Wikipedia, the situation is slightly different given that content moderation decisions are not taken by employees.

India and Bangladesh welcomed the establishment of a joint technical committee to study the use of Ganga waters in Bangladesh, a joint statement issued on the third day of the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday. The Ganga technical committee is one of the several initiatives, including several major connectivity and energy initiatives, that the two sides have announced.

Job creation, equitable distribution of wealth in the country along with economic growth are the "red-lettered" priorities for the government, while inflation, which has been brought down to a "manageable level" over the past two months, is not a "redlettered" priority as of now, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. Asserting that India's economy was now the fifth largest in the world and would 'soon' be the third largest, Ms. Sitharaman said that India and the United States could end up accounting for 30% of the global economy.

Rajpath and Central Vista Lawns in the national capital will now be known as "Kartavya Path" after the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), in a special council meeting on Wednesday, approved a proposal

pursuing research in basic or applied sciences in areas of science and engineering.

3. Women may join the WEST program and become stakeholders in various domains and pursue careers in R&D at various levels: technicians, technologists, scientists, and entrepreneurs. Opportunities range from operating scientific equipment and maintaining them, to designing and manufacturing them.

4. I-STEM initiatives for WEST Launching a Dedicated Platform for introducing new initiatives taken by the I-STEM, Invite regularly scientifically-inclined younger women to get support through I-STEM, Arrange Skilled Development Program specially for Women in various R&D labs, Help bring women back into S&T domains after a career break.

5. Invite R&D proposal for Technical guidance, Expert Advice, & help through Catalytic Grants in the form of providing R&D software's & provide access to Webex Platform at No cost, Opportunities to Speak about their expertise on Tools at Global platform in "Talk to Expert Series", Connecting with entire R&D infrastructure established in the country.

6. Establish a Digital Consortium "Connect Quickly" for discussion/interaction about new ideas to resolve the regional issues, and The current support being provided to S&T startups by women entrepreneurs by I-STEM will be enhanced. Implementation - A dedicated team of women will ensure the successful implementation of the WEST initiative.

SC ON RIGHT TO CARRY HIJAB TO SCHOOLS

1. While hearing the Karnataka High Court verdict on Hijab ban in educational institutions of the state, the Supreme Court of India questions the right to carry hijab to schools. In March 2022, the Karnataka High Court upheld the restriction on Muslim women wearing a hijab in educational institutions stating that right to wear a hijab is not constitutionally protected.

2. Now, the Supreme Court observed that a person has a right to practise any religion, but it asked whether a student can exercise her private religious right to wear a hijab in a school which adheres to a dress code. It said that wearing of hijab may not be an essential religious practice, so whether this right can be carried to an educational institution that follows uniform prescribed by a secular State is questionable.

3. The contention of a senior advocate is that dress code was not among the subjects on which the state could formulate rules. In response to this contention, the court said, "If the state did not have the power to prescribe uniforms, anyone will wear anything. If there is no specific power, Article 161 will come in." If there is no such power to prescribe uniforms, then the state's executive power comes into play. Therefore, the High Court ordered that the Karnataka HC verdict should be followed.

MORE THAN HALF THE FUNDS FOR POSHAN ABHIYAAN ARE UNUTILISED

1. Context: More than half the funds for POSHAN Abhiyaan unutilised: 4th progress report released by the NITI Aayog Key findings: Utilization of funds: Less than half the funds set aside for the POSHAN Abhiyaan have been utilized by India's states. Mobile phones and monitoring devices: States and Union territories (UTs) with poor distribution of mobile phones and growth monitoring devices emerged as those with low fund utilization.

2. POSHAN Abhiyaan funds: Only three states had used more than 50 per cent of their POSHAN Abhiyaan funds between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. This improved marginally to 12 between 2017-2019 and FY 2019-2020. System readiness and capabilities Interventions which has improved compared to the previous progress report: Human resources, Infrastructure, Supplies Training, and capacity building.

3. **Performance: On a scale of 0-100, only Punjab scored less than 50 among the large states. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Mizoram were the poor performers among the small states while no UT scored less than 50.**

4. The report listed five key elements of the POSHAN Abhiyaan scheme: Impact package: Deliver a high-impact package of interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. Technology

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to rename the iconic stretch. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the revamped Central Vista Avenue, which encompasses the stretch, lawns and adjoining areas, on Thursday.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Legal Metrology Division has notified a draft amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011. The Department of Consumer Affairs has suggested that at least two prime components should be declared on the package's front side along with the brand name. Currently, manufacturers list the ingredients and nutritional information on the back of the packaging. Public comments were solicited from all stakeholders, including industries, associations, consumers, and voluntary consumer organisations.

and management: Strengthen the delivery of these interventions through technology and management. Frontline workers: Improve the capacity of frontline workers.

5. Malnutrition: Facilitate cross-sectoral convergence to address the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition. Community mobilization: Enhance behaviour change and community mobilization.

6. Poshan Abhiyaan: The programme seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Launched in 2018 with specific targets to be achieved by 2022. Aim: Reduce Stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children. Anemia by 3% a year (total 9%) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers. Target: To bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.