

Weekly Newsletter

NOVEMBER EDITION



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DGCA'S NEW E-GOVERNANCE PLATFORM CALLED "E-GCA" LAUNCHED

The Union Civil Aviation minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia launched DGCA's (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) e-governance platform called e-GCA. This platform was launched to keep up with Prime Minister Modi's Digital India vision. It would serve as a single window platform that would help in bringing monumental changes by eliminating operational inefficiencies, improving regulatory reporting, increasing productivity, enhancing transparency and by minimizing personal interactions. All the services provided by DGCA stakeholders like pilots, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, Air Traffic Controllers, Air Operators, Airport Operators, Flying Training Organisations, Maintenance and Design organizations etc. would now be available on the e-GCA portal. According to the ministry this would also help in the ease of doing business. Along with this, the Minister also unveiled a case study titled 'DGCA takes off on a digital flight', showcasing the journey of DGCA through the implementation of the e-GCA. The challenges that DGCA faced and the measures taken to address these through the e-GCA platform are also incorporated in the case study.

ICT enabled governance is an important initiative which contributes towards simplifying bureaucratic processes by enhancing coordination and communication between the stakeholders. It also helps in avoiding duplication, thereby reducing the transaction costs. By increasing innovation in service delivery it increases citizen participation and leads to their empowerment. Although it is getting greater momentum in India, the government must address the issues related to public awareness and digital divide.

- Tanya

ZIKA REEMERGES

-Damini

The COVID-19 pandemic has still not taken a backseat and diseases such as the Zika virus are re-emerging in India. Two new cases of the mosquito-borne sickness caused by the Zika virus have been reported in Lucknow taking the total number of cases in Uttar Pradesh to 91.

India's Economy to grow by 10% in Fiscal Year 2022

According to Rajiv Kumar the vice chairman for NITI Aayog said that the Indian economy is likely to grow faster than 10% this fiscal year. The government had earlier predicted a growth of 9.5%. This he said can be credited to the promising kharif and rabi crops, and a robust trade revival. He said that this will further lead to improvement in the manufacturing sector and will increase rural demand. Growth and Employment sector will pick up speed. Trade industry is gradually picking up pace and is showing great signs of growth. One concerning factor between all this, that he threw light on was that with supply chain bottlenecks and rising energy prices, inflation is emerging as a critical hindrance to a long-term global economic recovery.

- Ishita Dhar

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE HOTTEST DAILY TEMPERATURES ARE RISING.

Columbia University's climate school recently released a global dataset with population and temperature estimates. The Associated Press examined the data from 1983 to 2016 and discovered that exposure to extreme heat has tripled, affecting roughly a quarter of the world's population. In some areas, the hottest days can be hazardous to human health, causing heat stress. Heat stress can cause a variety of health issues, such as rashes, cramps, and heatstroke. In 2016, just under 1.7 billion people lived in those regions, with Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for the vast majority. Southern Asia was by far the most affected region, with India alone accounting for 37% of the population living in areas with an increasingly extreme heat trend. Exposure trends are influenced by both population growth and rising temperatures. In some cases, they have the same effect. That was the case in Kolkata, India, where the population increased by 6 million people per year while the number of hot days increased by 1.76. Both of these increases contributed to a steep increase in exposure. In the meantime, New Delhi grew by nearly 14 million people. While the city added 1.12 additional hot days per year, it was the city's population growth that caused Delhi's exposure trend to be the steepest in India.

-Meenakshi

Rich countries are 'pushing back' on paying for climate change damage.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) is a summit on climate change. The acronym COP stands for Conference of the Parties. The number 26 denotes that this is the 26th conference. The 200 countries have been asked to submit plans to reduce emissions by 2030. Poor countries claim that climate change is having such an impact on their communities that they can no longer adapt and instead require financial assistance. Developing countries argue that rich countries are to blame for the majority of today's climate change effects because they began emitting carbon much earlier than the rest of the world. According to a report released this year by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), approximately 25% of climate finance from developed countries went toward adaptation in 2019, such as preparing for extreme weather events or building seawalls, while the remainder went to fund projects to reduce carbon emissions. Developing countries have complained that adaptation has received insufficient attention at COP26 and that the agenda has been dominated by carbon emissions reduction, which is primarily concerned with developed countries and fast-emerging economies such as China and India.

Supply constraints affect UK rebound rate

In the third quarter on July, August and September the growth rate for UK's economy was 1.3% which compared to earlier quarter was way less one reason for this is the global supply constraints which have negatively impacted the rebound rate of Britain. But even after this officials have said that UK will pick up pace in the seventh quarter.

- Abhigya



UNESCO

education report calls for new social contract between parents, children, educators

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) published a new education report Reimagining our futures together. A new social contract for education which calls for a new contract between parents, children and teachers around the world. This report calls for the formation of a new social contract that can bring the world together in its efforts to provide the knowledge and innovation needed to shape sustainable and peaceful futures for all anchored in social, economic, and environmental justice. Several changes suggested in the report are much welcome, and much overdue. One of the suggestions highlights the importance of transforming pedagogy from its focus on teacher-driven lessons, to instead emphasise cooperation, collaboration and solidarity. The report also suggests a shift in the area of teaching from an 'individual practice' to becoming further professionalized.

- Ishika

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 12

The next round of the National Achievement Survey (NAS), aimed at assessing competencies of students of third, fifth, eighth and tenth grades, will be held across the country on November 12 this year, as per the Union Education Ministry. The Government of India has been implementing a rolling programme of sample-based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at classes three, five, eight and ten with a cycle period of three years. The last National Achievement Survey (NAS) was held on November 13 2017 for assessing the competencies developed by the children at grade levels three, five and eight. The Education Ministry statement said that NAS 2021 will cover the entire spectrum of schools, i.e. Government schools (Central Government and State Government), Government-Aided schools and Private schools across the country. It is expected that nearly 1.23 lakh schools and 38 lakh students in 733 districts across 36 states and union territories will be covered in the NAS 2021

Home Ministry to monitor foreign funds for NGOs

Intelligence Bureau inputs have shown that foreign funds entering India were used to fund activities that destabilise national peace and security. So, MHA will supervise and keep a check on the same to strengthen transparency and accountability. However, this is now being questioned in Supreme court for why is it under the MHA and not the finance department?

"I KNOW FEW SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY WHICH CAN SAFELY BE CONFIDED TO COMPUTERS. IN THE END, THE HARD DECISIONS INESCAPABLY INVOLVE IMPONDERABLES OF INTUITION, PRUDENCE, AND JUDGMENT."

-JOHN F. KENNEDY

Flipkart signs MoU to strengthen rural communities

Flipkart has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India (MoRD), for their Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program, to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) especially those that are led by women, by bringing them into the e-commerce fold. The partnership is aligned with the DAY-NRLM's goal of strengthening the capabilities of rural communities for self-employment and entrepreneurship, thus providing further impetus to the Prime Minister's vision of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat". This MoU is a part of the Flipkart Samarth program and aims to provide skilled yet under-served communities of craftsmen, weavers and artisans with national market access through the Flipkart marketplace, as well as dedicated support for knowledge and training. Flipkart Samarth seeks to break entry barriers for local communities by providing time-bound incubation and support with onboarding, cataloguing, marketing, account management, business insights, and warehousing. This will create more avenues for increasing business and trade inclusion and help in creating and sustaining better livelihood opportunities.

- Vaishnavi

Inequality across the Country in Rural-Urban areas

The estimate of inequality index shows that the rural-urban disparity in the standard of living is the highest in Jharkhand and Odisha and the lowest in Punjab and Kerala. The interstate variation in rural-urban disparity is negatively correlated with per capita state domestic product, degree of urbanisation, level of agricultural development, and per capita amount of remittances received by rural households. It is positively correlated with the percentage of state population below the poverty line.

- Vaishnavi

States and reservation of jobs for locals

In 2019, Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act was passed, reserving 75% of jobs for the locals. On 10th November 2021 the Haryana Government notified a similar law reserving 75% jobs for locals offering a salary of less than ₹30,000 a month for eligible candidates of State domicile. On similar lines, the Jharkhand Assembly passed a Bill providing 75% reservation for locals in the private sector for salaries up to ₹40,000 a month. This is done to absorb the locals and generate employment in hometowns for reducing migration during COVID-19.

- Ishita Dhar

Return of the MPLAD

After having suspended the MPLAD funds in April 2020 on account of diverting the funds towards the COVID-19 pandemic related enhanced healthcare services, the central government has restored the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MP-LADS) from November 2021, allowing MPs to once again play a larger role in the developmental needs of their constituents. The scheme which has known to enhance the involvement of public representatives in the lives of citizens, often sees funds lapsing to the full in case of some Members of Parliaments.

- Damini