DAILY PT POINTERS

20 September, 2024

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu –Science and Tech(GSIII)-Page 22

How Kerala reduced mortality from amoebic meningoencephalitis

Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis is caused by infection with *Naegleria fowleri*, a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba". This infection destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. PAM is rare and usually occurs in healthy children, teens and young adults, and has a high fatality rate

Many children frolicking in neighbourhood ponds in the summer months is a common sight in Kerala, a State that has an abundance of water bodies. The scene this year, however, took all the pleasure out of the water games for children when many young children fell prey to a rare but lethal infection of the central nervous system, amoebic meningoencephalitis, caused by free-living amoebae (FLA) found in freshwater, lakes, and rivers.

Reassurances from public health experts that the infections were sporadic and nothing to raise public anxiety were of the frequency with which amoebic meningoencephalitis was being reported in the State from various districts. Most of the affected were young children from 5-15. This picture changed dramatically in the month of August when, quite unusually, an all-adult cohort of amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) cases in all – was reported from Thiruvananthapuram.

But despite reporting an unusually high number of PAM cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis in five months, Kerala also managed to create medical history of sorts because it managed to save 14 out of the 19 cases, bringing down the mortality rate of amoebic encephalitis, from the global rate of 97% to 74% (as on September 12, all 19 persons who were undergoing treatment for amoebic encephalitis at Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College hospital were discharged, having completed the 28-day treatment regimen of the State-adapted U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention treatment protocol.

"This is a unique feat for Kerala, which has come to enter global literature on the issue. It was a huge learning experience itself because we could show that if identified and treated early, we have a strong chance to save patients with amoebic meningoencephalitis. The infection usually deteriorates so fast that there is no therapeutic window for clinicians to intervene," says R. Aravind, head of Infectious Diseases at Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram.

When sporadic cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis began to be reported from North Kerala in May-June, clinical features were suggestive of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), a disease caused usually by infection with Naegleria fowleri, a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba." The State then set up an experts' group to bring out guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of amoebic meningoencephalitis.

A pool in Kerala's North Paravur district where a boy died after a 10-year-old boy who swam there was diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis recently

What is PAM?

Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a disease caused usually by infection with *Naegleria fowleri*, a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba". This infection destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. PAM is rare and usually occurs in otherwise healthy children, teens, and young adults, and has a high fatality rate because of rapid onset and delayed diagnosis.

"Only 11 survivors of confirmed *N. fowleri* PAM have been reported in medical literature until now. There is not much in the literature on amoebic encephalitis caused by FLA other than *N. fowleri*. Kerala has reported amoebic infections caused by *N. fowleri*, Vermamoeba vermiformis as well as Acanthamoeba. Though we do not have the genomic sequencing information on all cases, and are yet to confirm if all were cases of PAM were caused by *N. fowleri*, we just added 14 more persons to the list of survivors," Dr. Aravind says.

Unusual cases and case clusters

Kerala also reported an unusual case cluster of amoebic meningoencephalitis from Athiyannoor gramapanchayat in Neyyattinkara taluk in Thiruvananthapuram. A detailed outbreak investigation, however revealed that it was not mere exposure to a muddy, green algae-ridden pond in the neighbourhood, but risky behaviour on the part of a group of youth that landed them all in the medical college hospital with the life-threatening amoebic encephalitis infection. Two weeks after the death of a youth from the locality following encephalitis, with a history of a head injury, a second case turned up from the same area, the health department was alerted to the unusual possibility that there could be a clustering of PAM cases. Health officials reported that youngsters in the locality were meeting by the pond, mixing tobacco, snuff, and other addictive substances with the water from the pond and then inhaling it using handmade contraption – almost akin to vaping. This was a particularly risky behaviour as it provides a direct entry for amoeba into the brain. With the help of the local body members, health officials managed to track all the youth in the locality who were known to be using snuff in this way. They were all asked to get admitted to the MCH as soon as they developed symptoms. Seven youths were thus picked up early and their CSF samples tested positive for amoebic encephalitis.

Clinicians also got to deal with a lone case wherein the patient was an urban dweller, with no contact with ponds of water bodies. The patient's history revealed that in his house, water from the well was pumped into the overhead tank and then redirected to the pipe system. The overhead tank had not been cleaned in ages, and thus it was possible that the water harboured amoeba. The patient also had a past history of a head injury, which may not have been intact, aiding the quick entry of amoeba into the brain during nasal ablution.

Aggressive treatment

The State set up a special medical board, and the patients were treated as per the protocol with a cocktail of antibiotics. What turned the tide in favour of the patients was the introduction of the drug Miltefosin into the antibiotic cocktail. Miltefosine is an anti-parasitic agent, but its use is rare now, and supply is also limited. Amphotericin B has been the mainstay of PAM treatment, but Miltefosine was one of the cocktail of drugs that seemed to give good results, and all of the well-documented PAM survivors across the globe have received it as part of their treatment regimen.

It was pro-active case finding by clinicians – checking for the presence of amoeba in CSF samples whenever acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) cases were encountered – which threw up more cases. This high degree of clinical suspicion on encountering unusual cases of AES is being maintained by all clinicians in the State since the first Nipah encounter in 2018.

New learnings and precautions

With some amoebic encephalitis cases reported from multiple locations, one should assume that amoeba is present in most water bodies except in chlorinated water and that the increased environmental heat and other aquatic factors may be aiding the increase in its concentration. The focus of the State health department is now on creating IEC campaigns for the public, to narrow down possible risks and incorporating the new learnings that emerged from this intense encounter with amoebic encephalitis.

The precautions now specify that no one should dive headlong into water bodies and that it is safer to use nasal plugs while swimming. Persons who have had head injuries or nasal surgery in the past should absolutely stay away from entering stagnant water bodies. Under no circumstances should one snort water into the nose while washing one's face or when swimming in ponds. Those in the habit of sinus irrigate should use sterilised water and not tap water.

The current directive to all clinicians is to take a close look at the CSF for the presence of amoeba in all cases of meningoencephalitis, irrespective of whether the patient has had direct or indirect contact with water bodies. This is because early diagnosis and treatment might be life-saving in an infection which is almost always fatal, a learning experience that has been unique to Kerala.

THE GIST

Most of the affected were children. This changed dramatically in August when, quite unusually, an all-adult cohort of amoebic meningoencephalitis — eight cases in all — was reported from Thiruvananthapuram.

There was a lone case of an urban dweller, with no contact with water bodies. Water of his home was sourced from an overhead tank which had not been cleaned and probably harboured amoeba. The patient also had a previous head injury, aiding the entry of amoeba during nasal ablution.

With more cases reported from multiple locations, one should assume that amoeba is present in most water bodies except in chlorinated water and that the increased environmental heat may be aiding the increase in concentration

- Amoebic encephalitis is a rare but lethal central nervous system infection caused by free-living amoebae found in freshwater, lakes, and rivers.
- There are two types of amoebic encephalitis, namely primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) and granulomatous amoebic encephalitis (GAE). Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a disease caused usually by infection with Naegleria fowleri, a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba." This infection destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. PAM is rare and usually occurs in otherwise healthy children, teens and young adults. The initial symptoms of PAM are indistinguishable from bacterial meningitis, while the symptoms of GAE can mimic a brain abscess, encephalitis, or meningitis. These infections are almost uniformly fatal with only few reported survivors globally

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)-Page 16

White Revolution 2.0 to empower women, fight malnutrition: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0' stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition.

Mr. Shah said that according to the western concept, a woman is considered unemployed even though she does all the work at home, but he disagreed with it. He said White Revolution 2.0 will help the inclusion of women engaged in procurement of milk in formal employment as the money will be deposited in their bank accounts. The procurement led by cooperatives from the present 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Panchayati Raj, Rajiv Ranjan Singh was also present at the launch.

Mr. Shah said that in the past 70 years, necessary changes in cooperatives were not made due to which the bodies became States and were left to the mercy of State governments in others. He said the government has prepared a joint proposal of two lakh primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS), dairy and fishery cooperatives, and sent it across the country, and all the States have accepted it. He said that once these PACS are registered, there will not be a single panchayat without a PACS, dairy or fisheries cooperative society.

The Minister said once this happens, co-operatives will be able to reach the whole country, which will lead to the creation of cooperative institutions at tehsil and district levels, and State institutions will gain strength and

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- He said White Revolution 2.0 will help the inclusion of women engaged in procurement of milk in formal employment as the money will be deposited in their bank accounts. The scheme aims at increasing procurement led by cooperatives from the present 660 lakh litres per day to 1,000 lakh litres. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Panchayati Raj, Rajiv Ranjan Singh was also present at the launch.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-History(GSI)-Page15

Harappan civilisation: enigma remains even after 100 years of exploration

T.S. Subramanian

Exactly 100 years ago, on September 20, 1924, *The Illustrated London News* published an article containing explosive news which has reverberated down the decades and continues to cast a long shadow in South Asia even a century later. Headlined "First Light on a Long-forgotten Civilisation: New Discoveries of an Unknown Prehistoric Past", the article authored by John Marshall, then Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), announced the discovery of what he called the "civilisation of the Indus Valley".

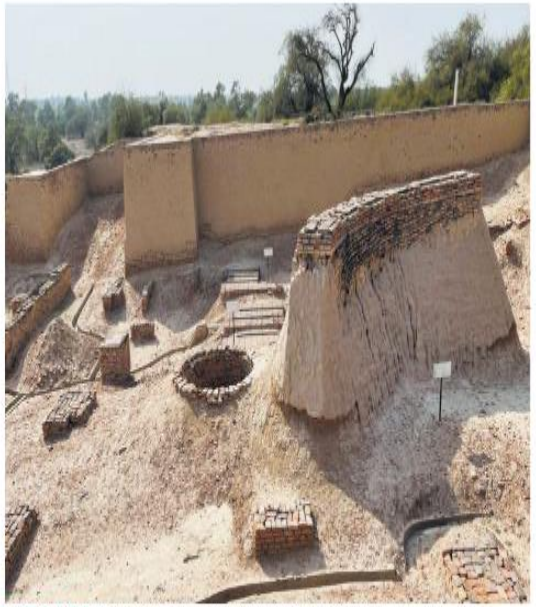
A century later, this Bronze Age civilisation is called the Harappan civilisation, named after Harappa, now in Pakistan, which was the first site to be discovered in the area. For the past 100 years, the Harappan civilisation has mesmerised and baffled town planners, epigraphists, metallurgists, hydrologists, specialists in ceramics, mathematicians, astronomers, and others. Its enigmas have intrigued them.

At the apogee of its prosperity, it was a "technological powerhouse" that extolled in town planning, harvesting water, building reservoirs, stadia, warehouses, underground sullage systems, massive fortification walls and building seafaring boats, fabricating bronze and copper artefacts, and in making beads, exquisite painted pottery, and terracotta products. Its craftsman made seals of steatite and carved them with realistic human and animal motifs and a script within a cramped space of two cm by 1.5 cm.

Uncanny similarity

Two ASI archaeologists were instrumental in the discovery, and were credited by Marshall in his article. Daya Ram Sahni first excavated Harappa in 1921-22, finding seals, painted pottery, and beads. Known as an "industrious, accurate and modest" man, Sahni later became the ASI's first Indian Director General. The other key player was Rakhal Das Banerji. In 1922, he started excavating Mohenjo-daro, also located in modern-day Pakistan, and found seals, pottery, copper products, and crucibles at that site.

In June 1924, Marshall summoned Sahni and Banerji to meet him in his office in Shimla with their finds. He was struck by the uncanny similarity in the



Marks of a civilisation: Bathing platforms, a well, drains, and the remains of a curved drainage wall at Harappa. n. ilan

objects found at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, though the two sites were 640 km apart. He interpreted the similarities and announced the discovery of the "civilisation of the Indus Valley" in the London newspaper.

The Harappan civilisation can be divided into an early phase (3200 BC to 2600 BC), the mature period (2600 BC to 1900 BC) and the late phase (1900 BC to 1500 BC), when it decayed and collapsed. Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and Ganweriwala, all now in Pakistan, and Rakhigarhi and Dholavira, both in India, are the five of the biggest Harappan sites out of nearly 2,000 in the civilisational area, which is spread over 1.5 million sq.km in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. There are 1,500 sites in northwestern India, including in Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The village of Daimabad on the banks of the Godavari river in Maharashtra is the southernmost outpost of the Harappan civilisation. There are about 500 sites in Pakistan, and a few in Afghanistan. The civilisation burgeoned on the banks of the Indus and Saraswati rivers, the latter of which is believed to have dried up around 1900 BC.

According to Indus civilisation scholar Asko Parpola, "its most characteristic features" were "the fully developed Indus script; finely carved stamp seals with writing and/or an animal or some other iconographic motif...; standardised measures, including cubic weights made of chert carefully cut and polished, employing a combination of binary and decimal systems...; the large-scale use of burnt brick, standardised in size, with the ratio 1:2:4, the most effective for bonding; exquisite lapidary art, featuring highly developed micro-drilling of very long beads made of hard carnelian, decorated with chemically stained motifs." (From Parpola's *The Roots of Hinduism, The Early Aryans and the Indus Civilization*, 2015, Oxford University Press).

Filling the gap

Vasant Shinde, who has excavated several Harappan sites in India, noted that the civilisation's discovery was significant on two counts. First, most historians were of the opinion, before it was discovered, that settled life in this part of the world first occurred around the sixth century BCE, leaving a gap in South Asian history. Historian Vincent Smith had said India jumped from the Stone Age to the [Buddhist] stupas. "The discovery of the Harappan civilisation filled the so-called gap and pushed back in one stroke the antiquity of the settled life in this part of the world by more than 3,000 years," Dr. Shinde said.

Second, the discovery added one more ancient civilisation in Asia, besides the Egyptian and the Mesopotamian, and unravelled the Harappan civilisation's maritime contacts with West Asia from 3000 BC.

Iravatham Mahadevan, who battled for 50 years to decipher the Indus script, had asserted that the civilisation was both pre-Aryan and non-Aryan. Mehrgarh, in Balochistan, is where it all began around 7000 BC. "The roots of the Harappan civilisation lie in Mehrgarh, around eight millennium BC," asserted R.S. Bisht, who excavated Dholavira in Gujarat from 1989-90 to 2004-05.

The book *The Wonder that was Harappan Civilisation*, brought out by *The Hindu*, has reproduced Marshall's story, first published in *The Illustrated London News*. On January 4, 1928, *The Hindu* had used a full page to publish a summary of his statement on the subject. Read the original report by John Marshall at bit.ly/harappastory

(This article is based partly on extracts from *The Wonder that was Harappan Civilisation*, curated by Mr. Subramanian.)

- On September 20, 1924, The Illustrated London News published an article by John Marshall, Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), announcing the discovery of the Harappan civilization, a significant Bronze Age society in South Asia. This civilization, named after Harappa in modern-day Pakistan, has fascinated various scholars for its advanced urban planning, water management, and craftsmanship.
- Key figures in the discovery included Daya Ram Sahni, who excavated Harappa, and Rakhal Das Banerji, who uncovered Mohenjo-daro. Marshall noted the striking similarities in artifacts from both sites, leading to the recognition of the broader Indus Valley Civilization.
- The Harappan civilization is divided into three phases: early (3200-2600 BC), mature (2600-1900 BC), and late (1900-1500 BC). Key sites include Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, and others spread across India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The civilization is characterized by its developed script, standardized weights, and advanced brick construction.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express-Environment(GSIII)-Page10

Ahead of Amur falcon's arrival, Manipur dist bans their hunting

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, SEPTEMBER 19

AS MANIPUR'S Tamenglong district gears up to welcome its winged guests, Amur falcon (Falco Amurensis), the district administration on Wednesday imposed a ban on hunting, catching, killing and selling of the bird, locally known as 'Kahuaipuina', with immediate effect.

Thousands of migratory birds arrive in parts of Tamenglong and bordering areas from their breeding grounds in Northern China, Eastern Mongolia and far East Russia in the first half of October and roost until November-end, before resuming their journey for the wintering grounds in South Africa. An order issued by the District Magistrate directed the owners of air guns to deposit their hunting weapons at the offices of respective village authorities.

Amur falcon (Falco Amurensis). *Brajesh Khoyumthem*

"Poaching and destruction of wildlife (including migratory birds Amur falcon) in any way for food or possession or otherwise is a punishable offence under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, sections 50 and 51" the DM order said.

"As the period is considered crucial in the life cycle of Amur falcons, the authorities should keep the air guns in their custody until the last flock leaves their roosting place or until November 30. The collection of the air guns' report must be submitted by September 30," the DM said, while cautioning that people found violating the prohibitory orders shall be liable to face consequences as per law.

Tamenglong Divisional Forest Officer Kh Hitler said the state kicked off the conservation programme in 2016 by tagging two birds with radio transmitters to track their migration route.

Besides regular patrolling and awareness programmes, the district administration also organises 'Amur Falcon' festival annually. The authorities are planning to tag two more birds to study their migration, said the DFO.

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Indian Express-Economy(GSIII)-Page

WORLD FOOD INDIA 2024

PM: Food-processing sector saw wide-ranging reforms in 10 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday said India has introduced "wide-ranging" reforms to transform the food-processing sector in the last 10 years.

In his message at World Food India 2024, which began in New Delhi Thursday, the PM said, "During the last 10 years, we have introduced wide-ranging reforms to transform the food processing sector. Through multidimensional initiatives such as 100% FDI in food processing, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises, Production Linked Incentive scheme for food-processing industries; we are creating a strong ecosystem of modern infrastructure, robust supply chains and employment generation across the country."

"The participation of several nations showcases World Food India 2024 as a vibrant platform for the brightest minds from global food industry, academia and research to make the most of increasing opportunities,

Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Chirag Paswan and MoS Ravneet Singh Bittu at the inauguration of World Food India in New Delhi, Thursday. *PTI*

The PM observed India has a vibrant and diverse food culture.

"The backbone of the Indian food ecosystem is the farmer. It is farmers who have ensured the creation of nutritious and delicious traditions of culinary excellence. We are supporting their hard work with innovative policies and focused implementation," he said.

"In the modern era, through progressive agricultural practices, strong administrative

sure that India sets global benchmarks for innovation, sustainability and safety in the food sector," he added.

"At such a juncture, World Food India is an ideal platform for us to work with the world through B2B interactions and exhibitions, Reverse Buyer-Seller meets, and country, state and sector-specific sessions," the Prime Minister said.

"Further, I am sure that important topics such as food ira

based proteins to promote nutrition and sustainability, as well as the circular economy will be showcased," he added.

On the inaugural day, a high-level CEO roundtable under the co-chairpersonship of Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister of Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan was organised.

Addressing the gathering, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi welcomed the global dignitaries and highlighted India's remarkable journey in achieving food security, sustainability, and innovation.

He reiterated the government's commitment to secure good quality food for domestic and global consumers, ensuring a hunger-free world. He emphasised ensuring welfare of farmers through initiatives aimed at boosting incomes, improving access to technology and providing fair prices for their produce.

Paswan said that the 3rd edition of World Food India marks a pivotal moment in India's journey as a global leader in the food processing industry, which has

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his message at World Food India 2024, praised India's progress in building a strong food processing ecosystem over the last decade. He highlighted the creation of modern infrastructure, robust supply chains, and employment opportunities across the country.
- PM Modi emphasized India's vibrant and diverse food culture, crediting farmers for their role in shaping the nation's culinary traditions. He also stressed the importance of innovative policies and cutting-edge technologies in helping India set global benchmarks for sustainability, safety, and innovation in the food sector.
- Key reforms such as 100% FDI in food processing, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, and the Production Linked Incentive scheme were mentioned as crucial initiatives for strengthening the food processing sector.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Health(GSII)

World Health Organization WHO today declared Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy, marking a significant milestone in global public health efforts., Leprosy has afflicted humanity for millennia, but efforts have been made to stop its transmission and freeing individuals, families, and communities from its suffering and stigma country-by-country.

- WHO said that Jordan has not reported any autochthonous cases of leprosy for over two decades.. The disease continues to occur in more than 120 countries. More than two lakh new cases are reported every year.
- Leprosy is an age-old disease and is described in the literature of ancient civilizations. It is a chronic infectious disease which is caused by a type of bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae. The disease affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes. Leprosy is curable and treatment in the early stages can prevent disability. Apart from the physical deformity, persons affected by leprosy also face stigmatization and discrimination.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Environment(GSIII)

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari today said that the government is aiming to reduce the import of approximately 22 lakh crore fossil fuel to around four lakh crore in the coming years with the use of hydrogen. Speaking at an event in Delhi, the Minister said that government is progressing in the project of Mirai, a car which uses hydrogen as a fuel generated from wastes. He also added that biotechnology's use could allow the production of Hydrogen at cheaper rate and the ministry has taken the target to produce Hydrogen at a rate of one dollar per kilogram to make India an energy exporting nation.
  Mr. Gadkari also spoke about the importance of agriculture in nation building and the vision to make Kisans not only the annyadata but also Urja data, Indhan data and Hydrogen data with the use of stubble to generate bio ethanol. He also urged the private entities to focus on the rural and tribal areas. He expressed concern that too much emphasis on the metro cities is creating an economic disparity in the country.

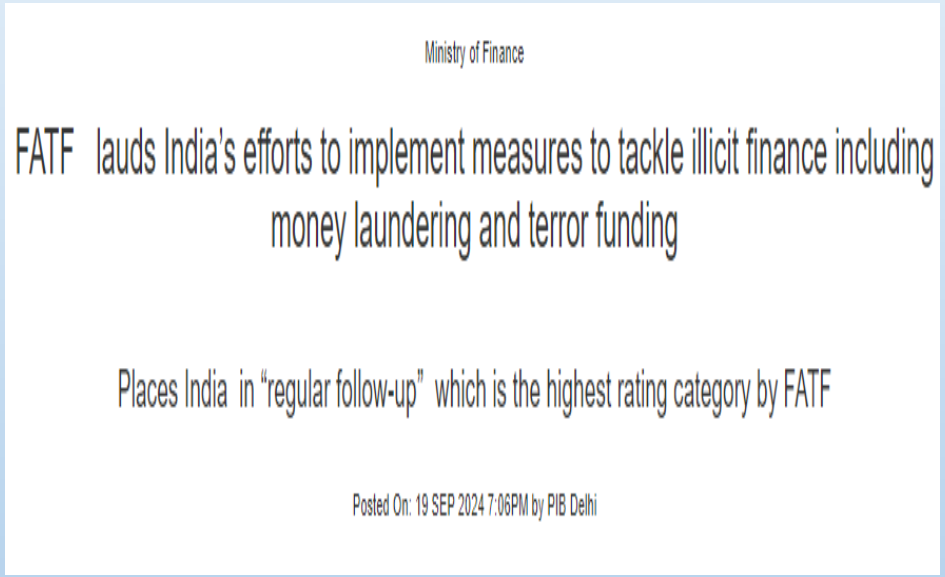
HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Economy(GSIII)

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken several key decisions during the first 100 days of the third term of the NDA government.
- Recently the government approved the modified Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan Vatavaran Anukool Fasal Awashesh Nivaran (PM-JI-VAN) Yojana.
- The scheme aims to provide remunerative income to farmers for their agricultural residue and address environmental pollution. They added that with the amendments in the scheme, financial assistance is available for advanced biofuels, and preference will be given to new technologies and innovation in project proposals. The scheme also helps create local employment opportunities and contributes to India's energy security and self-reliance

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Internal Security(GSIII)



Ministry of Finance

FATF lauds India's efforts to implement measures to tackle illicit finance including money laundering and terror funding

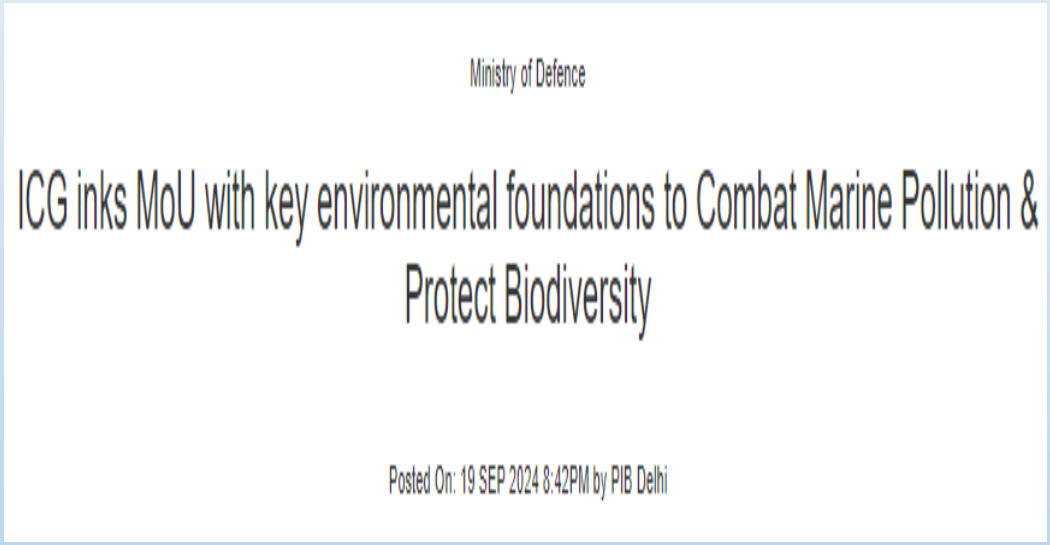
Places India in "regular follow-up" which is the highest rating category by FATF

Posted On: 19 SEP 2024 7:06PM by PIB Delhi

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has lauded India's efforts to implement measures to tackle illicit finance including money laundering and terror funding
- India has achieved a high-level of technical compliance across the FATF Recommendations. India has taken significant steps to implement measures to tackle illicit finance
- India has implemented an anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) framework that is achieving good results. Authorities make good use of financial intelligence and co-operate effectively, both domestically and internationally.
- India has been placed in "regular follow-up" which is the highest rating category by FATF. UK, France and Italy are among the only G-20 countries which have been placed in this category apart from India,
- India has made significant steps in financial inclusion, more than doubling the proportion of the population with bank accounts, encouraging greater reliance on digital payment systems. These efforts have supported financial transparency, which in turn contribute to AML/CFT efforts

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Governance(GSII)



Ministry of Defence

ICG inks MoU with key environmental foundations to Combat Marine Pollution & Protect Biodiversity

Posted On: 19 SEP 2024 8:42PM by PIB Delhi

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 'The Habitats Trust' and 'HCL Foundation' to strengthen efforts in marine conservation on September 19, 2024, at ICG Headquarters, New Delhi. The strategic partnership aims to implement critical conservation initiatives and as part of the collaboration, the key efforts will include:

- **Ghost Net Removal**: Addressing the problem of discarded fishing nets, which significantly harm marine ecosystems.
- **Mapping and Classifying Ghost Gear Aggregation Areas**: Enhancing knowledge about regions most affected by ghost gear to prioritize clean-up efforts effectively.
- **Surveys in Ecologically Sensitive Regions**: Monitoring and protecting biodiversity, focusing on vulnerable marine habitats.
- **Community Involvement**: Engaging coastal communities in conservation activities to promote stewardship of marine ecosystems