

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

As per India Meteorological Department norms, a State or a region is declared to have received deficit rainfall when the deficiency stands at 19% or above. Jajpur and Bhadrak are the worst districts where deficit rainfall is 55% and 51% respectively. With more than 31% deficit in monsoon rainfall till August 23, farmers in Odisha are staring at a drought like situation. However, the State Government has moved to offset the impact of the prolonged dry spell.

Chakma organisations have slammed the proposed deportation of 60,000 people belonging to the Chakma and Hajong communities from Arunachal Pradesh. They said other States in India, specifically Assam, must not be the dumping ground of “unwanted people of the Northeast” although 94% of the Chakmas and Hajongs settled in present day Arunachal Pradesh by the Government of India in the 1960s are Indians by birth.

The first of two additional Krivak class stealth frigates being built by Russia is expected to be delivered to India in the middle of 2023. In October 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) for four Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates — two to be procured directly from Russia and two to be built by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL) — after which a \$1 billion deal was signed for the direct purchase.

Martyrs of the communist movement of Kerala, including the ones killed at the Punnapra Vayalar, Kayyur, Karivelloor, and Kavumbayi uprisings, will remain as freedom fighters in the annals of India's struggle for Independence. A three-member committee appointed by the Indian Council of Historic Research (ICHR) to review the entries in the fifth volume of the 'Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle' is understood to have left the martyrs of the Left movement untouched.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, along with a delegation of leaders from 10 parties from the State, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press for a caste census. Mr. Modi, it is learnt, has not given any assurances, though the meeting was described as positive.

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH DRAFT INHERITANCE BILL

1. Experts have asked the Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women (APSCW) to scrap certain provisions from the proposed Arunachal Pradesh marriage and inheritance bill, keeping in view the public sentiment and the state's interest.
2. Overview of the draft Bill: Essential conditions of marriage, registration of marriage: The bill is made applicable to any person who belongs to any indigenous scheduled tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. It provides that a marriage between parties may be solemnized according to local customary rites and rituals of the either party. Restitution of conjugal rights, void and voidable marriage: The bill also provides for restitution of conjugal rights stating when either of the party has, without reasonable excuse, withdrawn from the society of the other, the aggrieved party may apply by petition to the district court for restitution of conjugal rights.
3. Significance of the Bill: The main thrust of the bill is on legal status of marriage, procedure of marriage registration, property right of wife, widow's rights, treating polygamy as an offence. Two significant contribution of the bill is with respect to criminalization of polygamy and property right of the legally wedded wife and widow.
4. Controversial provisions: An Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST) woman married to non-APST man shall enjoy any immovable property inherited from the head of the family in her lifetime. In the event of her death, her husband and her heirs would have full rights of it for disposal and alienation to any indigenous tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. Because of these Provisions, the draft Bill is termed as “anti-tribal”, “anti-Arunachal”, violative of customary laws and an invitation to outsiders to take over tribal land through marriage.

### UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT (UAPA)

1. A ban under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act may be imposed on both factions of the secessionist conglomerate Hurriyat Conference which has been spearheading the separatist movement in Jammu & Kashmir for over two decades. The proposal was mooted in accordance with the Union government's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.
2. Restriction imposed by whom - The factions of the Hurriyat are likely to be banned under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), under which “if the Central government is of opinion that any association is, or has become, an unlawful association, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare such association to be unlawful.”
3. Key points: Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.
4. As per amendments of 2019: The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency. The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state. It also included the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.
5. Key observations made by the court: “Terrorist Act” Should not be used lightly so as to trivialise them. Terrorist activity is that which travels beyond the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with under ordinary penal law (Supreme Court's decision in the case of Hitendra Vishnu Thakur).

### OSLO I ACCORD

1. Oslo I Accord marks 28 years since it was finalized and signed after multiple rounds of intense secret negotiations, in a bid to

**Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asked industry bodies to identify obstacles being imposed by countries to restrict India's exports, and promised that the government would respond "appropriately" to such curbs. The remarks by the Minister, suggesting that the government is not averse to taking retaliatory trade policy measures to counter export barriers beyond the realm of tariff and duties, came at an interaction with industry bodies on achieving the \$400 billion merchandise exports target for the year, ramping up to \$2 trillion by 2030.**

**The Supreme Court took a nuanced stand, saying farmers have the right to protest but the agitation should not hinder traffic or public movement. A Bench led by Justice S.K. Kaul said the solution to end the farmer government impasse over the three agriculture laws lay with the government.**

**The Bombay High Court said if there are more deaths of children due to malnutrition in the Melghat region in Maharashtra, it will hold the principal secretary of the State Public Health Department responsible. Posts of anaesthetists, gynaecologists and paediatricians are vacant, adding to the problem.**

**External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will on Thursday brief floor leaders of all parties in Parliament on the developments in Afghanistan at the Parliament House, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said.**

**The Army used a rare tool to wean off local youth from militancy — screening a grim, blackandwhite animation film of 2 minutes and 13 seconds named Back from Jaws of Death on 23 boys who were rescued from joining militants in north Kashmir's Bandipora in 1998.**

**The Taliban warned on Monday there would be "consequences" if the U.S. and its allies extend their presence in Afghanistan beyond next week, as chaos continued to overwhelm Kabul airport.**

**The United States does not have hostile intent toward Pyongyang and is open to meeting any time and any place, Washington's special envoy for North Korea said .**

advance a lasting peace process for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**2.Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s. Oslo I (1993) is formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP). The accord was the result of secret negotiations facilitated by then-US president Bill Clinton, and later followed up in 1995 by the Oslo II Accord. Oslo Accords were heralded by many as the closest to ever truly solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.** However, the Accords in reality had served as an interim agreement between Israel and the PLO that provided a framework by which both sides could operate together in the West Bank and Gaza, in lieu of Palestinian statehood.

**3.It saw the transformation of the PLO into the Palestinian Authority, which was now seen as the legitimate governing body of the Palestinians. The agreement also mandated that Israel recognize the PLO's new role as the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as mandating the Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist.** It created the most substantive changes to the West Bank and Gaza since Israel won control of the territory during the 1967 Six Day War.

**4.About Oslo II: Oslo II, officially called the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza, expanded on Oslo I. It included provisions for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from six West Bank cities and about 450 towns. Additionally, the pact set a timetable for elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.**

### **A MERMAID SPECIES OF ALGAE DISCOVERED ON ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

**1.**After nearly four decades, a new species of algae has been discovered on the islands. **2.**Researchers have named the species **Acetabularia jalakanyakae.**

**3.The plant consists of a single gigantic cell with a nucleus, which is its main characteristic.**

**4.**The species is the first of the genus Acetabularia to be discovered in India.

**5.**Another feature of Acetabularia is their regenerative potential.

### **NTPC COMMISSIONS INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PROJECT**

**1.**India's largest floating solar photo voltaic (PV) project of 25 mega watt (MW) has been commissioned on the reservoir of its Simhadri thermal station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This is also the first solar project to be set up under the Flexibilisation Scheme, notified by the Government of India in 2018. Once operational it is expected to minimize 46,000 tons of CO2 annually. It is also believed to conserve 1,364 million liters of water per annum.

**2.**Advantages Of Floating Power Plants? **According to the World Bank, floating solar plants represent "new opportunities for scaling up solar generating capacity, especially in countries with high population density** and competing uses for available land", conditions that are not uncommon in India.

**3.**Such plants have advantages over land-based systems and also promise "improved energy yield thanks to the cooling effects of water and the decreased presence of dust".

**4.**Other benefits: the water saving comes from reduced evaporation as solar panels cover the surface of a reservoir and absorb the rays of the sun while at the same time limiting "the evaporative effects of wind".

### **UBHARTE SITARRE ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND**

**1.**The Ministry of Finance has launched 'Ubharte Sitaare' **Alternative Investment Fund to facilitate debt and equity funding to export-oriented MSMEs (Micro Small and medium Enterprises).** The fund is expected to identify Indian enterprises with potential advantages, but which are currently underperforming or unable to tap their latent potential to grow.

**2.**The scheme diagnoses such challenges and provides support through a mix of structured support covering equity, debt and technical assistance.

**3.**Objectives: To enhance India's competitiveness in select sectors through finance and extensive handholding support. Identify and nurture companies having differentiated technology, products or processes, and enhance their export business; assist units with export potential, which are unable to scale up their operations for want of finance.

India is currently seeing a 60% surge in hiring for data scientists compared with the January-March quarter of 2021, recruitment firms said.

With the easing of COVID19 related curbs by States, the roots of economic recovery deepened in July 2021, ICRA(Investment information and credit rating agency) Ratings said in a report. The unlocking in the country has manifested itself in improving performance across various high frequency industrial and service sector indicators, mobility and toll collections in July 2021, according to the agency.

#### **HINDUSTAN-228 AIRCRAFT**

- 1.Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) carried out a **successful ground run and low speed taxi trials of a commercial aircraft “Hindustan-228” (Do-228). HAL is building civil aircrafts to promote the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme.** The central government aims to set up 1,000 new air routes and establish 100 new airports, under the UDAN scheme.
- 2.The 19-seater Do-228 is the first major attempt in India to develop a small civil transport aircraft after the 14-seater Saras Aircraft development program at the National Aeronautics Laboratory (NAL) was shelved in 2009 on account of multiple problems in its development.
- 3.Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016. It is an innovative scheme to develop the regional Aviation market. Small civilian aircrafts are considered to be an essential element of the UDAN.
- 4.About 325 routes and 56 airports including 5 heliports and 2 water aerodromes have been operationalised under the scheme.