

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

4.8 million people who have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR said 48,69,019 Ukrainians had left the country since Russia invaded on February 24 — up 32,574 on Saturday's total. The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says nearly 2,15,000 third country nationals — largely students and migrant workers — have also escaped to neighbouring countries, meaning more than five million people in all have fled Ukraine since the war began.

The Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Ghebreyesus, and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will be among the foreign guests to participate in the inauguration of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar on April 19. The centre will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

China continues to expand its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) network and use in areas close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC). There is a significant increase in their use for a variety of tasks from intelligence, surveillance and target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) capabilities and logistics support, official sources said citing intelligence inputs. This follows an increasing trend in UAV deployment by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Tibet and along the LAC since the stand off began in eastern Ladakh in May 2020.

Weeks after the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Delhi, India has agreed to attend a virtual summit of leaders of the Brazil-Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) grouping, likely to be held at the end of June. Which will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the same platform as Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and leaders of Brazil and South Africa for the first time since the Ukraine war began.

The retirements in the topmost rung of the judiciary in 2022 will encompass changes in the powerful Supreme Court Collegium and see two new Chief Justices in a span of months. But the retirements come at a time when the court is in the

LONG PERIOD AVERAGE(LPA)

1.The country is likely to receive a normal monsoon for the fourth consecutive year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its first Long Range Forecast (LRF) for this year.

2.The IMD predicts a "normal", "below normal", or "above normal" monsoon in relation to a benchmark "long period average" (LPA). According to the IMD, the "LPA of rainfall is the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval (like month or season) average over a long period like 30 years, 50 years, etc". Along with the countrywide figure, the IMD also maintains LPAs for every meteorological region of the country.

3.Because annual rainfall can vary greatly not just from region to region and from month to month, but also from year to year within a particular region or month, an LPA is needed to smooth out trends so that a reasonably accurate prediction can be made. **A 50-year LPA covers for large variations in either direction caused by freak years of unusually high or low rainfall (as a result of events such as El Nino or La Nina), as well as for the periodic drought years and the increasingly common extreme weather events caused by climate change.**

4.The onset needs a trigger in the form of a weather system in the proximity of the coastline. These are ocean born phenomena which accentuate the monsoon surge around the normal time of onset. These include: The low-pressure area or depression in the Bay of Bengal during the last days of May or the beginning of June. There are such systems in the Arabian Sea as well around the same time which results in onset over the mainland. 'Cyclonic Vortex' is another factor which appears in the Southeast Arabian Sea, off Kerala and Lakshadweep region. They also shift along the west coast to push the monsoon current.

5.The formation of 'trough' off the west coast due to temperature differential between land and sea. This situation could be for a mild start and weak progress. Lastly the cross-equatorial flow, wherein the trade winds from the Southern Hemisphere crossover to the Northern Hemisphere can bring a strong monsoon surge towards the Indian mainland.

6.Monsoon in India- related key facts: Generally, across the world, the monsoons are experienced in the tropical area roughly between 20° N and 20° S. Out of a total of 4 seasonal divisions of India, monsoon occupies 2 divisions, namely- the southwest monsoon season and the retreating monsoon season.

PLI SCHEMES FOR TEXTILES

1.61 applications, for projects involving total investment of Rs 19,077 crore, have been approved under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles. These projects are expected to result in projected turnover is Rs. 1.85 lakh crore over a period of 5 years with a proposed direct employment of 2.4 lakh persons.

2.About the Scheme: The Government had launched the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textiles sector worth Rs 10,683 crore. This is part of a larger PLI scheme for 13 sectors, with a total budgetary outlay of 1.97 lakh crore.

3.Focus areas-The PLI scheme for textiles aims to promote the production of high value Man-Made Fibre (MMF) fabrics, garments and technical textiles. Eligibility: Any person or company willing to invest a minimum of Rs 300 crore in plant, machinery, equipment and civil works (excluding land and administrative building cost) to produce products of MMF fabrics, garments and products of technical textiles will be eligible to participate in the first part of the scheme. Investors willing to spend a minimum of Rs 100 crore under the same conditions shall be eligible to apply in the second part of the scheme.

4.Significance-**The PLI scheme will provide an immense boost to domestic manufacturing, and prepare the industry for making a big impact in global markets in sync with the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.** It will also help attract more investment into this sector.

5.Need for-Two-thirds of international trade in textiles is of

process of steadying itself after particularly brutal waves of the pandemic. Even as the virus refuses to leave for good, the court continues to grapple with pendency. The Supreme Court's statistics show that 70,362 cases are pending with it as on April 1, 2022, though over 19% of them are not ready to be placed before a Bench for judicial hearing as they have not completed the required preliminaries. While 52,110 are admission matters, 18,522 are regular hearing cases. The number of Constitution Bench cases (both main and connected matters) totals 422.

North Korea has test fired a new type of tactical guided weapon designed to boost its nuclear fighting capability, state media reported on Sunday, a day before its chief rivals, the United States and South Korea, begin annual drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

A Sri Lankan government delegation is headed to the U.S. on Sunday to engage with the IMF to secure a \$4 billion package as it desperately tries to salvage the country's beleaguered economy currently reeling under a severe forex crisis.

Fifteen signatures of Iridium satellite phones, used by the U.S. led allied forces in Afghanistan, and Wi-Fi enabled thermal imagery devices that help terrorists to escape security cordons have been found in the militancy hit Kashmir Valley, officials said here on Sunday. They said some of the signatures of Iridium satellite phones have been found in cyberspace since February.

Pakistan extended for two months the period for India to transport 50,000 tonnes of wheat and life-saving medicines as humanitarian assistance to war torn Afghanistan via the Attari Wagah border crossing. The Foreign Office said that the time granted for transportation of the humanitarian assistance expired on March 21 and the Government of India recently requested for an extension to complete the transportation.

The National Green Tribunal has directed all States and Union Territories to switch over to environment friendly methods of cremation and explore the viability of electric or piped natural gas (PNG) crematorium alongside wood to curb air pollution. A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said air pollution took place in the course of cremation and electric or PNG crematoria can be set up as an alternative to wood-based crematoria.

man-made and technical textiles. This scheme has been approved so India can also contribute to the ecosystem of fabrics and garments made of MMF.

NATO ENLARGEMENT

1. Russia has warned Finland and Sweden against joining NATO, arguing that the move would not bring stability to Europe. Russia has said that if Sweden and Finland join NATO then it would have to strengthen its land, naval and air forces in the Baltic Sea. Russia also raised the nuclear threat by saying that it would deploy nuclear weapon near Sweden and Finland if they join NATO.

2. Tensions between Russia and the West have been building ever since Vladimir Putin annexed Crimea and started his war in Ukraine. In response, NATO sent reinforcements to countries seen as vulnerable to Russian aggression. Essentially, Russia now wants guarantees that NATO will halt its eastward expansion, rule out membership for Ukraine and other former Soviet countries, and roll back its military deployments in Central and Eastern Europe.

3. Russian leaders have long been wary of the eastward expansion of NATO, particularly as the **alliance opened its doors to former Warsaw Pact states and ex-Soviet republics in the late 1990s (the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland) and early 2000s (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia). Their fears grew in the late 2000s as the alliance stated its intent to admit Georgia and Ukraine at an unspecified point in the future.**

4. Russia has demanded that NATO guarantees Ukraine will never join the alliance. Russia believes that NATO is "encircling" Russia and posing a threat. It is also said that NATO missile defence threatens Russian security. Above all, NATO is believed to be a U.S. geopolitical project and has always tried to isolate or marginalise Russia.

5. It is an intergovernmental military alliance. Established by Washington treaty. Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949. Headquarters — Brussels, Belgium. Headquarters of Allied Command Operations — Mons, Belgium. Significance-It constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

BLACK SEA

1. The Black Sea, also known as the Euxine Sea, is one of the major water bodies and a famous inland sea of the world. This marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

2. It is surrounded by the Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains in the south, east and north respectively. The Turkish straits system – the Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea – forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

3. The Black Sea is also connected to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch. The bordering countries of Black Sea are: Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.

4. Context: The sinking of the warship Moskva, the 600-foot, 12,500-tonne flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet — whether due to a Ukrainian missile strike or, as Russia claims, a fire on board — is a serious setback for Russia.

FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA (FTII)

1. FTII is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India. It is situated on the premises of the erstwhile Prabhat Film Company in Pune. It was established in 1960.

2. The Supreme Court has directed the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) not to exclude candidates suffering from colour blindness from its courses on film making and editing and asked it to make changes to its curriculum instead.

NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA (NPCI)

1. NPCI serves as an umbrella body for the operation of retail payment in India. This organization was established by the Reserve Bank of India along with the Indian Bank's Association under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

2. Presently, NPCI is promoted by ten major promoter banks. **Products of NPCI: RuPay. National Common Mobility Card.**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to meet leading industrialist Gautam Adani in Gujarat during his visit to India which begins on April 21, sources have said. Announcing the upcoming visit, Mr. Johnson urged that democracies should unite in the face of growing challenges from “autocracies”. The visit is expected to strengthen U.K. India ties against the backdrop of Brexit and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) recently published the draft Uniform Code for Medical Device Marketing Practices (UCMDMP), which, it said, is aimed at bringing in a voluntary code to regulate fair marketing practices by the medical device industry. It also aims at giving the industry an identity, apart from influencing the marketing dynamics of the pharmaceutical industry.

Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM). Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Bharat Bill Payment System.

3.Meta’s instant messaging app WhatsApp has received clearance from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to add 60 million users to its UPI-based payments service WhatsApp Pay.