

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The “health star rating” system that the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) plans to adopt in order to help consumers reduce their intake of unhealthy foods is “not evidence based” and has failed to alter buyer behaviour, claim over 40 global experts in a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. They argue that “warning labels” instead have been most effective in various countries. In a meeting on February 15, the FSSAI decided to adopt the “health star rating system”, which gives a product 1/2 a star to 5 stars, in its draft regulations for front of package labelling (FOPL). The decision was based on the recommendations of a study by the IIM Ahmedabad the regulator had commissioned in September 2021.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar in Gujarat in the presence of Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. A first of its kind, the GCTM will be a global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world. Mr. Ghebreyesus described the centre as a truly global project as 107 WHO member countries have their country specific governmental offices which means the world will come to India for its leadership in the traditional medicines.

Twenty million people are at risk of starvation this year as delayed rains worsen an already brutal drought in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia (Horn of Africa), the UN warned on Tuesday. A monthslong drought has left the Horn of Africa on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe. As long-awaited rains fail to materialise nearly a month into the current rainy season, “the number of hungry people due to drought could spiral from the currently estimated 14 million to 20 million through 2022,” the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) said.

3500 child soldiers identified by the UN, who have been recruited and deployed in Yemen’s civil war. More than 10,200 children have been “killed or maimed” since the beginning of the seven year war in Yemen. The organisation informed that Yemen’s Houthi rebels have

e-DAR PORTAL

1.The Supreme Court has recently received a demonstration of a web-based portal e-DAR to streamline data of Motor Vehicle Accidents and Claims sought under the Act. e-DAR (e-Detailed Accident Report) is a web portal developed by the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in consultation with insurance companies.

2.It will provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims’ families. Digitalised DAR will be uploaded on the portal for easy access. eDAR will be linked to the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD). From iRAD, applications to more than 90% of the datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR.

3.Stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are required to enter very minimal information for the e-DAR forms. Thus, e-DAR would be an extension and e-version of iRAD. **Benefits - The e-DAR portal would conduct multiple checks against fake claims by conducting a sweeping search of vehicles involved in the accident, the date of accident, and the FIR number.**

4.It would be linked to other government portals like Vaahan and would get access to information on driving licence details and vehicles. For the benefit of investigating officers, the portal would provide geo tagging of the exact accident spot along with the site map. This would notify the investigating officer on his distance from the spot of the incident in the event the portal is accessed from any other location.

5.Details like photos, video of the accident spot, damaged vehicles, injured victims, eye-witnesses, etc., would be uploaded immediately on the portal. Apart from the state police, an engineer from the Public Works Department or the local body will receive an alert on his mobile device and they examine the accident site and feed the required details. Hotspots for accidents would also be identified so as to obtain solutions to avoid accidents at these hotspots.

AL-AQSA MOSQUE

1.After a weekend of violence in and around Jerusalem’s flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound a rocket was fired into Israel from the Palestinian enclave of Gaza. It was shot down by Israel’s anti-rocket defences. Al-Aqsa Mosque has been the most sensitive site in the Israel-Palestine conflict as both sides have made rival claims over it.

2.The 35-acre Al-Aqsa Compound **includes The Dome of the Rock (An Islamic shrine), The four minarets, The historic gates of the compound, and The mosque itself. The hilltop Al-Aqsa compound lies in the Old City of Jerusalem, a World Heritage site. Al-Aqsa is holy for 2 of the 3 monotheistic world religions - Islam & Judaism.**

3.Islam - The lead-domed Al-Aqsa mosque is the third-holiest site in Islam after Makkah and Medina.It is inside the Al-Aqsa compound, and it is referred to as al-Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, by Muslims. According to the Islamic scripture, Masjid al-Aqsa, meaning the farthest mosque, is where Prophet Muhammad reached at the end of his night journey, or Isra, from the sacred mosque of Makkah. It is from the rock inside the Dome of the Rock that the Prophet is believed to have ascended to heaven.

4.Judaism - Al-Aqsa is also referred to as Temple Mount by the Jews, the holiest place in Judaism. Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism as it is believed to be the site of the first and the second biblical temples. Jews can visit the Temple Mount but are not allowed to pray here. The Western or Wailing Wall, atop which the Al-Aqsa compound stands, is the only remaining part of the biblical temple, and this is where Jews from Israel and across the globe come to pray.

NATIONAL CAPITAL GOODS POLICY,2016

1.Ministry of Heavy Industries seeks to provide technology development as well as environment friendly technologies in the

agreed to stop using child soldiers and release them within six months. The UN added that all the warring parties have now committed to ending "grave violations" against children.

India could face the prospect of sub-national bankruptcies if States continued to dole out freebies to influence the electorate, Fifteenth Finance Commission chairperson NK Singh cautioned on Tuesday, terming the political competition over such sops a "quick passport to fiscal disaster". Mooting the need for issuing credit ratings to States based on their fiscal health, Mr. Singh cited the example of a highly indebted State which is expected to spend an estimated ₹17,000 crore to implement recently announced 'freebies' such as 300 units of free power per household.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGK) — insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting COVID-19, has been extended for a further period of 180 days from April 19. "It has been decided to extend the policy so as to continue to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients," said a release issued by the Union Health Ministry.

China said on Tuesday it had signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands, a first of its kind arrangement that could pave the way for further Chinese security deals overseas. Under the agreement, the two sides "will conduct cooperation in such areas as maintenance of social order, protection of the safety of people's lives and property, humanitarian assistance and natural disaster response, in an effort to help Solomon Islands strengthen capacity building in safeguarding its own security."

Thermal plants across the country are grappling with coal shortages, indicating a looming power crisis in the country, said All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF). "Thermal plants across the country are grappling with coal shortage as the power demand in the States has increased.

Financial conditions are going to tighten in the country over the next few months due to the likely increase in capital outflows, driven by rising external shocks and domestic vulnerability, Crisil Ratings said in its report. The agency said its Financial Conditions Index (FCI) dropped below the zero

industry through innovative policies/schemes. Accordingly, to strengthen the Capital Goods sector the National Capital Goods Policy, 2016 was laid out in which it is recommended to take initiatives to accelerate the growth of the Capital Goods Sector.

2. National Capital Goods Policy, 2016 is the National Policy For Development of Heavy Industries. Vision - The National Capital Goods Policy is formulated with the vision to increase the share of capital goods contribution from present 12% to 20% of total manufacturing activity by 2025. Mission - The policy is envisaged to achieve the following missions:

3. To become one of the top capital goods producing nations of the world by raising the total production to over twice the current level; To raise exports to a significant level of at least 40% of total production and become a net exporter of capital goods; To improve technology depth in Indian capital goods from the current basic and intermediate levels to advanced levels and To build local champions or large scale Indian corporations.

4. **The objectives of the Policy are: To increase the total production in excess of ~Rs. 750,000 Cr by 2025. To increase direct domestic employment to at least 5 million and indirect employment 25 million by 2025.** To increase the share of domestic production in India's capital goods demand from 60% to 80% by 2025 and in the process improve domestic capacity utilization to 80-90%.

5. To increase exports to 40% of total production (Rs 300,000 Cr) by 2025, To significantly enhance availability of skilled manpower with higher productivity in the capital goods sector. To improve 'technology depth' in capital goods sub-sectors by increasing research intensity in India.

6. To promote standards to enhance the quality regime in the capital goods sector through relevant standards to propel the sector and curb inflow of sub-standard capital goods. To enhance growth and build capacity of SMEs to compete with established domestic and international firms and become national and global champions of capital goods in the future.

P8I MPRA

1. A P8I Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft of the Indian Navy has arrived at Darwin, Australia. Recently, Boeing delivered India's 12th maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare P-8I aircraft. The first of these aircraft was inducted in 2013, and it made India the first country outside the United States to get one.

2. P-8I is the Indian variant of the P-8s, which are used by the Indian Navy since 2013. The aircraft is a multi-mission aircraft with state of the art sensors, proven weapons systems, and a globally recognised platform. It is designed for Long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), Anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions.

3. Tech specs - The P-8I can fly as high as 41,000 feet. It has two engines, and has a top speed of 490 knots. It has a short transit time, which reduces the size of the "Area of Probability when searching for submarines, surface vessels or search and rescue survivors".

4. It is also used for low altitude, and humanitarian, and search and rescue missions. Apart from the US and India, the P-8 has been chosen by six other militaries in the world.

THE MYSTERY LIVER DISEASE

1. Cases of this mysterious liver disease have been reported in Spain, Denmark and the Netherlands, besides the US and UK. Health authorities are now racing to discover what is behind the mysterious acute illness.

2. Causes: No concrete evidence has been found yet. According to scientists in Scotland, the leading hypothesis is that the liver damage is being caused by an adenovirus. A large group of viruses that circulate widely and are often linked to respiratory and eye infections. Alternatively, there is thought it may be as a result of a Covid-19 infection or even a new, undetected variant.

3. Researchers have ruled out the most common cause of serious liver inflammation, hepatitis, as children have consistently tested negative. There is also no strong evidence it is caused by a bacterial infection. Some believe a mutation of coronavirus could be behind the illness. 4. Symptoms: Dark urine. Pale faeces. Jaundice (yellowing of eyes and skin). Itchy skin. Nausea and vomiting. Lethargy. Stomach pain. High temperature.

VIDYA SAMIKSHA KENDRA

1. The Command and Control Centre, or Vidya Samiksha Kendra

mark in March, indicating deterioration in domestic financial conditions.

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to unify the three civic bodies in the national capital.

are set up by the Gujarat Education Department in Gandhinagar. It tracks enrolment, attendance, learning outcomes, drop-outs, school accreditation and monitors schools, teachers and block and cluster resource centre co-ordinators.

2.This state of the art data driven centre is based on the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) Framework.

3.The centre is aimed at leveraging data and technology to improve learning outcomes.