

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

West Africa is facing its worst food crisis in a decade due to increasing conflicts, droughts, floods and the war in Ukraine, nearly a dozen international organisations said in a report on Tuesday. The number of West Africans needing emergency food assistance has nearly quadrupled from 7 million in 2015 to 27 million this year in nations including Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mali and Nigeria, where thousands have also been displaced because of rising extremist violence, the report said.

Amid rising incidents of electric two wheelers catching fires, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has reached out to the government urging the establishment of standards and regulations for the manufacture of both electric vehicles and batteries. Most EVs run on lithium ion batteries, which are known to catch fire 'when exposed to air'. The idiosyncrasies of these battery units make them susceptible to fire risks; hence regulations and research were needed to ensure safety.

Global sovereign borrowing will reach \$10.4 trillion in 2022, almost a third above the average before the COVID19 pandemic, S&P Global Ratings said in a report. Despite an economic recovery, borrowing will stay elevated because of high debt rollover requirements and war in Ukraine, the ratings agency said in an annual note. While 137 countries will borrow an equivalent of \$10.4 trillion in 2022, an estimated 30% lower than 2020, the overall figure is one third higher than average borrowing between 2016 and 2019, S&P said.

Rural India will create 1.2 crore new jobs in dairy related activities in 10 years and these jobs would mean livelihood and food security for a large segment of the population in the country, said R.S. Sodhi, MD, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul). The sector has the potential to generate a large number of new jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities, and sustainable incomes for families and therefore ensure food security.

The Centre suggested to the Supreme Court to let the Mullaperiyar dam supervisory committee continue for a year, by which time the National Dam Safety

NEAR FIELD COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

1. Darlong community was officially included in the list of Scheduled Tribes after the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022. Darlong is one of the 19 tribal communities of Tripura. It is a small community of around 11,000 people. Darlongs, despite being Scheduled Tribes, were never given ST certificates. Since they were considered a generic tribe under the Kuki community, they were handed their tribal certificates as members of 'Kuki' community.

2. Tribal musicologist and Rosem (tribal instrument) maestro Thanga Darlong was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri award a few years back for his contribution to culture. This 2022 Amendment Bill was put forth to include Darlongs as a Kuki sub-tribe since people of same communities live in hilly terrains as different sub-tribes and were excluded from the ST list since long. **About - Despite its small population, the community has a high prevalence of education, cultural activities, etc.**

3. The members of the community are serving in different high positions in the local administration. Traditionally, the Darlongs adopt Jhum cultivation/ shifting cultivators. But the Darlongs call it as 'Loi'. Today, most of them have taken up agro-forestry and horticultural plantation or orchard development as their main livelihoods in addition to wet rice cultivation and seasonal vegetables cultivation. T

4. Traditionally, the Darlongs were under the hereditary village chieftains (called Lal) but are now replaced by a democratic body called Village Council with an elected Village Chairman and representatives. The Village Councils are in turn linked to an apex council (known as Darlong Hnam Inzom or Darlong Peoples' Apex Council).

5. Every Darlong must inculcate a compelling code of social ethics, known as Tlawminngaina or Tlawmngaihna stand for the common good of the community above self and to be charitable & humane in all dispositions.

BIO-DIGESTER

1. It is a system that biologically digests organic material, either anaerobic (without oxygen) or aerobically (with oxygen). Most food, including fat, greases, and even animal manure, can be processed in a bio-digester.

2. **Microbes and other bacteria break down organic materials in a bio-digester. Biodigesters are a closed system; so, it gives off no odor from food waste; this will eliminate flies and rodents from the facility.** Biodigesters are a living system and do require maintenance. However, they are easy to use and maintain.

3. It utilizes organic waste, particularly animal and human excreta, to produce fertilizer and biogas. The capacity of food a biodigester can process depends on the size; larger the digester more food it can handle. Biodigester systems can be implemented on farms that need to improve soil fertility or the quality of life of the producers if the conditions referred to above are in place.

4. Permanent access to water is required. In India, Biodigester technology has been developed by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) for resolving the problems of un-decomposed human waste.

5. Other Solid Waste Management Techniques Bio-methanation, Vermi-composting, Anaerobic digestion or any other appropriate processing for bio-stabilisation of biodegradable wastes, and Waste to energy processes including refused derived fuel for combustible fraction of waste or supply as feedstock to solid waste based power plants or cement kilns.

IPCC REPORT WARNS MALARIA OUTBREAK IN HIMALAYAN REGION

1. The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has observed a shift in the distribution of malaria and dengue to higher altitude areas like Himalayan

Authority under the new Dam Safety Act will become fully functional. "During the period of one year, when the National Dam Safety Authority becomes fully functional, the Supervisory Committee on Mullaperiyar Dam may continue its functioning as per the existing mandate in regulating the operations of the dam.

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa lost his parliamentary majority on Tuesday, as a group of lawmakers from the ruling party and its allies sat independently in the House, deserting the government that faces enormous public criticism for "mishandling" the country's economic crisis. In another inflexion point in the crisis, newly appointed Finance Minister Ali Sabry resigned from the Cabinet barely 24 hours after taking charge.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has ordered the blocking of 22 YouTube based news channels, four of which were being run from Pakistan and the rest from India under the IT Rules, 2021. These channels had a cumulative viewership of about 262 crore and were being used to spread fake news on sensitive issues relating to national security and foreign relations, I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said on Tuesday.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which is aimed at unifying the three municipal corporations in the city to ensure a "robust setup for synergised and strategic planning and optimal utilisation of resources".

HDFC Bank's \$40 billion acquisition of its biggest shareholder could face regulatory hurdles due to the stake it would gain in the insurance sector, analysts said. Sources told Reuters last year that the RBI, which acts as regulator for the financial industry, wants banks to limit ownership stakes in insurance companies.

The demand for passenger vehicles (PVs) will witness moderate growth over the next few quarters with the complete unlocking of the economy and revival of demand, particularly in rural areas, according to Acuite Ratings & Research.

With cotton prices spiralling to more than ₹90,000 a candy, prices of cotton textile products are expected to surge, according to industry officials. In Tiruppur, manufacturers of basic garments raised prices by 15% in December and were likely to go in for another price revision shortly. "Cotton prices are going up almost on a daily basis. But, garment

Region. In India, the IPCC has projected changes in the spatial distribution of malaria, warning of potential outbreaks in the Himalayan region, besides the southern and the eastern states.

2.As temperatures rise, the number of months suitable for transmission of Malaria will grow, although in some areas transmission of the vector-borne disease will fall by the 2030s. With rainfall patterns changing, the range and distribution of vector borne diseases is changing along with it, as well as the vector's ability to breed longer. As temperatures rise, the diseases are shifting northwards to higher altitudes such as towards the Himalayas. As temperatures become too hot in some lowland tropical areas for the Malaria vector to thrive, however, the report predicts an increase in diseases such as dengue and Zika.

3.Other impacts In South and Southeast Asia, the report says, rising temperatures will also cause an adverse impact on availability and prices of food, leading to increased undernourishment. Besides, mental health challenges will grow, affecting particularly the young and the elderly, and those with underlying conditions. With more frequent hot days and intense heat-waves, the heat-related deaths will increase in Asia. In addition to all-cause mortality, deaths related to circulatory, respiratory, diabetic and infectious diseases, as well as infant mortality are increased with high temperature.

4.Increases in heavy rain and temperature will increase the risk of diarrheal diseases, dengue fever and malaria in tropical and sub-tropical Asia. The report finds the Spring pollen season start dates in northern mid-latitudes are occurring earlier due to climate change, increasing the risks of allergic respiratory diseases.

5.Higher atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide reduce the nutritional quality of wheat, rice, and other major crops, "potentially affecting millions of people at a doubling of carbon dioxide," it added.

FASTER PORTAL

1.The Chief Justice of India N V Ramana launched FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records). The FASTER is a digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel. This system is developed on war footing by the Registry of the Supreme Court in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre.

2.Using this system, orders passed by the Supreme Court and other High Courts have to be transmitted safely without tinkering by third parties. This system will help in communicating crucial decisions including orders on bail and stay of arrest electronically to prison authorities and investigating agencies through a secure channel.

3.This would reduce the court's delay in the release of prisoners owing to the delay in physical orders reaching the prison authorities. FASTER cell - A FASTER cell has been established in the Registry of the Supreme Court. The cell will transmit digitally signed record of proceedings or orders related to bail and release passed by the court to the nodal officers and duty holders concerned through email.

NATIONAL BEE BOARD

1.In 2005, Beekeeping has been included as a supplemental activity under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for promoting cross pollination of Horticultural Crops. Formed as a Registered Society under Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860 in 2000 & promoted by the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC).

2.In view of the tremendous scope for increasing productivity due to cross pollination and increase in income through Apiculture, the National Bee Board (NBB) was reconstituted in 2006.

3.The main objective of this Board is overall development of Beekeeping by promoting Scientific Beekeeping in India to Increase the productivity of crops through pollination and Increase the Honey production for increasing the income of the Beekeepers/ Farmers. Funds flow to the Board from the National Horticulture Mission and the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States Scheme.

GRAMMYS

1.Indian music composer, Ricky Kej has won the Grammy Award for his album Divine Tides.

manufacturers cannot do so. Now, there is no option but to raise the prices again,” said an industry source.

Twitter Inc. said it would name top shareholder and Tesla boss Elon Musk to its board, a day after the billionaire disclosed a 9.2% stake in the social media company. Mr. Musk cannot become the owner of more than 14.9% of Twitter’s common stock either as an individual shareholder or as a member of a group as long as he is the director of Twitter, the company said in a filing.

2.The Grammy Award is an award presented by the Recording Academy to recognize “Outstanding Achievement in the music industry” of the United States. The trophy depicts a gilded gramophone.