

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

A U.S. patient with leukemia has become the first woman and the third person to date to be cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant from a donor who was naturally resistant to the virus that causes AIDS. The case of a middle-aged woman of mixed race, presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Denver, is also the first involving umbilical cord blood. Since receiving the cord blood to treat her acute myeloid leukemia a cancer that starts in blood forming cells in the bone marrow the woman has been in remission and free of the virus for 14 months.

The pristine beach of Dhanushkodi at the southernmost tip of the Rameswaram island in the Indian peninsula has witnessed a rare phenomenon over the past few days. Thousands of Crimson Rose butterflies swarmed all available flowering plants along the beach. It was their stopover for nectaring, before they undertook their ultimate flight towards Sri Lanka, around 25 km away from the tip of Dhanushkodi. Crimson Rose, a large butterfly with a mix of black, white and crimson colours on its wings and body, is known for crossing the sea to migrate to Sri Lanka.

The world is failing to tackle the persisting and increasingly serious global crisis of depression it is facing, a Lancet and World Psychiatric Association Commission on depression has stated. The document was released Tuesday night. It has estimated that 5% of adults worldwide suffer from depression each year, and yet it remains a neglected global health crisis. Poor understanding of this condition and lack of psychosocial and financial resources are already impacting on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and the economic prosperity of nations.

While India ramps up its solar power capacity, the nation does not yet have a firm policy on managing waste that results from used solar panels or from the manufacturing process. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) last December estimated that the global photovoltaic waste will touch 78 million tonnes by 2050, with India expected to be one of the top five generators of such waste. India currently considers solar waste a part of electronic waste and does not

GURU RAVIDAS

1.The President of India has greeted fellow-citizens on the eve of birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on Magh Purnima, which is the full moon day of the Magh month as per the Hindu calendar. Born in 1377 C.E. in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Guru Ravidas was an Indian mystic, poet, social reformer and spiritual guru.

2.He belonged to the bhakti movement during the 15th to 16th century. He wrote 40 poems in the Guru Granth Sahib - the sacred scripture of Sikhism. He is the founder of the 21st-century Ravidassia religion. He dedicated his life to abolish the caste system and openly despised the notion of a Brahminical society.

3.He promoted communal harmony, spiritual freedom and championed equality. He was also the spiritual guide of Meera Bai.

PUBLIC ORDER

1.The Karnataka High Court is hearing a challenge to the constitutionality of the state government's ban on students wearing a hijab in educational institutions on the ground that it violates 'public order'.

2.Public order is also one of the grounds on which the state can restrict free speech and other fundamental rights. It is one of the three grounds on which the state can restrict freedom of religion. [Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees to all persons right to freedom and conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health.]

3.Public order is normally equated with public peace and safety. Public order is a duty imposed on the District Magistrate to assess whether it is necessary to rush to the spot where law and order has been breached to prevent violence spreading and ease tension. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

4.Therefore, it is the primary duty of the State Governments to prevent, detect, register and investigate crime and prosecute the criminals. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing them financial assistance.

MEDARAM JATHRA

1.The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned ₹2.26 Crores for various activities pertaining to Medaram Jathara 2022. Medaram Jathara or Sammakka Saralamma Jathara is the largest tribal religious congregation in the world. It is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela.

2.It is celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana- the Koya tribe. The four days' Medaram Jathara is celebrated once in 2 years in the month of "Magha" (February) on the full moon day. It honours the fight of a mother and daughter, Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.

3.Significance - Medaram Jathara was declared a State Festival of Telangana in 1996. It assists the tribals to preserve their unique Tribal Traditions, Culture and Heritage and promote their tribal History on a global scale.

4.It is also an embodiment of the spirit of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat. Medaram is a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in the Mulugu, Telangana.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

1.The U.S. aims to increase its influence in the Solomon Islands before China becomes "strongly embedded" by opening an embassy in there. Solomon Islands is a sovereign country in the South Pacific Ocean. It consists of six major islands and over 992 smaller islands in Oceania.

2.It is an archipelago of tropical volcanic islands and coral atolls, to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu. The country comprises most of the Solomons chain - with the exception of Buka and Bougainville, two islands at the

account for it separately.

Russia said more of its forces surrounding Ukraine were withdrawing but NATO joined the U.S. in saying it had yet to be convinced the pullout was real. In Ukraine, the Defence Ministry said its web portal had been hit by an unprecedented cyber attack that was into its second day.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said its judicial intervention saw the government make abrupt efforts to fill vacancies in tribunals some time back and nothing after that. "We are getting [requests for] extension of time for NCLT (Nation Company Law Tribunal) matters, etc. Some knee-jerk appointments took place and nothing after that. We do not know the fate of members and many are retiring. Bureaucracy is taking it lightly," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana remarked orally.

The Finance Ministry asserted on Wednesday that consumption indicators pointed to a steady growth trajectory, with passenger vehicle sales returning to pre-pandemic levels in January and even two and three wheelers reporting month on month improvements in sales. While the ministry cited a robust 14.3% growth in personal loans in December to posit a consumption demand uptick, it noted that an increase in loans against gold within this surge 'may indicate a strain on individual incomes and cash flows', adding that currency with the public had also increased.

India's retail inflation may have crossed 6% for the first time in six months this January, but the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has moderated sequentially over the past two months indicating a slowing momentum to price rise trends, the Finance Ministry said in a monthly report.

The manufacturing sector will need continued policy support for smoother and faster recovery to attain the long term trend path, RBI officials wrote in an article in the RBI's monthly bulletin. Although the sector may soon attain its pre-COVID level, the process of attaining the long term trend levels may take some time, they wrote in the article titled 'Impact of COVID19 on Sentiments of Indian Manufacturers' published in the RBI's February bulletin.

After a brief dip in 2020, organisations are reverting to pre-pandemic levels of investment in incentives and the industry average for increment this year is expected to be 9%, consulting firm Mercer

northwestern end that form an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.

3. Once a British protectorate, Solomon Islands achieved independence as a republic in 1978. Honiara, on the north coast of Guadalcanal Island, is Solomon Islands' capital and largest city.

SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTs

1. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities. A Scheme for empowerment of DNTs have been formulated for families Having income from all sources of Rs.2.50 lakh or less per annum and Not availing any such benefits from similar Scheme of Centre Government or the State Government.

2. Components of the Scheme - **The scheme also aims to facilitate livelihoods initiative at community level to build and strengthen small clusters of DNT/NT/SNT Communities institutions.** It aims to provide good quality coaching for DNT/NT/SNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations/ admission to professional courses for obtaining a job in Public/Private Sector.

3. To provide health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year to these Communities, the scheme will provide financial assistance to National Health Authority in association with State Health Agencies. To provide financial assistance for construction of houses to members of the DNT/NT/SNT Communities, the scheme has proposed to earmark a separate outlay for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

4. Implementation - The Scheme will be implemented for a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26. The Scheme will be implemented through a portal that has been developed by Department of Social Justice & Empowerment.

INDIA'S CONCERN IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

1. World War scenario: Any conflict- where the U.S. and its European allies are ranged against Russia will impact the whole world- economically and in terms of security, and India, as a partner to both Moscow and Washington will either have to take sides, or be prepared to deal with unhappiness from both sides.

2. S-400 delivery and US waiver: **The crisis comes precisely as India's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile system is under way- and India hopes for a waiver of U.S. sanctions on this.** Conflict will complicate both the delivery of the system, and the possibility of a presidential waiver.

3. Moves focus from China: Just as U.S. and Europe had grown more focussed on their Indo-Pacific strategy that puts India centre-stage, and India grapples with Chinese aggression and land-grab at the Line of Actual Control, and 100,000 troops along the boundary on both sides, the world's attention is diverted from China to Russia.

4. Brings Russia China closer- the Crisis will make Moscow more dependent on friends like China, and build a regional bloc of sorts that India is not a part of. In Beijing this week, the future seems evident- as India has announced a diplomatic and political boycott of the Olympic games- while Putin, Central Asian Presidents, and Pakistan PM Imran Khan are all in Beijing to stand in solidarity with Xi Jinping.

5. Energy crisis: In any conflict- Europe worries Russia will turn down gas and oil supplies- driving energy prices up. Already tensions have pushed oil prices up 14% in a month past \$90 and analyst say they could hit \$125 a barrel if the situation is not resolved.

SWAMITVA SCHEME

1. The government has said that it plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities under SVAMITVA scheme. So far drone surveys have covered close to 1,00,000 villages and maps of 77,527 villages had been handed over to states. Property cards had been distributed to around 27,000 villages.

2. Overview and key features of the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Yojana: Launched on Panchayati Raj Diwas (April 24th, 2020). Last year, it was extended to all states. Earlier, it was launched only for 9 states. The scheme seeks to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones. The scheme aims to revolutionize property record maintenance in India. The scheme is piloted by the Panchayati

said.

China has equated the India, U.S., Australia, Japan Quad grouping with the AUKUS (Australia, the U.K., the U.S.) defence pact, calling both “exclusive cliques” part of the Biden administration’s “ill intentioned” IndoPacific strategy.

NATO member countries examined new ways to bolster the defences of nations on the organisation’s eastern flank as Russia’s military buildup around Ukraine fuels one of Europe’s biggest security crises in decades.

Raj ministry. Under the scheme, residential land in villages will be measured using drones to create a non-disputable record. Property card for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.

3.Benefits of the scheme: The delivery of property rights through an official document will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property as collateral. The property records for a village will also be maintained at the Panchayat level, allowing for the collection of associated taxes from the owners. The money generated from these local taxes will be used to build rural infrastructure and facilities. Freeing the residential properties including land of title disputes and the creation of an official record is likely to result in appreciation in the market value of the properties. The accurate property records can be used for facilitating tax collection, new building and structure plan, issuing of permits and for thwarting attempts at property grabbing.