

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Russia-Ukraine military conflict, which has increased energy prices globally, will reduce the propensity to import coal by power plants and will further hamper the supply of fuel to captive power plants and industries like steel, aluminium from state owned Coal India, ICPPA said on Friday. According to the Indian Captive Power Producers Association (ICPPA), amid rising energy prices globally, electricity producers will pressurise the government for more domestic coal to fulfil their demand and this will adversely affect fuel supply to the nonpower sector.

The current crisis has put Indian coffee exports to Ukraine and neighbouring countries in jeopardy, the Coffee Board said. So far, (April-Jan.) this fiscal, India has exported 6,604 metric tonnes of green bean, instant and roast and ground coffee to Ukraine and 23,519 metric tonnes to Russia. Coffee exports to Ukraine, in fact, peaked at 7,327 metric tonnes during fiscal 201819, and in 201920 it was 6,947 metric tonnes. CIS countries were traditionally the major soluble/ instant coffee importers from India. Russia currently accounts for 75% of this, while Ukraine alone has more than 20% share, according to data shared by Coffee Board.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 16% to \$43.17 billion during the April-December 2021 period, according to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data. The inflows stood at \$51.47 billion during the year-earlier period.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has urged TRAI to expedite submission of its recommendations on 5G spectrum auctions. This follows a request from the Prime Minister's Office to target the initiation of 5G services by August 15.

India is exploring ways to set up a rupee payment mechanism for trade with Russia to soften the blow on New Delhi of Western sanctions imposed on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, government and banking sources said. Indian officials are concerned that vital supplies of fertilizer from Russia could be disrupted as sanctions intensify, threatening India's vast farm sector. India has called for an end to

FIRE READY FORMULA

1.The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its report on wildfire called on global governments to adopt a new 'Fire Ready Formula'. The "Fire Ready Formula" was recommended by the UNEP as it warned that the incidences of wildfires would rise in the future.

2.This formula envisages that 66% (two-third) of spending must be devoted to planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery. The remaining 34% (one-third) can be spent on response. Currently, direct responses to wildfires typically receive over half of related expenditures, while planning receives less than 1%. The true cost of wildfires include financial, social, and environmental.

3.Findings - **The UNEP report projected that the number of wildfires is likely to increase by up to 14% by 2030. It is projected to spike by 33% by 2050. It would rise by 52% by 2100.** Objective - The UNEP in its report has called for strengthening international and regional cooperation on wildfires. It has also recommended for the development of an international standard for wildfire management. It has also recommended that the integrated wildfire management is the key to adapting to current and future changes in global wildfire risk.

NETTUR PETTI

1.**Nettur Petti or aada petti is a handcrafted, ornamental box created by traditional craftsmen in Kerala. The Nettur petti is often made with brass embellishments and its lid is shaped like the roof of a traditional house in Kerala.**

2.In the past, the lid of the petti was made from a single piece of wood with no joint at all. But now, four pieces of wood are joined for the lid. In the past, the Nettur Petti was made only in teak or rosewood, but now it is made using jack, wild jack and mahogany also.

3.It was once used by the royals, wealthy families and aristocrats as well as in temples as a safe box to store valuables and ornaments. Nettur petti derives its name from Nettur, a place that now exists both in Ernakulam and Kannur districts (Kerala) and in Tirunelveli district (Tamil Nadu).

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

1.The 1st Workshop on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace was held under the aegis of Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice. Sexual harassment at workplace is the violation of the Fundamental Rights under Article 14, 21 of the Constitution. **2.Vishaka guidelines - The issue sexual harassment at work place gained a definite momentum after the guidelines passed by the Supreme Court in the matter of Vishaka and Others vs. State of Rajasthan in 1997.** These guidelines gave sexual harassment a legal definition describing what forms of conduct actually constitute sexual harassment.

3.These legally-binding guidelines impose three key obligations on employing institutions - prohibition, prevention, and redress. The institutions must establish a Complaints Committee that would look into matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

4.Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 broadens the Vishaka guidelines.

DOXXING

1.Meta's oversight board suggested that Facebook and Instagram must make strict doxxing rules. Doxxing is publishing and analysing others' personal information on the internet with a malicious intent that can reveal the person's real identity making them victims of harassments and cyber attacks.

2.Generally, doxxing is used to shame or punish people who would rather stay anonymous, because of their controversial beliefs or other types of non-mainstream activity. The term doxxing (sometimes spelled doxing) is a longtime hacker term derived from "dropping dox" or documents about an adversary.

violence in Ukraine but refrained from outright condemnation of Russia, with which it has long-standing political and security ties.

Russian missiles pounded Ukrainian capital Kyiv, families cowered in shelters and authorities told residents to prepare Molotov cocktails to save the city from an assault that the Mayor said had begun with saboteurs in the city.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the importance of customisation and uniqueness of defence systems for having a surprise element over the adversaries. "Uniqueness and surprise elements could only happen when the defence equipment is developed in our country. This year's Budget has a blueprint for developing a vibrant ecosystem, from research, design and development to manufacturing, within the country," he said.

International oil prices retreated from a more than seven year high but were still above \$100 a barrel and continued to pose a threat to India's inflation rate and current account deficit.

Tens of thousands of people have fled Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion less than two days ago, the United Nations refugee chief said.

Ukrainian authorities said on Friday that radiation levels had increased in the Chernobyl exclusion zone and warned the seizure of the nuclear plant by invading Russian troops could have "terrible consequences.

A tri services discussion on the modalities and structural framework on the creation of the Integrated Maritime Theatre Command (IMTC), one of the integrated theatre commands envisaged, was held under the aegis of Western Naval Command at Mumbai on February 24 and 25. "This is yet another milestone towards enhancing organisational synergy among the three Services," the Navy said.

EU states agreed to freeze European assets of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Foreign Minister on Friday, as Ukraine's leader pleaded for faster and more forceful action to punish Russia's invasion of his country.

Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the evolving situation in Ukraine, Moscow sent its Ambassador designate to New Delhi. Denis Alipov, a leading India-

3. Motivations range from personal revenge to political ends. Some doxers act with the intent of exposing criminals or perpetrators of heinous acts. However, there are plenty of examples of people who have been wrongly doxxed and harmed as a result.

P-8I AIRCRAFT

1. Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered the 12th P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy. This completes the follow-on clause for four additional P-8I aircraft contracted in 2016. **P-8I Aircraft is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft. It is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft that Boeing company developed as a replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet.**

2. With a maximum speed of 907 kmph and an operating range of over 1,200 nautical miles, the P-8Is detect threats and neutralize them if required, far before they come anywhere near Indian shores. Deal - In 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of the six aircraft. In 2021, the U.S. State Department approved the sale of 6 additional P-8I aircraft and related equipment, a deal estimated to cost \$2.42 billion.

3. The six aircraft under discussion will come with extensive upgrades. These P-8Is will come installed with encrypted communication systems since India has signed the foundational agreement Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) with the U.S. 4. History - The Indian Navy was the first international customer of the aircraft by procuring P-8Is under a \$2.2 billion deal in 2009. In 2016, the Navy exercised the optional clause for four more P-8Is in a deal worth over \$1 billion. The P-8I is an integral part of the Indian Navy's fleet and has surpassed 35,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013.

FAIR AND REMUNERATIVE PRICE (FRP)? HOW IT IS PAID

1. Context: The Maharashtra government has issued a government resolution which will allow sugarcane mills to pay the basic fair and remunerative price (FRP) in two tranches. Sugar mill owners have welcomed the move. However, farmers are not happy with it. What is the FRP? FRP is the price declared by the government, which mills are legally bound to pay to farmers for the cane procured from them.

2. The payment of FRP across the country is governed by The Sugarcane Control order, 1966. It mandates payment within 14 days of the date of delivery of the cane. How is FRP decided? The FRP is based on the recovery of sugar from the cane. For the sugar season of 2021-22, FRP has been fixed at Rs 2,900/tonne at a base recovery of 10 per cent. Sugar recovery is the ratio between sugar produced versus cane crushed, expressed as a percentage.

3. The higher the recovery, the higher is the FRP, and higher is the sugar produced. Announced by: The Central Government announces Fair and Remunerative Prices which are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). CCEA is chaired by the Prime Minister of India. The FRP is based on the Rangarajan Committee report on reorganizing the sugarcane industry.

4. **Significance of FRP: Assured payment is one of the major reasons why cane is a popular crop with farmers. Delays in payment can attract an interest up to 15 per cent per annum,** and the sugar commissioner can recover unpaid FRP as dues in revenue recovery by attaching properties of the mills. Why are farmers in Maharashtra protesting? Farmers argue that this method would impact their incomes. T

5. They point out that while FRP will be paid in installments, and will depend on an unknown variable, their bank loans and other expenses are expected to be paid for as usual. Also, farmers mostly require a lumpsum at the beginning of the season (October-November), because their next crop cycle depends on it.

6. **Sugarcane: Temperature: Between 21-27°C with hot and humid climate. Rainfall: Around 75-100 cm. Soil Type: Deep rich loamy soil. Top Sugarcane Producing States: Uttar Pradesh > Maharashtra > Karnataka > Tamil Nadu > Bihar.** India is the second largest producer of sugarcane after Brazil.

NARSINH MEHTA

1. Narsinh Mehta is regarded as adikavi (the first poet) and bhakta kavi (devout poet) in Gujarati literature. He is the the

specialist, belongs to a family of diplomats. Mr. Alipov's arrival has created the prospects for some form of backchannel talks. A diplomatic source said Ukraine had been eager for dialogue for a long time and that it was Russia which had not displayed any interest in discussing a solution. He, however, indicated that as of now, diplomats on all sides were "hostage to the military situation".

15th century poet who was a devotee of Lord Krishna. His bhajans are integral part of Gujarat's cultural life even six centuries after they were written. **2.** Why in News? A controversy has erupted over naming a spider species after him – Narsinhmehtai.

3. Members of Nagar sub-caste group of Brahmin community, in which Mehta was born, and admirers of the poet objected to the nomenclature, arguing the bard was already a global name and that there was no need to associate his name with a spider.