

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Drought conditions have left an estimated 13 million people facing severe hunger in the Horn of Africa, according to the United Nations World Food Program. People in a region including Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya face the driest conditions recorded since 1981, the agency reported on Tuesday, calling for immediate assistance to forestall a major humanitarian crisis. Drought conditions are affecting pastoral and farming communities. Malnutrition rates are high in the region. WFP said it needs \$327 million to look after the urgent needs of 4.5 million people over the next six months.

The Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare initiative, which aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in cities, rural and tribal regions.

A week after the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme received a Budget allocation 25% lower than the previous year's revised estimates, a Parliamentary panel has pulled up the government, noting that Budget estimates for the Centre's flagship rural jobs scheme have failed to keep up with proven demand for the last four to five years. "Budgetary Allocation of a scheme of such enormous magnitude should be done in a more pragmatic manner so that there is no dearth of funds in midyear, and flow of funds for payment of wages, material share, etc. is maintained seamlessly," said a critical evaluation of the scheme presented to the Lok Sabha.

The Nitish Kumar government has decided to conduct a census of those who gave up drinking since Bihar became a dry State. "The previous survey said 1.64 crore people have quit drinking, but now we have decided to conduct census to find out the exact number of those who have given up the habit," the Chief Minister said.

Terming as "unacceptable" social media posts calling for Kashmiri "freedom" by various multinational companies (MNCs) based in Pakistan, the government on Tuesday went on a diplomatic overdrive. While

### MOTION OF THANKS

1.The Prime Minister of India has replied to the Motion of Thanks on address of the President presented to the joint session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The first session of the House of the People after each general election and the first session of every fiscal year is addressed by the President.

2.This special address by the President is provided by Article 87. In this address, the President outlines the policies and programmes of the government in the preceding year and ensuing year. This address of the President, which corresponds to the 'speech from the Throne in Britain', is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks'. At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.

**3.This motion must be passed in the House. Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.** This inaugural speech of the president is an occasion available to the members of Parliament to raise discussions and debates to examine and criticise the government and administration for its lapses and failures.

### ONE RANK ONE PENSION

1.One Rank One Pension (OROP) for Defence Forces Personnel implies that uniform pension be paid to Personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of their retirement date. This will bridge the gap between the rates of pension of current and past pensioners at periodic intervals. The historical decision to implement OROP was taken by the Government in 2015, with benefits effective from 1st July, 2014. Salient features of the OROP - Pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of pension of retirees of calendar year 2013.

**2.Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners on the basis of the average of minimum and maximum pension of personnel retired in 2013 in the same rank and with the same length of service.** Pension for those drawing above the average shall be protected. Arrears will be paid in four equal half yearly installments. However, all the family pensioners including those in receipt of Special/ Liberalized family pension and Gallantry award winners shall be paid arrears in one installment.

3.In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years. Nodal Implementation Agency - Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence. Payment - OROP is not paid as a separate element. It is integrated part of pension. As such amount of additional expenditure incurred is not available.

4.Inapplicability - Personnel who opt to get discharged henceforth on their own request under Rule 13(3)I(i)(b), 13(3)II(i)(b), 13(3)III(iv) or Rule 16B of the Army Rule 1954 or equivalent Navy or Air Force Rules will not be entitled to the benefits of OROP. Before OROP was implemented, retired servicemen used to get pensions as per the Pay Commission's recommendations of the time when they had retired.

### COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUTHORITY

1.The Supreme Court of India (2002) ordered the formation of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). It said that the CAMPA will be the National Advisory Council for monitoring, technical assistance and evaluation of compensatory afforestation activities. It said that the CAMPA will be under the chairmanship of the Union Environment Minister.

**2.CAMPA are meant to promote afforestation and regeneration activities as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses. In pursuance of this Supreme Court order,** the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2004 set up the CAMPA to manage Money collected towards compensatory afforestation (CA), Net present value (NPV) and Any other money recoverable from the user agencies for utilizing forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3.CAMPA was established with the following mandate: Lay down

**External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke to his South Korean counterpart Chung Euiyong to protest against the posts.**

**Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan hit out at global rating agencies' comments about India being the most indebted emerging market and about the lack of clarity on a fiscal consolidation path in the Union Budget, arguing they appeared to adopt 'double standards' in their assessments of emerging economies and developed markets. Fitch [Ratings] has said that we have one of the highest debt to GDP ratios in emerging market countries," Mr. Somanathan said, asserting that India had 'one of the best' debt to-GDP ratios when compared with higher rated countries.**

**TRAI Chairman P.D. Vaghela termed the consultation paper on 5G spectrum auction as a 'watershed in the history of telecom' as the regulator began industry wide deliberation via open house discussions, ahead of finalising views on aspects such as spectrum pricing. The government expects the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to give recommendations on 5G spectrum by March. Spectrum auctions will be conducted in 2022, to facilitate the roll out of 5G mobile services within 202-223.**

**The people of Sri Lanka "increasingly recognise" that India is a true friend that Sri Lanka can rely on at all times, Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris has said, thanking India for the \$2.4 billion assistance at a "critical juncture" for the island nation in the midst of an economic crisis.**

**India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card. The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national level programme, Sri Lanka's Cabinet decided on Monday.**

**French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday he saw a path forward on easing tensions with Russia over Ukraine, after conducting an urgent round of shuttle diplomacy between Moscow and Kiev.**

**The EU unveiled a plan to quadruple the supply of semiconductors in Europe by 2030, hoping to limit the bloc's dependence on Asia for a key component used in electric cars and smartphones. The production of chips has become a strategic priority in Europe as well as the United States, after the shock of the pandemic choked off supply,**

broad guidelines for State CAMPA. Facilitate scientific, technological and other assistance that may be required by State CAMPA. Make recommendations to State CAMPA based on a review of their plans and programmes.

**4.** Provide a mechanism to State CAMPA to resolve issues of an inter-state or Centre-State character. The prime task of State CAMPA would be regenerating natural forests and building up the institution engaged in this task in the State Forest Department.

### **MARINE HEATWAVES**

**1.** For the first time, a study has found a close link between marine heatwaves and atmospheric circulation and rainfall. **It has also found that the marine heatwaves have been on the rise in the waters around India. The increase in marine heat waves was due to rapid warming in the Indian Ocean and strong El Nino event.** Marine heat waves (MHW) are the heatwaves that form on oceans.

**2.** These are periods of extremely high temperatures over seas and oceans. Such heat waves are caused by an increase in the heat content of oceans, especially in the upper layers. [Around 90% of the warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions is absorbed by the oceans.] During an MHW, the average temperatures of the ocean surface (up to a depth of 300 feet) go 5-7 degrees Celsius above normal. Impacts - Worldwide, they are one of the major results of human-induced global warming.

**3.** These MHW events cause habitat destruction due to coral bleaching, seagrass destruction, and loss of kelp forests, affecting the fisheries sector adversely. An underwater survey showed that 85% of the corals in the Gulf of Mannar near the coast of Tamil Nadu got bleached after the MHW in May 2020. Findings - The Western Indian Ocean region experienced the largest increase in marine heatwaves at a rate of about 1.5 events per decade, followed by the north Bay of Bengal at a rate of 0.5 events per decade.

**4.** From 1982 to 2018, the Western Indian Ocean had a total of 66 events, while the Bay of Bengal had 94 events, the study notes. Marine heatwaves in the Western Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal increased drying conditions over the central Indian subcontinent. Correspondingly, there is a significant increase in the rainfall over south peninsular India in response to the heatwaves in the north Bay of Bengal. MHW phenomenon is impacting the Indian monsoon, mainly the southwest monsoon.

### **VANDE BHARAT TRAINS**

**1.** In the Union Budget 2022-2023, the Union Finance Minister has proposed the manufacture of 400 new Vande Bharat trains in the next 3 years. In 2019, the first Vande Bharat was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, in about 18 months as part of the 'Make in India' programme.

**2.** **Vande Bharat is touted as the next major leap for the Indian Railways in terms of speed and passenger convenience since the introduction of Rajdhani trains. Dubbed as Train 18, the Vande Bharat train is an indigenously designed and manufactured self-propelled "engineless" train.** The Vande Bharat is India's first semi high-speed train that can achieve a maximum speed of 160 kmph.

**3.** Its faster acceleration and deceleration results in reduced journey time by 25% to 45%. These trains operate without a locomotive and are based on a propulsion system called distributed traction power technology, by which each car of the train set is powered.

**4.** These have an intelligent braking system with power regeneration for better energy efficiency thereby making it cost, energy and environment efficient. The current version of the train has 16 coaches with 14 ordinary chair cars and two executive class chair cars.

### **KAWAL TIGER RESERVE**

**1.** The Kawal Tiger Reserve is going to host its first ever 'Bird Walk' on February 12 and 13. Kawal is home to a rich diversity in flora and fauna with more than 300 species of birds, and over 600 tree species with different forest compositions.

**2.** The reserve is located in Telangana. The reserve is the oldest sanctuary in the northern Telangana region of the state.

**3.** This sanctuary is catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam. The sanctuary is one of the richest teak forests in the state, with dense pristine areas free of human disturbance.

**bringing factories to a standstill and emptying stores of products.**

**The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has renewed the FCRA (Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act) registration of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a public health advocacy group, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. The move comes four years after the organisation was barred from receiving foreign funds for lobbying with parliamentarians, the media and the government on tobacco control issues.**

## **PARAYSHIKSHALAYA**

- 1.**The West Bengal government launched 'Paray Shikshalaya' – an open-air classroom in the neighbourhood programme – for students from class 1 to 7.
- 2.**The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education.