

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a new government owned firm for pooling and monetising sovereign and public sector land assets. The National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) is being formed with an initial authorised share capital of ₹5,000 crore and paid up capital of ₹150 crore. NLMC The government will appoint a chairman to head the NLMC through a “merit based selection process” and hire private sector professionals with expertise. The NLMC will undertake monetisation of surplus land and building assets of Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) as well as government agencies.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of the WHO (World Health Organization) Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) at Jamnagar in Gujarat. An agreement was signed by the Government of India with the world body in this regard. The WHO GCTM, to be established under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy), will be the first global centre for traditional medicine.

Scientists say they have found the sunken wreck of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton’s ship Endurance, more than a century after it was lost to the Antarctic ice. The Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust says the vessel lies 3,000 meters below the surface of the Weddell Sea, about 6.4 kilometers south of the location recorded in 1915 by its captain, Frank Worsley. An expedition set off from South Africa last month to search for the ship, which was crushed by ice and sank in November 1915.

About 70% of compliance related hassles faced by businesses pertain to labour laws and will be resolved once States notify the four Labour Codes approved by Parliament, a top Industry Ministry official said. The government has reduced 25,000 compliances in the past year but is conscious that many more need to be reduced to improve the ease of doing business, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Anurag Jain said. The department has examined reports of 27,000 laws under which persons can be jailed for doing business and is ready to engage with firms flagging such problem areas to

TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE OF 2001

1.Responding to the Ukraine crisis, EU Member States made the unprecedented decision to activate the European Union’s Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 2001, known as the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD). During the 1990s, conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, in Kosovo and elsewhere demonstrated the need for special procedures to deal with mass influxes of displaced persons. The 2001 Temporary Protection Directive provides a tool for the EU to address such situations.

2.TPD describes “Temporary protection” as an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin. The directive applies when “there is a risk that the standard asylum system is struggling to cope with demand stemming from a mass influx risking a negative impact on the processing of claims”.

3.Article 1 of TDP 2001 underlines that the purpose of the Directive is to both “establish minimum standards for giving temporary protection” to displaced persons as well as to “promote a balance of effort between Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving such persons”. Reason for establishing standards - It reduces disparities between the policies of EU States on the reception and treatment of displaced persons in a situation of mass influx.

4.It promotes solidarity and burden-sharing among EU States with respect to receiving large numbers of potential refugees at one time. Obligations to EU states under the TPD place - According to the European Commission, the TPD foresees harmonized rights for the beneficiaries of temporary protection, which include A residence permit for the duration of the protection (which can last from 1-3 years), Appropriate information on temporary protection, Access to employment, Access to accommodation or housing, Access to social welfare or means of subsistence, Access to medical treatment, Access to education for minors, Opportunities for families to reunite in certain circumstances, and Guarantees for access to the normal asylum procedure.

5.TPD also contains provisions for the return of displaced persons to their country of origin, unless they have committed serious crimes or they “pose a threat to security from the benefit of temporary protection”.

PARAM GANGA

1.Petascale Supercomputer “PARAM Ganga” was established at IIT Roorkee under the National Supercomputing Mission.

2.“PARAM Ganga” is a supercomputer with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops. The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of the build approach of the NSM.

LAND POOLING

1.Amendments are proposed to the Delhi Development Act, 1957, in order to make land pooling mandatory. **Land pooling is an activity where a group of landowners handover their land parcels to the government collectively for infrastructure development.**

2.Once the development is complete, the land is handed over to the original owners, after deducting some portion as the cost for the same. [In land acquisition, the ownership of the land is transferred to the government.]

3.The primary benefit of land pooling policy is that the ownership remains with the original titleholder. It reduces the chances of legal disputes and compensation disbursements. However, the land pooling policy requires a certain percentage of landowners to give consent for the procedure. Discontent among a certain section of landowners is a common challenge in this activity.

SIMULTANEOUS FUNCTIONING

1.With the COVID pandemic on the wane, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha are likely to revert to simultaneous sittings for the second part of the Budget session that begins from March 14,

resolve them.

Russia will achieve its goal of ensuring Ukraine's neutral status and will prefer to do that through talks, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday. Moscow's aims do not include overthrowing the Kyiv government and it hopes to achieve more significant progress in the next round of talks with Ukraine, Ms. Zakharova told a briefing, adding that Russia's military operation was going strictly in line with its plan.

The RBI could raise interest rates if food prices spike on the back of a rally in commodities due to the Ukraine crisis, Moody's Analytics' Steve Cochrane said on Wednesday. The conflict in Ukraine is threatening global grain production, sending basic commodity prices rocketing. Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stuck to its accommodative policy stance to help the economy recover from pandemic lows, keeping the key lending rate at record lows. Food prices rose 5.43% year on year in January, compared with 4.05% a month earlier. Prices of edible oil rose almost one fifth from a year earlier.

Waste management and environmental services provider Ramky Enviro Engineers plans to set up automobile scrapping units at four locations in India. The Company is working to establish these plants in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

The surge in energy prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict could trigger a 'terms of trade' shock for large net energy importers like India, resulting in a hit on current account balances and domestic consumption and investment, S&P Global Ratings said on Wednesday. Higher retail inflation would also strain monetary policy and may dampen economic growth and stress some bank borrowers in countries like India, the rating agency said in a note on the conflict's impact on Asia.

The Pentagon has said a Polish plan to transfer MiG29 jets to the U.S. airbase in Rammstein, Germany, for deployment in Ukraine is "non-tenable". Warsaw had offered on Tuesday to make all its MiG29 aircraft available through the U.S. airbase to be used by Ukraine to defend itself against the Russian invasion. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has been pressing the administration to make the Russian made aircraft available to it.

The EU agreed to add 160 Russian business people and lawmakers to its sanctions blacklist, target crypto-

2022. During the first part of the Budget session, the two Houses sat in shifts to make both chambers available to each House.

2.The Rajya Sabha functioning in the morning (10 am to 3 pm) and The Lok Sabha in the afternoon (4 pm to 9 pm). The seat arrangements for the simultaneous functioning of the Houses of the Parliament for a session will be discussed and decided by the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

HANSA-NG

1.HANSA-NG has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry. HANSA-New Generation (HANSA-NG) is India's first indigenous Flying Trainer. [HANSA-NG is the revamped version of the original HANSA developed three decades ago (1993).] It is designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore under the aegis of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

2.HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine with unique features like Just-In-Time Prepreg (JIPREG) Composite light weight Airframe, Glass Cockpit, Bubble Canopy with wide panoramic view, Electrically operated flaps etc.

3.CSIR-NAL further said that HANSA-NG is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs and it is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

PAL-DADHVAV MASSACRE

1.On Monday, March 7, the Gujarat government marked 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav killings, calling it a massacre "bigger than the Jallianwala Bagh". What is Pal - Dadhvav massacre? Took place on March 7, 1922, in the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of Sabarkantha district, then part of Idar state (present-day Gujarat). Villagers from Pal, Dadhvav, and Chitariya had gathered on the banks of river Heir as part of the 'Eki movement', led by one Motilal Tejawat.

2.The movement was to protest against the land revenue tax (lagaan) imposed on the peasants by the British and feudal lords. British Paramilitary force was on hunt for Tehawat. It heard of this gathering and reached the spot. Nearly 200 bhils under the leadership of Tehawat lifted their bows and arrows. But, the Britishers opened fire on them.

3.Nearly 1,000 tribals (Bhils) fell to bullets. Tejwat, however, escaped and later "returned to the spot to christen it 'Veerbhumi'." Legacy: A Gujarat government release on the centenary of the massacre described the incident as "more brutal than the Jalliawala Bagh massacre of 1919".

SCIENTISTS UNRAVEL THE SCIENCE BEHIND JETS OF PLASMA OCCURRING ALL OVER SUN'S CHROMOSPHERE

1.Scientists have unravelled the science behind the jets of plasma - the fourth state of matter consisting of electrically charged particles that occur just about everywhere in the sun's chromosphere, which is the atmospheric layer just above the Sun's visible surface.

2.What are the jets of plasma? The jets, or spicules, appear as thin grass-like plasma structures that constantly shoot up from the surface and are then brought down by gravity. The amount of energy and momentum that these spicules can carry is of fundamental interest in solar and plasma astrophysics.

3.How they are formed? What are the recent findings? Astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics conducted an experiment to understand the science behind this. They found that the physics underlying paint jets when excited on a speaker is analogous to the solar plasma jets. When a liquid is placed above a speaker and the music is turned on, the free surface of the liquid becomes unstable beyond a particular frequency and starts vibrating. The researchers realized that the physics underlying these paint jets must be analogous to the solar plasma jets.

4.The scientists elaborated that the plasma right below the visible solar surface (photosphere) is perpetually in a state of convection, much like boiling water in a vessel heated at the bottom. This is ultimately powered by the nuclear energy released in the hot-dense core.

5.The convection serves almost periodic but there are strong kicks to the plasma in the solar chromosphere. The chromosphere is 500 times lighter than the plasma in the photosphere. Therefore, these strong kicks from the bottom shoot

assets and hit the maritime sector over Moscow's war in Ukraine, officials said. The 27 nation bloc also gave the go ahead to cut three Belarusian banks from the global SWIFT messaging system over Minsk's support for the Kremlin's attack.

the chromospheric plasma outward at ultrasonic speeds in the form of thin columns or spicules.