

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Mobile broadband users in India more than doubled to 765 million and 4G data traffic grew 6.5 times in the last five years, according to a Nokia report released on Tuesday. The 4G service contributed 99% to the country's total data consumption and is expected to continue as a broadband growth engine for the next few years even as 5G services are expected to be rolled out in India this year. The report said that millennials are now spending around 8 hours per day online.

Farmers' debts increased 53% over the past six years, the Union Finance Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. In 202021, outstanding agricultural loans for scheduled commercial banks amounted to more than ₹18.4 lakh crore, in comparison to ₹12 lakh crore in 2015 16, with the number of farmers' accounts holding such debts also growing from 6.9 crore to more than 10 crore. The data, sourced from the RBI, was presented to the Rajya Sabha.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that clarifications have been sought from the governments of Rajasthan and Manipur regarding the antilynching Bills passed by the two Assemblies in 2019 and 2018 respectively. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that lynching is not defined as a crime under the Indian Penal Code. "In its annual 'Crime in India' report, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) publishes crime data from all States/Union Territories under various crime heads that are defined under the Indian Penal Code and Special & Local Laws. In the year 2017, NCRB collected data on cases of mob-lynching, hate crimes etc. but it was observed that the data was unreliable," the reply stated. It also stated that the NCRB does not maintain data on "hate speech".

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Central government's decision to revoke the security clearance of Keralabased news and current affairs TV channel MediaOne "on the basis of intelligence inputs which are sensitive and secretive in nature". Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three judge Bench, said the Centre's decision had effectively shut down the business of media

ESA VIGIL MISSION

- 1.Once known as "Lagrange," it is the upcoming space weather mission of European Space Agency (ESA). It is the first mission of its kind, set to monitor our active and unpredictable Sun and help protect us from its violent outbursts.
- 2.The mission will give us advance warning of oncoming solar storms. This will have a vital role to protect Earth's infrastructure, satellites, inhabitants and space explorers from unpredictable but violent solar events like solar flares and 'Coronal Mass Ejections'.
- 3.This mission will be launched in the mid-2020s and placed in the 5th Lagrange point orbit.

MANPADS

- 1.The United States and NATO allies are shipping weapons into Ukraine at break-neck speed, including highly sensitive items such as Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS). Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS) are short-range, lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles used to destroy aircraft or helicopters. [Man-Portable Anti-Tank Systems (MANPATs) work in a similar manner but are used to destroy or incapacitate military tanks.]
- 2.MANPADS are often described as shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles. They can be shoulder-fired by individuals or small groups, or can be launched from atop a ground-vehicle, or fired from a tripod or stand, and from a helicopter or boat.
- 3.They help shield troops from aerial attacks and are most effective in targeting low-flying aircrafts. The first MANPADS were introduced by the United States and Soviet Union in the 1960s. The most common variant of MANPADs is the U.S.-made Stinger missiles. Features - Weighing between 10 to 20 kg and not being longer than 1.8 m, MANPADS have a maximum range of 8 kilometres and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 km.
- 4.Most MANPADS have passive or 'fire and forget' guidance systems, meaning the operator is not required to guide the missile to its target, enabling them to run and relocate immediately after firing. The missile stays locked-on to the targeted object, not requiring active guidance from the soldier. The missiles are fitted with Infrared (IR) seekers that identify and target the airborne vehicle through heat radiation being emitted by the latter.
- 5.**Concerns - Over time, non-state actors such as rebel and terrorist groups are known to have illicitly acquired MANPADS, using them during civil wars and other high-intensity conflicts.** Russia is by far the biggest exporter of MANPADs, having sold over 10,000 such systems between 2010 and 2018 to various countries including Iraq, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, and Libya.

GENEVA CONVENTIONS

- 1.As the evidence of casualties in the civilian population in Ukraine continues to mount due to the Russian invasion, the world will increasingly look to the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 are a set of four treaties, formalised in 1949, and three additional protocols, the first two of which were formalised in 1977 and the third in 2005. The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols codify the widely accepted ethical and legal international standards for humanitarian treatment of those impacted by any ongoing war.
- 2.**They focus of the Conventions is the treatment of non-combatants and prisoners of war. But, not the use of conventional or biological and chemical weapons, the use of which is governed respectively by the Hague Conventions and the Geneva Protocol.**The Fourth Geneva Convention is the most imminent convention that applies to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian military forces. While the Fourth Convention protects civilians, the other Conventions were concerned mainly with combatants rather than civilians.
- 3.Along with the Additional Protocols of 1977, the Fourth Convention expounds upon The general protection of populations against certain consequences of war, The conduct of hostilities

house Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited, which runs MediaOne, in the name of “national security and public order” without fully disclosing the specific reasons for revoking its security clearance.

As the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on Tuesday to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, India expressed concern over phobia against “one religion being elevated to the level of an international day”. India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said in the General Assembly that India hoped the resolution adopted “does not set a precedent”, which will lead to multiple resolutions based on selective religions and divide the United Nations into religious camps.

A review of the Standard Operating Procedures for “operations, maintenance and inspections” is being conducted in the wake of the accidental firing of a missile which landed in Pakistan last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on Tuesday while stating that the government has taken a serious note of it and a formal high-level inquiry has been ordered.

The Finance Ministry termed the current price levels of crude oil and commodities as ‘unsustainable’ and said while prices were expected to ease soon, India’s record forex reserves had, however, placed it in a good position to cope with escalation in import costs. The impact of recent developments, including the Russia Ukraine crisis, on India’s growth, inflation, current account and fiscal deficits would depend on how long commodity prices persisted at elevated levels, the ministry noted. India’s robust growth estimates for 2022-23, from agencies such as Fitch Ratings (10.3%) and Moody’s (8.4%), would face a ‘downside risk’ if the high crude oil prices sustained ‘well into the new financial year’, it concluded.

A proposed Bill on granting a day’s leave to school and college going girls and women in jobs was not found worthy of discussion in the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly. Congress MLA Ninong Ering had on March 11 brought a private member’s resolution seeking the introduction of a Bill granting menstrual leave “as it is very disturbing for girls and women, especially on the first day”. He said countries such as Italy and Japan, and Indian States such as Bihar and Kerala have been providing the facility to the working women and girls studying in schools and colleges. “If women get a day’s leave.

and the status and treatment of protected persons, Distinguishing between the situation of foreigners on the territory of one of the parties to the conflict and that of civilians in occupied territory.

4.This convention also spells out the obligations of the occupying power vis-à-vis the civilian population and outlines detailed provisions on humanitarian relief for populations in occupied territory. It also contains a specific regime for the treatment of civilian internees, including three annexes on hospital and safety zones, and model regulations on humanitarian relief. Signatories - The Geneva Conventions have been ratified by 196 states, including all UN member states.

5.In 2019, Russia withdrew its declaration under Article 90 of Protocol 1. By withdrawing this declaration, Russia has preemptively left itself with the option to refuse access by any international fact-finding missions to Russian entities, individuals or resources that might potentially find Russia responsible for violations of the Geneva Conventions standards. Further, the four conventions and first two protocols of the Geneva Conventions were ratified by the Soviet Union, not Russia.

FLOOD PLAIN ZONING

1.Flood Plain Zoning has been recognized as an effective non-structural measure for flood management. It is a method of hazard mapping and land use management to assess flood risk before building on flood plains.

2.Flood-plain zoning measures aim at Demarcating zones or areas likely to be affected by floods of different magnitude or frequencies and probability levels, and Specify the types of permissible developments in these zones, so that whenever floods actually occur, the damage can be minimised.

3.**Advantages - Avoiding building on high-risk flood plains, avoiding damage to property, more green space, more agriculture, increased infiltration. Disadvantages - Doesn’t help areas where floodplains are already urbanised, planning issues harder to enforce in LEDCs** as this is more of an MEDC solution due to technology and surveying. In India, the action for demarcation of flood plain areas and regulating the activities therein, is to be undertaken by the state governments.

4.Ministry of Jal Shakti has continuously impressed upon the States the need to adopt flood plain zoning approach. The states of Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir had enacted the flood plain zoning legislation. But, delineation and demarcation of flood plains is yet to be undertaken.

5.The Rashtriya Barh Ayog had, in 1980, estimated the total area liable to floods in the country as 40 Mha. As per the Working Group Report on Flood Management and Region-specific Issues in 2011, the extent of maximum area affected by floods is 49.815 Mh.

GALLIUM NITRIDE

1.Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology visited the Gallium Nitride Ecosystem Enabling Centre and Incubator (GEECI) facility at the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru.

2.GEECI facility has been jointly set up by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IISc Bengaluru aimed at establishing GaN based Development Line Foundry facility, especially for RF and power applications. Gallium Nitride is a binary III/V direct bandgap semiconductor. It is very hard and mechanically stable.

3.It is well-suited for high-power transistors capable of operating at high temperatures. Uses - Since the 1990s, it has been commonly used in Light Emitting Diodes (LED). Gallium nitride gives off a blue light used for disc-reading in Blu-ray.

4.Additionally, gallium nitride is used in semiconductor power devices, RF components, lasers, and photonics. In the future, we will see GaN in sensor technology. Advantages - Reduced Weight, Reduced Size, Reduced Costs and Increased Energy Efficiency.

SYLLIPSIMOPODI BIDENI

1.Encouraged by his plans to address climate change and to mark the beginning of his presidency, researchers have named a newly discovered fossilized vampire squid after Joe Biden. Syllipsimopodi bideni, has been described as an exceptionally well-preserved. The fossil was discovered from the Mississippian Bear Gulch Lagerstätte of Montana.

The United States warned China that it “will not stand by” should it provide military support to Russia, while Beijing pushed back against what it called “disinformation” that “smeared” its stand on the Ukraine issue, as senior officials from the two countries met in Rome.

The leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia traveled by train on Tuesday to Kyiv to meet with Ukraine’s top leadership as Russia’s offensive moved closer to the centre of the capital.

Myanmar’s military has engaged in systematic human rights violations, many amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, the United Nations said on Tuesday, in its first comprehensive human rights report.

2.The species possesses a gladius and ten robust arms, bearing biserial rows of suckers. Significance of the discovery: It is the only known vampyropod to retain the ancestral ten-arm condition.

3.The specimen is a completely new genus and species that dates to about 328 million years old—making it the oldest known vampyropod and extending the fossil record of the group by about 82 million years. This is the first and only known vampyropod to possess 10 functional appendages.