

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Facing a shared challenge of how media organisations in emerging markets can innovate and stay relevant in their unique contexts, leading media groups from the five BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) have put together a three month long training programme for journalists, with the first such initiative concluding on Monday. Over the past three months, 25 journalists from a number of media organisations from the five countries participated in a first ever online media training programme tailored to the five emerging nations. The programme was an initiative of the BRICS Media Forum.

The government has infused capital amounting to ₹2,86,043 crore in public sector banks during the last five years and they are sufficiently capitalised, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K. Karad informed the Rajya Sabha.

India has contracted 45,000 tonnes of Russian sunflower oil at a record-high price for shipments in April as edible oil prices in the local market surged after supplies from rival Ukraine stopped. Sunflower oil from Russia could help the world's biggest edible oil importer in easing the shortfall at a time when availability of vegetable oils is stretched because of Indonesia's decision to restrict palm oil supplies and lower soybean crop in South America.

Assam and Meghalaya have partially resolved a 50 year old border dispute in six of the 12 sectors along their 885km boundary. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma on Tuesday signed a "historic" agreement for a closure in six disputed sectors that were taken up for resolution in the first phase. The pact was inked in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Just ahead of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's visit to India this week, the Biden administration is sending its chief strategist on sanctions against Russia for the war in Ukraine, Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh. Mr. Singh is due to be in Delhi for meetings on Thursday, while Mr. Lavrov will hold meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and other officials on

ALOPECIA AREATA

1.Alopecia areata is a common non-contagious auto-immune disorder that often results in unpredictable hair loss in patches. Sometimes, it can lead to the complete loss of hair on the scalp (alopecia totalis) or, in extreme cases, the entire body (alopecia universalis). It may also develop slowly and occur again periodically or repeatedly after years between instances. The condition can affect anyone regardless of age and gender, though most cases occur before the age of 30.

2.Causes - **The condition is developed after the immune system attacks the hair follicles, resulting in clear patches of hair loss. It mostly occurs in people who have a family history of auto-immune conditions, such as diabetes and thyroid.**

3.The most common causes of baldness in both men and women. Hereditary or genetic factors and Aging Loss of essential nutrients & improper diet Psychological pressure and anxiety Hormonal changes during puberty, pregnancy, and menopause Chronic illnesses or auto-immune diseases Hormonal disorders such as polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), which affects women of reproductive age Environmental factors like pollution, dust, etc. Treatment - There is no cure for alopecia areata. But, it can be treated using both medical and natural treatment methods.

4.The most common medical treatment is the use of corticosteroids, an anti-inflammatory drug that can suppress the immune system. These are mostly commonly administered through local injections, topical ointment application, or orally. There is also light therapy. Substances such as zinc and biotin, aloe vera drinks and topical gels, and onion juice are sometimes recommended to be rubbed into the scalp. Oils like tea tree, rosemary, lavender, and peppermint, as well as coconut, castor, olive and jojoba oil can be helpful.

5.Anti-inflammatory diet, which mainly includes meats and vegetables, scalp massages, herbal supplements such as ginseng, green tea, and Chinese hibiscus, etc, are also used to treat alopecia areata.

ARTICULATED ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

1.The Indian Army has issued a Request For Information (RFI) for the supply of Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles to be deployed in Ladakh and Kutch. Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle is a twin cabin, tracked, amphibious carrier for off road mobility.

2.**The special design of this equipment exerts low ground pressure on the soil and a pull-push mode of locomotion between two cabins facilitates mobility over varied terrains like snow, desert and slush.** A ballistic protection in the cabin body ensures protection to troops travelling in it from small arms fire.

3.These vehicles are very useful to move troops or supplies in snow-bound terrains and in marshy/sandy environments. They can reach where wheeled vehicles cannot due to deep snow, slush or marshy terrain and can be very effective for patrolling and rapid deployment in operational situations.

4.Usage - The RFI document specifies that 12 vehicles need to be supplied to Nimu in Ladakh (snow-bound areas) and six to Bhuj in Gujarat (marshy terrain of the Rann of Kutch). The RFI document specifies that the vehicle should be able to perform at heights of 18,000 feet in glaciated and snow bound conditions and in salty/dry marshes.

GAMBUSIA FISH MAY DO MORE HARM IN THE LONG-RUN

1.Mosquitofish or Gambusia affinis are released into ponds and rural areas, where they feed on mosquito larvae. To check the control the disease-spreading mosquito menace, district administrations of certain Indian places started releasing mosquitofish into local water bodies. Gambusia affinis (western mosquitofish) is a species of freshwater fish of the genus Gambusia. This fish is described as a very hardy fish and can adapt to wide variations in temperature as well as to chemical and organic content of the water but does not tolerate very high

Friday, after arriving from Beijing where he is attending a conference on Afghanistan.

India will set up hybrid power projects in three islands off Jaffna, effectively replacing the Chinese venture cleared by Colombo last year. The MoU for the project was among those signed during a meeting between visiting External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and his Sri Lankan counterpart G.L. Peiris late on Monday. It is the third Indian energy project coming up in Sri Lanka's north and east, after the recent agreements for National Thermal Power Corporation's solar venture in the eastern Sampur town, and the Adani Group's renewable energy projects in Mannar and Pooneryn in the north.

Russia reiterated on Tuesday that it will only be accepting payment for gas deliveries to the European Union in roubles after G7 Ministers called this arrangement "unacceptable". "Nobody will supply gas for free. This is just impossible. And it can only be paid for in roubles," said Russia.

Russia announced it will "fundamentally" scale back operations near Ukraine's capital Kyiv and northern city of Chernihiv. During face to face negotiations in Istanbul, Ukraine proposed neutrality and nonnuclear status in return for guarantees, and signalled compromise on Crimea, which was seized by Russia in 2014.

A media clarification issued by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence has brought to light two recent defence pacts it has signed with India that neither side officially announced till date.. It referred to the "the receipt of Floating Dock Facility from the Government of India at no cost" and the provision of "Dornier Reconnaissance Aircraft" by India to Sri Lanka "free of charge".

As many as 156 personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) took their own life in 2021, the highest in almost a decade, according to information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The CAPFs that comprise various security forces such as the CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, BSF, NSG and Assam Rifles are deployed in various internal security and border guarding duties.

The number of newspapers to which advertisements were issued by the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) ranged from 3,500 to 5,800 during the past five years. The amount spent on advertisements given by the Centre ranged between ₹190 crore to ₹625 crore during the period, according to

organic pollution.

2.Guidelines - According to the National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control, this particular species has been in use in India since 1928. [National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control is an umbrella programme for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases.] It further states that a single full-grown fish eats about 100 to 300 mosquito larvae per day. It has advised states in the past to upscale the use of this fish as a biological control method in rural areas.

3.Problems - Researchers say that the introduction of Gambusia fish into local waterbodies may actually be harmful in the long run. The IUCN lists the Gambusia affinis among 100 of the world's worst invasive alien species. Introduced as a biological control of mosquitoes initial in the early last century, it is a pest in many waterways around the world. It is no more effective than native predators of mosquitoes and that one of the main avenues of its spread is continued, intentional release by mosquito-control agencies.

4.Mosquitofish are difficult to eliminate once established, because female Gambusia can get impregnated and lay fries whenever the situation is favourable. Also, the Gambusia can delay or prepone their sexual maturation and alter their body size based on the environment. Gambusia fish are often referred to as plague minnows due to their explosive spreading, higher reproduction rate and their negative impact on local ecosystems.

5.After the introduction, the Gambusia fish hijacks the food web and breaks the existing cycle, causing an imbalance in the ecosystem. The fish also negatively affect the aquaculture industry as they prey on the eggs of and compete for resources with economically-important fish.

PAHAL SCHEME

1.Under PAHAL Scheme, during the year 2020-21, the Government of India has reimbursed an amount of Rs. 23666 crore to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as subsidy. Under PAHAL Scheme of Ujjwala Yojana, the subsidy is paid to consumers by OMCs and the same is reimbursed by Government to OMCs.

2.Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh (PAHAL) or Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) scheme was first launched in 2013 and was modified in 2015. It aims to reduce diversion & eliminate duplicate LPG connections.

3.It required the consumer to mandatorily have an Aadhaar number for availing LPG Subsidy. Under the PaHaL scheme, LPG cylinders are sold at market rates and entitled consumers get the subsidy directly into their bank accounts.

KERALA GOVERNMENT DIES-NON ORDER

1.Hours after the Kerala High Court directed the Left administration in the state to take steps to prevent its employees from abstaining from duty as part of the two-day nationwide strike, the government has issued a 'dies-non' order.

2.The "unauthorised absence of employees participating in the strike will be treated as dies-non", under Rule 14 A of Part 1 of Kerala Service Rules. What is dies-non? As per Rule 14 (A) of Part I of Kerala Service Rules, the period of unauthorised absence of an officer on account of participation in a strike shall be treated as dies-non (no work, no pay).

3.Background: The strike — on March 28 and 29 — has been called by the joint platform of central trade unions against "the anti-worker, anti-farmer, anti-people and anti-national policies" of the central government.

UNESCO's CITY OF LITERATURE

1.Kozhikode was proposed by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to be branded as a 'City of Literature' with the help of UNESCO. UNESCO's City of Literature programme is part of the wider Creative Cities Network.

2.The Network was launched in 2004, and now has member cities in seven creative fields. The other creative fields are: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Media Arts, and Music.

3.A city designated as 'Creative City of Literature' must have a sufficient number of institutions taking care of its literary life.

OCTOBER 5 TO BE DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL DOLPHIN DAY

1.October 5th has been designated as National Dolphin Day to be celebrated every year as a historic step in creating awareness for conservation of Dolphins.

the Information & Broadcasting Ministry.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology questioned Facebook officials over allegations that the algorithm used for its advertising platform unfairly promotes one political party in the country. The U.S. headquartered social media giant was also questioned over claims that hate content is rewarded on the platform as well as the company's lack of Indian language experts for quality check. The committee met on Monday on the subject — 'Safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms, including special emphasis on women se

2.The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).