

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

9.3 million Syrian children in need of aid both inside the country and in the wider region where they have fled since a devastating civil war erupted over a decade ago. According to the United Nations, funding for them is “dwindling.” “Syria’s children have suffered for far too long and should not suffer any longer,” the UN children’s agency said in a statement. Syria’s war is estimated to have killed nearly half a million people and displaced millions since it began with anti government protests in 2011.

3 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects completed out of the 15 to be completed by Pakistan, and is running behind schedule. Out of the \$60 billion worth of projects, only projects worth three million dollars have been completed in Gwadar. The ambitious CPEC is a 3,000km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China’s northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port in the western Pakistan province of Balochistan.

1.09 million tonnes, the amount of grain exported by Ukraine in April despite the war between the country and Russia from February this year, according to Agriculture Minister Mykola Solskyi. Ukraine has sown about seven million hectares of spring crops so far, 2530% less than in the corresponding period of 2021. He underlined the importance of exports of Ukrainian grain via Romania while Russia is blockading ports.

At a time when MPs have been asking for an increase in the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) fund, the Union Finance Ministry has ordered revised rules, under which the interest that the fund accrues will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

Sri Lanka’s Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned on Monday, his office said, hours after his supporters brutally assaulted peaceful anti-government protesters amid a worsening economic crisis in the island. The resignation was accepted, according to a gazette notification, and consequently, the Cabinet stands dissolved as per the Sri Lankan Constitution.

The rupee on Monday fell to an all-

LUNAR ECLIPSE BLOOD MOON

1.On 16 May 2022, a total lunar eclipse or Chandra Grahan will occur over South America, most of North America and parts of Europe and Africa. This will be the second eclipse of the year, after the April 30/May 1 partial solar eclipse that was visible in parts of the southern hemisphere. During this, the first Blood Moon of 2022 will also become more clearly visible.

2.During a total lunar eclipse, the Moon usually turns a deep, dark red because it is illuminated by light that has passed through the Earth’s atmosphere and has been bent back towards the Moon by refraction. A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon and the Sun are on exact opposite sides of Earth.

3.Red (Blood Moon)-The red colour is because of the way light travels through the Earth’s atmosphere. Sunlight is made of several colours and they all have different wavelengths. Depending on the way they travel through our atmosphere, we see different colours. That’s why the sun and sky have different colours during sunrise and sunset. Blues and purples have shorter wavelengths and scatter in our atmosphere, giving the sky its inky colour, but reds and oranges have the highest wavelengths and pass through our atmosphere before it is bent or refracted around Earth, hitting the surface of the Moon and making it red.

4.Supermoon-**A supermoon occurs when the Moon’s orbit is closest to the Earth at the same time that the Moon is full. In a typical year, there may be two to four full supermoons and two to four new supermoons in a row.**

COAL GASIFICATION

1.To help India become energy independent, the Ministry of Coal has proposed 50% concession in revenue share to promote coal gasification. Eligibility: If the successful bidder consumes the coal produced either in its own plant(s) or plant of its holding, subsidiary, affiliate, associate for coal gasification or liquefaction or sells the coal for coal gasification or liquefaction on an yearly basis, subject to conditions that at least 10% of scheduled coal production as per approved mining plan for that year shall be consumed or sold for gasification or liquefaction, then the bidder can avail of concessions.

2.**It is considered a cleaner option compared to burning coal. It is the process of producing syngas, a mixture consisting of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), natural gas (CH₄), and water vapour (H₂O).**

3.It facilitates utilization of the chemical properties of coal. During gasification, coal is blown with oxygen and steam while also being heated under high pressure. During the reaction, oxygen and water molecules oxidize the coal and produce syngas.

4.Benefits: Transporting gas is a lot cheaper than transporting coal. Help address local pollution problems. Has greater efficiency than conventional coal-burning.

5.Concerns and challenges: Coal gasification is one of the more water-intensive forms of energy production. There are also concerns about water contamination, land subsidence and disposing of waste water safely.

EVOLUTION OF LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL(LAC) AND INDIA-CHINA BORDER

1.The Indian Army has said that to prevent smaller incidents from escalating, the Indian Army and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army are in regular contact through the hotlines along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the practice of ‘body pushing’ has been stopped.

2.China’s mobilisations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in May 2020 sparked a crisis that, two years on, still remains unresolved. The 2020 crisis served as a “wake-up call” and there was “greater focus” on dealing with the threat along the northern borders. In 2017, India and China were locked in a 73-day-long military standoff at Doklam, at the Bhutan-China-India trijunction.

time low of 77.44 against the U.S. dollar due to a selloff in equities amid concerns over weakening global growth prospects, outflow of the dollar and on fears of further monetary tightening by central banks to counter rising inflation. The previous closing low for the rupee was 77.09, seen on March 7.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday informed the Supreme Court of its decision to “re-examine” and “reconsider” the sedition law in the background of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s belief that the nation should work harder to shed “colonial baggage”, including outdated laws, while celebrating 75 years of Independence under the banner of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’.

Severe cyclonic storm ‘Asani’, which is moving towards the east coast, packing winds above 105 kmph and setting off heavy rain, is likely to recurve in a north eastward direction and weaken gradually into a cyclonic storm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The private sector can now invest in any sector where there is opportunity, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. This follows her 2021 Budget announcement that there would be no area reserved only for the public sector. Presenting the “Startup Dhruv Awards” at a function organised by the Start-Ups Academy, she said the public sector would be present in strategically important and national security related areas. But, the private sector could be present here too.

State owned power giant NTPC has invited bids to procure 4.53 million tonnes (MT) of imported coal, mainly for blending with the domestic dry fuel in thermal plants.

TRAI said it was for the telecom department to decide if the frequency range of 27.528.5 GHz was to be allocated or auctioned for IMT/5G services. The regulator stood its ground on various auction-related issues on which it had recently given recommendations.

China’s government asked India to carry out investigations “in accordance with laws”, following claims of coercion from smartphone maker Xiaomi during ongoing investigations into its financial practices.

A former senior Rwandan official accused of complicity in the African nation’s genocide in 1994 went on

3. India has developed strategic patience as it is negotiating from a position of assertiveness to resolve the two-year standoff in eastern Ladakh. India wants forces to step back, to de-escalate, but there is a difference of perception on how that should be done. Regular hotline exchanges will be carried out. The force deployment and equipment deployment is calibrated in nature.

4. India and China share a 3,488 km long boundary. Unfortunately, the entire boundary is disputed. The line, which delineates the boundary between the two countries, is popularly called the McMahon line, after its author Sir Henry McMahon. In 1913, the British-India government had called a tripartite conference, in which the boundary between India and Tibet was formalized after a discussion between the Indian and the Tibetans. A Convention was adopted, which resulted in the delimitation of the Indo-Tibetan boundary.

5. This boundary is, however, disputed by China which terms it as illegal. In 1957, China occupied Aksai Chin and built a road through it. This episode was followed by intermittent clashes along the border, which finally culminated in the border war of 1962. The boundary, which came into existence after the war, came to be known as Line of Actual Control (LAC). It is a military held line.

REJUVENATION OF DAL LAKE

1. To combat the increasing pollution and rejuvenate Dal Lake, a unique initiative known as ‘Athwas’ has been launched by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. ‘Athwas’ is a unique partnership between citizens and authorities for the rejuvenation of Lake.

2. It involves community participation. Under the initiative, the de-weeding and dredging will be conducted in collaboration with the citizens. About Dal: It was known as the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. It is named the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”. The lake is also an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.

3. The lake is located in the Zabarwan mountain valley, in the foothills of the Shankracharya hills, which surround it on three sides. The lake has four main interconnected basins namely, Hazratbal, Bod dal, Gagribal and Nagin. The floating gardens here, known as “Raad” in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August.

INDIA’S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

1. As per the report of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5): The total fertility rate of India has declined from 2.2 to 2.0 between the fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted in 2015-16 and the fifth one in 2019-21.

2. This indicates the significant progress of population control measures. There are only five states in India, which are above the replacement level of fertility of 2.1. This includes Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) and Manipur (2.17).

3. The other key highlights of the survey include _ institutional births having increased from 79% to 89% in India and in rural areas around 87% births being delivered in institutions and the same is 94% in urban areas. TFR: The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is measured as the average number of children per woman.

4. NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. All NFHSs have been conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, serving as the nodal agency. NFHS-5 includes some new focal areas, such as death registration, pre-school education, expanded domains of child immunisation, components of micro-nutrients to children, menstrual hygiene etc.

5. Every National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has two specific goals to fulfill. They are: To provide essential data needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for informed decision making and policy and programme intervention purposes. To provide insight regarding important emerging health and family welfare issues.

NETWORK OPERATIONS CONTROL CENTER(NOCC)

1. To enhance ease of doing business, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has removed Network Operation and Control Centre (NOCC) charges for the use of space segments for all services like

trial in Paris on Monday. Laurent Bucyibaruta is the most high ranking figure yet to face justice in France over the massacres. His case is the fourth to come to court in France. An estimated 8,00,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus perished in 100 days in 1994 at the hands of Hutus militiamen.

The Union Environment Ministry has approved an exemption to the laws governing the regulation of coastal zones and has paved the way for gas-powered plants to be set up on the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ), 2019, limits infrastructure development on vulnerable coastal stretches.

VSAT, satellite telephony etc. for which permits are issued by the department.

2.The DoT earlier levied ₹21 lakh per transponder per annum for 36 megahertz of spectrum on a pro-rata basis as NOCC charges.

3.About NOCC: The Network Operations Control Center (NOCC) was created under the DoT to control the transmissions from ground segment (satellite earth stations) along with the master control facility under Department of Space to manage the operation of satellites in orbit.