

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Distribution of iron fortified rice through government schemes as a “silver bullet” to curb anaemia must stop in States such as Jharkhand which have large tribal populations that suffer from sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia, and tuberculosis, warns activists. For such people, an overload of iron can create adverse health issues. In a fact-finding exercise, the activists discovered that neither field functionaries nor beneficiaries had been educated about the potential harms, and there were no warning labels despite the food regulator’s rules on fortified foods.

More than 2.5 billion people need one or more assistive products, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, or apps that support communication and cognition and yet a billion of them are denied access, particularly in low and middle income countries, where access can be as low as 3% of the need for these life changing products, said a report released on Monday by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. The “Global Report on Assistive Technology” presents evidence on the need for and access to assistive products and provides a series of recommendations to expand availability and access.

4% people who have been sentenced to prison on terrorist related charges in a Uyghur county of China. This is the highest known imprisonment rate in the world. A list obtained and partially verified by the Associated Press cites the names of more than 10,000 Uyghurs sent to prison in just Konasheher county alone, one of the dozens in southern Xinjiang. Konasheher county’s imprisonment rate is more than ten times higher than that of the United States, one of the world’s leading jailers, according to Department of Justice statistics.

After 6 years, the first commercial flight took off from Yemen’s rebel held capital on Monday as a part of a truce in the county’s grinding civil war. The flight is part of the U.N. brokered, 60 day truce agreement that the internationally recognised government and the Houthi rebels struck last month. The truce accord calls for two commercial flights a week to and from Sanaa to Jordan and Egypt. The closure of the airport has inflicted major economic and humanitarian damage — thousands of people lost their jobs.

CAUSE AND EFFECT OF RISING INFLATION

1. Retail Inflation had grown by 7.8% in April, 2022. This is at its highest in the last 8 years, and almost twice the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI’s) target. **Causes of Rising Inflation-The war in Ukraine and the associated inflation via higher prices of crude oil are a significant contributor to the April’s high inflation data.** But, the headline inflation, which is calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has been above the 4% mark since 2019-20. The CPI has different categories with varying weights.

2. In 2020-21, when the pandemic hit the economy, there was a 7.3% spike in food prices and even core inflation rose by 5.5%. This spiked the overall inflation. In 2021-22, the year when the global economy started recovering sharply, even though food price inflation moderated to 4%, fuel prices rose by 11.3% and core inflation went up to 6%. In the current FY 2021-22, it is estimated that all three components will experience an inflation rate of 6% or more.

3. **Effects of High Inflation-In the short term, inflation creates winners and losers. But in the eventual analysis, everyone suffers if it stays persistently high. It reduces purchasing power of the people.** The eventual fallout of reduced purchasing power will reduce the overall demand for goods and services of the consumers. Typically, non-essential demands such as a vacation get curtailed while households focus on the essentials. It harms savers and helps borrowers. Inflation helps the government meet debt obligations.

4. It also allows the government to meet its fiscal deficit targets. It worsens the exchange rate. High inflation means the rupee is losing its power and, if the RBI doesn’t raise interest rates fast enough, investors will increasingly stay away because of reduced returns. It leads to expectations of higher inflation. Persistently high inflation changes the psychology of people. People expect future prices to be higher and demand higher wages. The way out is for the RBI to raise interest rates in a credible fashion. The difficulty is that raising interest rates at the current juncture, when growth is iffy, could lead to concerns of stagflation.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUST

1. Regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are investment instruments that work like mutual funds. InvITs can be treated as the modified version of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) designed to suit the infrastructure sector.

2. It is a vehicle that is designed to pool money (small sums) from several investors to be invested in income-generating assets. They are mostly structured as trusts, and an independent trustee holds assets on behalf of unit holders. An InvIT consists of four elements: Trustee, Sponsor(s), Investment Manager and Project Manager.

3. **Sectors - InvITs could be set up for sectors defined under the infrastructure as per RBI guidelines. So far, developers engaged in the road, power transmission, gas pipelines and tower transmission have formed InvIT.** REITs and InvITs - REITs and InvITs are conceptually like mutual funds, where a sponsor raises capital and invests it in infrastructure or real estate projects.

4. Working - A REIT/InvIT is established as a trust settled by the sponsor under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and the trust deed registered in India under the Registration Act, 1908. Also, a Certificate of Registration as REITs and InvITs needs to be obtained from the SEBI. 5. Distributions by REITs and InvITs are based on Net distributable cash flows (NDCF), unlike companies where dividends are based on profits. These distributions are declared and made at least, Once every 6 months for publicly offered REITs and InvITs and Once a year for privately placed InvITs.

RNA GRANULES TO TREAT NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS

59% accelerated inflation which can be attributed to the impact of the geopolitical conflict triggered by the Ukraine war, according to economists at SBI. The headline number touched 7.8% for April, and the RBI is set to hike rates by another 0.75%, they added. Using February as the base case, the study revealed that because of the war, food and beverages, fuel and transport contributed 52% of the increase, while 7% impact came from the jump in input prices for the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector.

Sweden officially announced it will apply for NATO membership as a deterrent against Russian aggression, entering a “new era” as it reverses two centuries of military nonalignment.

The Supreme Court has slammed the Kerala government for doing “virtually nothing” for endosulfan pesticide exposure victims. The court said the State’s inaction was “appalling” and amounted to a breach of the top court’s 2017 judgment, which had ordered it to pay ₹5 lakh each to the victims in three months.

The Tea Association of India (TAI) flagged the issue of rising coal costs due to acute shortage and said it affected plantation activity as coal was a key input for manufacturing tea in North Bengal. TAI said since the North Bengal region did not have access to supplies of natural gas, unlike the gardens of Upper Assam, it led the North Bengal gardens to face competitive disadvantages.

India’s wheat export ban has trapped some 1.8 million tonnes (MT) of grain at ports, leaving traders facing heavy losses from the prospect of selling onto a weaker domestic market.

President Ram Nath Kovind has arrived in Jamaica for a state visit, the first by any Indian President to the Caribbean country, during which he will hold talks with his counterpart Governor General Patrick Allen and Prime Minister Andrew Holness on the entire gamut of the multifaceted relationship between the two countries.

The Navies of India and France concluded their second joint patrolling in the southwestern Indian Ocean last week, while an Australian P8 maritime patrol aircraft is expected in India next month on a reciprocal visit, underscoring India’s continued focus on expanding maritime surveillance and antisubmarine warfare cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

1.In the cytoplasm of a cell, there are structures made of the messenger RNA (mRNA), and the proteins known as RNA granules. Unlike other structures in the cell (such as mitochondria), the RNA granules are not covered and confined by a membrane. This makes them highly dynamic in nature, thereby allowing them to constantly exchange components with the surrounding.

2.**Under normal conditions, the RNA granules are present in the cytoplasm at low numbers. But, they increase in number and size under stressful conditions including diseases. Stretches - The presence of stretches containing repeats of certain amino acids** is a defining feature which does not change from one organism to another of the RNA granule protein components. Such stretches are referred to as low complexity regions.

3.Repeats of arginine (R), glycine (G) and glycine (G) - known as RGG - are an example of low complexity sequence. Protein synthesis - mRNAs are converted to proteins (building blocks of the cell) by the process of translation. RNA granules determine mRNA fate by deciding when and how much protein would be produced from mRNA. Protein synthesis is a multi-step and energy expensive process.

4.Therefore, a common strategy used by cells when it encounters unfavorable conditions is to shut down protein production and conserve energy to deal with the stressful situation. RNA granules help in the process of shutting down protein production.

5.Some RNA granule types (such as Processing bodies or P-bodies) not only regulate protein production but also degrade and eliminate mRNAs, which in turn helps in reducing protein production.

MACOLIN CONVENTION

1.The 12th meeting of Interpol’s Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) concluded with a call for harmonised global efforts to curb competition manipulation and establishment of national platforms, as outlined by Macolin Convention.

2.It was the first major event held under the banner of its newly created Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFCACC). The Macolin Convention is the other name for the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.

3.It is a multi-lateral treaty aimed at checking match-fixing. It is the only rule of international law on the manipulation of sports competitions. It centralizes and analyses information on irregular and suspicious trends. It came into force in 2019, and has been signed by 32 countries and ratified by 7 countries.

4.Interpol’s Match-Fixing Task Force The INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) was created in 2011. It brings together law enforcement agencies around the world to tackle match-fixing and corruption in sport.

5.It focuses on sharing experiences and best practices and acts as a platform for investigations and international case coordination. Members - It has 100 member units, with more than 150 national points of contact worldwide. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is a member of the IMFTF.

6.Tools - Specific tools developed by INTERPOL are available to law enforcement worldwide, dedicated to data collection on sport corruption (project ETICA) and financial crimes analysis (FINCAF).

ANGLO-INDIAN QUOTA

1.The Delhi High Court has ordered the Centre to file its submissions in response to a petition seeking restoration of Anglo-Indian representation by nomination in Parliament. The court observed that the provision for Anglo-Indian representation by nomination in Lok Sabha was introduced to give community members assurance that they would be protected and heard when they returned.

2.**The court was hearing a petition challenging the Constitutional (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019. The amendment removed the nomination-based representation of the Anglo-Indian community in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies.**

3.The community has merged within the Indian population with time. Besides, the constitutional scheme itself is that they are for a limited period of time. It cannot continue indefinitely.

4.Arguments against the removal of this provision-The number of Anglo-Indian community members is not accurately reflected in the 2011 Census, on which the then Law Minister relied while

Counterterror officials of Pakistan, Russia, China and four Central Asian countries met in Delhi on Monday at the start of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti Terror Structure (SCORATS) talks, the first such event in India since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's transgressions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

tabling the amendment Bill in Parliament. So, this breaches the constitutional promise to a 'minority within a minority' and could virtually become the trigger for systematic cultural-political annihilation of the Anglo-Indian community in the short to medium term.

5. Constitutional Provisions: Article 334 has laid down provisions for reserving the seats for SCs and STs and nomination of Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, which shall cease to be in effect on the 25 January 2020, if not extended further.