

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The debate between prioritising only near term actions versus announcing long term net zero emissions goals presents a false binary. Both are needed to establish certainty of action, credibility of promises and create incentives for markets to respond. The real debate should be about climate justice for people and the planet. India would do well to propose alternative formulations that establish equity, differentiate the pace of desired action, and yet be progressive in its ambitions.**
- **Emancipation is seldom a linear progression to the finish; the hurdles are many, some entrenched in the mind. The passing of amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act in India recently is a step forward in recognising the rights of women, but is no giant leap. It does push the envelope way past how far the now antediluvian MTP Act of 1971 went, primarily by allowing the termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks if there are foetal anomalies.**
- **The Competition Commission of India defended before the Delhi High Court its decision calling for an investigation into the new privacy policy of Whatsapp. The competition watchdog, represented by Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi, said the probe order was made to gauge whether access to data would lead to abuse of dominant position.**
- **Skymet Weather, a private weather forecast company, said on Tuesday that the monsoon was likely to be 103% of the long period average (LPA) this year. The LPA refers to the average allIndia monsoon rainfall of 88 cm, which is a 50-year mean.**
- **An apex body of Naga tribes has asked the Nagaland government not to be hasty with the exercise to prepare the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN), seen as a variant of Assam's National Register of Citizens.**

## DOOMSDAY GLACIER

1. Researchers from Sweden's University of Gothenburg have been able to obtain data from underneath **Thwaites Glacier, also known as the 'Doomsday Glacier'**.
2. They find that the supply of warm water to the glacier is larger than previously thought, triggering concerns of faster melting and accelerating ice flow.
3. It is called the Thwaites Glacier, it is 120 km wide at its broadest, fast-moving, and melting fast over the years. Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), **it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre.**
4. Studies have found the amount of ice flowing out of it has nearly doubled over the past 30 years. Today, Thwaites's melting already contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year. It is estimated that it would collapse into the sea in 200-900 years. Thwaites is important for Antarctica as it slows the ice behind it from freely flowing into the ocean.

## NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTING MISSION

1. The second phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) will be completed by September 2021, **taking India's total computational capacity to 16 Petaflops.**
2. NSM was announced in 2015, with an aim to connect national academic and R&D institutions with a grid of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities over the period of seven years by 2022.
3. In the first phase, PARAM Shivay, PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti and PARAM Sanganak were deployed at IIT (BHU), IIT Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research.
4. **The NSM envisages setting up a network of 70 high-performance computing facilities in the country but skewed funding for the mission** during the initial years slowed down the overall pace of building supercomputers.

## VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND(UK)

1. Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK) saw the worst violence in years. Parts of Northern Ireland are split along sectarian lines, 23 years after a peace deal largely ended Northern Ireland's troubles.
2. **Historical Conflict: Geographically, Northern Ireland is part of Ireland. Politically, it's part of the UK.** Ireland, long dominated by the UK, broke free about 100 years ago after centuries of colonisation and an uneasy union. 26 of its 32 counties became an independent, Roman Catholic-majority country. 6 counties in the north, which have a Protestant majority, stayed British.
3. In the 1960s, a Catholic civil rights movement demanded change, but faced a harsh response from the government and police.
4. During three decades of conflict, more than 3,600 people, a majority of them civilians, were killed in bombings and shootings.

## NANOSNIFFER

1. India has developed the world's first micro-sensor based explosive trace detector (ETD), using a micro-electromechanical system (MEMS), called NanoSniffer.
2. It can accurately detect a wide range of military, commercial, and home-made explosives threats.
3. It provides **trace detection of nano-gram quantity of explosives and deliver results in seconds.**