

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The new Cold War is now being reflected in a new geopolitical binary — the IndoPacific versus Eurasia. The final shape of this divide will be determined by four nations, namely Japan, Iran, Turkey and India, which, as “middle powers”, have the capacity to project power regionally, build alliances, and support (or disrupt) the strategies of international powers pursuing their interests in the region.**
- **Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies, including using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality, according to the United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) flagship State of World Population Report 2021 titled ‘My Body is My Own’ launched.**
- **India and Australia should stand together for democratic freedoms amid “a great polarisation” in the region between authoritarian countries and liberal democracies, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said.**
- **The Union government offered to decide in three months the Supreme Court Collegium recommendations for appointment of judges in the High Courts pending with it for over half a year.**
- **China tried to change the status quo in Eastern Ladakh by the use of disruptive technologies without using force, and thought that India as a nation would “succumb” to the pressure due to its technological advantage, the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, said.**
- **With State governments announcing lockdowns and curfews in the wake of rising COVID19 cases, migrant workers could once again be staring at loss of wages and lack of social protections, labour union leaders and activists said.**

## CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR IN INDIA

1. A recent study has raised the issue of ambiguity about definitions of child labour and forced labour in India, especially for sugarcane producing states of Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh.
2. The study was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca-Cola Company.
3. **Authorities discounted underage child labour as “children helping parents in the field”.** Similarly, confusion was about the advance payment to migrant workers, and associated risks of forced or bonded labour.
4. The term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. Forced labour is defined as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”.

## PUBLIC ISSUES AND RIGHTS ISSUES

1. Fund raising for Public Issues and Rights Issues registered an increase in FY 2020-21.
2. A rights issue is an invitation **to existing shareholders as a matter of right to purchase additional new shares in the company.**
3. Public issues are when shares are offered to open public. It can be classified into-IPO or Initial Public offer, when a company issues shares to the public for the first time by listing itself to a stock exchange.
4. FPO or Follow on Public Offer is a follow up to the initial public offering.

## DEPRECIATION IN RUPEE

1. The Indian Rupee depreciated to a nine-month low of 75.4 against the USD, it is one of the biggest losers among the emerging market currencies.
2. Reasons for the Decline: Rising Covid Cases: Rising Covid-19 cases have emerged as a key concern. **Market participants are concerned over delay in the recovery of the economy, which was hit hard in 2020-21 by the pandemic.** The strengthening of US Dollar in line with expectations of better growth in the US economy, has also put pressure on the Rupee.
3. RBI’s announcement of Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) programme to infuse liquidity has also put additional pressure on the Rupee.
4. Another factor that is putting additional pressure is the decreasing support of the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), who pumped huge inflows into Indian equity markets between October 2020 and February 2021.

## MANAS

1. The government of India launched a mobile app, MANAS (Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System) to promote mental wellbeing across age groups.
2. MANAS was endorsed as a national program by the Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
3. It **integrates the health and wellness efforts of various government ministries, scientifically validated indigenous tools with gamified interfaces developed/researched** by various national bodies and research institutions.
4. Developed By: National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bengaluru, Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) Pune and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC) Bengaluru.