

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

30TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **These Assembly elections which takes place recently would most likely be remembered for worsening a health crisis than for heralding political change. The nature of the results, to be announced on May 2, will likely pale before the magnitude of the unfolding crisis.**
- **Western members of the UN Security Council, led by the U.S., France and Britain, rejected the outcome of Syria's May 26 presidential election in advance. "The failure to enact a new constitution is proof positive that the so called election on May 26 will be a sham," said U.S. ambassador to the UN.**
- **China launched the main module of its first permanent space station that will host astronauts for the long term, in the latest success for a programme that has realised a number of its growing ambitions in recent years.**
- **Medical and oxygen related support is being worked out from at least 40 countries, Foreign Secretary said. Supplies are expected from Egypt, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh and Guyana, apart from big powers such as Russia, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.**
- **Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he will not withdraw navy and coast guard boats patrolling the disputed South China Sea, insisting that the country's sovereignty over the waters is not negotiable.**
- **Two Myanmar air force bases came under rocket attack, the military said, as the country grapples with violence in the wake of the February 1 military coup.**
- **The U.S. President outlined his administration's foreign policy, especially with regard to China, Russia and Afghanistan. Mr. Biden said he would defend human rights abroad, and assured allies that America's return to the world stage was not temporary.**

KOPILI FAULT ZONE

1. Recently, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale jolted Assam and other parts of Northeast. According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) report, the tremors have been attributed to Kopili Fault zone closer to Himalayan Frontal Thrust (HFT).
2. The Kopili fault zone is a 300 km long and 50 km wide lineament (linear feature) **extending from the western part of Manipur up to the tri-junction of Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.**
3. The area is seismically very active falling in the highest Seismic Hazard zone V associated with collisional tectonics where Indian plate subducts beneath the Eurasian Plate.
4. HFT, also known as the Main Frontal Thrust (MFT), is a **geological fault along the boundary of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.**

RBI REPORT ON ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its report on Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) said that the growth of the **ARC industry has not been consistent over time and not always been synchronous with the trends in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** of banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
2. About the Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC): It is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets.
3. A NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
4. Issues with Indian ARCs: Indian ARCs have been private sector entities registered with the Reserve Bank. Public sector AMCs in other countries have often enjoyed easy access to government funding or government-backed. The capital constraints have often been highlighted as an area of concern for ARCs in India.

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has crossed the eight thousand crore mark. The investment will give a boost to several agricultural projects which will unlock value for farmers across the country.
2. Aim: **To provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management** Infrastructure and community farming assets. Duration: **Financial Year 2020 to 2029.**
3. Eligible Beneficiaries: They are Farmers, FPOs, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, SHGs etc.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: THREAT TO GLOBAL SECURITY

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global problem to which the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic may further contribute.
2. **With resources deployed away from antimicrobial stewardship, evidence of substantial preemptive antibiotic use in Covid-19 patients and indirectly,** with deteriorating economic conditions fuelling poverty potentially impacting on levels of resistance, AMR threat remains significant.
3. Antimicrobial resistance is the resistance acquired by any microorganism (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasite, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections.