

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch an Earth Observation Satellite on August 12 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, at Sriharikota. The satellite, EOS03, will be carried on board the 14th flight of the GSLV, the GSLVF10, and will place the satellite in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. The EOS03 is a state-of-the-art agile satellite that will enable realtime monitoring of natural disasters, waterbodies, crops, forest cover changes, among others. Union Minister of State for the Department of Space, Jitendra Singh, recently informed the Rajya Sabha that EOS03 is capable of imaging the whole country four to five times every day.

Mauritius has denied a report that it has allowed India to build a military base on the remote island of Agalega, with a government official telling that no such agreement exists between the two nations. Although work was under way on two projects agreed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2015 visit to Mauritius — a threekilometre air strip and a jetty — they would not be used for military purposes. The report raised fears of a repeat of the 1965 decision by Britain to separate the Chagos Islands from Mauritius and set up a joint military base with the United States on Diego Garcia, the largest of the isles.

The Central government has taken several initiatives to provide psychosocial support to people, given that COVID19 may have an impact on their mental health, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) written reply in the Lok Sabha. The Ministry said no study to assess the impact of the pandemic on suicides had been conducted, but the government had taken a series of measures. They include the setting up of a 24/7 helpline to provide psychosocial support to different target groups: children, adults, the elderly, women and healthcare workers; and advisories on management of mental health issues, catering to different segments of society and creating awareness.

The Australian Prime Minister's special envoy to India Tony Abbott called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed the need for the two sides to reengage on the India-

## PSUs EXEMPTED FROM MINIMUM PUBLIC SHAREHOLDING

1. The Ministry of Finance has amended the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 to exempt listed public sector companies from the minimum public shareholding norm. **The government can now exempt any listed public sector enterprise from the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norm, which mandates at least 25% public float for all listed entities.**

2. Rationale to the New Amendment: The framework for the MPS has been revised to make it easier for large companies to launch IPOs (Initial Public Offers). **The move comes as the government prepares for the IPO of Life Insurance Corp (LIC) of India, likely to be the biggest listing ever.**

3. Concerns: Can Affect Liquidity in PSU Stocks: Investors, especially foreign ones, are wary of investing in such stocks due to absence of liquidity – because of high promoter holding. Can Impact Foreign Investment: Maintenance of minimum public float by listed companies helps attract higher foreign capital and increases India's weight in international indices like MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital International) and FTSE (Financial Times Stock Exchange).

## SWINHOE'S SOFTSHELL TURTLE

1. In recent years, a lot of efforts have been put by the conservationists to save the world's most endangered turtle, **Swinhoe's softshell turtle from the brink of extinction.** The animal is also known as the Hoan Kiem turtle or Yangtze giant softshell turtle.

2. In Vietnam, these animals have great cultural significance as people in Hanoi revere this creature as a living god. Scientific Name: Rafetus swinhoei These turtles are gray with light gray or yellow spots. Significance: Some researchers have highlighted their importance to the seafloor biosystem, where they contribute by enriching soil nutrients and facilitating seed dispersion.

3. Habitat: The natural habitat for these turtles are wetlands and large lakes. **Native to China and Vietnam. Protection Status: IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered** CITES: Appendix II. Threats: They have been driven to the brink by hunting for its meat and eggs, as well as by destruction of its habitat.

## FAST TRACK COURTS

1. **Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000 "to substantially bring down, if not eliminate, pendency in the district and subordinate courts over the next five years".**

2. Following the Finance Commission's report, Centre created 1,734 additional courts in different states for a period of five years. In 2011, the central government stopped funding fast-track courts. The decision was challenged in the Supreme Court (SC) in 2012, but the apex court said it was up to the states to continue or shut down these courts depending on their financial situation. Three states--Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala--continued running these courts while Delhi, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka had said they would continue till 2013.

3. More recently, in 2019, the government approved a scheme for setting up 1,023 fast-track special courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending rape cases under the Indian penal Code (IPC) and crimes under the POCSO Act. **FTSCs are dedicated courts expected to ensure swift dispensation of justice. They have a better clearance rate as compared to the regular courts and hold speedy trials.**

## INEQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM

1. According to a United Nations report on the Food System, today's **food systems are heavily afflicted by power imbalances and inequality, and do not work for most women. Women are affected disproportionately by the factors such as Climate Change, Covid-19, Discrimination, Less land rights,**

## Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

Nearly 63% of the undergraduate dropouts at the top seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) over the past five years were from the reserved categories, according to Education Ministry data submitted in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha. This indicates that those who drop out of these elite programmes disproportionately belong to the disadvantaged groups, given that only half the undergraduate intake in the IITs are from the reserved categories.

The government took the first step towards doing away with the contentious retrospective tax law of 2012, which was used to raise large tax demands on foreign investors such as Vodafone and Cairn Energy, and blamed for vitiating India's investment climate — less than a month after Cairn Energy secured an order from a French court to freeze India's assets in Paris.

The visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar to Tehran to attend the swearing in ceremony of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi marks a milestone in recent attempts by both sides to reset the ties that have been under strain for several reasons, including India cancelling oil imports due to U.S. sanctions, progress in Chabahar and Iranian comments on Kashmir over the past few years. They also signal that India will continue to balance its ties with Iran on one side, and Iran and the U.S., and West Asian adversaries, including Saudi Arabia and Israel, on the other.

The Supreme Court made it clear that "truth has to come out" in the Pegasus snooping issue. Bench directs petitioners to serve copies of their petitions on the government. The court did not issue a formal notice to the government.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai reiterated that there would be no compromise with Tamilnadu on implementing the Mekedatu balancing reservoir, a drinking water project, in the Cauvery basin of the State.

Assam's decision not to let Gurkhas undergo the citizenship test through the Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) has come as a relief for at least 22,000 members of the community in the State.

**migration etc.** The Report has come ahead of the Food Systems Summit in September 2021.

**2.** Food systems are a complex web of activities involving production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, distribution, marketing, access, purchase, consumption, food loss and waste, as well as the outputs of these activities, including social, economic and environmental outcomes.

**3.** Findings from the Report: Climate Change: While women are more likely than men to notice the climate change impacts on agricultural productivity, livestock problems and water availability, **they are less likely than men to receive key information on climate and agricultural information that would allow them to plan for climate concerns.** Malnutrition: They face high levels of obesity and are more susceptible to chronic disease. Migration: Migration among youths over the course of urban transition have had impacts on the gendered nature of economic roles.

**4.** Covid-19: A 2020 UN report had hinted how epidemics can significantly reduce women's economic and livelihood activities, increasing poverty rates and exacerbating food insecurity. **Discrimination: Rural women accounting for nearly half the agricultural workforce in developing countries, face discrimination.** They have very little land rights, face difficulties obtaining ownership.

### ZERO HUNGER GOAL:SDG 2

**1.** According to a recent report by the United Nations, the goal of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 i.e. 'Zero Hunger' has been hit in the wake of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic. The zero hunger goal works in tandem with many others: Poverty elimination (SDG1), good health and well-being (SDG3), and the need for clean drinking water (SDG6).

**2. Relation with other SDGs: SDG 2 and SDG 1:** Food security does not only rely on food availability, but also on food access. If food security and poverty can be seen as part of the same battle, reduction of poverty should not only be sought through lower food prices but also through higher income.

**3. SDG 2 and SDG 3: Nutrition is key to good health, so the relation between SDG 2 and SDG 3 is also synergetic.** Environmental health through a more sustainable agriculture also establishes a link between SDG2 and SDG 3.

**4.** Agricultural activities substantially contribute to global pollution: Biomass burning causes air pollution and land clearing contributes to fuel combustion emissions. Agriculture ammonia emissions also impact human health. They are behind several hundred thousand premature deaths per year globally.

**5.** India's Initiatives for Making Food Systems Sustainable- Achievements of India's Green Revolution and learnings there from. **Cropping patterns are being changed as per agro ecological zones defined for the country. Alternate farming including organic and natural farming Enhancing water use efficiency in agriculture.** Integrated farming systems. National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture.

### STUBBLE BURNING

**1.** Some experts advised that the government should speed up implementation of alternatives to stubble burning. The centre, facing criticism from farmers protesting against the farm laws, had **committed to removing a clause in the Air Commission Bill, 2021 that would penalise farmers for burning stubble, an important contributor to noxious air quality.**

**2.** Stubble (parali) burning is the act of setting fire to crop residue to remove them from the field to sow the next crop. In order to plant the next winter crop (Rabi crop), farmers in Haryana and Punjab have to move in a very short interval and if they are late, due to short winters these days, they might face considerable losses. Therefore, burning is the cheapest and fastest way to get rid of the stubble.

**3.** If parali is left in the field, pests like termites may attack the upcoming crop. The precarious economic condition of farmers doesn't allow them to use expensive mechanised methods to remove stubble. It begins around October and peaks in November, coinciding with the withdrawal of southwest monsoon.

### WHITE CALLER CRIME VS BLUE CALLER CRIME

**1.** Preventive Detention for Public Order: The Supreme

**The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021, passed in the Rajya Sabha does not come into effect unless it is invoked and is in place for only one year, a defence official said. The Bill was promulgated to prevent the employee unions of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) from going on strike against the corporatisation plan that was announced.**

**The U.K's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Barbara Woodward, says Britain is not prepared to recognise a Taliban government that uses force to come to power.**

Court held that it cannot seriously be disputed that the Detenu may be a 'white collar offender' and if set free, will continue to cheat gullible persons.

**2.White Collar Crime: The term "white collar crime" refers to financially motivated, nonviolent crime committed by individuals, businesses and government professionals.** These crimes are characterized by deceit, concealment, or violation of trust. Examples of white-collar crimes include securities fraud, corporate fraud, and money laundering, Ponzi and pyramid schemes, etc.White-collar crime has been associated with the educated and affluent. The term was first coined in 1949 by sociologist Edwin Sutherland.

**3.Blue Collar Crime: These crimes are primarily small scale, for immediate beneficial gain to the individual or group involved in them.** This can also include personal related crimes that can be driven by immediate reaction, such as during fights or confrontations.

**4.**These crimes may include Narcotic production or distribution, sexual assault, theft, burglary, assault or murder.