

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

4TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Allowing investigating agencies to collect DNA samples from “suspects”, as laid down in the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019, will give them “unbridled power that is easily capable of misuse and abuse” and amount to a “threat to the life, liberty, dignity and privacy of a person”, retired Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Lokur has observed in a written submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Northern Railway to construct warehouses on platforms for the handling of cement bags in a bid to curb air pollution resulting from loading and unloading of the cement bags.
- Two days after Sri Lanka decided to scrap a 2019 agreement with India and Japan for operating the East Coast Terminal (ECT), Japan says the decision was “unilateral and regrettable”.
- With a massive “mahapanchayat” in Kandela village here, the farming community of Haryana signalled that it had jumped into the fray to seek the repeal of the farm laws with a renewed enthusiasm.
- The Union government has issued a notice to Twitter to comply with its order of removal of content related to ‘farmer genocide’. The Centre alleged that the material was designed to spread misinformation to inflame passions and hatred.
- As part of the offset commitments under the Rafale deal, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has manufactured and delivered Transmit and Receive Modules (T/R) for the Advanced Electronic Scanned Array (AESA) radar on the jet.
- President Hassan Rouhani ruled out changes to Iran’s nuclear accord with world powers and dismissed calls to broaden the terms.

BUDGET 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:HEALTH

- 1.Recently, the Minister of Finance presented the Union Budget 2021-22. This was the first ever digital Union Budget.
- 2.Budget Outlay: Outlay for Health and Wellbeing in 2021-22 as against 2020-21 is an increase of 137%.Vaccines: Rs. 35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccine in Budget Expenditure (BE) 2021-22. The Made-in-India Pneumococcal Vaccine to be rolled out across the country.
- 3.Health Systems: **PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana** – a new centrally sponsored scheme to be launched, in addition to National Health Mission (NHM).
- 4.Nutrition: **Mission Poshan 2.0 to be launched** to improve nutritional outcomes across 112 aspirational districts. Universal Coverage of Water Supply: **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)** - to be launched - to bring safe water to 2.86 crore households through tap connection.

BUDGET 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.Production Linked Incentive scheme (PLI): Rs. 1.97 lakh crore in next 5 years for PLI schemes in 13 Sectors to create and nurture manufacturing global champions for an AatmaNirbhar Bharat.
- 2.Textiles: **Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme** to be introduced.
- 3.Measures in three thrust areas to increase funding for NIP: Creation of institutional structures: **Set up and capitalise a Development Financial Institution (DFI)**. Big thrust on monetizing assets.

BUDGET 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR ASPIRATIONAL INDIA AND REINVIGORATING HUMAN CAPITAL

- 1.Agriculture: **Ensured Minimum Support Price (MSP) at minimum 1.5 times the cost of production** across all commodities. **SWAMITVA Scheme** to be extended to all States/UTs. Operation Green Scheme to be extended to 22 perishable products, to boost value addition in agriculture and allied products.
- 2.Fisheries: 5 major fishing harbours – **Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and Petuaghat** to be developed as hubs of economic activity.
- 3.Migrant Workers and Labourers:**Implementation of 4 labour codes** underway: Social security benefits for gig and platform workers too. Minimum wages and coverage under the Employees State Insurance Corporation applicable for all categories of workers. Women workers allowed in all categories, including night-shifts with adequate protection. Compliance burden on employers reduced with single registration and licensing, and online returns.
- 4.Innovation and Research & Development: National Language Translation Mission (NTLM) to make governance-and-policy related knowledge available in major Indian languages. **PSLV-CS51** to be launched by New Space India Limited (NSIL).

BUDGET 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:MINIMUM GOVERNMENT, MAXIMUM GOVERNANCE AND FISCAL POSITION

- 1.Minimum Government, Maximum Governance: National Commission for Allied Healthcare Professionals already introduced to ensure transparent and efficient regulation of the 56 allied healthcare professions.
- 2.The **National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill** introduced for the same in the nursing profession. **Proposed Conciliation Mechanism with mandate for quick resolution** of contractual disputes with Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).