

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

19TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **B.R. Ambedkar once said, “... fraternity can be a fact only when there is a nation. Without fraternity, equality and liberty will be no deeper than coats of paint.” Social reality and complexity cannot be reduced to numbers. After all, one cannot compare attitudes of different social groups blandly without understanding power differences.**
- **Undoubtedly, trafficking is a pernicious offence, one that societies and governments must have zero tolerance for, and yet, handling the offence of trafficking needs precision, not a sledgehammer. In its current form, the draft Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 seems to be lacking in nuance, even if well intentioned, to stamp out exploitative trafficking.**
- **Girls who had access to free lunches provided at government schools had children with a higher height to age ratio than those who did not, said a new study on the intergenerational benefits of the midday meal scheme, published in Nature Communications this week.**
- **India needs to continue to build on people to people relationships with Nepal and engage through official channels of bilateral platforms and diplomacy. Let us not forget that geopolitics is changing as Nepal is now free from being ‘India locked’.**
- **Telephone numbers of some 40 Indian journalists figure in a “leaked list of potential targets for surveillance”, and forensic tests were said to have “confirmed that some of them were successfully snooped upon by an unidentified agency using Pegasus software”.**
- **A total of 326 cases were registered in the country under the controversial colonial era penal law on sedition between 2014 and 2019 in which just six persons were convicted.**
- **The Gauhati High Court has asked the Arunachal Pradesh government to set up at least one child friendly court and make it functional soon.**

KISAN SARTHI

- 1.The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) celebrated its 93rd foundation day and on the occasion, the Kisan Sarthi platform was launched.
- 2.It was jointly launched by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology. **It is a digital platform to facilitate farmers to get ‘right information at right time’ in their desired language.**
- 3.It will help farmers to interact and avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from the respective scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs). Farmers can also learn new farming methods using it.
- 4.It is an agricultural extension center in India. Usually associated with a local agricultural university, these centers serve as the ultimate link between the ICAR and farmers, and aim to apply agricultural research in a practical, localized setting.

AI POWERED GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION

- 1.The Defence Minister launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)- powered grievance management application. Earlier, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) launched an AI-based portal ‘SUPACE’ in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research.
- 2.This project is the first of its kind initiative of the Government for using AI, data science and Machine Learning techniques in grievance redressal. It is a citizen centric reform.
- 3.It will automatically handle and analyse the complaints of the people and thus reduce human intervention, save time and bring more transparency in their disposal.
- 4.It marks the introduction of AI-based innovations in governance and administration. **The success of this project in Ministry of Defence will pave the way for extension of this application across other Ministries.**

DELAY IN AADHAR ENROLMENT DUE TO INCOMPLETE NRC:NRC

- 1.The Aadhaar enrolment of more than 27 lakh people in Assam has become uncertain/delayed because of the delay in completing the process of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- 2.**The biometrics of these people were frozen after the publication of the NRC in August 2019. The Centre had earlier been asked to unfreeze the biometrics since the NRC was yet to be recognised as a document for citizenship.**
- 3.NRC is a register prepared in respect of each village, showing the houses or holdings in a serial order and indicating against each house or holding the number and names of persons staying therein.

PLACES IN NEWS

- 1.**Port of Brest,France**-As part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment, INS Tabar entered the port of Brest.
- 2.**Tashkent,Uzbekistan**-The 40 nations`international conference on `Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity:Challenges and Opportunities` is taking place in Tashkent. During it, India`s Foreign Minister said that connectivity initiatives should respect sovereignty and not lead to debt trap.
- 3.**Gandhinagar,Gujarat**-India`s PM inaugurated India`s first redeveloped railway station in Gandhinagar, emphasising the need to turn assets of Indian Railways into a centre for economic activity.