

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Most biomolecules, such as the DNA, are either left-handed or right-handed and not a mixture. In a study published in Astronomy and Astrophysics, researchers show that this property of homochirality, which is a biosignature, can be detected from a distance of 2 kilometres, when travelling at a speed of 70 kph. This could help in studying exoplanets for signs of life.**
- **Supernovae explosions can happen in different ways. When the star is not light enough to avoid collapsing under its own core mass, and not heavy enough to prolong its life and die in some other way later, it forms an electron-capture supernova. This has been theorised for 40 years, but has been seen now according to a paper in Nature Astronomy.**
- **Scientists have for the first time detected gravitational waves produced by the collision of a neutron star and a black hole. This finding confirms that there are neutron star/black hole systems and will help answer many questions about the cosmos, from star formation to the expansion rate of our universe.**
- **A French judge has been tasked with investigating the controversial 2016 multi billion-dollar sale of Rafale fighter jets to India on "corruption" suspicions, the national financial prosecutors' office (PNF) said.**
- **Hundreds of Taliban fighters were killed in fierce battles with government forces across several provinces of Afghanistan, officials said on Saturday, as Washington announced it would finish withdrawing its troops from the country by the end of August.**
- **The World Health Organization (WHO) declaring that China was "malaria-free" followed a seven decadelong, multipronged health strategy that was able to entirely eliminate indigenous cases for four straight years, health experts said.**

## FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT:RBI

- 1.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 23rd issue of its Financial Stability Report (FSR). The FSR which is published biannually reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC - headed by the Governor of RBI) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system.The Report also discusses issues relating to development and regulation of the financial sector.
- 2.**The impact of the Covid-19 Second-Wave on the balance sheets of Indian banks has been less than what was projected before and capital buffers are reasonably resilient to withstand future shocks.** A capital buffer is required reserves held by financial institutions put in place by regulators.
- 3.Covid-19 Second-Wave has dented economic activity, but monetary, regulatory and fiscal policy measures have helped curtail the solvency risk of financial entities, stabilise markets, and maintain financial stability.
- 4.Solvency risk is the risk of being unable to absorb losses, generated by all types of risks, with the available capital.

## FOURS YEARS OF THE GST

- 1.The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) decided to felicitate around 54,000 taxpayers to mark the competition of 4 years of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- 2.**Achievements of GST:** Automated Indirect Tax Ecosystem: The introduction of e-way bills coupled with the crackdown on fake invoicing has helped in bringing in a substantial portion of GST revenues.
- 3.Functioning of GST Council: The GST Council made corrections to law, issued clarifications on complex issues, rationalized GST rates and introduced relaxations for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

- 1.According to the Trafficking in Persons report 2021, released by the US State Department, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in vulnerability to human trafficking and interrupted existing anti-traffic efforts.
- 2.Human trafficking, also called trafficking in persons, form of modern-day slavery involving the illegal transport of individuals by force or deception for the purpose of labour, sexual exploitation, or activities in which others benefit financially.
- 3.Findings of the Report: **While India did not meet the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking, the government was making significant efforts, although these were inadequate, especially when it came to bonded labour.**

## DROP IN OPEN DEFECATION:WASH REPORT

- 1.According to a new report by the Wash Institute (a global non-profit organisation), India was responsible for the largest drop in open defecation since 2015, in terms of absolute numbers.
- 2.Universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to achieve the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 was also emphasised.
- 3.Findings of the Report: On Open Defecation: **Within India, open defecation had been highly variable regionally since at least 2006 but by 2016 open defecation had decreased in all states, with the largest drops seen in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.**
- 4.Some Government Initiatives National rural sanitation strategy, Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II, Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF+, ODF++ Status (for Town and Cities).