

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH JUNE, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- One of the hallmarks of a leading power/emerging power/power of consequence and a leading military is the ability to take criticism, tackle institutional reluctance to expose faultlines and push forward with reform with the big picture in mind. History does not offer a blueprint for the future, but it is certainly instructive in building on successes and not repeating the follies of the past.
- Internet freedoms are subject to national security, said government sources, claiming that India's tough negotiations on the joint communique issued by G7 and Guest Countries at the session on Open Societies had ensured that the original language criticising "Internet shutdowns" was amended to include New Delhi's concerns.
- More than a year after a probe into a filovirus study of bats in Nagaland by the Bengalurubased National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the government has concluded that there had been "concerning lapses" in the conduct and protocols followed for the study, even as an interdepartment row continues over where the bat samples should be stored.
- China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear weapon inventory, and India and Pakistan also appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, according to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Year Book 2021 released on Monday.
- The National Commission of Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has written to WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and Telegram over the issue of illegal social media posts offering children orphaned due to COVID19 for adoption, and warned them that failure to report such posts would invite "strict action".

47TH G7 SUMMIT

- 1.The Indian Prime Minister addressed the 47th G7 Summit 2021 through video conferencing. Earlier, the Finance Ministers from the G7 nations reached a landmark accord setting a Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate (GMCTR). Apart from India, Australia and South Korea were also invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as "guest countries".
- 2.Build Back Better for the World Project: **It is aimed squarely at competing with China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, which has been widely criticised for saddling small countries with unmanageable debt** but has included even G7 member Italy since launching in 2013.
- 3.It will collectively catalyse hundreds of billions of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries (in Asia and Africa) and offer a values-driven, high-standard and transparent partnership with G7.
- 4.Democracies 11: Signed off on a joint statement (Democracies 11) by G-7 and guest countries on "open societies" that reaffirm and encourage the values of freedom of expression, both online and offline, as a freedom that safeguards democracy and helps people live free from fear and oppression.

NATIONAL AI PORTAL

- 1.It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM.
- 2.NeGD: In 2009, NeGD was created as an Independent Business Division under the Digital India Corporation (a not-for-profit company set up by MeitY). NASSCOM: A not-for-profit industry association, is the apex body for the IT and IT enabled products and services sector in India.
- 3.**It serves as a central hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI) related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond.**
- 4.Recent Examples of Use of AI in India: For the Covid-19 Response: An AI-enabled Chatbot was used by MyGov for ensuring communications. An AI based portal 'SUPACE' is aimed at assisting judges with legal research. An AI-based flood forecasting model that has been implemented in Bihar is now being expanded to cover the whole of India.

RARE EARTH METALS AND CHINA'S MONOPOLY

- 1.China's dominance in the rare earth metals, key to the future of manufacturing, is posing a major concern for the West.
- 2.China has over time acquired global domination of rare earths, even at one point, it produced 90% of the rare earths the world needs.
- 3.Today, however, it has come down to 60% and the **remaining is produced by other countries, including the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and United States).** India has the world's fifth-largest reserves of rare earth elements, nearly twice as much as Australia, but it imports most of its rare earth needs in finished form from China.
- 4.Rare Earth Elements They are a set of seventeen metallic elements. These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table in addition to scandium and yttrium that show similar physical and chemical properties to the lanthanides.

PASIPHAE: A SKY SURVEYING PROJECT

- 1.The Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter (WALOP), a vital instrument for the PASIPHAE Project, is being developed at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), India. Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE) is an international collaborative sky surveying project.