

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- Companies and political parties could exercise moral leadership and voluntarily disclose the identity of recipients and donors in the electoral bonds, as one political party recently did in Jharkhand. Till then, voters are stuck with a ruling party with war chests of resources, being subject to relentless election campaigns, while donors surreptitiously and directly influence policy.
- For a Indian population already reeling from job and income losses and higher medical costs since the pandemic's onset, the persistently high inflation is untenable. No welfare scheme can offset its disproportionately adverse impact on the poor.
- India has chosen to restrict genome sequencing studies of coronavirus to 10 government labs and not involve private labs, some of which have the capability and the expertise. Time and again, the country has suffered the consequences of a lack of preparedness. It is important not to downplay the seriousness of the threat.
- The American exit would now decisively shift the balance of power in favour of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The insurgents have always known this. Ever since the remaining U.S. troops started pulling back from Afghanistan on May 1, the Taliban have started capturing more territories. The war may be winding down for the Americans. But for Afghans, it will continue in one form or another.
- The events of the past one year in Ladakh have significantly altered India's thinking towards China. The relationship is at the crossroads now. The choices made in New Delhi will have a significant impact on the future of global geopolitics.
- In India, the absence of an existing legal classification of cryptocurrency should not be the impetus to prohibit its use. The government should use this to allow private individuals the freedom to use it.

## DIALOGUE ON DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT

- 1.The Prime Minister delivered a keynote address at the United Nations (UN) "High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought" via video conference.The Dialogue will encourage all member states to adopt and implement Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and National Drought Plans.
- 2.Highlighted Steps Taken by India: **India is on track to achieve its national commitment on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3).**LDN is a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.
- 3.India is working to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This would contribute to India's commitment to achieving an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (a part of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target under the 2015 Paris Agreement).

## EU'S GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES

- 1.A resolution was adopted by the European Parliament, urging the European Union (EU) Commission to consider the temporary withdrawal of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status given to Sri Lanka.
- 2.The Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) is a set of EU rules allowing exporters from developing countries to pay less or no duties on their exports to the European Union.The EU's GSP is widely recognised as the most progressive in terms of coverage and benefits.
- 3.**GSP+: The special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance.** It slashes these same tariffs (that under standard GSP) to 0% for vulnerable low and lower-middle income countries **that implement international conventions related to human rights, labour rights, protection of the environment and good governance.**

## TULU LANGUAGE

- 1.The **Tulu speakers, mainly in Karnataka and Kerala, have been requesting the governments to give it official language status and include it in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.** In 2020, there was a demand to include Tulu in the new National Education Policy (NEP).
- 2.Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udipi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. This region is informally known as Tulu Nadu. There has been a demand for separate statehood for Tulu Nadu.
- 3.As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.Tulu was introduced as a language in school by the Karnataka Government a few years ago.
- 4.Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like paddana, and traditional folk theatre yakshagana. Tulu also has an active tradition of cinema with around 5 to 7 Tulu language movies produced a year.

## REVISED SUBSIDY FOR ELECTRICAL VEHICLES

- 1.The central government has decided to increase the subsidy by 50% on electric two-wheelers under the FAME-II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme in view of the adoption of eco-friendly vehicles.
- 2.**It will bring down the prices of electric two-wheelers nearer to the IC (internal combustion engine) vehicles and remove one of the biggest blocks of the high sticker price of electric two-wheelers.**