

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- In the developing world, and this includes India, initial efforts in this direction should involve synchronisation and integration, developing a template for sharing data, and reengineering many of the institutional and structural arrangements in the medical sector. Big data applications in the health sector should help hospitals provide the best facilities and at less cost, provide a level playing field for all sectors, and foster competition.
- Studies do show that any economic expansion would be inflationary if the production of food does not respond adequately. How the expansion is financed is less relevant for inflation at least in the near term. In any serious attempt at economic recovery, the focus must be on the food supply and not the money supply.
- The level of registration of births and deaths in the country improved in 2019, according to the “Vital Statistics of India Based on The Civil Registration System” report. The report states that the level of birth registration increased from 87.8% in 2018 to 92.7% in 2019; and death registrations went up from 84.6% to 92% during the period.
- The Supreme Court refused to halt the demolition of about 10,000 unauthorised residential constructions encroaching into the ecologically fragile Aravali forest land near Lakarpur Khori village in Haryana.
- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry amended the rules regulating cable television networks, providing for a “statutory” mechanism for complaints raised by citizens regarding any content broadcast.
- A new Pakistani law that will allow Indian death row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav’s right to appeal is flawed, said the Ministry of External Affairs.

CORPORATIZATION OF ORDNANCE FACTORY BOARD

- 1.The Union Cabinet approved a plan to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). **41 factories across the country will be dissolved into seven new Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU).** The newly created entities will be 100% owned by the government.
- 2.These entities will be responsible for different verticals of the products such as the Ammunition and Explosives group will be engaged in production of ammunition while a Vehicles group will engage in production of defence mobility and combat vehicles.
- 3.OFB: It is an umbrella body for the ordnance factories and related institutions, and is currently a subordinate office of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). **The first Indian ordnance factory was set up in the year 1712 by the Dutch Company** as a GunPowder Factory, West Bengal.
- 4.Reasons for Corporatization: **A performance evaluation by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report for 2019 on the OFB highlights a few of the lacunae,** which ails this organisation-Overheads (expenses not directly attributed to creating a product or service),Delayed Production,The Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, also calls for the Corporatisation of OFB.

LOAN TO SRI LANKA FOR SOLAR ENERGY

- 1.India has signed an agreement extending a USD 100 million Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for projects in the Solar Energy Sector. The LOC is for a period of 20 years, with an interest of 1.75%.
- 2.It **will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in Sri Lanka, such as rooftop solar photo-voltaic systems for households and government buildings.**
- 3.India’s Initiatives for Global Cooperation Solar Energy: International Solar Alliance (ISA), One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG), National Solar Mission, Rooftop Solar Scheme, Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, Scheme for Development of Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks, Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, 2018, Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) and Suryamitra Skill Development Programme.

CHILDREN AND DIGITAL DUMPSITES

- 1.The World Health Organization (WHO) in its recent report “Children and Digital Dumpsites” has underlined the risk that children working in informal processing are facing due to discarded electronic devices or e-waste.
- 2.There are **as many as 18 million children (as young as five years) and about 12.9 million women work at these e-waste dumpsites every year.**
- 3.The e-waste from high-income countries is dumped in the middle- or low-income countries for processing every year.
- 4.Indian Scenario: According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), **India generated more than 10 lakh tonnes of e-waste in 2019-20,** an increase from 7 lakh tonnes in 2017-18. Against this, the e-waste dismantling capacity has not been increased from 7.82 lakh tonnes since 2017-18.

PLACES IN NEWS

- 1.Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Shipping signed a MoU for Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujrat.
- 2.About Lothal-It is one of the **prominent cities of the ancient Indus Valley civilization dating back to 2400 BC.**
- 3.The city stood beside a tributary of the Sabaramti, in Gujrat, close to the Gulf of Khambat.
- 4.A dockyard has been found here where boats and ships came in from the sea and through the river channel.