

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- It is hoped that India in the United Nation Security Council and the Newly elected Maldivian President of the General Assembly will work in tandem as New Delhi pursues its goals for multilateral reform, and re-energise the dormant process of effecting change in the old power structures in the global body.
- The only assured way to fight the pandemic is to use scientific evidence to decide policies, modify strategies and take corrective actions. As India prepares for the third wave, increasing genomic sequencing and use of scientific evidence for decision making are not a choice but an absolute essential.
- More than 1.1 lakh web links, including websites and online marketplaces, have been taken down in an operation involving the police, customs and health regulatory authorities of 92 countries against the sale of fake and illicit medicines and medical products. Codenamed "Operation Pangea XIV", the exercise was coordinated by Interpol. Indian agencies also participated in the operation.
- All jobs in the Union Territory of Ladakh have been reserved for local residents, stated an order issued. "No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of the UT of Ladakh."
- The Education Ministry has laid down new guidelines for producing digital education resources for children with disabilities, after a year in which the COVID driven shift to online education has spotlighted the lacunae in such resources. However, the PDF document containing the guidelines does not even follow its own rules, making it partially inaccessible to the visually challenged, says an activist.
- The Supreme Court has ordered the States and the Union Territories to ensure there is no break in the education of children orphaned due to COVID19.

## SEA SNOT

1. Turkey's Sea of Marmara, which connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea, has witnessed the largest outbreak of 'sea snot'. A 'sea snot' outbreak was first recorded in the country in 2007.
2. It is **marine mucilage that is formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients as a result of water pollution combined with the effects of climate change.** The nutrient overload occurs when algae feast on warm weather caused by global warming. It looks like a viscous, brown and foamy substance.
3. Threat to the Marine Ecosystem: It has caused mass deaths among the fish population, and also killed other aquatic organisms such as corals and sponges.
4. Water-borne Diseases: It can cause an outbreak of water-borne diseases such as cholera in cities like Istanbul.

## US SUSPENDS RETALIATORY TARIFFS ON INDIA

1. The Union Minister of Panchayati Raj released a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter. It is prepared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).
2. It has been **developed for the delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
3. It is expected that the Panchayats utilising this framework, and with the due approval of Gram Sabha, would draw up a Citizens Charter, detailing the different categories of services rendered to the citizen by the Panchayat, the conditions for such service and also the time limit for such service.
4. It will help in making the citizens aware of their rights on the one hand, and to make the Panchayats and their elected representatives directly accountable to the people, on the other hand.

## I-FAMILIA:GLOBAL DATABASE TO IDENTIFY MISSING PERSONS

1. The Interpol has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" to identify missing persons through family DNA and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.
2. The first of its kind, I-Familia is a global database for identifying missing persons based on international DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) kinship matching.
3. The **database seeks to identify missing persons or unidentified human remains when direct comparison is not possible, by using DNA samples from family members instead.**
4. Family members must give their consent for their data to be used for international searching. It builds on Interpol's long-standing success in direct DNA matching.

## CEO WATER MANDATE

1. NTPC Ltd. has become a signatory to the United Nations' Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate. NTPC Ltd is India's largest power utility under the Ministry of Power.
2. It is a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General and the UN Global Compact, implemented in partnership with the Pacific Institute. It was established in 2007.
3. It **aims to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agendas as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals.**
4. It is a global commitment platform for corporate water stewardship. Water stewardship is the use of water in ways that are socially equitable, environmentally sustainable, and economically beneficial.