

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- In an effort to “neutralise” what it calls a “negative narrative”, a Group of Ministers (GoM), formed to finetune “government communication”, has come out with suggestions to track “50 negative and 50 positive influencers” on social media, “neutralise the people who are writing against the government without facts and set[ting] false narratives/ spread[ing] fake news” and take other steps.
- At least 20 people, including some security personnel, have crossed into Mizoram from military coup-hit Myanmar and have sought refuge in India. Border residents in Champhai and Serchhip districts claimed that at least 50 people had crossed over since March 3.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has clarified that over-the-top (OTT) platforms will not have to register with the government, and no government nominee will be present in the self-regulatory body.
- Warning that its move to reserve private sector jobs for locals “spells disaster” for industrial development and private investment in Haryana, India Inc. has asked the State to “relook” the legislation, highlighting the lack of adequate availability of skilled manpower.
- India wants Chabahar port to be included in the 13-nation International North-South Transport Corridor that extends from India to Russia, and expand The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) membership by including Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.
- U.S. President Joe Biden released an interim government strategy document that called for America to reengage with the world while strengthening itself at home. The document warns that democracies are under siege around the world, including in the U.S.

CRCL RECOGNIZED AS REGIONAL CUSTOMS LABORATORY

1. Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL), New Delhi, under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs has been recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region.
2. Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL): **Established: 1939. With the introduction of instrument based testing, Revenue Laboratories are facilitating faster clearances**, without compromising on law enforcement, and thereby playing a vital role in trade facilitation.
3. Regional Customs Laboratory: Their traditional work is the chemical analysis to determine tariff classification and the level of duties and other taxes. Modern customs laboratories now **play an important part in environmental protection (e.g., controlling the trade of ozone depleting substances), endangered species protection, control of dangerous goods** such as pesticides, persistent organic pollutants, chemical weapons, as well as narcotics and drug precursors, etc.

ICC INVESTIGATIONS INTO ISRAEL-PALESTINE WAR CRIMES

1. International Criminal Court (ICC) has launched **investigations into the war crimes in Palestinian territories occupied by Israel (West Bank and the Gaza Strip)**.
2. The decision for investigation is taken after a recent ruling that the court’s jurisdiction extends to territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-day Arab- Israeli war. In this war, Israeli forces seized the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank & East Jerusalem from Jordan and Sinai Peninsula & Gaza strip from Egypt.
3. The investigation is also expected to cover the 2014 Gaza war, the 2018 Gaza border clashes and Israeli settlement-building in the West Bank. The inquiry will also look at whether rocket fire by Hamas and other groups from Gaza amounts to war crimes.

CYBER CRIME VOLUNTEERS

1. The Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), a digital liberties organisation, has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that the cyber crime volunteers concept will lead to a “culture of surveillance and constant suspicion in society creating potential social distrust”.
2. About the Cyber Crime Volunteers Concept: Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has envisaged **the Cyber Crime Volunteers Program to bring together citizens with passion to serve the nation on a single platform and contribute in the fight against cybercrime in the country**.
3. **Good Samaritans are welcomed to register as Cyber Crime Volunteers** in the role of unlawful content flaggers for facilitating law enforcement agencies in identifying, reporting and removal of illegal/unlawful online content. Volunteers have been advised to study **Article 19** of the Indian Constitution, which deals with freedom of expression.

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY 2020

1. A National Cyber Security Strategy 2020 is being formulated by the Office of National Cyber Security Coordinator at the National Security Council Secretariat.
2. National Cyber Security Strategy 2020: Aim: To improve cyber awareness and cybersecurity **through more stringent audits**.