

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

16TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The risk of over-reliance on technological innovation to support global growth was highlighted in a comparison of 'degrowth' scenarios with established pathways. The findings, published in Nature Communications, focus on the global North and degrowth is defined as an equitable, democratic reduction in energy and material use while maintaining well-being.**
- **A nanoparticle designed by researchers from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in the U.S., offers a new, potentially revolutionary approach to treating diseases. This combines concepts of biologics and antibody-drug conjugates to produce protein-antibody conjugates that can be used for targeted drug delivery, in pancreatic cancer, for example.**
- **The Goods and Services Tax Council will meet for the first time in more than seven and a half months, on May 28, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announce, setting the stage for the Centre and States to take up several pending as well as pressing issues relating to the indirect tax amid the COVID19 pandemic.**
- **An Israeli air strike targeted and destroyed a highrise building in Gaza City that housed the offices of many media giant. another Israeli air raid on a densely populated refugee camp killed at least 10 Palestinians.**
- **Cairn Energy confirmed on Saturday that it had taken fresh legal steps to enforce the \$1.2 billion international arbitration award it won against India in a tax dispute involving retrospective taxation, by seeking to make the country's national carrier Air India liable for paying the damages in a U.S. court.**
- **Cyclone Tauktae hit the Karnataka coast on Friday night bringing in heavy rain with gusty winds that caused massive sea erosion, damaged some houses, and inundated residential localities.**

OVERCROWDING OF PRISON

- 1.The Supreme Court (SC) of India has ordered the interim release of eligible prisoners in view of the uncontrolled second surge in the raging Covid-19 pandemic. The Court's order aims to decongest jails and a measure that protects the right to life and health of the prisoners.
- 2.Suggested the legislature to consider the idea of placing convicts under house arrest to avoid overcrowding of prisons. The occupancy rate in prisons climbed to 118.5% in 2019. Moreover, a very large sum of the budget is used for the maintenance of prisons.
- 3.Status of Indian Prisons: **Indian prisons face three long-standing structural constraints: Overcrowding, Understaffing and underfunding and Violent clashes.**
- 4.The report highlights that at the end of 2016, there were 4,33,033 people in prison, of whom 68% were undertrials.

ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE

- 1.Since the coup in Myanmar, the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has received reports of enforced disappearances from the family members of victims.
- 2.**Enforced disappearance occurs when a person is secretly abducted or imprisoned by a state or political organization, or by a third party with the authorization, support, of a state or political organization**, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the person's fate and whereabouts, with the intent of placing the victim outside the protection of the law.
- 3.The military is committed to suppressing the people's movement, and the police are carrying out unimaginable acts of violence and oppression against those demanding freedom of expression and the restoration of democracy.

REPORT ON GLOBAL REMITTANCES:WORLD BANK

- 1.According to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief, despite Covid-19, remittance flows remained resilient in 2020, registering a smaller decline than previously projected.
- 2.Remittance Inflow of India: India being at top, received over USD 83 billion in remittances in 2020, a drop of just 0.2 per cent from the previous year, despite a pandemic that devastated the world economy.
- 3.**Reason for the Steady Flow of Remittances: Fiscal stimulus that resulted in better-than-expected economic conditions in host countries.**
- 4.Shift in flows from cash to digital and from informal to formal channels. Cyclical movements in oil prices and currency exchange rates.

RED-EARED SLIDER TURTLE

- 1.The invasive red-eared slider can become a major threat to the biodiversity of water bodies across the Northeast region of India. The Northeast region of India is home to more than 72% of the turtle and tortoise species in the country.
- 2.Scientific Name: *Trachemys scripta elegans* Habitat: U.S. and northern Mexico
- 3.Description: The red-eared slider derives its name from red stripes around the part where its ears would be and from its ability to slide quickly off any surface into the water.
- 4.Popular Pet: **This turtle is an extremely popular pet due to its small size, easy maintenance, and relatively low cost.** Invasive Species: Since it is an invasive species they grow fast and virtually leave nothing for the native species to eat and have a negative impact on the areas and the species living in the areas they invade.