

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

1ST MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- A ceasefire on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan largely held following a day of intense fighting between the two ex-Soviet Central Asian neighbours that killed 39 people and wounded more than 175.
- The demand for MGNREGA work so far in the month of April has increased to 2.57 crore households, 92% higher than a year ago, and a record high for April since 2013, as per State Bank of India (SBI) Research.
- China's President Xi Jinping on Friday sent a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi offering China's support in dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Xi's message, the first such known communication between the two leaders following the pandemic and last year's border crisis, was followed by a telephone call on Friday from China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi to his counterpart S. Jaishankar.
- The Supreme Court warned the State governments and the police against clamping down on the spread of information or calls for help through social media from citizens affected by COVID-19.
- Russia added Alexei Navalny's political network to its database of terrorist and extremist organisations, as Moscow moves closer to shutting down the jailed opposition politician's movement against President Vladimir Putin.
- Taliban fighters have protected western military bases in Afghanistan from attacks by rival, or rogue groups for over a year under a secret annex to a pact for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces by May 1, three Western officials with knowledge of the agreement told.
- Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said that legislative and presidential polls — called for May 22 and July 31 respectively — had been postponed until there was a guarantee voting can take place in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem.

IMMUNISATION AGENDA 2030

1. The United Nations and other agencies have launched the Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030) during the World Immunisation Week. **It will contribute to achieving the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals specifically SDG 3 i.e. Good Health and Well being.**
2. The IA2030 is based on learnings from Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). It aims to address the unmet targets of the GVAP that were initially to be fulfilled as part of the global immunisation strategy of the 'Decade of vaccines' (2011–2020).
3. GVAP was developed to help realize the vision of the Decade of Vaccines, that all individuals and communities enjoy lives free from vaccine preventable diseases.
4. It is based on a conceptual framework of seven strategic priorities, to ensure that immunization fully contributes to stronger primary health care and attainment of universal health coverage.

THE GLOBAL GOALS FORESTS REPORT 2021:UN REPORT

1. According to the United Nations' Global Forest Goals Report 2021, **Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the challenges faced by countries in managing their forests.**
2. The Report has been prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. It provides an initial overview of progress of Goals and targets contained within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.
3. More than just a health crisis, Covid-19 is driving losses of lives and livelihoods, extreme poverty, inequality, and food insecurity, and it has put the 'Future We Want' further out of reach.
4. It is estimated that world gross product fell by an estimated 4.3% in 2020. It is the sharpest contraction of global output since the Great Depression.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXPENDITURE

1. Experts are calling on the government **to ease CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) regulations to allow corporate expenditure on vaccinations for employees and treatment of employees suffering from Covid to be covered under spending for CSR.**
2. Under current CSR norms, companies are not permitted to count expenditure incurred exclusively for the welfare of employees as part of their mandatory CSR expenditure.
3. The term "Corporate Social Responsibility" in general can be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare.
4. The CSR provisions within the Act is applicable to companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore and more, or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more, or a net profit of Rs. 5 crore and more.

MACS 1407

1. Indian Scientists have developed a **high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean, called MACS 1407.** Scientists from MACS- Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi have developed it.
2. Using the conventional cross breeding technique, scientists developed MACS 1407 which gives 39 quintals per hectare making it a high yielding variety.
3. It has white coloured flowers, yellow seeds and black hilum. Its seeds have 19.81% oil content, 41% protein content and show good germinability.