

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Speech is free, but it is a freedom that comes with responsibility. And responsible speech is not just something that does not contain abuse, defamation or incitement to violence. It is increasingly seen as expression that tends not to discriminate against or incite hatred towards groups based on race, gender, caste, religious belief, sexual orientation, nationality or immigration status. The world has moved away from a free speech doctrine based on a formal equality among different viewpoints to one that discourages the targeting of any vulnerable section.**
- **Challenge is to address the risk of cyclones and other extreme weather events using specific funds, making citizens members in a social insurance model. Moreover, considering the negative climate change impact on tropical cyclones, rebuilding should use a green, build back better approach. Cyclones will otherwise take the shine off economic progress.**
- **The Karnataka government on Thursday decided to challenge before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone, the latter's decision to appoint a joint committee to look into the allegations of unauthorised construction activity taking place in Mekedatu, where the State has proposed to construct a dam across the Cauvery.**
- **Opposition ruled States will press the Centre to waive taxes levied on COVID19 relief material, including vaccines, and seek a speedy payout of their compensation dues as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, reconvenes after a seven month break.**
- **With microblogging platform Twitter expressing concerns over "intimidation tactics" by the Delhi Police and "potential threat to freedom of expression" in India, the government hit back, calling the statement baseless, false and an attempt to defame India to hide their [Twitter's] own follies.**

REGISTRATION OF UNORGANISED WORKERS

1. The Supreme Court of India (SC) has **directed the Central Government and the State Governments to complete the registration process of unorganized workers so that they can avail the welfare benefits** given under various government schemes.
2. **Record of Migrant Workers:** It has asked states and Union territories to keep a record of the returning migrant labourers, including details about their skills, place of their earlier employment, etc so that the administration can extend necessary help to them.
3. **Common National Database:** There should be a common national database for all organised workers situated in different states.
4. The process initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for creating a National Database for Unorganised Workers should be completed with collaboration and coordination of the States.

NEW RULES FOR INCREASED FDI IN INSURANCE SECTOR

1. The Ministry of Finance amended Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015 and clarified on the final rules for increased FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in the Insurance Sector.
2. Parliament had passed the Insurance Amendment Bill 2021 to increase the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 74% from 49%.
3. **Management Persons to be Resident Indian Citizens:** For an Indian insurance company having foreign investment - majority of its directors, key management persons, and **at least one among the chairperson of its Board, its managing director and its chief executive officer - will be a resident Indian citizen.**
4. **Meaning of Foreign Investment:** Total foreign investment here would mean the sum of both direct and indirect foreign investment.

RIGHTS OF VAN GUJJARS

1. The Uttarakhand High Court has reprimanded the State government for stopping some Van Gujjar families on the way to Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and said their right to life is being violated by the authorities.
2. The Van Gujjars pursue seasonal migration from the Terai-Bhabar and Siwalik region of Uttarakhand to the higher bugyals in the Western Himalayas in summer and vice versa in winter.
3. **This phenomenon of transhumance pursued by the community is among the few climate-adaptive and resilience strategies that ensures their pastoral livelihood remains viable and sustainable.**
4. The Van Gujjars possess legitimate permits across their summer (Govind Pashu Vihar National Park) and winter homesteads. However, they are not permitted by authorities to enter the Park.

NATIONAL MISSION ON USE OF BIOMASS IN COAL BASED THERMAL POWER PLANTS

1. The Ministry of Power has decided to set up a National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power plants.
2. The **proposed National Mission on biomass will also contribute to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).**
3. It would further support the energy transition in the country and our targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.
4. **Aim:** To address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation.