

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

3RD MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- Elections present an opportunity for political change, but voters at times prefer the familiar comfort of continuity and reward performance over promise. Assam, West Bengal and Kerala have voted for the incumbents, while Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have voted for change.
- The Supreme Court said in an order that vaccinations being provided to citizens constitute a valuable public good, and there should be no discrimination in the process.
- India's merchandise exports in April 2021 were \$30.21 billion, 197% higher than a year ago, when exports had collapsed to \$10.17 billion in the middle of the national lockdown.
- North Korea accused U.S. President Joe Biden of pursuing a hostile policy, dismissing "spurious" American diplomacy and warning of a response.
- A prominent rebel group in eastern Myanmar appealed to other ethnic armies to unite against the military, as the country enters its fourth month under a junta regime.
- Iran will free prisoners with Western ties in Iran in exchange for billions of dollars from the U.S. and the U.K.
- A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule carrying four astronauts back to Earth splashed down off Florida in NASA's first nighttime ocean landing in more than 50 years.
- India received assistance from Taiwan, including oxygen concentrators and cylinders, with more batches of medical equipment set to follow from Taipei.
- Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed on Saturday relaunched talks over the holding of fresh elections, in a move welcomed by the Opposition.

ADVANCED CHAFF TECHNOLOGY

- 1.The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard the naval ships against enemy missile attack. It is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- 2.Chaff is an electronic countermeasure technology used by militaries worldwide to protect naval ships or other sensitive targets from radar and radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missile.
- 3.The **chaff rockets deployed in the air reflect as multiple targets for the missile guidance systems and deflecting adversary missiles**, thus protecting their own assets.
- 4.Both chaff and flares are defensive countermeasures deployed by military aircraft. The purpose is to confuse radar-guided or infrared-guided anti aircraft missiles fired so that they could be diverted.

TEJAS ADDED PYTHON-5 AIR TO AIR MISSILE CAPABILITY

- 1.India's Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas has added capability of firing Israeli-origin Python-5 air-to-air missile (AAM) after concluding successful tests.
- 2.The same set of tests were also aimed to validate the enhanced capability of the already integrated Israeli-origin Derby beyond visual range AAM on Tejas.
- 3.It has been developed by the Israeli defence company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. It is the newest member of the Python family.
- 4.This fifth generation air-to-air missile provides the pilot engaging an enemy aircraft with a revolutionary full sphere launch capability.It is **powered by a solid propellant rocket engine. The propulsion system provides a speed of Mach 4 and an operational range of more than 20 km.**

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

- 1.Recently, the Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to fill up the vacant posts of chairperson and five other members of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) by 31st July 2021.
- 2.In 1992, **with the enactment of the NCM Act, 1992, the Minority Commission became a statutory body and was renamed as the NCM.**
- 3.In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities. In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community.
- 4.NCM consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities.Total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government should be from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity.

CROP DIVERSIFICATION

- 1.Recently, a top agriculture economist has suggested that the best chance of Crop Diversification is through animal agriculture/animal husbandry.
- 2.Crop diversification refers to the **addition of new crops or cropping systems to agricultural production on a particular farm taking into account the different returns from value-added crops with complementary marketing opportunities.**
- 3.At present, 70-80% farmers have land below 2 hectare. To overcome this, existing cropping patterns must be diversified with high value crops.