

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **India, under the pandemic, is seeing a different kind of prejudice, preconceived opinions. Unless people become citizens and not subjects under a patrimonial rule, the calamitous clouds of the pandemic portend a bleak future for Indian democracy as well.**
- **The RBI's position that the dent to aggregate demand is likely to be only moderate is based on the fact that so far this year, the restrictions to contain the spread of the virus have been largely localised.**
- **Half of Crisis rated mid sized companies will be eligible for the restructuring window offered under the Resolution Framework 2.0 announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the rating agency CRISIL said.**
- **France joined the United States in supporting an easing of patent and other protections on COVID19 vaccines that could help poorer countries get more doses and speed up the end of the pandemic.**
- **China cut off a channel for diplomatic and trade talks with Australia in a largely symbolic act of fury, following clashes over a wide range of issues, including human rights, espionage and the origins of COVID19.**
- **Facebook's Oversight Board upheld the social media network's decision on January 7 to block the then U.S. President Donald Trump from its platform. Facebook had decided to indefinitely block Mr. Trump for using the platform to.**
- **The Taliban has captured Afghanistan's second biggest dam after months of fierce fighting in its former bastion of Kandahar, the insurgents and officials said. Dahla Dam, which provides irrigation to farmers via a network of canals as well as drinking water for the provincial capital, is now under Taliban control.**

## MODEL INSURANCE VILLAGE

1. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mooted the concept of 'Model Insurance Village (MIV)' to boost insurance penetration in rural areas.
2. Concept of Model Insurance Village (MIV): **The idea is to offer comprehensive insurance protection to all the major insurable risks that villagers are exposed to and make available covers at affordable or subsidised cost.**
3. In order to make the premium affordable, financial support needs to be explored through NABARD, other institutions, CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds, government support and support from reinsurance companies.
4. It may be implemented in a minimum of 500 villages in different districts of the country in the first year and increased to 1,000 villages in the subsequent two years.

## EXPORT OF ORGANIC MILLETS

1. In a major boost to exports of organic products from the country, the first consignment of millets grown in the Himalayas would be exported to Denmark. **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) has sourced ragi (finger millet), and jhingora (barnyard millet) from farmers in Uttarakhand for exports.**
2. At present, organic products are exported provided they are produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
3. The NPOP has been implemented by APEDA since its inception in 2001 as notified under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992. NPOP covers standards for crops and their products, live stocks and poultry products, aquaculture, apiculture etc. The exports from the country are as per the provisions in NPOP.
4. The NPOP certification has been recognized by the European Union and Switzerland which enables India to export unprocessed plant products to these countries without the requirement of additional certification.

## WAIVING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

1. The United States has announced the support for waiving Intellectual Property (IP) protection for Covid-19 vaccines. The decision is a breakthrough in India and South Africa's attempts to get World Trade Organisation (WTO) member countries to agree to such a waiver to fight the pandemic equitably.
2. The 1995 agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) requires ratifying countries to adopt a minimum standard of intellectual property rights to protect creators and promote innovation.
3. **India and South Africa have proposed a waiver from the implementation and application of certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement** (waiving IP rights like patents, copyright, and trademarks) for prevention, containment or treatment of Covid-19.

## SVAMITVA SCHEME

1. Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released the new framework for implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme. SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.
2. Features: The demarcation of rural inhabited areas would be done using Drone survey and CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) Networks which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cms.