

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

7.3 percentage of Indian population that owns digital currency, the seventh highest in the world, according to the UN, which said that the use of cryptocurrency rose globally at an unprecedented rate during the COVID19 pandemic. The UN trade and development body UNCTAD said that in 2021, developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it came to the share of population that owns cryptocurrencies. Ukraine topped the list with 12.7%.

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Rios of Argentina as the Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), the office of the UN Secretary General has announced. UNMOGIP emerged from UN Security Council Resolution 39 of January 1948 that set up the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP). The Karachi Agreement of July 1949 firmed up the role of UN-level military observers and permitted supervision of the Ceasefire Line established in Jammu and Kashmir. India officially maintains that the UNMOGIP's role was "overtaken" by the Shimla Agreement of 1972 that established the Line of Control or the LoC which with "minor deviations" followed the earlier Ceasefire Line.

Income tax payers will not be allowed to enrol in the government's social security scheme Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from October 1, according to a notification. The government introduced the APY on June 1, 2015, to provide social security to workers mainly in the unorganised sector. Subscribers of the scheme get a minimum guaranteed pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 a month after attaining 60 years of age, depending on their contributions.

1 million number of people displaced by drought in Somalia, leaving the country in the shadow of famine, according to the United Nations. More than 7,55,000 people have fled their homes but remain within the country's borders, while others have fled abroad, the UN refugee agency UNHCR and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said. Somalia and its neighbours in the Horn of Africa including Ethiopia and Kenya are gripped by the worst drought in more than 40 years after four failed

## BUTTERFLY MINE

1.The UK Ministry of Defence, in its intelligence assessment of the ongoing war in Ukraine, has and sounded an alarm on the possible use of PFM-1 series 'Butterfly Mines' by the Russian military in Donetsk and Kramatorsk. Russia's PFM-1 series are called the 'Butterfly Mines' or 'Green Parrots' (because they were green in colour when they were first put to use).

2.Butterfly Mines are scatterable anti-personnel mines that can be deployed to deter freedom of movement. The 'Butterfly mine' has earned a reputation for being particularly attractive to children because it looks like a coloured toy.

3.It is very sensitive to touch and just the act of picking it up can set it off. Because of the relatively lesser explosive packed in this small mine, it often injures and maims the handler rather than killing them. These mines are also difficult to detect because they are made of plastic and can evade metal detectors.

4.These mines can be deployed in the field of action through several means, which include being dropped from helicopters or through ballistic dispersion using artillery and mortar shells. These mines glide to the ground without exploding and later explode on coming in contact.

## OTTAWA CONVENTION

1.It is the 1997 Convention on the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of Anti-Personnel landmines (APLs) and on their Destruction. Usually referred to as Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, this international agreement bans APLs.

2.**This Convention requires states-parties, To destroy their stockpiled APLs within 4 years and To eliminate all APL holdings, including mines currently planted in the soil, within 10 years.** Some key current and past producers and users of landmines, including the US, China, India, Pakistan, and Russia, have not signed the treaty.

3.India has not joined the treaty, its main reservation being "legitimate national security concerns" relating to its borders along which minefields constitute an important component of its defence plans.

## THE SACRIFICE ZONE

1.Myanmar bears cost of green energy, so it is now called the 'Sacrifice Zone'. A "sacrifice zone" or "sacrifice area" is a place that destroys itself for the good of the world. It has been permanently impaired by heavy environmental alterations or economic disinvestment, often through locally unwanted land use.

2.These zones most commonly exist in low-income and minority communities. The northern forest frontier areas of Myanmar are the source of several key rare earths, often called the vitamins of the modern world.

## SMILE-75 INITIATIVE

1.The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment will launch the "SMILE-75 Initiative". 'Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise' (SMILE) scheme is set to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. This umbrella scheme includes two sub-schemes, Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons and Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.

2.In the spirit of AzadikaAmritMahotsav, the SMILE-75 Initiative will be implemented in 75 identified Municipal Corporations to comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging. These 75 Municipal Corporations in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on Provision of Rehabilitation, Provision of medical facilities, counselling, awareness, Provision of education, skill development, and economic linkages,

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rainy seasons that have decimated crops and livestock.

China thwarted a joint India-U.S. bid to list Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) deputy chief Rauf Asghar as a UN Security Council designated terrorist by placing a “technical hold” on the process, a move India called “politically motivated” and evidence of China’s “doublespeak” on Pakistan based terrorism. Rauf Asghar, the brother of JeM leader Masood Azhar, is accused of masterminding a number of terror attacks from the IC814 hijacking in 1999, the Parliament attack in 2001, as well as a number of attacks on security forces personnel from 2014-2019, including the strikes on the Air Force base in Pathankot, Army camps in Kathua, Nagrota, Sanjwan and other locations.

73 million expected unemployed youths in 2022 globally, down two million from the year before, according to the United Nations. However, the figure is still six million higher than the pre-pandemic level of 2019, with the recovery in youth unemployment lagging behind the bounce back in other age groups, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said. Between 2019 and 2020, those aged 15 to 24 experienced a much higher percentage loss in employment than the rest of the labour market.

₹15 billion, the amount China has pledged in grant assistance to Nepal. “The two foreign Ministers took stock of overall aspects of Nepal-China relations and agreed to promote further cooperation in various sectors, including trade, connectivity, investment, health, tourism, poverty alleviation, agriculture, disaster management, education, culture, and people to - people exchanges among others,” the Nepal Foreign Ministry said. Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka was visiting China at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Jagdeep Dhankhar was sworn in as the 14th VicePresident of India at a brief oath-taking ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The fourth India-Bangladesh annual defence dialogue was held on Thursday during which the two sides reviewed ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries and expressed satisfaction that collaboration is growing despite difficulties imposed by the COVID19 pandemic, the Defence Ministry said.

Convergence with other Government welfare programmes etc.

3. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has allocated a total budget of Rs.100 crore for the SMILE project for coming years till 2025-26. The objective of SMILE- 75 is to make our cities/ town and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging. Local Urban Bodies, Civil Society Organisations/NGOs have a vital role to address this persisting social issue with concerted efforts.

## NOVEL LANGYA HENIPAVIRUS

1. Almost three years after the novel coronavirus was detected in China, the novel Langya virus (LayV) has been discovered in the two eastern provinces of China. Langya Henipavirus (LayV) was discovered in eastern China during surveillance testing of patients who had fever along with a recent history of animal exposure. It is a type of Henipavirus, a category of zoonotic viruses that can jump from animals to humans.

2. It is closely related to the Mojiang Henipavirus, which was discovered in southern China. Symptoms - Fever, fatigue, cough, nausea, headache are the common symptoms of LayV disease. The other symptoms include impaired liver function, impaired kidney function, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia. Thrombocytopenia is low platelet count, while leukopenia means a fall in the white blood cell count, in turn reducing the body’s disease-fighting capability.

3. Transmission - In all likelihood, the new virus has jumped from an animal to humans. The LayV virus RNA has been predominantly found in shrews, which may be its natural hosts. Among domestic animals, seropositivity was detected in goats and dogs. So far, there have been no cases of human-to-human transmission of the virus. However, the possibility of spread cannot be ignored.

4. Detection - A standardized nucleic acid testing method is required to identify the Langya virus. Treatment - There is currently no vaccine or treatment for Henipavirus and the only treatment is supportive care to manage complications. Henipaviruses are classified as Bio-safety Level 4 (BSL4) pathogens. They can cause severe illness in animals and humans, and as of now there are no licensed drugs or vaccines meant for humans.

5. The types of Henipaviruses that had been identified prior to this included Hendra, Nipah, Cedar, Mojiang and the Ghanaian bat virus. According to the US CDC, the Cedar virus, Ghanaian bat virus, and Mojiang virus are not known to cause human disease. But Hendra and Nipah infect humans and can cause fatal illness.

## TECHNO-NATIONALISM

1. Context: Report “Internet in India” by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has recently highlighted this word. Definition: Techno-nationalism is a way of understanding how technology affects the society and culture of a nation.

2. Aim: It is aimed at the use of technology to advance nationalist agendas, with the goal of promoting connectedness and a stronger national identity. Examples: Use of Social media in election campaign: The 2014 elections were the first time internet streaming played a significant role in disintermediating broadcast media.

3. The 2019 elections were marked by the extensive role played by social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp. Indonesia is not just controlling online gaming apps and services but also actively promoting indigenously developed gaming apps. From Kenya to Brazil the countries are witnessing preemptive actions to insulate the electoral processes of their respective democracies from the spread of viral fake news and disinformation on WhatsApp.

4. China: created digital surveillance; restricted online gaming for children. From securing semiconductor supply chains to regulating data flows, techno-nationalism is on the political agenda of western democracies and eastern nations alike.

## RULE 267

1. Context: In his parting address, Vice-President M. Venkaiah

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**People living with HIV are facing an acute shortage of lifesaving drugs, say protesters who have been camping outside the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) office here for over 15 days now. They allege rationing of medicines, arbitrary change in the drug regimen and even complete deprivation of lifesaving paediatric drugs. They fear that treatment will be interrupted, leading to drug resistance and deaths from AIDS.**

**India experienced severe working-hour and employment losses in 2020 and 2021, and Indian youth employment deteriorated in 2021 compared with the 2020 situation, according to the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report released by the International Labour Organisation on Thursday. The recovery in youth employment is still lagging globally, the report says confirming that COVID19 has hurt young people more than any other age group.**

Naidu advocated against indiscriminate demand from members to invoke rule 267 that allows for the suspension of the day's business to discuss other important issues in the Parliament.

**2.Issues:** Rule 267 of Rajya Sabha should be resorted to in the rarest of the rare cases that justify the suspension of other rules of the house  
**Status of house disruptions:** For the first 17 years since 1978, the annual productivity of the Rajya Sabha has been more than 100%. Since then it has been on a downslide with the lowest annual productivity recorded at 40% in the year 2018.