

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly inaugurated a social housing project in the island nation. In the virtual ceremony, both leaders also laid the foundation stone for two other projects including the construction of a college for training of civil servants and a solar power project. The Civil Service College project, located in Reduit, is funded through a grant support of \$4.74 million under a bilateral MoU signed in 2017. The facility will enable civil servants of Mauritius to undertake training programmes.

A Chinese satellite had a near collision with one of the many chunks of debris left by the fallout of a recent Russian anti-satellite missile test, state media reported. Moscow blew up one of its old satellites in November in a missile test that sparked international anger because of the space debris it scattered around the Earth's orbit. U.S. officials accused Moscow of carrying out a "dangerous and irresponsible" strike that had created a cloud of debris and forced the International Space Station's crew to take evasive action.

A proposal by the Union Environment Ministry to "rank" and "incentivise" States on how quickly they could give environmental clearances to proposed infrastructure projects has drawn fire from environmentalists on the grounds that it contravenes basic principles of environmental regulation. A note to States by the Union Environment Ministry on January 17 spells out seven criteria to rate State Environmental Impact Assessment Agencies (SEIAA) on "transparency, efficiency and accountability". On a scale of seven, a SEIAA, for instance, gets two marks for granting a clearance in less than 80 days, one mark for within 105 days and no marks for more.

Only 10% midlevel IAS officers were posted with the Union government in 2021, a sharp fall from 19% in 2014. The decrease in central deputation of IAS officers becomes even more stark as the total pool of such officers at this level expanded from 621 in 2014 to 1130 in 2021, an increase of around 80%. According to data available with the Department of Personnel and

FRONTRUNNING

1. Front-running is trading stock or any other financial asset by a broker who has inside knowledge of a future transaction that is about to affect its price substantially. It is when a person takes a 'buy or sell' position in any stock based on exclusive knowledge that the recommendations being issued by them will certainly lead to price variation in the particular stock in the near future.

2. Working - **Stock market operators give 'buy or sell' recommendations in closed or private groups that have a higher subscriber base. Most of such recommendations are given on stocks where the liquidity is less** and even a small amount of buying or selling can impact share prices.

3. Legality - Giving investment advice in 'closed groups' on social media by those who are not registered with SEBI is considered illegal as per investment advisor rules. Still, talking about macro ideas and stock market patterns or giving ideas on wide public platforms like TV channels, online or newspapers is allowed. In any case, those giving stock tips even on TV channels cannot indulge in frontrunning.

4. Unless Registered with SEBI, a person cannot portray himself as an investment advisor. But, any investment advice given through any electronic or broadcasting or telecommunications medium, which is widely available to the public will not be considered as investment advice under the SEBI Regulations.

5. **General market comments in good faith in regard to trends or economic situations, which do not specify stock tips or investment products are exempt from SEBI rules.** Also, brokers, distributors of mutual funds, fund managers and other SEBI registered intermediaries are exempt from investment advisor norms.

6. There is a thin difference between the frontrunning and insider trading. Insider trading is when a person, who fits in the definition of a company insider as per SEBI rules, buys and sells stocks based on unpublished price sensitive information (USPI).

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS

1. The Union Cabinet approves the extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was established as a statutory body in 1994 as per the provisions of the NCSK Act 1993. It was initially established for the period upto 1997.

2. Later the validity of the Act was extended upto 2004. **The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from 2004. After that the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a non-statutory body from time to time through resolutions.** Now, the Commission acts as a Non-Statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

3. NCSK is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Prohibition of employment as manual scavengers and their rehabilitation Act, 2013. It also receives complaints/petitions from Manual Scavengers (Safai Karamcharis) from all over the Country.

4. It calls for the factual reports in connection with these complaints/petitions from the concerned authorities and impress upon them to redress the grievances of the affected Safai Karamcharis.

5. Based on the information received through print or electronic media, the Commission suo motu takes cognizance of problems of Safai Karamcharis and try to resolve them by playing a pro active role. The number of Manual Scavengers (Safai Karamcharis) identified under the Manual Scavengers Act Survey as on 31.12.2021 is 58098.

SPOT RUBBER

1. Spot rubber has regained strength in tandem with the global gains. **Spot Rubber is an example of the Spot commodities. A commodity market involves buying, selling, or trading a raw product.**

2. There are hard commodities, which are generally natural

Training (DoPT), the number of central deputation reserve of IAS officers has gone down from 309 in 2011 to 223.

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates in the All India Quota seats for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses, noting that “reservation is not at odds with merit” in open competitive examinations. “If open examinations present equality of opportunity to candidates to compete, reservations ensure that the opportunities are distributed in such a way that backward classes are equally able to benefit from such opportunities which typically evade them because of structural barriers. This is the only manner in which merit can be a democratising force that equalises inherited disadvantages and privileges.

Facing a difficult situation on the waiver of farmers’ debts, the Rajasthan government stopped the auction of agricultural land belonging to farmers who failed to repay the loans obtained from commercial banks functioning under the control of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The issue had taken a political turn after the banks started serving notices on the defaulting farmers. Though the State government had offered to get the loans disbursed by nationalised and commercial banks waived through a onetime scheme, the banks initiated action for land attachment and auction under the Rajasthan Agricultural Credit Operations (Removal of Difficulties) Act, 1974. A large number of defaulting farmers in several districts have received notices, besides facing pressure to make settlement with banks.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to work on a ‘one district one airport’ concept in order to boost infrastructure in the districts. Development of airports in each of the 13 districts would give a fillip to all round growth.

The supersonic cruise missile BrahMos with increased indigenous content and improved performance was successfully flight tested from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, on Thursday morning. “The missile was equipped with the advanced indigenous technologies and followed a modified optimal trajectory for enhanced efficiency and improved performance.

resources, and soft commodities, which are livestock or agricultural goods. Spot commodities market is where financial instruments, such as commodities, currencies, and securities, are traded for immediate delivery, while derivatives markets entail delivery in the future.

3. Delivery in the Spot commodities market is the exchange of cash for the financial instrument.

GRAM REPORT

1. The Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) report has used statistical modelling to estimate deaths linked to 23 pathogens and 88 pathogen-drug combinations. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) refers to a condition of antibiotics becoming inefficient against a wide range of pathogenic bacteria.

2. A comprehensive estimate of the global impact of AMR, covering 204 countries and territories, has found that 1.27 million people died in 2019 as a direct result of AMR. Now, AMR is a leading cause of death worldwide, higher than HIV/AIDS or malaria. The GRAM report has found that 12.7 lakh deaths caused directly by AMR (these would not have occurred had the infections been drug-susceptible), 49.5 lakh deaths were associated with AMR (a drug-resistant infection was implicated, but resistance itself may or may not have been the direct cause of death).

3. Of the 23 pathogens studied, drug resistance in six (E coli, S aureus, K pneumoniae, S pneumoniae, A baumannii, and P aeruginosa) led directly to 9.29 lakh deaths and was associated with 3.57 million. One pathogen-drug combination (methicillin-resistant S aureus or MRSA) directly caused more than 1 lakh deaths.

4. Resistance to 2 classes of antibiotics (fluoroquinolones and beta-lactam antibiotics) often considered the first line of defence against severe infections accounted for more than 70% of deaths caused by AMR.

5. There is a lot of improper use of antibiotics happening in Covid too. A study reported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 10 hospitals showed that when Covid patients acquire drug-resistant infections in hospitals, the mortality is almost 50-60%.

HOUTHIS AND THE WAR IN YEMEN

1. The Houthi rebels of Yemen have claimed responsibility for the suspected drone attack in Abu Dhabi recently, which killed three people, including two Indians. Issue- One of the Arab world’s poorest countries, Yemen has been devastated by a near seven-year civil war, which started after Houthis captured the capital Sana’a, following which Saudi-led forces intervened and fought the rebels with the aim of ending Iranian influence in the region and restoring the former government. The UAE joined the Saudi campaign in 2015 and has been deeply involved in the conflict ever since, despite announcing the formal withdrawal of its forces in 2019 and 2020.

2. Houthis-Founded in the 1990s by Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, a member of Yemen’s Shia majority. It is a group of Zaidi Shia Muslims who ruled a kingdom in the province for nearly 1,000 years.

3. The war in Yemen: Background: The conflict has its roots in the Arab Spring of 2011, when an uprising forced the country’s long-time authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to hand over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. The political transition was supposed to bring stability to Yemen, one of the Middle East’s poorest nations, but President Hadi struggled to deal with various problems including militant attacks, corruption, food insecurity, and continuing loyalty of many military officers to Saleh. Fighting began in 2014 when the Houthi Shia Muslim rebel movement took advantage of the new president’s weakness and seized control of northern Saada province and neighbouring areas.

4. Saudi Arabia in Yemen-Saudi Arabia interfered in Yemen after the Shia Houthi rebels captured Sana’a, the capital city, and the internationally recognised government of President Hadi moved to the country’s south. Saudi Arabia started a military campaign in March 2015, hoping for a quick victory against the Houthis. But the Houthis had dug in, refusing to leave despite Saudi Arabia’s aerial blitzkrieg.

5. How bad is Yemen’s humanitarian situation-Since the Saudi intervention in 2015, at least 10,000 people have been killed in Yemen, according to the WHO. The widespread damage

The White House clarified U.S. President Joe Biden's opposition to Russian aggression on Ukraine after Mr. Biden appeared to suggest that a small incursion by Russia would not be tolerated. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that any incursion would be met with a "severe" response from the U.S. and its allies.

The CIA has concluded that U.S. diplomats suffering mysterious headaches and nausea in what has been dubbed "Havana Syndrome" were not targeted in a global campaign by a foreign power, reports said on Wednesday. The New York Times and Politico cited multiple officials briefed on a CIA assessment on the incidents that first surfaced among diplomats in 2016 in Havana, in which U.S. and Canadian officials complained of headaches, and possible brain damage after hearing highpitched sounds.

caused to infrastructure by the coalition airstrikes and lack of supplies of food and medicines due to the blockade have pushed Yemen into a humanitarian catastrophe. About 12 million people are at the risk of starvation if aid doesn't reach them fast. The country has also seen a massive cholera outbreak. A child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen from preventable causes, says UNICEF.