

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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Scientists have, for the first time, used the CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats) technology to insert genes that allow immune cells to attack cancer cells, potentially living normal cells unharmed increasing the effectiveness of immunotherapy. The CRISPR gene editing technique has been previously used in humans to remove specific genes to allow the immune system to be more activated against cancer.

Future ice loss from the Northeast Greenland Ice stream, part of the Greenland Ice sheet, could cause sea levels to rise by up to 15.5 mm by 2100, a Study published in the journal, Nature, suggests. This rise is the equivalent of the entirety of the Greenland Ice sheet's contribution to sea-level rise over the past 50 years. The Northeast Greenland Ice Stream comprise a fast-flowing main trunk that drains approximately 12% of the entire Greenland Ice sheet.

A New analysis of studies published since 2005 (Science advances) concludes that land and sea use change has been the dominant anthropogenic driver of biodiversity loss. Direct exploitation of natural resources is the second most dominant driver on land, but the most important one for the oceans. This new analysis can help in designing policies to halt biodiversity loss under the framework of the UN sustainable development goals.

A Recent survey study (JAMA network open) of 1,51,000 students in the United States between grades 6 and 12 show that initiation of e-cigarette use decreased, and intensity of use and addiction increased between 2014 and 2021. By 2019, more e-cigarette users were using their first tobacco product within 5 minutes of waking then users of cigarettes and all other tobacco products combined. Clinicians need to ready to address youth addiction to these new highly addictive nicotine products.

When looking for a new home, one issue that is never forgotten is "How deep is the Water table there." The water table defines the depth at which cracks and pores in rocks are saturated with water. Such water, stored in subterranean spaces, is called groundwater and the water bearing Rock Strata are called aquifers. Groundwater is a critical

## ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST SOME CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS DUE TO THEIR ILLEGAL PRACTICES: INDIA AT UNHRC

1. As Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of India's human rights record is underway at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), some members raised concerns over issue of Foreign Contribution (regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010. India stressed that activities of human rights defenders, journalists etc. should be in conformity with law of the land.

2. Through UPR, UN Member States can review human rights records of all other Member States to improve human rights situations globally. UPR is carried out by an inter-governmental working group of UNHRC. Reviews are based on information provided by state under review; reports of independent human rights experts and group, other UN entities and information from national human rights institutions, NGOs etc. FCRA, 2010 regulates acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions by individuals, associations, and companies.

3. Recent Amendments in FCRA: Furnishing of Aadhaar numbers by office-bearers of NGOs is mandatory for registration. All foreign contributions are to be received in a bank account opened with SBI's main branch in New Delhi. Certain persons are prohibited to accept any foreign contribution: election candidates, editor or publisher of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others.

## COP27: BREAKTHROUGH AGENDA COUNTRIES SET PRIORITIES

1. Signatories to Breakthrough Agenda have mapped out Priority Actions, to be delivered by COP28 climate summit, to help make clean technologies cheaper and cleaner. Launched at COP26 by a coalition of about 45 world leaders (India is also a signatory), Breakthrough Agenda provides a framework for countries, businesses and civil society to strengthen their actions in key emitting sectors.

2. **Priority Actions aim to speed up decarbonisation under five key sectors of power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture. Priority Actions include agreements to: Develop common definitions for low-emission and near-zero emission steel, hydrogen, and sustainable batteries. Ramp up deployment of essential infrastructure projects. Set a common target date to phase out polluting cars and vehicles, consistent with Paris Agreement. Stimulate global demand for green industrial goods. Drive investment in agriculture research, development & demonstration.**

3. These priority actions are being supported by various initiatives including: First Movers Coalition: launched at COP26 to help drive industrial decarbonisation (India also joined). Climate Investment Funds: largest multilateral climate fund focused on transformational climate innovation in 72 middle- and low-income countries (including India). Mission Possible Partnership: an alliance of leading climate organizations.

## US KEEN TO DEEPEN INDIA TIES UNDER 'FRIEND-SHORING' PLAN

1. Citing deepening economic integration, US Treasury Secretary pitched for friend-shoring for India. Friend-shoring is pitched (by US) to insulate global supply chains from external disruption or economic coercion. Over the past few years, world has experienced series of trade disruptions -- US-China trade war, COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

2. Idea is for a group of countries with shared values to deploy policies encouraging companies to spread manufacturing within that group. Sectors under importance are semiconductor industry, green energy, telecommunications, and mineral industries.

3. **Significance of Friend-shoring-Will prevent nations (like China and Russia) from unfairly leveraging their market position in key raw materials, technologies, or products to disrupt global economy.** Diversifying global supply chains that

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resource. It is the principal water source for a fourth of the world population. India is the world's largest groundwater user, nearly 250 cubic km was taken out in 2017.

About 90% of this was used for irrigation, the rest went to towns and villages. The agrarian economy of the Indo-Gangetic plains is sustained by groundwater. But there are fears that the Indo-Gangetic basin aquifer may soon be incapable of supporting so much irrigation. This is very noticeable in the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. The Green Revolution has been sustained by using tube well. The lowering of the water table forces farmers to use high-powered submersible pumps, which has worsened the situation.

When it comes to spider love, female widow spiders hold the key to attracting mates, potentially adjusting their web's attractiveness to lure males, according to new research (Nature Communications Biology). A study led by Simon Fraser University's Andreas Fischer reveals new details about how female false widow spider (*Steatoda grossa*) communicate using pheromones and suggest they can build more attractive webs- to lure mate seeking males of by adjusting the pH the level of their pheromone bearing silk.

Transliterated, Medical textbook, bilingual classes without separate language-based batches or faculty, and the choice of taking exams in Hindi or English- these are the main features of the new MBBS course being offered in Hindi, with the first batch of students set to begin their classes in Madhya Pradesh this coming week. However, a number of stakeholders in medical community have questioned the long-term viability of the system, and the employability of doctors who have studied this primarily English language syllabus in transliteration. In the first phase, transliterated books in three subjects- anatomy, medical biochemistry and physiology- will be offered to students. This means that the text will be in English language written in the Devanagari script rather than translated into Hindi.

The United States is happy for India to continue buying as much Russian oil as it wants, including at prices G7 imposed price cap, if it steers clear of Western insurance, finance and Maritime Services bound by the

will also help businesses become more resilient to external shocks like wars, famine, political changes, or next pandemic.

4. Concerns related to Friend-shoring- Considered part of a deglobalisation process, which could see further supply shocks and higher prices in short term and lower growth in long run. Poor countries needing global trade might be excluded from this.

## MORTH ISSUES CONTRACT FOR FIRST MULTI-MODAL LOGISTICS PARKS (MMLPS) IN THE COUNTRY

1. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) awarded contract for setting up MMLP near Chennai to offer modern logistics services to domestic and international traffic. MMLP as an inter-modal freight-handling establishment comprising warehouses, dedicated cold chain facilities, freight terminals, bulk cargo terminals etc. optimizes merchandise movement via road, rail, waterway, and air. As part of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, government plans to build 35 MMLPs under Bharatmala Pariyojana. All MMLPs will be developed as part of Design, Build Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) model.

2. Significance of MMLP- Reducing logistics costs (India's logistics cost as a percentage of GDP is 14-16% compared to around 8% in US and Europe). Diversification of freight network (about 60% of India's cumulative freight is ferried via road). Others: Reduced cost of warehousing and storage, lower overall freight costs, reduced vehicular pollution and congestion, enhanced tracking and traceability of transport consignments etc.

3. Other initiatives taken for logistics sector Launch of National Logistics Policy. Infrastructure status to logistics sector. Creation of Logistics division in Department of Commerce. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) ranking.

## RISE IN PER CAPITA INCOME SHOWS LESS VULNERABILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS: CENTRE ON NFSA

1. Union government informed Supreme Court (SC) that per capita income of population has increased in real terms by 33.4% in eight years since enactment of National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. SC had asked Centre to undertake a comprehensive exercise to re-determine NFSA, 2013 beneficiaries in rural and urban areas.

2. About NFSA- It provides legal entitlement to nearly 2/3rd of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) to receive highly subsidized foodgrains (based on Census 2011). Centre provides beneficiary identification norms, following which the States/UTs are to identify beneficiaries (responsible for inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries also).

3. State-wise coverage ceiling within national ceiling (81.4 crore beneficiaries) of coverage is also determined. Two categories of beneficiaries: Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households (PHH). Every person in PHH category is entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per month and each AAY household gets 35 kg of foodgrains per month.

4. Eldest woman of beneficiary household (18 years or above) is considered 'Head of Family' for the purpose of issuing ration cards. It also provides for reforms in Targeted Public Distribution Systems (TPDS) including schemes such as Cash transfers.

## EXPLAIN DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES: SUPREME COURT (SC) TO GOVERNMENT

1. Underlining that government is bound to accept the Collegium's reiteration of its decision on appointment of judges, SC issued notice to Ministry of Law and Justice over delays in appointing judges. Total sanctioned judicial strength in 25 High Courts (HCs) is 1,108. However, present working strength is 772 with 336 vacancies as on October 1.

2. About Collegium System- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of SC (called the Judges Cases). SC collegium is headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) and comprises four other senior-most judges of SC. HC collegium (led by the incumbent Chief Justice and two other seniormost judges of that court) sends recommendation to SC collegium.

3. Final decisions are taken by a collegium of CJI and two senior-most judges of SC. Judges of higher judiciary are appointed only

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cap, US Treasury secretary, Jannat Yallen said.

**RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das exuded confidence that India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy with the likely growth rate of 7% in 2022-23 on the back of a strong macroeconomics fundamental and financial sector stability.**

**The ministry of home affairs will be organising the third ministerial “No money for terror conference” next week where participants from around 75 countries are expected to attend. the conference will be held in Delhi on November 18-19 after a gap of 2 years due to travel restrictions imposed after the Covid-19 pandemic.**

through the collegium system, and government has a role only after names have been decided by collegium. Government’s role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by Intelligence Bureau. To address opaque nature of its procedure, government brought National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) Bill, 2014. However, it was struck down by SC.

**4.Judge Case**-Constitution provides that every judge of SC and HC shall be appointed by President, after consultation with judiciary (Articles 124 and 217). First Judges Case’ (1981) ruled that “consultation” was not “concurrence” – meaning that although President will consult, his decision was not bound to be in concurrence. Second Judges Case (1993) introduced Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”. SC said that recommendation should be made by CJI in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues. Third Judges Case (1998), SC expanded its Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.