

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a ₹1,337.76-crore penalty on Google for “abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem”. Issuing a “cease and desist” order, the CCI also directed Google to modify its conduct within a timeline. It added that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) should not be forced to preinstall a bouquet of applications. The matter pertains to the Android operating system (OS) acquired by Google in 2005. The CCI examined various practices of Google with respect to its licensing and various proprietary mobile applications, including Play Store, Google Search, Google Chrome, YouTube, etc.

The region of Groningen in the Netherlands has a gas field that began operations in 1963. During the 1980s, the area saw numerous earthquakes — minor enough to avoid large damage but big enough for local buildings to develop cracks. However due to recent geopolitical tensions, the Dutch government wants to keep options open. A Bloomberg report earlier this month that the field still had potential for about 450 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas to be extracted. Global production is estimated to decline from 4,109 bcm in calendar 2021 to 4,089 bcm in 2022. The government will have to continue to bear the higher subsidy burden on fertilizer — in the manufacture of which natural gas is used — as well as for the LPG sector.

On October 19, the Tamil Nadu government formed a committee to set up an institutional framework for the effective conservation of vultures. Tamil Nadu boasts the largest population of vultures south of the Vindhya Mountain Range. Vulture numbers are decreasing over the last few years, with experts attributing the cause to lesser availability of prey as well as erratic weather. Experts also agree that the use of some Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs to treat cattle has led to the crash in vulture populations across India. The State government has banned the use of diclofenac to treat cattle, while there are strict restrictions for the sale of other NSAIDs in the Nilgiris, Erode and Coimbatore districts.

The Interpol unveiled the first ever ‘metaverse’ specifically designed for law enforcement worldwide, at its ongoing 90th General Assembly in

## MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) CAN CONTINUE TO AVAIL ALL NON-TAX BENEFITS FOR THREE YEARS POST UPWARD RE-CLASSIFICATION

1. Earlier, an enterprise was allowed to avail non-tax benefits for one year from the date of reclassification. The reclassification happens in case of investment in plant and machinery or equipment, or turnover or both (see image).
2. This composite criteria of classification of MSMEs was introduced in 2020, replacing 2006 criteria, with: Increase in investment criteria and addition of turnover as criteria. Removal of distinction between manufacturing and service sector. Non-tax benefits include benefits from various schemes of the government, including public procurement policy, delayed payments, etc.
3. MSMEs Sector-A robust MSME sector is key to India’s socio-economic development and self-reliance. MSMEs contribute around 30% of GDP and 40% of India’s total exports. But due to low thresholds as well as fear of losing benefits, the MSMEs prefer to remain within the definition (Dwarfs, as per Economic Survey) rather than mature into large-scale operations (Giants, as per Economic Survey).
4. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, MSME Samadhaan etc are some initiatives launched by the govt for their better functioning.

## STANDOFF BETWEEN GOVERNOR AND KERALA GOVERNMENT OVER REMOVAL OF STATE MINISTER

1. The Kerala governor has said that “statements of individual ministers that lower the dignity of the Governor’s office can invite action including withdrawal of pleasure”. Article 164 provides that the ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.
2. **Pleasure doctrine and judicial pronouncements-There have been instances of Governors dismissing Chief Ministers, but those were related to constitutional situations in which the legislative majority of the incumbent government was lost.** In *Shamsher Singh & Anr vs State Of Punjab* (1974), SC declared that Governor shall exercise his formal constitutional powers only in accordance with the advice of their Ministers. *Mahabir Prasad v. Prafulla Chandra* 1969, revolved around the question of the nature of the governor’s pleasure under article 164(1).
3. The governor's pleasure under article 164(1) is subject to Article 164(2). Thus, the withdrawal of the governor's pleasure must coincide with the withdrawal of support to the ministry by the assembly.
4. In *Nabam Rebia and etc vs Deputy Speaker and ors* (2016), SC ruled that Article 163 of the Constitution does not give the Governor a general discretionary power to act against or without the advice of his Council of Ministers.

## ISSUES WITH THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX RANKING

1. For the second time in two years, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has rejected the Global Hunger Index (GHI) that ranked India 107 among 121 countries. GHI is jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. It is computed using four indicators – Undernourishment, Child stunting (low height for age), Child wasting (low weight for height), Child mortality (death of a child under the age of five).
2. Issues with the score-Miniscule proportion of data - Report lowers India’s rank based on the estimates of the Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population. Wasting and stunting are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like drinking water, sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger.
3. Methodological issues- the GHI uses three child-specific indicators out of the four to calculate hunger for a country’s population which cannot be representative of the entire population. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimate, used by GHI, is based on ‘Food Insecurity Experience

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DELHI: VIJAY NAGAR 9717380832 & OLD RAJENDER NAGAR 9811293743 | JAIPUR: 8290800441 | PATNA: 7463950774 | RANCHI: 9939982007  
BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & CHANDRA LAYOUT 7619136662 | BHOPAL: 7509975361 | INDORE: 7314977441 | IMPHAL: 9650245599  
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Delhi. The Interpol metaverse allows the registered users to take a virtual tour of its General Secretariat headquarters in France's Lyon, interact with other officers via their avatars, and even take training courses in forensic investigation and other policing skills, it said. The facility is being provided through the global police organisation's secure cloud.

The Indian Space Research Organisation, along with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), is set to organise a two day conference themed 'Akash Tatva' (the element Akash) in Dehradun that, according to Science Minister Jitendra Singh, would expose "youth of India to the wisdoms of ancient science along with modern scientific advancements".

Britain is about to get its third Prime Minister in three months, with Prime Minister Liz Truss, who faced growing pressure from Conservative MPs, announcing that she will quit the post. Ms. Truss's budgetary plans, at the heart of which were unfunded tax cuts, had deeply rattled markets and led to the replacement of the Chancellor only days ago.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the presence of U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, launched 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle For Environment), a new initiative for sustainable and healthy lifestyle at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat on Thursday. Listing climate change and global warming as the main challenges before the world, the Prime Minister underlined that Mission LiFE makes the fight against climate change democratic with the contribution of everyone in their own capacity. Mr. Guterres unveiled the LiFE logo and tagline and released the mission document at the event.

₹1.53 lakh crore, the worth of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements signed during the Defence Expo (DefExpo) at Gandhinagar, according to a senior official. As many as 451 MoUs were signed in the 12th edition of DefExpo. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said that the event had broken previous records of business generation.

1000 number of surveillance copters procured by the Indian Army along with 80 mini remotely piloted aircraft systems, to bolster its

Scale (FIES)' survey module that bears a small sample size of 3,000 respondents only.

## AGRICULTURE EXPERTS SEE A SHIFT TO MUSTARD, LENTILS FOR THE MARKETING SEASON 2023-24

1. This is in the backdrop of Cabinet approving an increase in minimum support price (MSP) of all mandated rabi crops for 2023-24. The maximum rate of return at the current MSP is 104% for rapeseed and mustard, followed by 100% for wheat and 85% for lentils. It will promote crop diversification, moving away from wheat. Assist in increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses to fulfil the objective of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

2. About MSP-It is a price support mechanism that acts as a safety net given to the farmers to ensure guaranteed prices and assured markets for their products. It is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (statutory body) and then approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

3. Based on the Union Budget 2018-19, the MSP is fixed at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production. Presently, MSP is issued for 23 crops: 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley, and ragi), 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, sesamum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton, and raw jute).

## MISSION DEFSPACE LAUNCHED AT DEFEXPO

1. Mission DefSpace has been to develop innovative solutions for the Armed Forces in the space domain through industry and start-ups Also, the 'Fourth Positive indigenisation List' of 101 items under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 to boost self-reliance was announced.

2. Militarisation of Space and Mission DefSpace-Though a number of treaties (refer infographic) exist for space and its peaceful uses, a number of challenges/threats exist to space assets. US (Space force) and China (PLA Strategic Support Force) are also pursuing dedicated military space institutions.

3. Under Mission DefSpace, 75 such challenges (launch systems, satellites, etc) are identified to get innovative solutions for armed forces. India is working on generous space diplomacy, counter space systems and safeguarding its space assets.

4. India launched the South Asia satellite to boost regional communication and improve disaster links among its six neighbours. By next year, India will provide real-time access to India's satellite data to ASEAN countries. In 2019, India conducted Mission Shakti, an anti-satellite missile test. Also, in 2019, India operationalised Defence Space Agency (DSA) for operating in the domain of space warfare.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES DRAFT OF NATIONAL CREDIT FRAMEWORK (NCrF)

1. NCrF will be an inclusive umbrella framework to seamlessly integrate the credits earned through school, higher, vocational and skill education. The framework aims to formulate a unified credit accumulation and transfer for general and vocational education and from school to higher education. 2. This credit will be stored in the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) which may be redeemed for admission in educational institutes. It will be launched as a part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 has recommended the development of NCrF in four areas i.e., school education, early childhood care and education (ECCE), teacher education, and adult education.

3. Significance of NCrF For Students- It will ensure flexibility in the duration of study/ courses through provisions of multiple entries and exit/work options. For Institutions-It will bring about a unification of higher education institutions to promote multidisciplinary education.

4. For Industry- Enable re-skilling and up-skilling of existing employees. It will allow students to attain National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)-approved foundational skills

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surveillance apparatus along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, according to officials. They stated that the current situation along the borders warrants seamless surveillance.

developed by industry, thus increasing their employability.