

# KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

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Around 62% of rural households in India have fully functional tap water connections within their premises, according to a survey commissioned by the Union Ministry of Water Resources to assess the functioning of the government's marquee Jal Jeevan Mission. In June, the Centre reported this figure to be 52%. Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Puducherry reported more than 80% of households with fully functional connections, while fewer than half the households in Rajasthan, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim had such connections.

In Italy, the right alliance headed by Giorgia Meloni from Brothers of Italy with the League, ForzaItalia, and Nio Moderati emerged as the clear winner. It won with a majority of 237 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) and 115 seats in the Senate (upper house). The main reason behind the rise of the party was the failure of other political parties. The Brothers of Italy never changed its partnership or its identity. In terms of policy, Ms. Meloni has always kept Italy first. The party's main focus includes stabilising financial markets, keeping debt in check and meeting Italy's energy crisis without regional dependency. It has managed to keep true to its fascist roots even when it entered mainstream politics.

Europe as a whole is alarmed by the majority won by the Brothers of Italy party. This is mainly due to two factors, one being the party's history of being evolved from Mussolini and the other is because of the fact that Italy is one of the most volatile countries in the region in terms of political stability.

Four leaks were reported at different points in the Nord Stream pipelines, linking Russia and Europe, since September 26. Two of the leaks were in Swedish waters while the other two were reported from Danish waters. Both Danish and Swedish seismologists picked up undersea explosions near the locations of the first two leaks before they occurred. Bjorn Lund of Sweden's National Seismology Centre told BBC that there was "no doubt that these were explosions". Ukraine called the leaks a "terrorist attack" and an "act of aggression towards the EU" planned by Russia. Incidentally, Russia said that the leaks were an act of "terrorism" possibly by a state actor.

## RUSSIA-CHINA COOPERATION IN ARCTIC A CONCERN: NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) SECRETARY GENERAL

1. The concerns over Russia and China cooperation in the Arctic were raised during the visit of NATO secretary to the military base in Cold Lake, Alberta. In 2014, Russia created a new Arctic Command and it has opened hundreds of new and former Soviet-era Arctic military sites, including airfields and deep-water ports.

2. In 2018, China declared itself a 'Near-Arctic State' with interest in shipping, research and exploration projects in the Arctic to exploit regions' oil, gas, minerals etc. China has also shown interest to build Polar Silk Road, i.e. Arctic shipping routes connecting North America, East Asia, and Western Europe through the Arctic Circle.

3. About Arctic It is the northernmost region of the Earth, representing the area within the Arctic Circle- a line of latitude at 66.5° north of the Equator. It includes the territory of the US, Russia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, all of which are part of the Arctic Council.

4. The Arctic Council was established in 1996 through the Ottawa Declaration by the Eight Arctic States. India is part of Arctic Council Observers as a non-Arctic State.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MoD) APPROVES THIRD POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST (PIL) FOR DEFENCE PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS (DPSUs)

1. To promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing, MoD approved third PIL of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs). These are currently being imported from abroad. These components will be procured from domestic industry after a ban on their import kicks in under time-line from December 2023 to December 2028.

2. Indigenisation of these items will be taken up under 'Make' category of procurement procedure. This category aims to achieve self-reliance by involving greater participation of the Indian industries.

3. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, provides for various categories, as given in the table. Significance of Indigenisation list Bolster the economy and reduce import dependence of DPSUs. Harness the design capabilities of domestic defence industry and position India as a design leader in these technologies.

4. **Steps taken for Defense Indigenisation-Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti to boost Intellectual Property (IP) culture and promote IP creation in the defence production sector. Establishment of Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs).**

SRIJAN Portal provides development support to MSMEs/Start-ups for import substitution. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to foster innovation and technology development in Defence.

## DEATHS BY SUICIDE AT THEIR HIGHEST RATE IN 2021, SHOWS NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU (NCRB) DATA

1. According to the 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' report 2021, by the NCRB India saw 120 deaths per million population in 2021 the highest level ever recorded. The report highlights the toll the pandemic appears to have taken on the emotional well-being of Indians.

2. This report provides age-group-wise and sex-wise details of accidental deaths, traffic accidents and suicides including farmer's suicides which is a crucial matter in India. The NCRB also release 2 other annual flagship reports: Crime in India: Information on cognizable crimes as reported in police stations, police casualties, police firing, police & civilians' casualties.

3. Prison Statistics India: Data like numbers and available capacity of different types of jails, strength and training of jail officials and prison budget and expenditure. It is based on the principle of importance of adequacy of prison infrastructure for successful reformation of the prisoners.

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₹ 7600 crore, the amount pulled out by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from Indian equity markets amid the hawkish stance by the U.S. Fed and free fall of the rupee. This comes after a net investment of ₹51,200 crore in August and nearly ₹5,000 crore in July. Total outflow by FPIs has now reached ₹1.68 lakh crore.

13.31 % by which power consumption grew on an annual basis to 127.39 billion units in September. Experts opined that the double digit growth in power consumption ahead of the festivities in October indicate a considerable surge in industrial and commercial demand for electricity, which points towards economic recovery.

5.2 percent, RBI's forecast for retail inflation in the next financial year beginning April, down from the 6.7% it had forecast for the current year. The pressure might ease next fiscal assuming normal rains and further normalisation of global supply chains without any exogenous shocks. Inflation remains at unacceptably high levels, the central bank said in a report.

92 number of people who have been killed in Iran due to a crack down on women led protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the morality police. Solidarity rallies with Iranian women — who have burnt the hijabs they have had to wear since the 1979 Islamic revolution — have been held worldwide, with protests in more than 150 cities.

Legal and regulatory impediments in India continue to be a source of "frustration" for investors looking to set up or expand operations in India, even as land acquisition and "regular delays" in Customs clearances remain problematic, the U.K. India Business Council (UKIBC) has conveyed to the Government of India (GoI). The Council has urged India to take a "broader view" of priority sector lending norms for foreign banks operating in India and sought equitable tax treatment, while flagging rising instances of counterfeit product sales through e-commerce platforms as a deterrent for intellectual property (IP) owners.

India's geospatial technology industry was expected to cross ₹63,100 crore by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8%, Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh said at a briefing on Sunday to announce the

4. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) (HQ: New Delhi) It was established in 1986 based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977) and the modalities worked out by a Task Force (1985). NCRB also looks after the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), Central Finger Print Bureau etc.

## RUSSIA BLOCKS FINAL DOCUMENT AT NUCLEAR TREATY CONFERENCE

1. Earlier, United Nations had started its tenth Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference for nuclear disarmament. Final document needed approval of all countries at conference that are parties to the NPT but Russia pointed out no consensus on it.

2. NPT review conference is supposed to be held every five years but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2015, last review conference ended without an agreement because of serious differences over establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

3. **NPT is an international treaty which aimed to Curb the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, Foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and Further the goal of disarmament. It was opened for signature in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.**

4. In 1995 it was extended indefinitely. India is not a party to it as it considers NPT as discriminatory. It establishes a safeguards system under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which also plays a central role in areas of technology transfer for peaceful purposes.

## CLOUD WARS: MIDEAST RIVALRIES RISE ALONG NEW FRONT- RAINFALL

1. Countries in Middle East and North Africa have embarked on a race to develop chemicals and techniques that they hope will enable them to get rain drops out of clouds. Such deliberate introduction into clouds of various material/ chemical that act as condensation nuclei in an attempt to induce precipitation is called cloud seeding.

2. Cloud seeding material, including salt particles (sodium chloride), silver iodide, dry ice (carbon dioxide), potassium iodide, propane etc., bonds to the water vapour particles that make up a cloud. Combined particles (Seeding material and water vapour) are a little bigger and in turn attracts more water vapor particles until they form droplets, which eventually become heavy enough to fall as rain.

3. Benefits of cloud seeding: used for enhancing winter snowfall, supplementing natural water supply, improving air quality etc. Issues and challenges Silver iodide is toxic to aquatic life. Not all clouds have the potential to produce rain. Others: production of too much rain or snow, shifting of clouds away from other areas etc.

## TRIBE CATEGORISATION WORK DELAYS SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTS (SEED)

1. SEED would be implemented (from 2021-22 to 2025-26) through an online portal that would issue a unique ID to each applicant. However, delay in exercise to categorise around 1,265 De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities (DNTs, NTs, SNTs) under SCs, STs and OBCs is holding up implementation of SEED.

2. SEED is an umbrella scheme (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) launched for empowering DNTs, NTs, SNTs. DNTs were notified as 'born criminals' under colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) 1871.

3. Post-independence, CTA, 1871 was repealed, and these communities were "De-Notified". NTs and SNTs are social groups who undertakes a fairly frequent, usually seasonal physical movement as part of their livelihood strategy and moves from one place to another.

4. **Components of SEED-scheme Educational empowerment: Free coaching to students from these communities for competitive examinations to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA etc. Health Insurance through PMJAY of National Health Authority.**

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**second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) scheduled in Hyderabad from October 10 to 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address one of the sessions during the meeting. The conference is expected to be attended by over 2,000 delegates, including over 700 international delegates and participants from nearly 120 countries. It will also have participants from the Survey of India, NGOs and academia.**

**5.**Livelihoods to support income generation. Housing (through PMAY). Other schemes for DNTs, SNTs and NTs: Nanaji Deshmukh scheme of Construction of Hostels for DNT Boys and Girls, Dr.Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs etc.