

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Ten members of the 30 member joint parliamentary committee on the Data Protection Bill, 2019, have moved amendments against the provision in the legislation giving power to the Central government to exempt any agency of the government from application of the Act. The members have said this clause makes the entire Act infructuous.
- “People have a right to demonstrate peacefully and authorities need to let them do so,” Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the Secretary General of the United Nations said, on being asked about the farmers’ movement in India.
- Spell out decision on repeal of farm laws, protesters tell Centre. Govt. Seeks more time; further talks on Dec. 9.
- India is set to be the largest buyer of COVID19 vaccines in the world with 1.6 billion doses, according to a global analysis, a number some scientists say could cover 800 million people or 60% of its population, and will be enough to develop ‘herd immunity’.
- States with critically low groundwater reserves were responsible for 41%, or about 38.6 million tonnes, of domestic cereal trade. This worked out to nearly 39% of the groundwater being used up in producing and trading cereals among States.
- “Unsafe injection exposure during treatment seeking and receipt of intramuscular injection in the last five years were independently associated with HIV seroreactive (presence of antibodies) status,” noted the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), as the reason for the surge of HIV in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, in 2017-18.
- A U.S. judge ordered the Trump administration on Friday to fully reinstate a programme that protects from deportation immigrants who came to the country illegally as children.

## GREAT BARRIER REEF

1. According to a report by International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Australia's Great Barrier Reef status was **lowered to critical and deteriorating as climate change warms up** the waters in which it lies.
2. Coral-bleaching in 2016, 2017 and 2020 has further damaged its health and affected its animal, bird and marine population.
3. It is the world's most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem situated in **Australia's northeastern coast. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site.**

## OMAN-INDIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

1. Oman, India's oldest strategic partner in West Asia, has **announced directives to establish Oman-India Friendship Association. This would be the first such initiative in West Asia.**
2. The aim of the association is to provide a platform that promotes friendship, understanding and matters of mutual interest between Oman and India business and social communities in the Sultanate.

## EXPORT CONTROL LAW OF CHINA

1. It will **regulate the export of sensitive materials and technologies from China to overseas.**
2. Law stipulates export controls over items of both civilian and military use, military and goods, technologies and services that are related to national security, including data related to them.
3. It **allows China to retaliate against U.S.**, which blocked Chinese firms Huawei, TikTok on grounds of national security.

## THE CANCER GENOME ATLAS PROGRAM (TGCA)

1. TGCA is a cancer genomics program of the US-India which began in 2006 bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines and multiple institutions.
2. Over the years, **TGCA generated over 2.5 petabytes of genomic, epigenomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic data. These data led to improvements in the ability to diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer.**
3. On similar lines, the establishment of an Indian Cancer Genomics Atlas (ICGA) has been initiated by a consortium of key stakeholders in India led by CSIR.

## PLANT BASED VACCINE (PBV)

1. It is emerging as an **affordable and efficient alternative for vaccination against diseases.**
2. PBV are a kind of recombinant vaccines that introduce antigens against particular pathogens into the selected plant.
3. **Rather than replicating a virus, it aims to engineer a virus-like protein (VLP) in living plants.**
4. When administered, a VLP mimics a virus and is recognised by the immune system, thus eliciting a protective response.

## DIEM

1. It is **Facebook-backed crypto currency which was rebranded from earlier name Libra.**
2. It will be multiple coins with each backed by a different currency that can be traded in place of it.
3. Cryptocurrency is a type of digital currency that uses cryptography for security and anticounterfeiting measures.
4. The control of each cryptocurrency works through distributed ledger technology called blockchain. Some of the well-known currencies are Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), Ripple (XRP) etc.