



Current Affairs of the Day

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- 'Child marriages may go unnoticed amid lockdown'

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- 'Drop GST for key medical items'
- 'Remote working spurs demand for cyber experts'



'Child marriages may go unnoticed amid lockdown'

Young brides | The number of child marriages in Karnataka may increase owing to the fresh lockdown, experts believe

- Between April 2020 and January 2021, a total of 2,180 child marriages were reported in Karnataka

- In December 2020, of the 1,598



complaints received by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), 365 were related to child marriages

- In January 2021, of the 1,947 complaints in the State, 288 were related to child marriages

News: Last year, as the pandemic took a grip of the world and India went into a lockdown, child rights activists were alarmed to see a slew of child marriages being reported in Karnataka. Now, with another lockdown in place and weddings being restricted to houses because of tough guidelines, there are fears of child marriages going unnoticed.

Highlights:

- Some activists and organizations have raised the issue with the Ministry and the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD).
- Earlier, when child marriages happened at wedding halls, temples, etc., there were people who would alert the relevant authorities or activists who would be able to reach them on time to stop them. But now, with marriages happening at homes, we may get fewer alerts and our going there could be treated as trespassing.
- During the first lockdown, we saw child marriages for a variety of reasons, ranging from insecurity for the girl, wherein the parents assume their responsibility is over with her marriage, to the fact that they could get away with a simple marriage without calling too many people, resulting in less expenditure.



'Drop GST for key medical items'

Highlights:

1. A GST (Goods and Services Tax) waiver on vaccines, Remdesivir and oxygen concentrators can save ₹6,000 crores for the State governments and individuals, Congress said, reiterating its demand that the tax must be waived on all goods necessary to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The GST collection by the Centre for two doses of vaccines for the entire population would come to ₹3,000 crores. And as per the current rate of sales, almost an equal amount of GST would be collected by the Centre on the sale of Remdesivir and oxygen concentrators.
3. There is 5% GST on vaccines and 12% on Remdesivir and oxygen concentrators.

'Remote working spurs demand for cyber experts'

Highlights:

1. Demand for cybersecurity professionals, including chief security officers, has more than doubled now from a year earlier in the country after cybersecurity emerged as a key concern following the pandemic, data from executive search firm Kingsley Gate Partners showed.
2. Remote working, new ways of managing workflows and efforts to ensure business continuity have only made these companies increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats.
3. To combat this, global enterprises are beefing up their security to avoid possible catastrophes. As a result, we are seeing a 100% spike in demand for CSO jobs and other cybersecurity positions in India and abroad.
4. In 2021 alone, the country will require some 70,000 people with crucial skills such as application development security, cloud security, risk management, threat intelligence, incident response, data privacy and security strategy.