

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The prior consent of the Attorney General (AG) of India is not required to *suo motu* initiate the inherent contempt powers of the Supreme Court. *suo motu* contempt powers of the top court is drawn from Article 129 of the Constitution:Supreme Court.
- A key government think tank has flagged the lack of infrastructure in the chemical industry in the country as a barrier to competing with China. "India does not have the technology, plants and infrastructure to manufacture (key) chemicals in a cost effective and less polluting manner.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government formed a nine member committee to discuss and arrive at a possible solution to the touchy issue of creation of two autonomous councils in the State.
- The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) aims at "liberating" citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment, paying consultation fee and making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets.
- The government may take a relook at the age of marriage of women in its bid to fight malnutrition.
- The Pentagon said that it was setting up a new task force under the U.S. Navy to investigate UFO sightings. With the creation of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF).
- A panel of State Finance Ministers veered around to agree on a proposal to levy 3% GST on sale of old gold and jewellery to check tax evasion.

## CHANGES IN NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

1. Recently, major changes in scheme were approved.
2. Scheme provides financial assistance to the selected candidates for pursuing Master level courses and Ph.D abroad.
3. It is available for students belonging to the **Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural labourers and traditional Artisans category.**

## INDIA RANKS FIRST IN NUMBER OF ORGANIC FARMERS

1. India is home to **30% of the total organic producers in the world and ranks ninth in terms of area** under organic farming.
2. Major organic exports from India: **flax seeds, sesame, soyabean, tea, medicinal plants, rice and pulses etc.**
3. Organic farming is a production system which **avoids or excludes use of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators etc.**

## INDIA ANNOUNCES A SLEW OF MEASURES FOR MALDIVES

1. Measures are aimed to help Maldives deal with economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Five-pronged package includes: **\$500 million to support Greater Male connectivity Project**, A direct cargo ferry service.
3. Creation of **an air travel bubble, supply of essential commodities**, Financial aid of \$250 million.

## MERCHANDISE EXPORT FROM INDIA SCHEME (MEIS)

1. Amid criticism from exporters and domestic industry, Ministry of commerce have suggested that some broad benefits of MEIS should be continued in its proposed successor- **Remission of duties or Taxes on export products (RoDTEP) scheme.**
2. **MEIS was introduced in 2015**, under Foreign Trade policy of India 2015, to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and the associated costs of exporting products produced in India.
3. It provide incentive in the form of duty credit scrip to the exporter to compensate for his loss on payment of duties. **MEIS covers nearly 75% of all traded products.**

## GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS NORMS FOR IMPORT OF CERTAIN CHEMICALS WHICH CAN AFFECT ENVIRONMENT

1. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) inserted a new policy condition for import of various chemicals & plastics **including carbon tetrachloride, chlorodifluoromethane and dichlorotetrafluoroethane.**
2. These chemicals are used in **cleaning agents, fire extinguishers and refrigerants and China is the largest exporter of these goods to India.**
3. Ozone Cell is engaged in phase-out of production and consumption of chemicals, Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) with an accelerated phase-out schedule as per the Montreal protocol.