

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The 15th Finance Commission said it had taken the unique requirements of each State on board and come up with State specific considerations in its report, which was submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed that there would be a total ban on sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers between November 10 and 30 in all cities and towns across the country, where the average ambient air quality in November fell under the 'poor' and above category.
- The first National Agricultural Education Policy is set to bring academic credit banks and degree programmes with multiple entry and exit options to the 74 universities focussed on crop sciences, fisheries, veterinary and dairy training and research.
- The Peoples Conference (PC), headed by Sajad Lone, submitted a plea before the Supreme Court for an early hearing of the petitions pending before it that contested the measures taken by the Union government since August 5 last year in Jammu and Kashmir, including the abrogation of provisions of Article 370.
- Pro democracy members of Hong Kong's legislature will resign "en masse" if Beijing moves to disqualify four of them for violating the city's Basic Law, the bloc said.
- India and Maldives signed four agreements, including a \$100 million Indian grant for an ambitious connectivity project. Agreements are part of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).
- Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party claimed on that it has won enough seats in Parliament to constitute an absolute majority and retain power. It made the claim even though the Election Commission has not yet completed releasing results from Sunday's polls.

## LABORATORY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES(LaCONES)

- 1.It is a dedicated Laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR) in Hyderabad for conservation of endangered wildlife.
- 2.Its objective is to use modern biotechnologies for conservation of endangered wildlife catering both in-situ and ex-situ conservation.

## MINISTRY OF SHIPPING TO BE RENAMED AS MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

- 1.Ministry of Shipping encompasses within its fold shipping and port sectors which also include shipbuilding and ship repair, major ports and inland water transport.
- 2.In developed economies, in most places, the shipping ministry also takes care of ports and waterways.
- 3.In India, the shipping ministry does a lot of work related to ports and waterways. Hence, clarity in name will bring the ministry at par with its counterparts in developed economies.

## FASTags

- 1.Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued notification to make FASTags mandatory for all four-wheelers including old vehicles from January 1, 2020.
- 2.FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India, operated by National Highway Authority of India.
- 3.It employs Radio Frequency Identification(RFID) technology for payments directly from prepaid or savings account linked to it.

## NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION(NMC) NOTIFIES MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL MBBS ADMISSIONS REGULATIONS

- 1.Key features of regulations-Allow optimization and flexibility in utilizing available resources, and harnessing modern educational technology tools etc.
- 2.A well-equipped "Skills Laboratory" for training students is essential.
- 3.Mandates the availability of a fully functional 300 bed multi-speciality hospital for at least two years at the time of application for establishing a new medical college.
- 4.Regulations will be applicable to all new medical colleges proposed to be established, and to the established medical colleges proposing to increase their annual MBBS intake.

## STRATEGY POLICY AND FACILITATION BUREAU(SPFB)

- 1.It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Ayush and invest India to facilitate planned and systematic growth of the Ayush Sector.
- 2.Activities of SPFB includes-Knowledge Creation and management, Strategic and Policy-Making Support, State policy Bench marking to formulate uniform guidelines/regulations, Investment Facilitation.
- 3.Some of the Specific Deliverables of Bureau include project monitoring for Inter-Ministerial Groups, Skill Development Initiatives, setting up strategic intelligence Research Unnit and initiating and Innovation Program.

## SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE(SCRI)

- 1.SCRI was proposed by Japan as a trilateral approach to trade, with India and Australia.
- 2.It aims to attract FDI in Indo-Pacific region and to build mutually complementary relationship with partner countries.
- 3.As a part of SCRI, Australia, Japan, India are likely to set up a trilateral framework to address trade and investment barriers along with trade and investment promotion.