

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi called for a ban on opinion polls and also suggested counting of votes from the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).**
- **The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a mega trade bloc comprising 15 countries led by China, that came into existence on Sunday said India would have to write expressing "intention" to join the organisation to restart negotiations for membership.**
- **Arunachal Pradesh recorded the best sex ratio in the country, while Manipur recorded the worst, according to the 2018 report on "Vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System" published by the Registrar General of India.**
- **Several eminent artists who have been asked to vacate the houses allotted to them by the government in Lutyens' and south Delhi by December 31 say the decision was sudden and inhumane during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Over 1,200 tribals in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district stare at an uncertain future as their review petition for recognition of their claims over forest land under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been rejected by the local authorities.**
- **The Union Labour and Employment Ministry has notified the draft rules, which propose to provide the unorganised sector, gig and platform workers access to social security benefits through a government portal.**
- **A Lancet Commission on Diabetes, four years in the making, warns of possible damaging effects of coronavirus 2 on the pancreatic islets, responsible for regulating blood sugar, and thereby, on diabetes.**

## VIRGIN HYPERLOOP COMPLETES FIRST MANNED TEST

1. In a step towards commercialization of the hyperloop technology, Virgin hyperloop became the first company to conduct a human test of the technology.
2. **Hyperloop is a high-speed train that travels in a near-vacuum tube.** It is considered 5th mode of transportation (other 4 includes railways, roadways, airways, waterways).
3. It is among 6 new proposals for the Public Transport System, cleared by NITI Aayog. Other five include **metrino, stadler buses, pod taxis, hybrid buses and freight rail road.**

## UN LAUNCHES THE FOOD COALITION TO PREVENT COVID-19 FOOD CRISIS

1. It is a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral alliance, launched by Food and Agricultural Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. **It will support innovative COVID-19 initiatives to ensure global food access, to increase the resilience and transformation of agri-food system** in a more sustainable manner.
3. COVID-19 crisis could pose long-term effects on food security and nutrition through multiple disruptions in food systems that affect food production.

## ABUSE OF WOMEN AT HOME ROSE DURING LOCKDOWN

1. National Commission for Women (NCW) received **over 13,000 complaints of domestic violence during the COVID-induced lockdown (March to September).**
2. **UP, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana and Bihar make 70% of the complaints.** Not even 1% of cases have been registered by women in North-East States.
3. Key factors - As the lockdowns impose stricter control on one's mobility, they put women in abusive relationships at extremely high risk of damage from physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
4. Loss of income, especially for males leads to lesser control over economic security and thereby making them exert more control on their partners.

## GOVERNMENT SIMPLIFIED GUIDELINES FOR OTHER SERVICE PROVIDER (OSP)

1. New **guidelines aim to improve Ease of Doing Business of IT Industry particularly Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and IT Enabled Services (ITES).**
2. OSPs are entities providing applications services, ITES or any kind of outsourcing services using telecom resources.
3. Since most of these firms used leased telephone lines, which in turn used the telecom spectrum, all OSPs needed to register themselves **so that government could keep a check on the usage of its resources.**

## PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM-UTTHAN MAHABHIYAN (PM-KUSUM)

1. Ministry of New and Renewables Energy scaled up **PM-KUSUM scheme goal to 30.8 gigawatt (GW) by 2022 (Original target was 25.7 GW).**
2. It consists of 3 components - Component-A: Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewables Power Plants. Component-B: Installation of standalone Solar Powered Agriculture pumps. Component-C: Solarisation of Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.