

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Justice N.V. Ramana, leading a three judge Bench of the Supreme Court, said the court has only public interest and faith in judiciary in mind while pushing for the setting up of special courts to expeditiously try sitting and former MPs and MLAs accused of various crimes.
- In contrast to the strong reaction to India's Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation move last year, China on refrained from voicing its opposition on Pakistan's announced move to accord "provisional provincial status" to Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- India's ties with the U.S. is based on bipartisan support and the two countries have forged a relationship that has withstood the test of time, Foreign Secretary has said, as he exuded confidence that the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections will not affect the bilateral ties.
- The United States on formally left the Paris Agreement, a global pact forged five years ago to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change.
- India's GDP in 2020 is expected to be higher than currently projected by various agencies, with the economy poised to recover fast and reach pre-COVID19 levels by the end of the year.
- Telecom operators have collectively opposed any move to introduce differential licensing via unbundling of various layers, arguing that the proposal goes against regulatory consistency and would wreak unknown and unpredictable impact on investments made, leading to investor uncertainty.
- With mailed-in votes still being counted in key 'Battleground States' through the night of November 3, neither U.S. President Donald Trump nor Democratic candidate Joe Biden emerged victorious after a fiercely fought election for the presidency of a deeply troubled and polarised country.

## INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION

1. **Durte Pacheco of Portugal elected as new President** of Inter Parliamentary Union.
2. **The IPU is the global organisation of national parliaments.** IT is dedicated to promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue.
3. IT has **179 member Parliaments** out of the 193 countries in the world including India.

## ELECTRICITY ACCESS IN INDIA AND BENCHMARKING DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES REPORT LAUNCHED

1. Report, by NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power, Rockefeller Foundation, and Smart Power India, is based on a survey conducted across 10 states-representing about 65% of the total rural population.
2. Reports aims to evaluate the status of electricity access in India across these states and distribution utilities.
3. Key Findings-**92% of customers reported the overall availability of electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises.**
4. **Overall 87% of the surveyed customers have access to grid-based electricity.**

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RELEASES DRAFT INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE (IRC), 2020 RULES.

1. IRC, 2020 was passed to consolidate and amend laws relating to Trade Unions, conditions of employment etc.
2. Draft IRC rules are aimed at ensuring time-bound permission for companies to retrench, lay-off or shut its businesses.
3. Draft Rules-**15 days in advance for lay-offs, 60 days for retrenchments, and 90 days for closure,** Government has also reduced the information sought from employers at the time of retrenchment or lay-off, A re-skilling fund for retrenchments workers.

## INDIAN NAVAL SHIP AIRAVAT REACHES PORT SUDAN AS PART OF 'MISSION SAGAR-II'

1. Mission Sagar-II, follows the first 'Mission sagar' undertaken in May-June 2020, wherein India reached out to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros.
2. Under '**Mission Sagar**' India is providing assistance (food, medicines) to friendly foreign countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic.

## INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT ONLINE TRAINING (iGOT) PLATFORM

1. It is a **training module for management of COVID-19 on Ministry of Education's DIKSHA platform for the capacity building of frontline workers** to handle the pandemic efficiently.
2. So far, more than 19.2 lakh have completed the courses and certificates have been issued to more than 15 lakh online trainees.

## GOVERNMENT EXTENDS EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECGLS) BY ONE MONTH

1. Under the ECLGS, announced as part of the government's relief package in May, **Centre has pledged full guarantee for up to 20% extra, collateral-free working capital loans, subject to the Rs 3-lakh-crore limit.**
2. Scheme was initially meant for only MSMEs, later relaxed to cover professionals also.
3. Interest rates under the scheme are capped at 9.25% for banks and other financial institutions, and 14% for NBFCs.