

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The gap between GST cess collections and the revenue shortfall faced by the States for implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) could snowball to anywhere between ₹ 5 lakh crore to ₹7 lakh crore by June 2022 from the ₹2.35 lakh crore estimated for this year, the Fifteenth Finance Commission is learnt to have projected in its report.
- The Haryana Assembly on Friday passed a Bill which provides the right to recall members of Panchayati Raj institutions to those who elected them and gives women 50% reservation in these rural bodies.
- The Central government's decision to release only half of its budgetary allotment for combating air pollution was because of its plan to link the money disbursed to the States achieving certain 'performance targets'.
- India will not accept any "shifting" of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the possibility of unprovoked tactical military actions "spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted", Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said.
- India reiterated that ties with the United States enjoy strong bipartisan support. India was waiting for the result of the U.S. Presidential election and maintained that ties had become better over the years because of cross party consensus in Washington DC regarding India.
- Army chief Gen. Manoj Naravane called on Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli and reaffirmed that he would work to further strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries. Presidential race exposes America's 'perilous' divides. The yawning divisions could threaten the next President's ability to manage multiple crises — from virus to economic woes.

## VERTICAL FARMING: NEW METHOD OF CROP GROWING CROPS TO FEED THE POPULATION

1. Vertical farming is the practice of producing food in vertically inclined surfaces.
2. **Crops are grown indoors, under artificial conditions of light and temperature.** It used soil-less methods such as hydroponics, aquaponics and aquaponics.
3. Advantages of vertical farming- A single building that houses a vertical farm **can yield 390 times higher food per square foot while using 95% less water than traditional agricultural methods.** Crops aren't subject to seasons and hence give high productivity year-round.

## STATES GRANTED Rs 2,200 CRORE TO FIGHT AIR POLLUTION

1. Union government approved **funds to fight air pollution to 42 cities with population in excess of a million.**
2. Money will be used under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to improve air quality in these cities. Delhi will not receive funds under this grant.

## FAST RADIO BURSTS (FRBS) DETECTED IN THE MILKY WAY FOR THE FIRST TIME

1. **FRBs are bright bursts of radio waves (radio waves can be produced by astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields) whose durations lie in the millisecond-scale,** because of which it is difficult to detect them and determine their position in the sky.
2. First FRB was discovered in 2007, since when scientists have been working towards finding the source of their origin.

## UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS (UNIDO)

1. According to UNIDO, **Regional Cluster concept of economic development is playing important role in Indian success story.**
2. UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.
3. Lima Declaration 2013 defines the mission of UNIDO which aims to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States. **India is a member of UNIDO.**

## GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAAN

1. **Latest data shows only 78% funds for scheme i.e. Rs 38,921 crore out of Rs 50,000 crore used.**
2. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) is a 125-day Abhiyan launched on 20th June, 2020 with a mission to address the issues of returnee migrant workers and similarly affected rural population by Covid-19 pandemic.
3. 25 work areas have been identified for employment in villages.

## BROWN CARBON TARBALLS FOUND IN HIMALAYAN ATMOSPHERE

1. According to a recent study nearly 28% of particles collected from the air samples from a research station in the Himalayan-Tibetan Plateau were tarballs.
2. **Tarballs are small light-absorbing, carbonaceous particles that are formed from brown carbon (emitted during the burning of fossil fuels).**
3. It could contribute to hastening of glacial melt and global warming.