

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Facebook Inc could be forced to sell WhatsApp and Instagram after the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and nearly every U.S. State filed lawsuits against the company, saying it used a “buy or bury” strategy to snap up rivals and keep smaller competitors at bay.
- HelpAge India has been presented the UN Population Award for 2020 (institutional category), according to a release issued by UNFPA.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the new Parliament building, for which the groundbreaking ceremony was held, would channel and reflect the aspirations of 21st century India.
- Morocco has become the fourth Arab nation this year to recognise Israel, U.S. President Donald Trump announced Thursday, as he, in turn, fulfilled a decades old goal of Morocco by backing its sovereignty in disputed Western Sahara.
- Israeli authorities are set to unveil previously off-limits structures within King Herod’s palace fortress, Herodium, which the tyrannical Roman leader interred as his enormous burial plot Herodium, a popular tourism destination, is near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8% contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9% estimated earlier, on the back of a faster than expected recovery.
- Responding to an appeal from the Centre that the farmers’ unions reconsider its proposal for amendments to the three agriculture sector laws and resume dialogue, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a joint front of the farmers’ unions, maintained that they too had not “shut the doors” for negotiations.

## URBAN GOVERNANCE INDEX

- 1.It was recently released by the Praja Foundation.
- 2.According to UGI, **Odisha has topped all Indian states in urban governance while Manipur and Nagaland are at the bottom.**
- 3.Index showed that no state has devolved the **18 functions mentioned in the 12th Schedule(deals with municipalities) of the Constitution** to their city governments.

## DECENTRALISED NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

- 1.Recently, Madhya Pradesh created community-centric Sahyogini Samiti(SMS)/ maternal associate committees to create a **decentralised structure to monitor the implementation of integrated child development services(ICDS).**
- 2.SMS will have authority to fix accountability of service provider institutions at the local level.
- 3.It is authorised to function as vigilance committee and to conduct social audit of nutrition and maternity entitlements programmes.

## DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

- 1.Recently, **Ministry of Ayush and AIIMS have decided to initiate work on setting up a Department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS.**
- 2.It is decided that Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research(CIMR) AIIMS may develop an integrated protocol with Ayurveda and Yoga for study on Post COVID treatment.
- 3.This step shows a progress towards integration of traditional medicine with Modern Medicine.

## BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE

- 1.Based at the United Nations, **Better Than Cash Alliance is a partnership of over 75 governments, companies and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to digital payments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.**
- 2.**India became a member of this Alliance in 2015.**

## DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS QUANTUM KEY DISTRIBUTION(QKD) TECH

- 1.The Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using QKD technology.
- 2.**Quantum cryptography(or QKD) is a technology that uses quantum physics to secure the distribution of symmetric encryption keys.**
- 3.In QKD, **encryption keys are sent qubits in a fibre optic cable.**
- 4.Quantum computing uses qubits as basic resources, similar to how bits are used as basic resources in classical computing.

## EMISSIONS GAP REPORT(EGR) 2020 RELEASED BY NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM(UNEP)

- 1.Report provides a yearly review of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- 2.Key findings-World is heading for a temperature rise in **excess of 3 degree centigrade this century, far beyond the Paris Agreement goals.**
- 3.COVID-19 crisis only a short-term reduction in global emissions
- 4.**G20 countries** account for bulk of emissions