

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

8TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a technical expert group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey 5 and “recommend programmatic and policy interventions to improve” indicators relating to malnutrition, stunting, anaemia, and C-section.
- The Supreme Court asked the Centre and the Election Commission of India (EC) to respond to a plea to debar legislators, disqualified under the Tenth Schedule, from contesting by elections during the rest of the tenure of the House.
- The government’s three top committees on nutrition responsible for providing policy directions, monitoring the implementation of various schemes and reviewing the nutritional status of various States and Union Territories have failed to meet even once since the COVID19 pandemic broke out, though they are required to meet every quarter.
- The U.S. Congress confirmed Democrat Joe Biden as the presidential election winner early after a violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol in a stunning attempt to overturn the presidential election, undercut the nation’s democracy and keep Mr. Trump in the White House.
- India’s real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is estimated to contract by 7.7% in 2020-21, with GVA (Gross Valued added) shrinking by 7.2%, advance estimates released by the National Statistical Office.
- The Supreme Court, in a press release issued, rebuffed being the “source of information” for recent media reports about complaints making “insinuations” against members of the higher judiciary and the “likely” action Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde may take on them.

SUDDEN STRATOSPHERIC WARMING(SSW)

- 1.SSW event took place above the North Pole may be behind very cold weather in large parts of the world currently.
- 2.During an SSW, polar stratospheric **temperature can increase by up to 50 degrees Celsius** over the course of a few days.
- 3.Such events are often **followed by very cold weather**, especially heavy snow storms.
- 4.**Stratosphere** is the layer of the atmosphere from around **10-50 kilometres above the earth’s surface**.

AID TO SRI LANKA

- 1.An India-funded free ambulance service is playing a vital role in Sri Lanka’s Covid-19 response.
- 2.India provided a **grant of 7.56 million USD for the Suwa Seriya [vehicle or journey for good health] service which was launched in 2016**, on a pilot basis. Later, this was extended throughout the country with additional grants from India.
- 3.India also helped with Capacity Building: Training and refresher programmes for Sri Lankan emergency medical technicians which further generated employment for the local population.

SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSION NORMS DELAYED

- 1.The Ministry of Power has proposed pushing back the deadlines for adoption of new emission norms by coal-fired power plants, stating "an unworkable time schedule" would burden utilities and lead to an increase in power tariffs.
- 2.India initially had set a 2017 deadline for thermal power plants to comply with emissions standards for **installing Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) units** that cut emissions of toxic sulphur dioxide. This was later changed to varying deadlines for different regions, ending in 2022.
- 3.**Removal of Sulfur Dioxide is called as Flue-gas Desulphurization (FGD)**. It seeks to remove gaseous pollutants viz. SO₂ from exhaust flue gases generated in furnaces, boilers, etc.

LONGITUDINAL AGEING STUDY OF INDIA

- 1.The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has released the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI) Wave-1 Report.
- 2.Findings-In the 2011 census, the 60+ population accounted for 8.6% of India’s population, accounting for 103 million elderly people.
- 3.**Growing at around 3% annually, the number of elderly people will rise to 319 million in 2050.**
- 4.The prevalence of **multi-morbidity conditions among the elderly age 60 and above is much higher in the states/UTs of Kerala (52%), Chandigarh (41%), Lakshadweep (40%), Goa (39%) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (38%)**.

PAYMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME

- 1.Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the operationalisation of the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme.
- 2.Develop payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 cities (centres), with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.
- 3.The focus shall be to **target those merchants who are yet to be terminalised (merchants who do not have any payment acceptance device)**.