

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Indian-American US Air Force Colonel Raja Chari has been selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde, proposed the setting up of a committee of farmer leaders from across the country, including the Bharatiya Kisan Union that has been at the forefront of the protests, and government representatives to resolve the issue.
- The U.S. Treasury labelled Switzerland and Vietnam as currency manipulators and added three new names, including India, to a watch list of countries it suspects of taking measures to devalue their currencies against the dollar.
- Phase 1 results show that Covaxin, a COVID19 vaccine candidate, is safe, Generated a "robust immune response".
- The Union Cabinet approved the auction of 2,251.25 megahertz of spectrum with a reserve price of ₹. 3.92 lakh crore, a move that should help boost the quality of 4G telecom services in the country.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a communications satellite, CMS01, on board the PSLVC50 Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR.
- At least seven branches of the Communist Party of China(CPC) have an India connection, and at least one CPC member was hired by the Indian consulate in Shanghai using the services of a Chinese state-owned recruitment Agency.
- A Chinese lunar space craft capsule has returned to Earth with the first fresh samples of rock and debris from the Moon in more than 40 years. The capsule of the Chang'e 5 probe landed.

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT(HDR) 2020 RELEASED BY UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- 1.This year is themed on "**Human Development and the Anthropocene**". Anthropocene is an informal geological time which describes an era in which humans are a dominant force shaping the future of planet Earth.
- 2.Human Development Index(HDI) is also released as part of HDR. HDI has traditionally measured **average achievement across three dimensions of human Development:life expectancy, education and per capita income.**
- 3.Other key findings-No country in the world has yet achieved very high human development without putting immense strain on the planet. Some 100 million people into extreme poverty. Top three positions in HDI were occupied by Norway, Ireland and Switzerland.

## INDIA RELATED FINDING IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT(HDR) 2020

- 1.**India ranked 131 among 189 countries** compared with 129 in the previous year.
- 2.India's gross national income(GNI) **per capita fell to \$6,681** in 2019 from \$6,829 in 2018 on PPP basis.
- 3.India in the bottom third for:**quality of health and education, adverse sex ratio and high percentage of vulnerable employees.**

## GREEN AMMONIA

- 1.Government plans to invite bids for setting up green ammonia projects to reduce import dependence.
- 2.Green ammonia refers to ammonia, which has been produced through a process that is **100% renewable and carbon-free.**
- 3.It uses renewable energy instead of natural gas or coal for producing hydrogen, hence is an effective way to reduce greenhouse emissions.
- 4.**Ammonia is a pungent gas that is widely used to make agricultural fertilisers.** It is easier and cheaper to store, and transport.

## UNESCO LAUNCHES 2020 STATE OF THE EDUCATION REPORT(SER) FOR INDIA

- 1.This edition of SER focuses on technical and vocational education and training(TVET).
- 2.It aims to support the Government which has already announced skills development as a key national priority under Skill India Mission.
- 3.**TVET is a comprehensive term referring to the study of technologies and related sciences,** and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life.
- 4.Report highlights the **Vision for quality TVET which is also included in India's new National Education Policy 2020** requiring all educational institutions to integrate vocational education into their offerings.

## NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY(NFHS) ON USE OF INTERNET

- 1.According to survey, there is an urban- rural gap as well as gender divide with respect to the use of Internet in 22 states and union territories.
- 2.Only an average of 42.6% of women ever used the Internet as against an average of 62.16% among the men. In Urban India, an average 56.81% women ever used the Internet compared to an average 73.76% among the men.
- 3.**A dismissal 33.94% women in rural India ever used the Internet as against 55.6% among men.**