

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- There should be a comprehensive Public Health Act with suitable legal provisions to keep checks and controls over private hospitals in times of a pandemic and to curb black marketing of medicines, the parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by Congress leader Anand Sharma, said in a report submitted to Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu.
- The government must expedite the rollout of infrastructure projects for bidding out to developers, even as it scales up capital spending allocations to pumpprime the economy, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) suggested to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The government has decided to extend the suspension of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) till March 31, 2021, to help businesses cope with the lingering difficulties posed by the COVID19 pandemic.
- The Centre is considering a one year extension of protection from demolitions and sealing granted to certain kinds of illegal constructions in Delhi that is set to end on December 31, according to multiple sources.
- Boeing announced the successful demonstration of the compatibility of its F/A18 Super Hornet fighter jets with the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers as part of its pitch for the Navy's fighter procurement.
- Amid increasing tensions with India, China asked India to view "objectively" the ongoing monthlong military exercises being conducted by the Chinese and Pakistani air forces.
- A Chinese Communist Party (CCP) official signalled on Monday that there would likely be no letup in its crackdown in the remote Xinjiang region, but said the government's focus is shifting more to addressing the roots of extremism.

## NGT PANEL FOR PROTECTION OF MAHANADI FLOOD PLAIN

1. Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a high level committee to identify floodplain zones of the Mahanadi. Mahanadi is Odisha's largest river.
2. Earlier, Chief Minister of Odisha had announced that the 424 acres reclaimed from the river Mahanadi would be utilised to add ecological, recreational, sporting, cultural and technological value in the lives of the people of Cuttack.
3. A local citizen approached the NGT against the state government's plan.
4. The NGT has formed a **panel of experts** from the Central Water Commission, National Institute of Hydrology and state and central pollution control board **for laying down norms to ensure that the riverfront development takes place without damage to the floodplains of the river.**

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1. The Confederation of Indian Industry (Southern Region) has announced a competition on social entrepreneurship.
2. Social Entrepreneurship is a construct that blends the idea of a commercial enterprise with the tenets of a charitable nonprofit organization. It is about **creating business models revolving around low-cost products and services to resolve social inequities.**
3. India needs numerous social entrepreneurs **in the areas of sanitation, education, water conservation, gender bias, primary health, female foeticide, carbon emissions** and other environmental problems.

## INDIGENOUS GAMES

1. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has recently included **Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba in Khelo India Youth Games 2021.** Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021, are scheduled to take place in Haryana.
2. KIYG is a part of the revamped national programme for development of sports 'Khelo India' which was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2017.
3. The Khelo India Scheme aims to encourage sports all over the country, thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence.

## MUTATED NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

1. A mutated variant of the novel Coronavirus has been associated with recent infections in England. The virus has undergone several mutations since it first infected humans.
2. The mutant virus **has been identified as N501Y** and is likely to be a mutation in the spike protein. It is the coronavirus spike protein that binds to a human protein to initiate the process of infection. Changes here could possibly affect **how the virus behaves in terms of its ability to infect, or cause severe disease, or escape the immune response made by vaccines.**

## BITCOINS IN NEWS

1. Recently, **Bitcoin, the cryptocurrency, has crossed 20,000 US dollars in value.** Bitcoin's price has always been volatile, and there is no clear explanation for its current rise.
2. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple are a few notable examples of cryptocurrencies.
3. Bitcoin is a type of digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone. **Bitcoin was introduced in 2009. Bitcoin is based on an open-source protocol** and is not issued by any central authority.