

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH JULY, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- An Israeli team, led by a “high ranking” research and development (R&D) defence official, arrived with a multipronged mission, codenamed “Operation Breathing Space”, to work with Indian authorities on the coronavirus response.
- India’s government and society have an obligation to prevent any development that can fracture the historic ties with Bangladesh, Onus on India to maintain ties: Bangladesh.
- The Supreme Court on Monday listed for hearing on September 1 petitions challenging the legality of a Maharashtra State law providing reservation for the Maratha community in government jobs and education.
- Afghanistan saw a 13% drop in the number of civilians killed and wounded in violence across the country in the first six months of this year, compared to the same period last year, according to a UN report released.
- Iran has moved a mock aircraft carrier to the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions with the U.S., likely signalling that it soon plans to use it for livefire drills.
- Botswana’s government says it still doesn’t know what caused the deaths of hundreds of elephants in recent weeks, but testing continues, Viral infection, poisoning could be among possible reasons.
- The Centre made up a 42% shortfall in Goods and Services Tax compensation cess collection in 2019-20 by using balance of cess from previous years, plus a transfer from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das called for a targeted infrastructure push to help give impetus to the economy.

INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES INCREASE OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES: NSO SURVEY.

Key facts

1. As per the survey on the state of India’s health conducted by the **National Statistical Office(NSO)**:
2. Over past two decades, proportion of women delivering a child in hospital or health care institution **increased by nearly 73% in rural India** and 37% points in Urban India.
3. Institutional deliveries can **significantly reduce the risk of maternal and neonatal deaths** attributable to prematurity etc.
4. Schemes to promote institution deliveries:**Janani Suraksha Yojana**, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Etc.

MANY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SHOW COST OVERRUNS AND TIME OVERRUN

Key facts

1. Overall cost **overrun is about 19.60% of original cost** and average time overrun is around 41.16 months.
2. Presently, Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation(**MOSPI**) **monitors infrastructure projects** worth Rs150 crore or above.
3. Reason for overrun-**Delay in Land acquisition, Project linking issues**, Delay in tendering, No reporting of revised cost estimates, Law and order problems.
4. Suggestions-**Improving processes and capabilities**, Strengthen people management processes.
5. Steps taken in this direction:Preparing **National Infrastructure Pipeline** which aims to improve project preparation, Project Development cells in ministries.

STATES TO BE RANKED ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INDEX(FMI) FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Key facts

1. **FMI(By Ministry of Rural Development)** ranks the performance of the states on the basis of certain parameters:**Preparation of annual plan, expeditious release of state’s share**, timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates etc.
2. Benefits of the Index- **Bring in transparency,Optimum Utilization of the funds**,Effective use of Funds,Check any irregularities.
3. Recently Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also decided to conduct an online audit of 20% of the gram panchayats.

SIDDI COMMUNITY

Key facts

1. Siddi community has got its first representative in **Karnatka state legislature**.
2. They are an ethnic group inhabiting India and Pakistan.
3. They are the **descendants of Africans from North-East and East Africa** who were brought to India as slaves,soldiers or servants.
4. In India,They are spread along the coast of Gujrat,Karnatka,Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
5. Siddis are primarily Sufi Muslims, although some are Hindus and Roman Catholic Christians.