KSG: Newspaper Crux

14ᵗʰ September, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Calling itself a pioneer in using big data for "hybrid warfare" and the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation", a Shenzen based technology company with links to the Chinese government, is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals(including many dignitaries) and organisations in its global database of "foreign targets".**

- **A fortnight after the Centre detailed two options for states to borrow to meet the compensation deficit of Rs 2.35 lakh crore this fiscal under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, a total of 12 states have opted for Option 1 — borrowing of Rs.97,000 crore through a RBI-facilitated special window.**

- **There is a freeze on all movement and activities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Moscow and agreed on a five point solution to ease the border tension.**

- **Turkey's seismic research vessel Oruc Reis returned to waters near the southern province of Antalya, a move Greece said was a positive first step in easing tensions over offshore natural resources.**

- **Wild fire smoke that posed a health hazard to millions choked the West Coast as fire fighters battled deadly blazes that obliterated some towns and displaced tens of thousands of people, the latest in a series of calamities this year.**

- **Taliban and Afghan government forces clashed across Afghanistan hours after the start of long-awaited peace talks in Doha, officials said, under scoring the uphill challenge of settling a 19-year insurgency.**

- **Director Chatainya Tamhane won the best screenplay award for his Marathi-language feature The Disciple at the Venice Film Festival.**

CLIMATE SMART CITIES ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK(CSCAF 2.0) AND STREETS FOR PEOPLE CHALLENGE LAUNCHED

1. CSCAF is a first-of-its-kind assement framework on climate relevant parameters launched in 2019 by Ministry of State for Housing and Urban Affairs(MoHUA).
2. Its objective is to provide a **clear roadmap for Indian cities towards combating climate change while planning their actions within city including investments.**
3. It tends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ASKS STATES TO IMPOSE AND ENFORCE STRICT LAWS TO CURB ILLEGAL SAND MINING

1. **Illegal mining leads to loss of revenue to the State and degradation of the environment**.
2. Minister also appealed for sustainable sand mining to prevent the depletion of natural resources from river beds.
3. Sand is a **minor mineral** under the mines and minerals(Development and Regulation) Act, 1957(MMDR Act) therefore **it comes under state government regulations.**

LEVELS AND TRENDS IN CHILD MORTALITY REPORT 2020

1. Report shows child mortality rates, from newborns to adolescents, as well as progress made toward meeting SDG targets by 2030.
2. Under-five mortality rates(U5MR) have declined by almost 60% since 1990, from 93 to 38 in 2019. **SubSaharan Africa has the highest U5MR.Nigeria and India account for almost a third.**
3. Newborn mortality is not decreasing as quickly as mortality among children aged to 1 to 59 months.
4. **In 2019, 122 countries had achieved U5MR below SDG target of 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births.**

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR REHABILITATION OF BEGGARS

1. Comprehensive scheme covering identification,rehabilitation,counselling,skill development beggars with the support of State governments/UTs/Local Urban Bodies and voluntary organizations, institutions etc.
2. A project for comprehensive rehabilitation has been taken up by the ministry. This project would be run in 10 pilot cities.

GOVERNMENT CONFIDENT OF HALVING ROAD ACCIDENT DEATHS FROM 1.5 LAKH PER ANNUM BY 2025

1. Government had signed the **Brasilia declaration in 2015**, committing to reduce road accident.
2. As per National Crime records Bureau(NCRB), During 2019, a total of 4,37,396 cases of road accidents were reported which caused 1,54,732 deaths.
3. Traffic Accidents(43.9%) were major causes of accidental deaths.