

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

14<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- India's TFRs have been reducing substantially across most States, even in U.P. and Bihar with the highest Total Fertility Rates(TFRs). To hasten the drop to replacement levels of fertility, States should tackle the socio-economic issues confronting India's largely youthful demography rather than seeking neo-Malthusian approaches on population control.
- The only discordant notes in an otherwise excellent competition were English fans' violent behaviour on the final day and the racist attacks on players who erred in the penalty shootout. But in the long run, Euro 2020 will be remembered for restoring Italian football, reinvigorating international football and proving mildly therapeutic to fans worldwide amidst an unending, exhausting pandemic.
- What is required now is a sharp revival in overall demand. Focusing on short term magnified growth rates resting on low bases might be erroneous, as income levels matter more than growth rates at this juncture. Focusing on growth rates has its merits in the long term as achieving higher income levels require sustained growth for longer periods. Bangladesh seems to be doing this without much fanfare, but the quest for sustained higher growth has been elusive for India for the last five years.
- Positive messages and reinforcements for vaccination have to be aired from the several quarters that command respect and trust of the community. In this regard, there is a strong case for engaging with members of traditional and folk systems despite any potential resistance from them.
- Almost 400 years after she was murdered in present day Iran, relics of St. Queen Ketevan that were found in Goa in 2005 are likely to be put on display in India as well as her native Georgia.

## RETAIL DIRECT SCHEME

- 1.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the 'RBI Retail Direct' Scheme. In February 2021 RBI proposed to allow retail investors to open gilt accounts with the central bank to invest in Government securities (G-secs) directly.
- 2.Under the scheme, retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with the RBI.
- 3.Retail Investor is a non-professional investor who buys and sells securities or funds that contain a basket of securities such as mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).
- 4.A Gilt Account can be compared with a bank account, except that the account is debited or credited with treasury bills or government securities instead of money.

## RIGHT TO REPAIR MOVEMENT

- 1.In recent years, countries around the world have been attempting to pass effective 'right to repair' laws. The movement traces its roots back to the very dawn of the computer era in the 1950s.
- 2.The goal of the movement is to get companies to make spare parts, tools and information on how to repair devices available to customers and repair shops to increase the lifespan of products and to keep them from ending up in landfills.
- 3.It will contribute to circular economy objectives by improving the life span, maintenance, re-use, upgrade, recyclability and waste handling of appliances.

## INCIDENTS OF LIGHTENING

- 1.Thirty people were killed in separate incidents of lightning in various parts of the country. Lightning is the biggest contributor to accidental deaths due to natural causes.
- 2.It is a very rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere. It is the process of occurrence of a natural 'electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud', accompanied by a bright flash and sound, and sometimes thunderstorms.
- 3.Increased Lightning Strikes in India: As many as 18.5 million lightning strikes were recorded in India between April 2020 and March 2021, according to India's second annual report on lightning released by Lightning Resilient India Campaign (LRIC) recently.
- 4.LRIC is a joint initiative of Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council (CROPC), National Disaster Management Authority, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Union Ministry of Earth Science, World Vision India, UNICEF among others. The campaign aims to reduce the number of deaths to less than 1,200 a year by 2022.

## VIETNAM'S FIRST CONSUL GENERAL IN INDIA

- 1.Vietnam has appointed Honorary Consul General of Vietnam in Bangalore to promote trade, economics, investment, tourism, educational and cultural cooperation between Vietnam and the State of Karnataka.
- 2.Keeping in mind the strategic challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, primarily those posed by China, India and Vietnam should work in close coordination at multilateral institutions such as the UN Security Council, where both India and Vietnam are elected to be non-permanent members in 2021.
- 3.Vietnam's role in ASEAN may make it easier for India and ASEAN to cooperate more on regional security issues.