

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The pandemic has come as a remarkable opportunity to review the paradigm of smart cities, and to steer the course of hundreds of other towns that are not on the smart cities map. They should be helped to frame their plans around people and nature, to learn from mistakes and to avoid expensive technological solutionism.
- The Supreme Court has pulled up the Union Labour Ministry for its “apathy and lackadaisical attitude” and directed that the process of registration should begin by July 31. The verdicts open up the possibility that the inter-State and unorganised workers will at last be able to reap the benefits of welfare laws enacted for them. These interventions signify the rejuvenation and assertion of a court seen as somewhat reticent until recently.
- China’s ruling Communist Party marked its centenary with a massive parade in Beijing and a warning from leader Xi Jinping to “any foreign forces” that China would not be “bullied”.
- In the academic year that ended with school closures due to COVID19, only 22% of schools in India had Internet facilities, according to Education Ministry data released.
- A journalist is not expected to dramatise a sensational and horrifying incident and make news by putting the subject in a pitiable condition and in danger of death, the Allahabad High Court has said.
- The World Health Organization said that any COVID19 vaccines it has authorised for emergency use should be recognised by countries as they open up their borders to inoculated travellers. The move could challenge Western countries to broaden their acceptance of two apparently less effective Chinese vaccines, which the UN health agency has licensed but most European and North American countries have not.

UNION OR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- 1.The Tamil Nadu government has decided to shun the usage of the term ‘Central government’ in its official communications and replace it with ‘Union government’.
- 2.In common parlance, **the terms “union government” and “central government” are used interchangeably in India. However, the Constituent Assembly did not use the term ‘Centre’ or ‘Central government’** in all of its 395 Articles in 22 Parts and eight Schedules in the original Constitution.
- 3.Intent of Constituent Assembly: Article 1(1) of the Constitution of India says “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.”
- 4.On 13th December, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the aims and objectives of the Constituent Assembly by resolving that India shall be a Union of territories willing to join the “Independent Sovereign Republic”.

GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY INDEX:ITU

- 1.India has ranked tenth (10th) in Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020 by ITU (International Telecommunication Union) by moving up 37 places.Top Ranking: The US topped (1st), followed by the UK (United Kingdom) and Saudi Arabia tied on the second position together.
- 2.India scored a total of 97.5 points from a possible maximum of 100 points, to make it to the tenth position worldwide in the GCI 2020. India secured the fourth position in the Asia Pacific region.
- 3.**India is emerging as a global IT superpower, asserting its digital sovereignty with firm measures to safeguard data privacy and online rights of citizens.**
- 4.The result shows substantial overall improvement and strengthening under all parameters of the cybersecurity domain.

GENDER SELF IDENTIFICATION

- 1.The Spanish government approved a draft bill that would allow anyone over the age of 14 to legally change gender without a medical diagnosis or hormone therapy.
- 2.Currently, for someone to change their gender in official records, the law first requires two years of hormone therapy and a psychological evaluation.
- 3.**‘Self-Identification’ has been a long held demand of trans-right groups around the world, including in India, as prejudice against trans people remains rampant.**
- 4.Gender Self-Identification (Concept): A person should be allowed to legally identify with the gender of their choice by simply declaring so, and without facing any medical tests.

WORLD BANK SUPPORT TO INDIA’S INFORMAL WORKING CLASS

- 1.The World Bank has approved a USD 500 million loan programme to support India’s informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress.
- 2.**The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks.**
- 3.Significance: States can now access flexible funding from disaster response funds to design and implement appropriate social protection responses.The funds will be utilised in social protection programmes for urban informal workers, gig-workers, and migrants.
- 4.A gig worker is indulged in the gig economy which is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.