

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Understanding the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community today, the law must now expand the institution of marriage to include all gender and sexual identities. At least 29 countries in the world have legalised same-sex marriage. It is time that India thinks beyond the binary and reviews its existing legal architecture in order to legalise marriages irrespective of gender identity and sexual orientation.**
- **The U.S. should be less pessimistic about Russia's foreign policy goals. Whether the Americans like it or not, Russia, despite its weakened economic status, remains a great power. Mr. Putin should also realise that if his goal is to restore Russia's lost glory in global politics, he should be ready to cooperate with the West. Permanent hostility with other powers cannot be of much help to Russia.**
- **The Government must trust its citizens and share the information that is solely available to it. A notable aspect of the pandemic is the absence of credible data from the government. This has led to speculative ideas based on poor or poorly understood information and misinformation.**
- **The illegal cultivation of herbicide-tolerant (HT) Bt cotton has seen a huge jump this year, with seed manufacturers claiming that the sale of illegal seed packets has more than doubled. Industry lobbies have written to the Agriculture Ministry, demanding that action be taken to stop such sales and punish offenders, noting that cultivation of the genetically modified cotton variant has serious environmental and economic consequences.**
- **Social media giant Twitter was at the receiving end of prolonged questioning by members of the Standing Committee on Information and Technology, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, on non-compliance with the new IT rules, usage of the 'manipulated media' tag and fact checking.**

## WORLD COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2021

1. According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY), India maintained 43rd rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index. The World Competitiveness Index is a comprehensive annual report and worldwide reference point on the competitiveness of countries.
2. Published by: WCY was first published in 1989 and is compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Factors: It measures the prosperity and competitiveness of countries by examining four factors (334 competitiveness criteria): Economic performance Government efficiency Business efficiency Infrastructure
3. India's Performance: **In Comparison to BRICS Nations: Among the BRICS nations, India ranked second (43rd) after China (16th), followed by Russia (45th), Brazil (57th) and South Africa (62nd).**
4. Improvements in Government Efficiency: Mostly due to relatively stable public finances. Despite difficulties brought by the pandemic, in 2020, the government deficit stayed at 7%. The Government also provided support and subsidies to the private companies.

## CONTROVERSIAL ROLE OF GOVERNORS

1. The West Bengal Chief Minister described the Governor of the state as the central government's own person. The Chief Minister, including several MPs, have written to the President of India demanding the withdrawal of the Governor.
2. Constitutional Provisions Related to Governor: Article 153 says that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
3. Abuse of Power by the Centre: There are numerous examples of the Governor's position being abused, usually at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre.
4. Biased Ideology: **In several cases, politicians and former bureaucrats identifying with a particular political ideology have been appointed as the Governors by the central government. This goes against the constitutionally mandated neutral seat and has resulted in bias, as appears to have happened in Karnataka and Goa.**

## IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY OF THE YOUTH

1. The **Ministry of Labour and Employment and UNICEF have signed a Statement of Intent to improve employment outcomes for the youth in India.** According to Census 2011, every fifth person in India is a youth (15-24 years).
2. UNICEF is a special program of the United Nations (UN) devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children. The State of the World's Children' is UNICEF's flagship report.
3. Purpose of this Collaboration: This will **co-create and implement solutions at scale to tackle the employment and skilling challenges for adolescents and youth in India, with focus on vulnerable populations.**

## PERSONALITIES IN NEWS

1. Dutee Chand-She signed on as a **brand ambassador for a leading jewellery retail chain that has rolled out a campaign supporting the LGBTQ+ community.**
2. Dutee Chand, the first openly gay athlete from India, scripted history in 2019 at the World Universiade in Naples when she became the first Indian to clinch gold in a 100m event at a global meet.
3. She also holds the national record in the women's 100m and is only the fifth Indian to participate in the women's 100 metres at the Olympics when she qualified for the 2016 Rio Games.