

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

3RD JUNE, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- What is seldom recognised is that the degree of federalism in India has depended largely on two variables: the nature of political coalitions at the Centre and role of States in such coalitions (the period 1996 to 2014 for example), and the cultural diversity of regions. Hence, what is needed is a federal coalition that looks beyond the legal constitutional aspects of federalism to preserve the idea of a plural India in terms of both culture and politics.
- India's abstention from the latest resolution on the Palestinian issue suppresses human rights of "all people", Palestine's Foreign Minister Riad Malki has said. Dr. Malki said the resolution titled "Ensuring respect for international human rights law and humanitarian law in Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem and in Israel" was a product of long years of multilateral negotiation.
- The Supreme Court has questioned the Centre's logic that manufacturers are selling it COVID19 vaccines for a hefty discount because it places bulk orders. The court then asked the government why it cannot buy 100% of the vaccines at a discount instead of leaving the States to fend for themselves.
- Google told the Delhi High Court that the new Information Technology Rules 2021, which came into effect late last month, did not apply to the U.S.-based tech giant as it was a "search engine" and not a "social media intermediary" like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.
- The Punjab Cabinet gave the approval for the creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the operation and maintenance of large multi-village surface water supply schemes across the State in a bid to ensure sustainably long-term supply of potable water in rural areas of districts where water quality has been adversely affected.

STATE OF FINANCE FOR NATURE REPORT

1. The UN report, titled State of Finance for Nature, analyzes the investment flow in nature-based solutions (NbS) and identifies the **future investment needed to meet the climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets** (set in three Rio Conventions).
2. The report was jointly produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Economic Forum and the Economics of Land Degradation.
3. About the 'Nature-based solutions (NbS)': The NbS refers to sustainable management and use of nature to tackle socio-environmental challenges, which range from disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss to food and water security as well as human health.
4. Approximately USD 133 billion currently flows into nature-based solutions annually (using 2020 as base year). It comprises about 0.10% of global gross domestic product.

BIS SDO RECOGNITION SCHEME

1. The Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) of Indian Railways has become the first Institution to be declared a Standard Developing Organization (SDO) under **One Nation One Standard mission of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
2. The idea of One Nation One Standard Mission was first conceived in 2019, it was envisioned on the line of one nation, one ration card scheme in order to ensure quality products in the country.
3. Objectives: **Aggregating and integrating the existing capabilities and dedicated domain specific expertise** available with various organizations in the country engaged in standards development in their specific sectors.

PM-CARES FOR CHILDREN SCHEME

1. The government has announced a special **"PM-CARES for Children" scheme for all those orphaned due to Covid-19**.
2. Also, the Supreme Court has ordered the district authorities to upload the details of children in need of care and protection on NCPCR (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) portal Bal Swaraj.
3. Features of the Scheme: **A corpus of Rs. 10 lakh will be allocated to each of these children from the PM CARES fund.** This corpus will be used to give a monthly stipend from 18 years of their age, for the next five years and on reaching the age of 23 years
4. The education expenses of younger children will be supported by way of admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas and private schools up to higher secondary level.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

1. India and Australia reviewed cooperation in the sectors of agriculture and defence. In the field of Agriculture: The India-Australia Grains Partnership aims to use Australia's expertise in post harvest management **to strengthen rural grain storage and supply chains so as to reduce losses and wastage.**
2. The flagship program of National Innovation for Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) was mentioned and collaboration could be set up with the research organisations of Australia.
3. On Defence Cooperation: Participation of Australia in Exercise Malabar.
4. Expressed an intent to convene the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue at the earliest. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is a format of dialogue where the defense and foreign ministers meet with their counterparts from another country.