

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Only half of government schools and anganwadis have tap water supply, despite a 100day campaign for 100% coverage being launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in October 2020, according to information provided to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said it will be in charge of projects linked to “national security and advanced technology”, such as the forthcoming Chandrayaan2 missions and the Gaganyaan mission that plans to send Indian cosmonauts into space. However, the bulk of commercial activities would increasingly be handled by the newly formed New Space India Ltd (NSIL).
- The Supreme Court decided to examine whether its nearly three decade old judgment which fixed reservation for the marginalised and the poor in government jobs and educational institutions at 50% needs a relook.
- The Iranian Embassy denied any connection between the Quds Force, an arm of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, and the IED blast outside the Israeli Embassy in Delhi in January.
- Courts in five countries, including the U.S. and the U.K., have given recognition to an arbitration award that asked India to return \$1.4 billion to Cairn Energy plc — a step that now opens the possibility of the British firm seizing Indian assets in those countries.
- Lok Sabha members from the pollbound States of West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry have requested that the second part of the Budget session that began on Monday be curtailed. The comments were in response to a query by the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, led by Rajya Sabha.

MSME CREDIT HEALTH INDEX

- 1.The latest MSME Credit Health Index indicates that MSME credit growth has accelerated in the quarter ending September 2020 as compared to the quarter ending in June 2020.
- 2.The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECGLS) has helped in the credit growth for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- 3.The TransUnion CIBIL in partnership with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched MSME Credit Health Index. **The Index is published quarterly.**
- 4.The **Index will provide government, policy makers, lenders and MSME market participants**, a numeric indicator for benchmarking the health of the MSME sector.

FOOD WASTE INDEX REPORT 2021

- 1.Report is released by United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP). As per it, **an estimated 931 million tons of food equalling 17% of total food available to consumers in in 2019 globally wasted.**
- 2.For India, waste in kg/capita/year was 50, lower than Nigeria producing waste at 189 kg/capita/year.
- 3.Report suggests reducing food waste would improve food security, address climate change, save money and lower pressures on the environment.

SUB-MISSION ON AGROFORESTRY SCHEME

- 1.The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Silk Board on a convergence model for the implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector. It is a part of the ongoing Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme.
- 2.Aim: **To incentivize the farmers to take up sericulture based Agroforestry models thereby contributing to the Make in India and Make for the World vision of the Prime Minister.**
- 3.This linkage will add another dimension to agroforestry for faster returns to the growers as well as support the production of the range of silks that India is famous for. The Central Silk Board (CSB - under the Ministry of Textiles) will act as a catalyst to promote Agroforestry in the silk sector.

SATTRAS

- 1.CSIR(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) Floriculture Mission has been approved for implementation in 21 States and Union Territories of India.
- 2.The mission will focus on commercial floral crops, seasonal/annual crops, wild ornaments and cultivation of flower crops for honey bee rearing. Some of the popular crops include **Gladiolus, Canna, Carnation, Chrysanthemum etc.**
- 3.The convergence of **Floriculture with Apiculture (beekeeping) as envisaged in the mission** will yield even greater benefits.

MT SWARNA KRISHNA:INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

- 1.The Union Minister of **Ports, Shipping and Waterways has flagged off an all-women crew onboard Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) vessel MT Swarna Krishna.**
- 2.The initiative is a part of SCI's ongoing Diamond Jubilee celebrations and also to commemorate the International Women's Day (8th March).
- 3.This is the first time in the world maritime history that a cargo ship is being sailed by all women officers.