

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

14TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Pandemic triggered factory shutdowns threatening supply disruptions, industrial production and inflation face challenges. Policymakers must stay vigilant to ensure price stability even as measures to bolster demand are the need of the hour.**
- **The pandemic has provided an opportunity to make medical education a public good once again. There should be a substantial step up in public investment in medical education. By establishing new medical colleges, the government can increase student intake as well as enhance equitable access to medical education.**
- **The Supreme Court ordered the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to open community kitchens in well advertised places in the National Capital Region (NCR) to provide meals at least twice a day to migrant labourers stranded due to the lockdown in place to curb COVID19 spread.**
- **The Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) authority has approached the Supreme Court seeking a comprehensive and timebound reverification of the citizens' list, highlighting "major irregularities" in the process.**
- **The Home Ministry's March 4 order that required professional Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), such as journalists, engineers and researchers, to notify the Ministry about their activities in India has left them in the lurch.**
- **Public health advocates and intellectual property rights experts point to a "contradiction" in India's global push for suspension of intellectual property protection with its stand in the Supreme Court that bringing COVID19 vaccines under a statutory regime will be "counter-productive" at this stage.**

IRON DOME AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

1. Israel used its Iron Dome air defence system in recent violent clashes over Jerusalem. It is a **short-range, ground-to-air, air defence system that includes a radar and Tamir interceptor missiles that track and neutralise any rockets or missiles aimed at Israeli targets.**
2. It is used for countering rockets, artillery & mortars as well as aircraft, helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). It is capable of being used in all weather conditions, including during the day and night.
3. It can protect deployed and manoeuvring forces, as well as the Forward Operating Base (FOB) and urban areas, against a wide range of indirect and aerial threats.
4. It was developed by the state-run Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries and was deployed in 2011.

ARTICLE 311

1. Recently, a police officer was dismissed from the service by Mumbai Police Commissioner under Article 311(2)(b) of the Constitution without a departmental enquiry.
2. Article 311 (2) says that no civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.
3. People Protected under Article 311: The members of Civil service of the Union, All India Service, and Civil service of any State, People who hold a civil post under the Union or any State. **The protective safeguards given under Article 311 are applicable only to civil servants, i.e. public officers. They are not available to defence personnel.**
4. Exceptions to Article 311 (2): 2 (b) - Where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason, to be recorded by that authority in writing, it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry.

MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has provided an enhanced allocation of Rs. 2250 Crore for the year 2021-22 for 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture' (MIDH).
2. Horticulture is the branch of plant agriculture dealing with garden crops. M.H. Marigowda is considered the Father of Indian Horticulture.
3. MIDH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the **holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.**
4. Nodal Ministry: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing MIDH with effect from 2014-15.

SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME 2021-22

1. The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds in six tranches from May 2021 to September 2021.
2. The Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme was launched in November 2015 **with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings - used for the purchase of gold - into financial savings.**
3. The bonds are restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.