

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

20TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Accelerating inflation threatens the economy's overall consumptive capacity and policy makers need to be wary of the real danger of stagflation. The shrinking fiscal space notwithstanding, authorities need to spend more on an expedited nationwide vaccine rollout and must seriously consider direct cash transfers to boost demand.**
- **Social Security Code remains a collage of existing pieces of legislation without that interweaving thread of integration. It has promise but cannot meet those expectations. At a time when India chairs a BRICS meeting in Delhi that is focused on issues of labour, especially informality, it fails to even recognise that India is ageing without social security, and the demographic dividend of the young workforce.**
- **The Union government has filed a petition to review the judgment insofar as it limits the power of State governments to determine backwardness. It is imperative that Parliament amends the Constitution and grants to States an express power to determine backwardness of the caste. Any other result will offend the delicate balance at the heart of Indian federalism.**
- **Business organisations and chambers of commerce can play an important role in creating a strong lobby that could build momentum in opening channels and influence the shaping of the India-Pakistan trade policy.**
- **Amid the increasing instances of mucormycosis or black fungus, the Rajasthan government declared it an epidemic and a notifiable disease.**
- **Delhi Chief Minister does not "speak for India", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar declared after Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan objected to Mr. Kejriwal's claim that a highly infectious variant of COVID19 affecting children came from Singapore.**

INDIA'S BRAIN DRAIN IN HEALTH SECTOR

1. India has been a major exporter of healthcare workers to developed nations particularly to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Europe and other English-speaking countries.

This Brain Drain in the health sector is part of the reason for the current shortage in nurses and doctors.

2. With the onset of the pandemic, there has been a greater demand for healthcare workers across the world, especially in developed nations. Countries in dire need of retaining their healthcare workers have adopted migrant-friendly policies.

3. There are **strong push factors that often drive these workers to migrate abroad. In case of nurses in India the low wages in private sector outfits along with reduced opportunities in the public sector** plays a big role in them seeking employment opportunities outside the country.

4. The government's policies to check brain drain are restrictive in nature and do not give a real long-term solution to the problem.

INITIATIVE FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF TRIBAL SCHOOLS

1. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft to support the **digital transformation of schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Ashram Schools, among others under the Ministry.**

2. Artificial Intelligence curriculum will be made available to tribal students in both English and Hindi at all EMRS schools to skill educators and students in next-generation technologies.

3. Teachers across states in India will be trained in a phased manner for using productivity technologies like Office 365 and AI applications in teaching.

4. This program will ensure that tribal students get a chance to change their future, their environment, their village, and overall community.

PROGRESS IN VARIOUS RURAL SCHEMES

1. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the country has witnessed speed and progress in various schemes under the Ministry of Rural Development.

2. **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005:** For the financial year 2021-22, 2.95 crore persons have been offered work, thus, completing 5.98 lakh assets and generating 34.56 crore person-days.

3. **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):** Training on farm and non-Farm based livelihoods, on covid management and promotion of Agri-Nutri gardens. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY): Highest length of road has been completed under PMGSY in the comparable period over the last 3 years.

4. **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin:** Highest expenditure amounting to Rs. 5854 Cr in FY 2021-22; double than the FY 2020-21 in the comparable period.

ELECTORAL BONDS

1. The Electoral Bonds worth Rs. 695.34 crore were sold during elections to the Assemblies of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, West Bengal, Assam and Kerala.

2. The amount sold was the **highest-ever for any Assembly elections since the scheme started in 2018.**

3. Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.