

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

21ST MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- All major revolutions with huge implications on public service delivery have come through the collaboration of public bureaucracy with so-called outsiders. These include the Green Revolution (M.S. Swaminathan), the White Revolution (Verghese Kurien), Aadhaar enabled services (Nandan Nilekani) and the IT revolution (Sam Pitroda). New public governance is the future of governance, especially public service delivery.
- India is to be retrieved from what many believe is a perilous state of affairs, there are many miles to go in which the Centre and the States must decide to go hand in hand. The 'unity in diversity' slogan must be adhered to in its true spirit if India is to survive and succeed from Pandemic and present democratic affair.
- India should take a more emphatic position at the United Nation Security Council against both the indiscriminate rocket attacks into Israel, in which 12 people were killed, and the disproportionate bombing of Gaza, which has claimed at least 230 lives, including over 60 children.
- Wielding power at the Centre comes with great responsibility. A major responsibility in a federal country with strong centralising features is to maintain the balance, as well as mutual respect, between political structures at the central and State levels.
- The Union government has asked the States to declare mucormycosis, the fungal infection being reported in COVID19 patients, an epidemic.
- Aerosols can be carried in the air for up to 10 m and improving the ventilation of indoor spaces will reduce transmission, a government advisory on stopping the spread of COVID19.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC

1. A report was published which gave details of who makes single-use plastic, 130 million tons a year at last count, and who makes money from it.
2. The report was published by Minderoo, a nonprofit organization based in Australia along with academics at the University of Oxford and the Stockholm Environment Institute.
3. Half of the world's **single-use plastic is made by 20 big companies. Two US companies followed by a Chinese-owned petrochemicals giant**, and another one based in Bangkok. Governments are also big stakeholders in this industry. About 40% of the largest single-use plastic makers are partly owned by governments, including China and Saudi Arabia.
4. State and municipal governments have had success in banning certain items like plastic grocery bags, foam cups and drinking straws. But the efforts focused on curtailing the production of single-use plastic have been limited so far.

INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS FOR CONVENTION CENTRES

1. The Finance Ministry has granted '**Infrastructure status for exhibition and convention centres**'. In 2020, the government had added affordable rental housing projects to the list of sectors recognised as infrastructure.
2. Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre has been included in the Harmonised Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of Social and Commercial Infrastructure.
3. India doesn't have large convention centres or single halls with capacities to hold 7,000 to 10,000 people
4. Becoming a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) destination can generate significant revenue with several global companies active in India.

PRADHAN MANTRI SWASTHYA SURAKSHA YOJANA

1. Setting up of 22 new regional AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) has been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) so far.
2. PMSSY was announced in 2003 with **objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country**.
3. Two Components: Setting up of AIIMS like institutions. Upgradation of government medical colleges in various states. The project cost for upgradation of each medical college institution is shared by the Centre and the state.

TIANWEN-1: CHINA'S MARS MISSION

1. China's spacecraft **Tianwen-1 landed on Mars carrying its first Mars rover named Zhurong. It became the third country to land on Mars after the US and Soviet Union.**
2. China's previous 'Yinghuo-1' Mars mission, which was supported by a Russian spacecraft, had failed after it did not leave the earth's orbit and disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean in 2012.
3. Objectives: To conduct scientific investigations into the planet's soil, geological structure, environment, atmosphere and water.
4. China's Other Space Programmes: Chang'e-5 (Moon) Tianhe (Permanent Space Station)