

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Classical geopolitics should be brought on a par with health diplomacy, environmental concerns and regional connectivity in South Asia. COVID19 may have opened precisely such an opportunity to the world's least integrated region.**
- **Thousands of Afghans were forced to flee homes as fierce fighting erupted between government forces and the Taliban in a southern province after the U.S. military began withdrawing its remaining troops from Afghanistan, officials said.**
- **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Tuesday gave permission to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to conduct trials for the use and application of 5G technology. This formally leaves out Chinese companies like Huawei and ZTE from the 5G race in India.**
- **As many as 86 persons from India, travelling on 11 boats, were on Tuesday caught in Sri Lankan waters as they tried to enter the island nation, possibly fleeing the raging pandemic, the Sri Lankan Navy said.**
- **V. Kalyanam, who was the last personal secretary of Mahatma Gandhi, passed away on Tuesday in Chennai due to age-related ailments. He was 99. He was the only surviving member of Mahatma Gandhi's secretariat.**
- **The Group of Seven wealthy democracies discussed how to form a common front towards an increasingly assertive China in the Foreign Ministers' first in person talks in two years.**
- **The number of crimes committed by right wing extremists in post-war Germany jumped to its highest level ever in 2020, according to released.**
- **The pandemic's second wave is affecting rural households far more than last year, with a large number of microfinance staffers, borrowers and their families.**

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN & YOUTH IN STATE ASSEMBLIES

1. Recent data from the three new state assemblies, which are West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, show less numbers of women and youth Member of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). India is young. Its leaders are not. The country's median age is 29. The average parliamentarian is 55.
2. The data of the 2019 lok sabha elections also show that the participation of women is low. According to a list compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2019, **India ranks 153 out of 190 nations in the percentage of women in the lower house of world parliaments.**
3. Reasons for Less Number of Women MLAs: Illiteracy, Work and Family, Lack of Political Networks, Lack of Resources, Lack of Financial Support, Societal and Cultural Norms, Unfriendly Environment, - Overall political parties' environment too is not women-friendly.
4. Reasons for Less Number of Youth MLAs: False Believe - Political parties believe that the youth, having not seen enough of life, are unprepared for the demands of top-flight politics, Youth will not be taken seriously, Veterans not leaving, Muscle power politics, Less chance of success, Good people avoid politics, Nepotism.

P-81 PATROL AIRCRAFT

1. The US State Department has approved the sale of six P-8I patrol aircraft and related equipment to India. The six aircraft will come fitted with encrypted systems, as India has signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) with the US.
2. It is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft. With a maximum speed of 907 kmph and an operating range of over 1,200 nautical miles.
3. **The US designating India a Major Defence Partner (in 2016) and then granting it the same access to defence technology as NATO allies and Australia, Japan and South Korea under Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA) in 2018.**

NETWORK FOR GREENING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). The RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS by learning from and contributing to global efforts on climate finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.
2. The Network for Greening the Financial System It **is a global network of central banks and supervisory authorities advocating a more sustainable financial system.**
3. It was created at the Paris One Planet Summit in December 2017 and its secretariat is hosted by the **Banque de France.**

LACK OF FIRE SAFETY IN INDIA

1. Over the past year, there have been deadly fires in hospital buildings, including those treating Covid-19 patients. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) says 330 people died in commercial building fires in 2019, while fatalities for residential or dwelling buildings were much higher at 6,329.
2. Leading Cause: Electrical faults are cited as the leading cause of fires but **State governments are widely criticised for being lax with building safety laws.**
3. **Hospital ICUs (intensive care units) are a great fire risk because they are oxygen-suffused,** and need to meet high standards.
4. The Fire Services is a State subject and has been included as a Municipal function in the XIIth Schedule of the Constitution of India under Article 243 (W).