

PRAYASKSG:NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHTS

(4TH JULY, 2020)

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Age of expansionism is over, world is now witnessing the era of development, PM says in Ladakh.
- India will not import power equipment from China, the sector being strategic and essential, was vulnerable to cyberattacks-Union Power Minister R.K. Singh.
- Facing widespread protests, the Assam government denied allegations that it was planning to "sell off" the State's land resources through an "anti-indigenous people" ordinance allowing industrialists to setup shop without seeking clearances.
- A U.K. government consortium led by Bharti Enterprises has won the bid to acquire bankrupt satellite technology company OneWeb.
- Annual cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan 2021' launched, along with of cities states will also be ranked. New category of awards titled 'Prerak Daaur Samman' to be given as part of 'Swachh Survekshan 2021'.
- ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission captures image of Mars' moon Phobos.
- Germany to shut down coal-fired power plants by 2038; nuclear power by the end of 2022.
- Google-backed groups criticize Apple's new warnings on user tracking.
- Ancient temple resurfaces in the Mahanadi river, Found in Cuttack. The temple is of 15th century origin. The region was known as 'Satapatana' in the past.
- 77.9% Russians Grant Putin Right to Extend His Rule Until 2036.
- Kritika Pandey, became overall winner of the 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT(USMCA)

Key facts

1. **United States, Mexico and Canada** renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement (**NAFTA**).
2. The **New deal is USMCA**.
3. NAFTA was created in **1994** to generate economic growth and helping to raise the standard of living.

CHABAHAR PORT FREE ZONE

Key facts

1. **Chabahar port free zone** will boost cargo.
2. Free Zone-Goods may be received and stored **without payment of duty**.
3. The port was developed by India after agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan in 2018.
4. It helps **India to Bypass Pakistan** to Access central Asia.

POSTAL BALLOT IN NEWS.

Key facts

1. Election Commission allowed those **above 65 years of age or affected or suspected to have COVID-19** to use the postal ballot.
2. **Postal voting** is a type of voting in elections where Electronically Transmitted postal Ballot papers are distributed to electors and returned by the post.
3. Postal Ballot is under the provision of Representation of the people Act, 1951.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA(FCI) STORAGE BURDEN WILL EASE

Key facts

1. Recently, PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (**PMGKAY**) provides **5kg free wheat/rice and 1kg free whole chana** to each family per month through National Food security Act(NFSA).
2. Total allocation under NFSA is set to increase sharply.
3. This Additional allocation might help FCI to utilise large stock carry forward and easing the storage burden of FCI.
4. Usually, FCI faces shortage of space.
5. FCI uses **plinth technology** where the risk of spoilage is high.
6. FCI is responsible for the procurement and storage of food grains.
7. **Shanta Kumar Committee** was related with the FCI storage issue.

Accelerate Vigyan

1. Recently, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), has launched a scheme called Accelerate Vigyan (AV) to strengthen scientific research mechanisms in the country.

Dhamma Chakra Day

- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in partnership with Ministry of Culture, will celebrate the upcoming Asadha Poornima on July 4, 2020 as Dharma Chakra Day.
- The day marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples (pañcavargika).

MP Current affairs

1. 'Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2021'-As part of Swachh Survekshan a new category of award is announced named 'Prerak Daaur Samman'.
- It has 5 sub-categories -Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze), Aarohi (Aspiring)
- Indore will claim for platinum for it's water plus and 7 star