

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

18TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Supreme Court decided to launch a detailed examination into the circumstances under which a person can make public allegations of corruption against the judiciary(three judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra).
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal to periodically monitor the rejuvenation of the Ganga, while observing that it was a “pity” that pollutants were still being discharged into the river despite several directions of various courts.
- J&K’s regional parties, including the NC and the PDP, have claimed that none of their top leaders was invited to the Independence Day functions in Srinagar.
- At a time when people are increasingly shying away from ‘non-lucrative’ agriculture, a three time lawmaker from Odisha’s Nabarangpur district makes it a point to toil in his fields at least two months a year.
- The Delhi Assembly’s Peace and Harmony Committee said it has received multiple complaints against Facebook officials for “deliberate and intentional inaction” to contain hateful content in India for vested reasons(set to summon Facebook officials).
- Odisha government announced that it will give a facelift to the 11th century Lingaraj Temple, akin to its pre 350year structural status.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has noted that conditions prevailing in Mahul, Ambapada, and Chembur are sometimes likened to that of a ‘gas chamber’.
- Indian and Nepalese diplomats met in Kathmandu and reviewed the status of a number of ongoing bilateral projects..

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA(AfCFTA)

1. African Union has announced that the **first commercial deal under AfCFTA** will take place in January, 2021.
2. It aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business, persons and investments.
3. AfCFTA would be the **largest free trade area in the world(54 countries)** measured by the number of countries participating.

ATAL TINKERING LABS(ATL) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE(AI) STEP UP MODULE

1. It is launched **by NITI Aayog in collaboration with NASSCOM** to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in schools across the country.
2. This module is a successor to the AI Base module launched in February this year.
3. It encourages a **deeper understanding of AI which can be applied in the real world.**

NEED OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR IMPROVING FORECAST AND WARNING SYSTEM

1. PM remarks were made during a meeting to **review preparedness, of states like Assam,Kerala,Bihar** etc, to deal with monsoon and current flood situation in the country.
2. Out of the total geographical area of 329 million hectares(mha), more than 40 mha is flood prone in India.
3. Issues with Flood forecasting and warning network- **Non-availability of close contour maps,very few river basins have been covered with automatic sensors**,Flood plain zoning regulations have not been enacted.

SPACE BRICKS

1. Researchers from Indian Space Research Organization and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has developed a **sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface.**
2. It uses urea sourced from human Urine,which could be mixed with lunar soil to build structures on the moon.
3. It **could be used to assemble structures for habitation on the moon surface in future.**

SRIJAN PORTAL

1. It is an indigenization portal developed by Department of defence Production.
2. Main objective of the portal is to **partner the private sector in indigenization efforts of Defence Public sector Undertakings.**
3. It is a one stop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFERS(DBT) MISSION ON THEIR PERFORMANCE RANKS.

1. Ministry of housing and urban affairs(MoHUA) **has been ranked as the best overall performing government department in ensuring DBT beneficiaries.**
2. Other categories of ranking and best performer-End to end digitisation status-Department of Youth Affairs followed by MoHUA.
3. Usage of Aadhar and Mobile-Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.