

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- With hundreds of people wanting to support advocate Prashant Bhushan by symbolically contributing Re.1 — or more — towards his fine in the contempt of court case in the Supreme Court, a fund has been set up to use the money to help others fighting for free speech.
- The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday that no immediate action will be taken to demolish 48,000 slum clusters situated within safety zones along the rail tracks in Delhi.
- Retail inflation softened slightly to 6.69% in August, even as food prices continued to rule high. Food inflation during the month stood at 9.62%.
- The Centre opposed before the Delhi High Court a petition seeking recognition of same sex marriages, saying, “our legal system, society and values do not recognise marriage between same sex couples”.
- Karnataka to seek nod for Mekedatu balancing reservoir project State likely to depute a team, led by CM Yediyurappa, to put pressure on Centre.
- ‘No data available on deaths of migrants’ Government informs Loksabha. 1.04 cr. workers returned to home States during lockdown.
- Three Bills on agriculture reforms were introduced in Parliament to replace the ordinances issued during the lockdown. It will bring about changes to the marketing and storage of farm produce and agri commodities outside registered markets, as well as the facilitation of contract farming.
- From the digital divide affecting access to online classes to the state of the economy, the ongoing COVID19 pandemic and the toll it has already extracted loomed large over the curtailed 30 minute Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha.

METHANE HYDRATE RESERVE AT KRISHNA-GODAVARI(KG) BASIN

1. A study by Agharkar Research Institute, Pune finds **massive methane hydrate deposits of biogenic origin in KG basin and near the coast of Andaman and Mahanadi.**
2. Methane hydrate is formed **when hydrogen-bonded water and methane gas come into contact** at high pressures and low temperatures in oceans.
3. It is estimated that **Methane present in Methane hydrates in KG Basin is twice that of all fossil fuel reserves available worldwide.**

PROJECT 17A

1. Project **17A involves the construction of seven warships.**
2. Project 17A class stealth frigates are being built using indigenously developed steel and fitted with weapons and sensors along with integrated platform management system.
3. The frigates are being developed by Mazagon Dock limited, Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA(CCI)

1. CCI dismissed allegations of abuse of dominance against Amazon in online fashion retail space, finding that company is not dominant in the relevant market.
2. CCI is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002 for administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act.
3. Duty of CCI is to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in Indian markets.

CABINET APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO 3 LABOUR CODES

1. **Union cabinet approved amendments to the labour codes on social security, industrial relations, and occupational safety and health, which could include pension and medical benefits to gig workers.**
2. Last year, government decided to condense the 44 labour laws into four codes as part of labour reforms.

SINGAPORE CONVENTION ON MEDIATION COMES INTO FORCE

1. The convention also known as United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, is the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
2. **Convention applies to international settlement agreements resulting from mediation, concluded by parties to resolve a commercial dispute.**

INDIA,ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS(ASEAN) REVIEW STRATEGIC TIES

1. At an ASEAN-India virtual meeting both sides reviewed status of ASEAN-India strategic partnership in several areas including maritime cooperation,connectivity,education & capacity building and people-to-people contacts.
2. India-ASEAN region **together comprise one-fourth of global population, and their combined GDP is estimated at USD 3.8 trillion.**