

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

23RD SEPTEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The government has empowered the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act so that the agency need not rely on local police to unravel drug trade ties that emerge during counter terrorism operations.
- In a joint statement issued on the sixth round of Corps Commanders talks, India and China said both sides had agreed to “stop sending more troops to the frontline” and “refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground.”
- The People’s Movement, a platform campaigning for the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh, announced a boycott of the upcoming elections to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh.
- The Supreme Court appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority wrote to the chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana stating that early burning of crop residue was taking place and urged them to address the issue “urgently”.
- The Lok Sabha passed the J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020 that seeks to include Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as the official languages in the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Lok Sabha cleared three labour Bills amalgamating laws on social security, occupational safety and industrial relations which would usher in changes including allowing companies with less than 300 workers to hire and fire without prior approval and provide gig and platform workers social security.
- President Xi Jinping gave a robust defence of China’s ambitions in a speech to the UN, warning against the perils of a “clash of civilizations” during a pandemic that has ripped through the world.

ROCKET LAUNCHING PORT

1. Centre is planning to set up a **second space rocket launching port at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district**, Tamil Nadu.
2. This is due to increase in the number of launches by ISRO for domestic and global customers.
3. Presently, rockets are launched from spaceport at Sriharikota, near Chennai.

PARLIAMENT PASSES EPIDEMIC DISEASES(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

1. Bill will replace the epidemic diseases(Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 issued by government to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
2. The Act provides for the prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases.
3. Bill amends the **Act to include protections for Healthcare personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.**

RUSSIA REJECTS U.S. TERMS, SEES ‘MINIMAL’ CHANCE TO EXTEND NEW START NUCLEAR PACT

1. New START, came into force in 2011, is the last of the remaining **nuclear arms agreements between United states and Russia which focuses on the reduction of both the US’s and Russia’s nuclear arsenals.**
2. New START is a successor to the original Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty(START I) signed in 1991 between then-Soviet Union and United States.
3. It will lapse in February 2021 unless extended for a five-year period.

OPTICAL FIBRE VILLAGE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT(GHAR TAK FIBER SCHEME) LAUNCHED IN BIHAR

1. Project is launched by Department of Telecommunications and implemented by CSC e-Governance Services Ltd, an SPV of Ministry of Electronics & IT.
2. It **aims to provide broadband connectivity in every village of Bihar through Aerial Optical Fibre.** Minimum 5 Fibre to the Home(FTTH) connections and 1 public Wi-Fi shall be installed at every villages.

FIRST DIRECT CARGO FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA,MALDIVES FLAGGED OFF

1. It **will herald direct connectivity for movement of cargo between India and Maldives and thereby boost bilateral trade.**
2. It will reduce transportation cost, provide a timely, short and cost-effective means of transportation for goods from India to Maldives.

DOCUMENT ON INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES OF CONDUCTING ELECTIONS DURING COVID-19 RELEASED BY INDIA A-WEB CENTRE

1. **Association of World Election Bodies(A-WEB) is largest association of Election Management Bodies(EMBs) worldwide.** At present A-WEB has 115 EMBs as Members & 16 regional Association/Organisations as Associate Members.
2. Last year had taken over as Chair of A-WEB for 2019-2021.
3. An India A-WEB Centre has been established at New Delhi.