

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

22ND OCTOBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- 'Infodemic(far-reaching spread of both accurate and inaccurate information about something, such as a disease) management a serious challenge'. WHO Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan, says it has led to confusion, risk taking and ultimately mistrust towards government.
- Long term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases and neonatal diseases in India in 2019, according to the State of Global Air 2020. Overall, air pollution was now the largest risk factor for death among all health risks.
- Pope Francis endorsed same sex civil unions for the first time as Pope while being interviewed for the feature length documentary *Francesco*, which premiered at the Rome Film Festival.
- The Chinese soldier who strayed across the Line of Actual Control in the Demchok sector in Ladakh has been returned, both India and China confirmed.
- The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing investments will soon be extended to eight more sectors, and the government is close to finalising its policy for the strategic sale of public sector enterprises (PSEs).
- India's economy is 'almost at the doorstep of revival', RBI's Governor Shaktikanta Das said, adding that banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) had raised, or were in the process of raising, capital to ensure adequate credit availability for businesses once the revival took hold. The RBI's monetary policy and the government's fiscal policy were working in symmetry.
- Natural rubber production and prices have been hit hard by the pandemic induced lockdown. Prices of various grades of rubber fell by 10-20% in the May-August period.

ALDABRA'S CORAL REEFS

- 1.Aldabra is a **UNESCO world heritage site in Seychelles** and located in the Indian Ocean.
- 2.It is home to a population of **endemic giant Aldabra tortoises**.
- 3.A new research found published in Nature has found that **Aldabra atoll recovered faster after the 2015-2016 bleaching event** due to tolerance to heat stress.

SCO STARTUP FORUM

- 1.First Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) startup forum will be launched on 27th October.
- 2.Forum will lay the foundation for multilateral cooperation and engagement among the **SCO member states to develop and hone their startup ecosystems,collectively**.
- 3.SCO currently comprises 8 member states-**China, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**.

INDIA'S FIRST EVER MULTI-MODAL LOGISTIC PARK(MMLP) TO BE SET UP AT JOGIGHOPA IN ASSAM

- 1.MMLP is the refined form of Logistics park where various value added services are rendered in addition to rail/road based transportation.
- 2.MMLP will be developed under Bharatmala Pariyojna and will provide direct air,road,rail and waterways connectivity to the people.
- 3.Development of MMLPs strategic locations will rationalize logistics cost in India and improve its competitiveness. **At 13%-14% of GDP, logistics costs** are far higher than the global benchmark of 7%-8%.
- 4.Higher logistics cost is due to- Skewed modal transportation mix, underdeveloped material handling infrastructure. Procedural complexities.

SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASES(STH)

- 1.STH, also known as parasitic intestinal worm infection, affects the poorest and most deprived communities.**Infected children are nutritionally and physically impaired**.
- 2.Main species that infect people are: **roundworm, whipworm and hookworms**.
- 3.They are transmitted by eggs present in human faeces which in turn contaminate soil in areas where sanitation is poor.Recently, 14 states reported reduction in worm prevalence.

STAND-OFF ANTI-TANK(SANT) MISSILE

- 1.India has successfully test-fired an **air-to-surface SANT missile** from a roof-top launcher at the Integrated Test Range(ITR).
- 2.SANT missile is an **upgraded version of the Helicopter Launched Nag(HeliNa) missile**, equipped with an advanced nose-mounted seeker.It is developed by the DRDO for the Indian Air force.

BANDICOOT ROBOTS

- 1.Recently,**Greater Mohali** Area Development Authority introduced **bandicoot robots that will clean the sewer manholes in the city**.
- 2.Bandicoot is engineered for cleaning any type of sewer manholes. The robot consists of two major units, a stand unit and a robotic drone unit.