

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

23RD OCTOBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Labour and Employment Ministry revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPIIW) from 2001 to 2016 to reflect the changing consumption pattern, giving more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages.
- The controversial 20th Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution that envisages expansive powers and greater immunity for the Executive President was passed in Parliament with a two-thirds majority.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday announced that following a review of the current liquidity and financial conditions, it had decided to purchase Government securities for an aggregate amount of ₹ 20,000 crore under Open Market Operations (OMO).
- Egypt executed 49 prisoners in just 10 days in October, Human Rights Watch said, calling for authorities to "immediately halt" carrying out death sentences.
- India's leading pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories said it has isolated all data centre services and temporarily shut some production facilities to take preventive action in the wake of a cyberattack in the early hours of Thursday.
- India and the U.S. will discuss "salient regional" issues when U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper travel to India next week for the "2+2 Ministerial dialogue".
- In a fresh signal that the government could unveil another stimulus package soon, the Principal Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry said that the time was right for a generic push to spur demand in the economy.

NAZCA LINES

- 1.Nazca Lines are a **group of geoglyphs, or large designs made on the ground** by creators using elements of the landscape such as stones, gravel, dirt or lumber.
- 2.There are also geometric shapes, such as triangles, trapezoids and spirals, and some have been associated with astronomical functions.
- 3.Lines are **found in a region of Peru** just over 200 miles southeast of Lima, near the modern town of Nasca. Lines were first discovered in 1927, and were declared a **World heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.**

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW ORGAN IN THE THROAT

- 1.New **organ is a set of salivary glands set deep in the upper part of the throat.**
- 2.It is about 1.5 inches in length on average and are located over a piece of cartilage called the torus tubarius.
- 3.So far, this **nasopharynx region**-behind the nose-was thought to host anything but microscopic, diffuse, salivary glands. The **discovery may be important for cancer treatment.**

INDIA OPPOSES BINDING COMMITMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONS UNDER TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT(TFA)

- 1.US, Brazil and Colombia at World Trade Organisation(WTO) suggested binding commitments on members for early implementation of provisions under TFA.
- 2.India opposed this binding commitment at the time the time of the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. However, **India has already implemented more than 73% of its own TFA commitments.**
- 3.TFA aims **to reduce total trade costs by more than 14% for least-developed countries(LDC) and more than 13% for developing countries** by streamlining the flow of trade across borders.

PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA-ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFITS PROGRAMME(PMKSY-AIBP)

- 1.Recently, Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a mobile application for **Geo tagging of the components of projects under PMKSY** for keeping a track of their progress and bottlenecks in the execution.
- 2.PMKSY-AIBP **aims to extend the coverage of irrigation and improving water use efficiency.**

UDE DESH KA AAM NAGRIK(UDAN)/REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME

- 1.Recently, it completed 4 years.
- 2.It aims to facilitate regional air connectivity by making it affordable by supporting airline operation through: Concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators, Financial(Viability Gap Funding) support.
- 3.It provides **connectivity to un-served and under-served regions** through revival of existing air strips and airports.

CABINET APPROVES THE ADOPTION OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT(J&KPRA),1989

- 1.Earlier, Ministry of Home Affairs amended J&KPRA to facilitate the setting up of District Development Councils (DDCs) as new governance unit in J&K.
- 2.**DDCs will have elected representatives** from each district and will be **headed by a chairman** from among the elected representatives.**Term of DDC is 5 Years.**