

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

27TH OCTOBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Chileans voted overwhelmingly in a landmark referendum to replace their dictatorship era Constitution, long seen as underpinning the nation's glaring economic and social inequalities.
- The Centre will bring in a law to address air pollution and check stubble burning in Delhi as well as the surrounding National Capital Region, the Supreme Court was informed.
- India and the U.S. will sign the last foundational agreement, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo Spatial cooperation (BECA) during the 2+2 ministerial Dialogue.
- Energy Minister relaunched the first two units of the 6X150 megawatt Srisailem Left Bank Hydroelectric Station near Eegalapenta in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district.
- India is much safer against the threat of tsunamis than it was in 2004, thanks to the state of the art tsunami early warning system established in Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS): Tummala Srinivasa Kumar, the new INCOIS Director.
- Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal pushed for live streaming court proceedings to make hearings accessible to all. But Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, sounded a cautionary note, saying it was susceptible to "abuses."
- China will impose sanctions on Lockheed Martin, Boeing Defense, Raytheon and other U.S. companies it says are involved in Washington's arms sales to Taiwan.
- OPEC hopeful fresh lockdowns will not dent energy demand Governments should modify response to another wave of pandemic.
- Global energy producers must pursue more 'responsible pricing' policies And India needs 'affordable and reliable' energy sources:PM

UNITED NATIONS(UN) TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS(TPNW) TO ENTER INTO FORCE

- 1.Recently, **Honduras became the 50th country to ratify the accord**, minimum needed for it to enter into force as international law.It is supposed to **enter into force 90 days after the 50th instrument of ratification.**
- 2.Earlier, US, Russia, China, Britain, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel boycotted the negotiations that created the treaty.
- 3.Despite being committed to nuclear disarmament, **India boycotted it** as the treaty did not contribute to the development of any customary international law for universal disarmament.
- 4.TPNW was **adopted at UN in 2017 and is a legally binding instrument** to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

ROOM TEMPERATURE SUPERCONDUCTIVITY, POSSIBLE BUT UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE

- 1.Researchers have **created a new material composed of carbon, hydrogen and sulphur(carbonaceous sulfur hydride) that is superconducting at 15 degree Celsius.**
- 2.However, it requires ultrahigh pressure of about 2 million atmospheres to achieve this transition, making it difficult for any immediate practical applications.
- 3.Superconductors **transmit electricity without resistance**, allowing current to flow without any energy loss. Superconductors will exclude magnetic fields, a phenomenon called the Meissner effect.
- 4.Until now **superconductors were required to be cooled at very low temperature**(much below zero degree Celsius) that restricted their commercial use.

50 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL AID: WORLD'S RICHEST COUNTRIES OWE \$5.7 TRILLION DEBT TO POOR, SAYS OXFAM

- 1.Developed countries pledged in 1970 to devote 0.7% of their income to poorest states through a UN resolution.
- 2.However according to Oxfam report, In 2019 only five countries- **Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and UK-** met or exceeded 0.7% target.
- 3.**Donors failed completely on their promises** to grant climate finance too. A financial gap of \$3.9 trillion required to achieve the health SDG(Sustainable Development Goal) worldwide could have been plugged by such aid.

PRIME MINISTER STREET VENDOR'S(PM SVAnidhi) SCHEME

- 1.Recently, UP government secures first rank in disbursing loans under PM SVAnidhi Scheme.
- 2.It was launched in June, 2020 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide affordable **working capital loan to street vendors impacted by COVID-19**, to resume their livelihoods.
- 3.Under the Scheme, vendors can avail a **working capital loan of up to Rs.10,000**, which is repayable in monthly installments in the tenure of one year.

OAXACA

- 1.PM Modi, in his Mann ki Baat, made a reference to the **region of Oaxaca in Mexico.**
- 2.Khadi **Oaxaca is a farm-to-garment collective** which comprises around 400 families, which live and work on traditional farms and homesteads in the Oaxaca region of southern Mexico.