

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

13TH NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- India and ASEAN countries said they would explore ways to increase trade between them despite India's exit from the 15 nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.
- India hit out at Pakistan for omitting the names of the "masterminds" of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks from a consolidated list of "most wanted/ high profile terrorists", and asked Islamabad to "show sincerity" in delivering justice to the families of 166 victims of the attacks 12 years ago.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a fresh set of relief and stimulus measures for the economy worth ₹1.19 lakh crore, including a scheme to boost reemployment chances of formal sector employees who lost their jobs amid the COVID19 pandemic.
- The fifth Scorpene conventional submarine, Vagir, being built by the Mazagon Docks Ltd. With technology transfer from France was launched into Water.
- In the wake of a notice by the government of India for showing Leh as part of Jammu and Kashmir instead of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Twitter has sought time till November end to resolve the issue.
- China has begun work on a strategically significant railway line — its second major rail link to Tibet — that will link Sichuan province with Nyingchi, which lies near the border with India's Arunachal Pradesh.
- Rating agency Moody's Investors Service has revised upward its forecast for India's GDP for calendar year 2020 to an 8.9% contraction from its earlier projection for a contraction of 9.6%.
- RBI said it will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for an aggregate amount of ₹ 10,000 crore.

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS APPROVES REVAMPED VIABILITY GAP FUNDING(VGF) SCHEME

- 1.The **Scheme for Financial Support to Public Private Partnership(PPPs) in infrastructure(VGF scheme) has been continued till 2024-25** with total outlay of Rs.8,100 crore .
- 2.Rs6,000 crore for economic-infrastructure projects and Rs 2100 crore for social-infrastructure projects.
- 3.It is **expected to attract more PPP projects and facilitate investment** in the social sectors.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE MOVES TO SET UP NATIONAL DATABASE OF UNORGANISED WORKERS(NDUW)

- 1.**NDUW is first-ever national database of unorganised sector workers including migrant workers.**
- 2.It aims to provide a platform for workers and employers, and for government to implement specific programmes for such labourers.
- 3.Significance-Help workers to **share information about their skills** which, in turn, will make it easy for employers to find a suitable person. Help government in providing welfare schemes or implementing social security initiatives.
- 4.Movement of labour can be tracked in a situation like a Covid-induced lockdown so they worker be registered and issued a smart ID card.

SARNA CODE

- 1.Jharkhand Assembly passed resolution on Sarna Code which seeks the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in Census, 2021. It will now be sent to the centre for approval.
- 2.Sarna followers are **nature worshippers who not consider themselves Hindus and have been fighting for a separate religious identity for decades.**
- 3.Tribal leaders across Jharkhand had been demanding the implementation of Sarna Code in census surveys.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AMENDS FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATIONS ACT(FCRA) RULES, 2011

- 1.New rules have been notified new rules under FCRA,2010.
- 2.New FCRA rules-Norms relaxed for farmers, students, religious and other groups not involved in active politics.
- 3.It makes new FCRA registrations more stringent like organisations should be existence for three years and to have spent a minimum of Rs 15 lakh on its core activities.

2nd NATIONAL WATER AWARDS CEREMONY

- 1.The **awards are given to motivate individuals/organizations who are doing commendable work in the field of water resources conservation and management.**
- 2.It is **organized by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

HAIDERPUR WETLAND

- 1.Agencies are working **towards making Haiderpur wetland in west UP a Ramsar site.**
- 2.This wetland came into existence in 1984 after the construction of the Madhya Ganga Barrage on the river Ganga.
- 3.Many bird species inhabit the Haiderpur wetland and it is an important stopover destination for winter migratory birds like the Greylag goose and the Bar-headed goose.