

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tropical Storm Iota was brewing in the Caribbean Sea on Saturday, threatening a second tropical strike for Nicaragua and Honduras, countries recently clobbered by a Category 4 Hurricane Eta.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the "Statue of Peace" in Rajasthan's Pali district via video-conferencing on Monday to mark the 151st birth anniversary celebrations of Jain monk Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.**
- **The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (Gupkar Alliance) members failed to finalise their eat-sharing arrangement for the District Development Council polls yet again on November 14 despite holding a marathon meeting, the third one in two days, on the issue.**
- **Republican leaders in four critical States won by President-elect Joe Biden say they won't participate in a legally dubious scheme to flip their State's electors to vote for President Donald Trump.**
- **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali's reformist zeal appears to be stoking instability in Africa's second most populated country and the continent's economic powerhouse, just over two years since he took office.**
- **Egypt announced the discovery of an ancient treasure trove of more than a 100 intact sarcophagi, dating back more than 2,500 years ago. The sealed wooden coffins, Ptolemaic period of ancient Egypt.**
- **Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday asked India and Pakistan to rise above their political compulsions and initiate dialogue, saying it was sad to see mounting casualties on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).**

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA

- 1.It is a scheme to incentivise job creation during COVID-19 recovery. It will be effective from October 1,2020 and operational till 30th June 2021.
- 2.**Under the scheme, any EPFO-registered establishment that brings in new employees or employees who have lost their jobs between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 will be eligible for subsidy for each new candidate enrolled.**
- 3.Beneficiaries-Any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000. EPF members who had lost their jobs between March 1,2020 and September 30 and is employed on or after 01.10.2020.

FIRST SNOW LEOPARD CENSUS STARTS IN UTTARAKHAND

- 1.India has launched its first ever census of the snow leopard population.
- 2.Census will give a scientific estimate of the snow leopard population in India, threats that exist in its habitat and the status of habitats.
- 3.**Snow leopard mainly inhabits the higher reaches of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. IUCN status is Vulnerable.**

TATAMD CHECK

- 1.It is a **low-cost, paper-based test strip for detecting COVID-19**. It is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative and Tata Group.
- 2.It is **world's first viral diagnostic kit based on FELUDA CRISPR Cas-9 platform.**
- 3.Feluda test uses CRISPR gene-editing technology to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

EAST CONTAINER TERMINAL

- 1.**Sri Lanka signed a memorandum of cooperation with India and Japan to jointly upgrade the strategic East Container Terminal(ECT) at the Colombo Port.**
- 2.Aim was to enhance Sri Lanka's status as a maritime hub,.
- 3.However, the project could not move forward owing to resistance against foreign involvement in "national assets".

SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.Relaxation of **Earnest Deposit Money and Performance Security on Government Tenders(reduced from 5-10% to 3%)** has been given to contractors.
- 2.It will also extend to ongoing contractors and Public Sector Enterprises.
- 3.It will provide ease of doing business and relief to contractors whose money otherwise remains locked up.

INDIA RECEIVED 1ST SHIPMENT FROM BANGLADESH THROUGH WATER ROUTE

- 1.The first **commercial shipment came from Bangladesh to Karimganj, Assam** on the Protocol for Inland Water Trade and Transit(PIWTT) route.
- 2.It is an economical, greener and safe mode for two-way flow of exports between India-Bangladesh.