

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

22ND NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- In a first for the Himalayan Kingdom, and a rare honour in the subcontinent, Bhutan's Queen Mother Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck has been awarded the United Nations Population Award in the individual category for 2020 for her work on sexual health and ending gender violence.
- Formulating effective laws to counter bioterrorism is one of the important lessons to be learnt from the COVID19 pandemic, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health has said in a report, "The Outbreak of Pandemic COVID19 And its Management."
- Members of 30 farmers' outfits in Punjab decided to lift the rail blockade on November 23, after nearly two months of their protest against the Centre's new agriculture laws.
- Following a plea seeking identification, protection and restoration of water bodies in Gurugram, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expanded the scope of the petition and directed all States and Union Territories to designate a nodal agency under respective chief secretaries within a month.
- Pakistan summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Indian High Commission and rejected India's assertion that Pakistan based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed was planning to carry out attacks in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of local elections there.
- Almost two months after the kharif harvest procurement began, the level of paddy procurement is 18% higher than last year, according to Agriculture Ministry data.
- The U.S. and Taiwan are stepping up cooperation in a newly created economic dialogue, in another move from the outgoing Trump administration to increase official exchanges with the self ruled island.

SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TOWARDS AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION(SATAT) INITIATIVE

1. Petronet LNG signed a pact with Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas(MoPNG) for **setting up compressed bio gas(CBG) plants under SATAT initiative.**
2. This will give a big fillip to the clean energy initiative in India.
3. SATAT is an initiative aimed at setting up of CBG production plants and **make it available in the market for use in automotive fuels** by inviting Expression of interest from potential entrepreneurs.

ONE HEALTH GLOBAL LEADERS GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE(AMR)

1. Group was recently launched by Food and Agriculture Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health and World Health Organization.
2. It was created in response to a recommendation from the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR(IACG).
3. IACG was convened by Secretary-General of UN after the UN high-level meeting on AMR in 2017. **It will elevate the need to prioritize best practices to address AMR at global, regional, and national levels.**

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN(UBA)

1. Recently, Ministry of Education reviewed the progress of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
2. UBA connects higher education institutions with villages for the economic and social betterment of rural communities.
3. **It aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions.**

MICROWAVE WEAPONS

1. Indian Army has rejected a report claiming that Chinese army had used microwave weapons against Indian soldiers in eastern Ladakh.
2. Microwave weapons are **supposed to be a type of direct energy weapons, which aim highly focussed energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.**

SEISMIC SURVEY CAMPAIGN IN MAHANADI BASIN

1. It will help in establishing **Mahanadi basin as a hub of exploration & production operations building hydrocarbon reserves and also in socio-economic development of the region.**
2. A seismic survey is a low impact, non-invasive method of gathering information about the location and characteristics of geological structures beneath the Earth's surface.

DIRECT SEEDED RICE(DSR) TECHNIQUE

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1. Recently, owing to labour shortage over 20% of the area under paddy cultivation in Punjab was brought under DSR technique.
 2. **DSR refers to process of establishing a rice crop from seeds sown in field rather than by transplanting seedlings from nursery.**
 3. It is a less labour-intensive method of sowing the crop.
 4. It is a less labour-intensive method of sowing the crop. Benefits-DSR will help reduce water consumption by 30% and labour needs by 60% especially when groundwater table has declined in about 85% of the state between 1984 and 2016.