

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

23RD NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the Ladakh standoff between the Indian and Chinese armies in May, Arunachal Pradesh has been pushing for the ambitious Frontier Highway project along the “India-Tibet border” for facilitating faster movement of troops if a warlike situation arises.
- Security forces unearthed a tunnel beneath the International Border (IB) in Jammu’s Samba Sector, which was used by the Pakistan Army to push in the four Jaishe-Muhammad (JeM) militants who were killed in an encounter in Nagrota on Thursday.
- A drastic amendment to the Kerala Police Act, 2011, to give the local law enforcement more teeth to curb defamation has sparked outrage, with Opposition parties, journalists’ bodies seeing a threat to the freedom of the press and free speech in the State.
- Climate change must be fought not in silos but in an integrated, comprehensive and holistic way, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a G20 event and asserted that the entire world can progress faster if there is greater support of technology and finance to developing nations.
- Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance from November 18 to 19.
- The contracting envelope of the defence budget makes it all the more imperative to create dual use infrastructure through civil military fusion, Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Bipin Rawat said., calling for integrating civil and military ecosystems to optimise resource utilisation.
- The second edition of the India, Thailand and Singapore trilateral naval exercise, SITMEX20, concluded in the Andaman Sea.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA(RBI) PANEL FOR BANK LICENSE TO LARGE CORPORATE HOUSES

- 1.RBI had constituted an **Internal Working Group(IWG)** under P.K Mohanty to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks.
- 2.RBI has been reluctant to allow business houses to establish banks because of issues like worries over governance, concentration of economic powers and conflict of interest.
- 3.Key recommendations of the IWG-Large corporate/industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks. Well run large Non-banking Finance Companies(NBFCs), **with an asset size of Rs.50,000 crore and above may be considered for conversion** into banks.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT NOTIFIES DRAFT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND WORKING CONDITIONS CODE(OSH) RULES,2020

- 1.OSH Code was passed by Parliament in September. It subsumed 13 labour laws regulating health, safety and working conditions of workers like Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952 etc.
- 2.Draft rules provide for operationalization of provisions in the OSH code 2020 relating to safety, health and working conditions of various categories of workers, including Dock Workers, Building or other construction workers, Mines workers, Inter-State Migrant worker, Contract labour etc.
- 3.Salient features-No employee shall be employed unless he has been issued a **letter of appointment**. Raising spread over time for a worker to **12 hours a day from the current limit of 10.5 hours. Journey allowance. Safety committees** for every establishment employing 500 or more workers.

GOVERNMENT MULLS ADVANCING 20% ETHANOL BLENDING TARGET

- 1.Petroleum Ministry has introduced Biofuel Policy, 2018 with the objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030, but **now government is preparing plan to prepone the target for 20% blending.**
- 2.In the current ethanol supply year 2019-20, only 4.8% blending levels of ethanol is likely to be achieved while in 2020-21, it is expected to reach 8.5%
- 3.Proposals-**Additional 468-crore litre ethanol capacities through loans.Encouraging sugar mills, distilleries and entrepreneurs to set up new distilleries and to expand existing distillation capacities.**

INDIA’S IRNSS IS NOW PART OF WORLD WIDE RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEM(WWRNS)

- 1.India became the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by International Maritime Organisation(IMO) as a part of WWRNS.
- 2.Other three are US’s GPS, Russia’s GLONASS and China’s BeiDou.
- 3.IMO is a United Nations agency responsible for safety and security of shipping. WWRNS is a IMO process whereby navigation system providers submit their system for recognition.

ANCIENT HINDU TEMPLE DISCOVERED IN NORTHWEST PAKISTAN ANCIENT HINDU TEMPLE DISCOVERED IN NORTHWEST PAKISTAN

- 1.A Hindu temple of Lord Vishnu has been **discovered in northwest Pakistan’s Swat district.**
- 2.It was **built 1,300 years ago during Hindu Shahi period.**