

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal for setting up public WiFi hotspots across the country via public data offices or PDOs, which could even be a *kirana* shop or a *paan* shop.
- Russia hit out at the four nation quadrilateral strategic dialogue or Quad, calling it a “devious policy” by western powers to engage India in “anti-China games”. While Moscow has expressed concerns about the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy and criticised the Quad, comprising the U.S., Australia, Japan and India, as a “divisive” and “exclusivist” concept.
- Farmer leaders rejected the Union government’s proposal to amend the farm laws and vowed to intensify their agitation until they are repealed.
- A year after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was passed by the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said that the rules governing the Act are still “under preparation”. Without the rules being notified, the Act remains ineffective.
- The Union Cabinet approved laying of undersea optical fibre cable to connect 11 islands of Lakshadweep with Kochi by May 2023, to help improve broadband connectivity in the Union Territory.
- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet against 16 “foreignbased Khalistanis”. The accused, based in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada.
- Iran is ready to return to full compliance with a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers as soon as the other parties honour their commitments, President Hassan Rouhani said.
- The U.S. government has and will continue to raise issues like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) with the Modi government, U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback told reporters.

## SOCIAL COMMERCE

- 1.Social commerce is the process of selling products directly on social media.
- 2.It differs from social media marketing as it is not redirecting users to an online store, but offering them the ability to checkout directly within the network they’re using at that moment.
- 3.Social commerce in India is expected rise tenfold to touch \$16-20 billion in gross merchandise value(GMV) over the next five years from the existing \$1.5-2 billion.

## ECO-DUCTS OR ECO-BRIDGES

- 1.Ramnagar Forest Division(Uttarakhand) recently built its first eco-bridge for reptiles and smaller mammals.
- 2.Eco-ducts or eco-bridges aims to enhance wildlife connectivity that can be disrupted because of highways or logging.
- 3.These include canopy bridges(usually for monkeys, squirrels and other arboreal species), concrete underpasses or overpass tunnels or viaducts(usually for larger animals), and amphibian tunnels or culverts.

## GROUP OF MINISTERS REPORT PROVIDES SUGGESTION ON E-GOVERNANCE PUSH

- 1.It details ways in which delivery of services and benefits through digital means can be overhauled.
- 2.Key suggestions include-**Creation of Universal National Social Profile** to have real time and thorough record of people entitled to government benefits.
- 3.This would enable a **holistic assessment assistance required from the government based on the family/individual’s real-time situation**. It will also error over inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries and ensure last mile connectivity.

## ORGANOCHLORINES MAY BE BEHIND ELURU(ANDHRA PRADESH) MYSTERY ILLNESS

- 1.According to reports, Organochlorines **seem to be the reason behind a mystery disease that has impacted 450 patients with seizures, dizziness and headaches**.
- 2.Organochlorines are capable of causing adverse effects in the central and peripheral nervous system.
- 3.**Organochlorines are a group of chlorinated compounds that belong to the class of persistent organic pollutants(POPs)**.
- 4.They are relatively cheaper and as a result widely used as pesticides(40% of all pesticides) in Asia.

## GWALIOR, ORCHA OF MADHYA PRADESH(MP) ARE ON UNESCO’S WORLD HERITAGE CITIES(WHC) LIST

- 1.Both sites have been included under UNESCO’s urban landscape city programme. **Prior to this India had 38 world heritage sites**.
- 2.Historic Urban Landscape approach moves beyond preservation of physical environment and focuses on the entire human environment with all of its tangible and intangible qualities.

## PARTNERS IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT(PPD)

- 1.Recently, Union Minister of Health addressed the Inter Ministerial Conference by PPD.
- 2.PPD is an intergovernmental alliance of 27 developing countries(including India) created specifically for expanding and improving **South-to-South collaboration in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development**.
- 3.It was created at the international **Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994**.