

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

29TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- India could benefit from the likely shift in global supply chains from China to other economies in the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic, according to a survey. The FICCI Dhruva Advisors Survey conducted this month covered more than 150 companies in India.
- Maintaining the inflation target at 4% is appropriate for India, according to a working paper titled “Measuring Trend Inflation in India”.
- The dry run to test preparedness for the nationwide rollout of a COVID19 vaccine kicked off in four States — Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab.
- The leader of Lebanon’s Hezbollah said his group now has twice as many precision guided missiles as it had a year ago, saying Israel’s efforts to prevent it from acquiring them have failed.
- The Centre invited protesting farmer unions to resume negotiations with a ministerial delegation on December 30.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country’s first driverless train on the Delhi Metro’s Magenta Line.
- The Assam government introduced a Bill in the 126 member Assembly to convert the Staterun Madrasas into general educational institutes from the next fiscal.
- China said reports suggesting it was seeking additional guarantees from Pakistan before sanctioning a loan for a key project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), were “baseless”.
- A court in China jailed a citizen journalist for four years for her non-sanctioned reporting from Wuhan as the COVID19 outbreak unfolded earlier this year, accusing her of “provoking trouble”.

MONPA HANDMADE PAPER

1. Khadi and Village Industries commission commissioned a Monpa handmade paper making unit in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh for receiving the 1000-year old heritage art.
2. It will be **made from bark of a local tree Shugu Sheng, which has medicinal values too.**
3. It is integral to vibrant culture of local tribes in Arunachal Pradesh.
4. **Monpa handmade paper called Shugu in the local dialect** is used for writing Buddhist scriptures and hymns in monasteries.

POST-BREXIT TRADE DEAL

1. Recently, the UK and the European Union (EU) have published the full text of the post-Brexit trade agreement aimed at governing their relationship when the UK definitively leaves the bloc's single market on 31st December 2020.
2. The document lays out detail on **trade, law enforcement, and dispute settlement among other arrangements.**
3. The deal ensures the two sides can continue to trade in goods without tariffs or quotas but despite the breakthrough, **key aspects of the future relationship between the 27-nation bloc and its former member remain uncertain.**

NANOMICELLE

1. A team of scientists has created a nanomicelle that **can be used for effective drug delivery to treat various cancers including breast, colon and lung cancer.**
2. Nanomicelles are formed when amphiphilic molecules assemble themselves to create a globular structure that is only around 5 to 100nm in diameter.
3. They are usually made through surfactant molecules that may be non-ionic, ionic, and cationic detergents. Some nanomicelles may also be developed from a mixture of lipids and detergents.

ICEBERG A68A

1. Iceberg A68a, which calved from Antarctica in 2017, has been **floating off the coast of South Georgia island. This has prompted fears about the impact the iceberg could have on the island’s abundant wildlife.**
2. Shaped like a closed hand with a pointing finger, the iceberg known as A68a split off in 2017 from Larsen Ice Shelf.
3. Calving is the glaciological term for the mechanical loss (or simply, breaking off) of ice from a glacier margin. Calving is most common when a glacier flows into water (i.e. lakes or the ocean) but can also occur on dry land, where it is known as dry calving.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT PM-JAY SEHAT:J&K

1. Recently the Prime Minister has launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
2. The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover. It provides financial cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.
3. **Floater basis, means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.** The whole family is insured under one plan. The scheme would work in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).