

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for India's manufacturing touched 56.3 in November, signalling that even as an improvement in wider industrial activity continued, the sector's expansion as well as the pace of new orders slowed down while employment declined further as business optimism faded during the month.
- Environmentalists have alleged that the contractors deputed by the government to make roads as part of the Chardham project are violating the Supreme Court orders on the appropriate road width to be followed in mountainous terrain.
- Talks between the Centre and the farmers demanding a rollback of the three farm sector legislations ended inconclusively. The farmers' unions rejected the government's proposal to set up a small expert committee to examine the three controversial laws.
- Gross revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) crossed ₹1 lakh crore for the second month in a row, with ₹1,04,963 crore collected in November 2020.
- The government has never spoken about vaccinating everyone against COVID19, Health Secretary said.
- Canadian leadership's comments on the ongoing agitation by farmers are "ill-informed", an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has denied highlighting a clause in its recruitment rules for a particular post that disqualifies an applicant on grounds of bigamy.
- China and Pakistan have signed a new military memorandum of understanding to boost their already close defence relationship.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) TO HELP MEMBER NATIONS POWER VACCINE STORAGE FACILITIES

1. ISA, under its ISA care programme, is working on making around 500 hospitals across 47 of the least developed and small island developing member countries run on electricity generated from Sun.
2. It will help in powering cold storages to store coronavirus vaccine, running computers for inventory management, and respirators in remote areas of these countries.
3. ISA care program was launched to solarise primary health centres in member countries, which requires cold storage facilities for vaccines and medicines.

GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTES APEX COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT(AIPA)

1. AIPA is a 17 member inter-ministerial committee constituted to ensure Coordinated response on climate change matters that protects country's interests.
2. India is on track towards meeting its climate change obligations under Paris agreement including its submitted Nationally Determined Contributions(NDCs).
3. AIPS has been constituted under Environment(Protection) Act, 1986. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will be the chairperson of AIPA.

ELECTION COMMISSION(EC) READY TO ALLOW POSTAL BALLOTS FOR NON-RESIDENT INDIANS(NRIs)

1. EC told the Ministry of Law and Justice that it is technically and administratively ready to extend the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System(ETPBS) to NRI voters for elections next year in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala etc.
2. Currently, NRIs who holds an Indian Passport, can vote in his/her hometown after registering as an Overseas voter. There are about 3.1 crore NRIs living in different countries.
3. Under ETPBS, the postal ballot is dispatched electronically and returned via ordinary mail and it is currently only available to service voters like member of armed forces, person employed by government outside India etc.

UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM(UNDP) FACES ALLEGATIONS AT CLIMATE PROJECTS:REPORT

1. Report identified financial misstatements worth millions of dollars across UNDP's portfolio of Global Environment Facility(GEF)-funded projects around the world.
2. GEF was set up in 1991 by World Bank, UNDP and UN Environment Programme to help fight environmental challenges such as deforestation, species conservation and pollution.
3. UNDP works to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress.

SIBERIAN PRIMROSE

1. Researchers have claimed that Siberian primrose species may not be able to adapt to quickly progressing climate change, which could potentially lead to its extinction.
2. It is a plant endemic to the Nordic countries(Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and Iceland). It is specialised in growing on seashore meadows with low vegetation.

