

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Talks with China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) could take much longer, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar indicated, drawing a parallel to a similar military standoff in Arunachal Pradesh's 'Sumdorong Chu' in 1986 that took nearly nine years to resolve.
- U.S. President-elect Joe Biden will insist Iran agrees to new demands if it wants the U.S. to return to a nuclear deal and lift sanctions, Biden administration would see to extend the duration of "restrictions on Iran's production of fissile material that could be used to make a (nuclear) bomb" in a new round of negotiations.
- One week after they began protests on the borders of Delhi, farmers' groups have demanded that the Centre call a special session of Parliament to repeal the three new agriculture reform laws.
- Britain approved Pfizer's COVID19 vaccine, jumping ahead of the rest of the world in the race to begin the most crucial mass inoculation programme in history with a shot tested in widescale clinical trials.
- Joshua Wong, one of Hong Kong's most prominent democracy activists, was jailed for more than 13 months over an unlawful antigovernment rally in 2019.
- A Chinese space probe began drilling on the surface of the Moon hours after landing, in an ambitious attempt to bring back the first lunar samples in four decades.
- Industry and business sectors complained to the Supreme Court that the government's decision to restrict its payback scheme to "small" borrowers covering only eight categories of loans, worth up to ₹ 2 crore, was "arbitrary." Business sectors classified as 'big' borrowers urge loan relief in plea to apex court.

## K CURVE

- 1.K Curve depicts the **inequality existing between different financial entities(Banks, NBFCs etc) in terms of their attributes that determine their future growth and profitability.**
- 2.Widening of the arms of the K would imply that inequality is increasing, while narrowing of the span of the K would mean the opposite.

## GREEN CHARCOAL

- 1.Recently, Green Charcoal Hackathon was launched, by Ministry of Power, with the objective to clean the air by eliminating farm fire, producing renewable energy out of the agro residue etc.
- 2.Green Charcoal is a type of **bio-fuel that can be made locally and inexpensively.**
- 3.To make this, **agricultural waste materials appropriate to the region are carbonized (conversion of an organic substance into carbon-containing residue) in a kiln.**
- 4.It burns cleanly, reducing exposure to the smoke that causes respiratory infections.

## INDIA'S FIRST 100 OCTANE PETROL:XP100

- 1.Recently, Indian Oil has launched a world-class premium grade Petrol(Octane 100) in the country. Branded as XP100, the premium grade petrol was launched across ten cities.
- 2.**Octane number is a measure of the resistance of fuels to knock or to ignite prematurely.**
- 3.The higher an octane number, more stable the fuel.

## MARITIME THEATRE COMMAND(MTC) TO BE SET UP SOON

- 1.MTC as first of the five Theatre level commands is scheduled for formation in 2021. Other planned theatre commands include an Air Defence Theatre Command and three commands for land forces.
- 2.Theaterisation aims at compiling all resources of land forces, naval units and aviation assets under a single theatre commander for efficient availability of resources to meet objectives in Today's hi-tech warfare.

## INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA(IWAI) EASES TENDER TERMS FOR PRIVATISING THREE RIVER TERMINALS

- 1.IWAI has eased tender terms for privatising multi-modal terminals(MMT) at Varanasi, Haldia and Sahibganj on National Waterway(NW) 1.
- 2.**MMTs are being privatised on Equip, Operate and Transfer(EOT) basis.** EOT model is used where infrastructure already exists and there is no need of capital investment.
- 3.NW1 is from **Allahabad to Haldia** that falls on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. It passes through UP, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal.

## FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE(FATF) JOINT EXPERTS MEET

- 1.During the meet, **FATF apprised experts from both public and private sectors about latest risk findings related to money laundering and terror funding.**
- 2.FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial systems.
- 3.India is a member of FATF.