

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

4TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The fourth round of talks between the Centre and farmer leaders ended inconclusively. Although the Centre offered to consider eight amendments to the contentious farm reform laws and offered assurances that the minimum support prices (MSP) for farm produce would continue, farmer leaders continued to stand firm on their demand that all three laws be completely repealed.
- India has asked the United Nations to expand its criticism of hatred and violence against religions beyond the three Abrahamic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal has returned his Padma Vibhushan in protest against the “betrayal of farmers”.
- India said it “carefully monitors all developments on the Brahmaputra” river, even as Beijing said it was its “legitimate right” to develop hydropower projects on the lower reaches of the river.
- People who do not wear masks in public and follow physical distancing norms violate the fundamental rights of others amid the COVID19 pandemic, the Supreme Court said.
- The Enforcement Directorate carried out nationwide searches on the premises of the Popular Front of India (PFI) and those of its members in connection with money laundering allegations.
- The United States will block imports of cotton that, it says, is harvested with “slave labour” in China’s Xinjiang region, authorities have announced.
- Iran’s watchdog body approved a law that obliges the government to halt U.N. inspections of its nuclear sites and step up uranium enrichment beyond the limit set under Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal, if sanctions are not eased in a month.

40% DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDORS(DFC) TRACK TO BE COMPLETED BY 2021

- 1.DFC project involves the construction of six freight corridors traversing the entire country.
- 2.DFC is a rail route created for freight (goods and commodity) transportation.
- 3.Purpose of the project is to provide a safe and efficient freight transportation system.
- 4.DFCCIL was established by the Centre in 2006 as a dedicated body to implement the project.

WORLD MALARIA REPORT 2020 RELEASED BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION(WHO)

- 1.Malaria case incidence(cases per 1000 population at risk) reduced from 80 in 2000 to 57 in 2019 globally. WHO African Region accounted for about 94% of cases.
- 2.India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- 3.Malaria is caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- 4.Out of 5 malaria causing parasites species, **Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax pose the greatest threat.**

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN MOTHER TONGUE

- 1.Ministry of Education has set up a **task force for preparing a roadmap on imparting technical education in Mother Tongue.**
- 2.It aims to make enabling provisions so that bright students are not deprived of Technical Education due to lack of knowledge of English language.
- 3.Indian Institute of Technology(IITs) and the National Institute of Technology(NITs) will start offering engineering courses in mother tongue from next academic year.

MUNICIPAL BONDS

- 1.Recently, **Municipal bonds issued by Lucknow Municipal Corporation were listed on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).**
- 2.Municipal bonds are bonds issued by urban local bodies to raise money for financing specific projects such as infrastructure projects. They are regulated by SEBI.
- 3.To issue such bonds, municipalities must not have-Negative net worth in any of the three preceding financial years. Defaulted in any loan repayments in the last one year.

NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE(NMR)

- 1.**NMR spectroscopy is an analytical chemistry technique used in quality control by determining purity of a sample.**
- 2.It allows the molecular structure of a material to be analyzed by observing and measuring the interaction of nuclear spins when placed in a powerful magnetic field.
- 3.The advantages of NMR are that **sample measurements are non-destructive and there is less sample preparation required.** Fields of application include bio, foods, and chemistry, as well as new fields such as battery films.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT, RECYCLING SYSTEM

- 1.It has been developed by Indian Institute of Science researchers.
- 2.It is an efficient decentralised wastewater treatment and recycling system for rural areas.
- 3.In this, the water that drains out of the wash basin and kitchen is treated and recycled after removing the oil and grease and used again for non-potable purposes such as toilet flushing and gardening.