

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left benchmark interest rates unchanged and retained an 'accommodative' stance as it prioritised support for the economy over 'sticky' inflation amid the COVID19 pandemic.
- Rivals Qatar and Saudi Arabia, along with neutral Oman and Kuwait, said on Friday progress had been made towards resolving the Gulf crisis that has pitted a regional group of nations against Doha.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday told floor leaders of 19 political parties represented in Parliament that a vaccine against COVID19 could be available for rollout in the next few weeks.
- Dimming hopes of a compromise, a joint front of protesting farmer groups rejected the Centre's proposals to amend the three contentious agriculture laws and called for a 'Bharat Bandh' on December 8 to widen the agitation.
- Comments from the leadership and other members of the Canadian government regarding the ongoing farmers agitation is "unacceptable interference" in India's affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs said.
- The navies of India and Russia began a two day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the East Indian Ocean Region, the Navy said.
- The head of the World Health Organization warned that the poor risk being "trampled" as wealthy nations roll out COVID19 vaccines, which he said should be a public good.
- China successfully powered up its "artificial sun" nuclear fusion reactor for the first time, marking a great advance in the country's nuclear power research capabilities.
- Bangladesh transported more than 1,600 Rohingya refugees to a low lying Island.

INDIA VOTES TO RECLASSIFY CANNABIS

1. India has voted with the majority at the United Nations to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from the list of most dangerous substances from Schedule IV of 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.
2. Convention allows for control over trafficking in narcotics, marijuana, cocaine and coca leaf. India had signed and signed and ratified the convention.
3. Now, the decision by UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs(CND) will lead to changes in the way cannabis is regulated internationally.

INDIA,USA SIGN MoU ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY(IP)

1. MoU was signed between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and US Patent and Trademark Office(USPTO).
2. It aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries by facilitating exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP among public, industry, universities etc.
3. Intellectual Property rights given to persons over creations of their minds.

FLUOROSIS

1. Fluorosis is a crippling disease resulted from deposition of fluorides in the hard and soft tissues of the body.
2. It is a public health problem caused by excess intake of fluoride through drinking water/food products/industrial pollutants over a long period.
3. Ingestion of excess fluoride, most commonly in drinking-water affects the teeth and bones.

THE MALAYAN GIANT SQUIRREL

1. It is an arboreal, herbivores rodent found in the evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of north-eastern India. It is also considered to be a 'forest health indicator' species.
2. According to the Zoological Survey of India(ZSI) vanishing forests, & climate change have put threat to its existence.
3. By 2050, the species may have access to only 3% of the suitable habitat and may face challenges of getting extinct. IUCN status is Near Threatened.

KARNATAKA LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS(KLMS)

1. Recently, it was launched by the Karnataka Government.
2. It is implemented in two ways-LMS-based digital learning and establishing 2500 ICT enabled classes covering government first grade colleges, polytechnics and engineering colleges.
3. It encourages digital learning and would improve the quality and Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) in higher education.
4. This would benefit students and teachers to make an impact on their learning and teaching.

INDO GANGETIC PLAIN(IGP) GLOBAL HOTSPOT OF ATMOSPHERIC AMMONIA(NH3),IIT KHARAGPUR STUDY

1. Study finds-IGP is the global hot-spot of NH3 due to intense agricultural activities and fertilizer production.
2. There is a positive correlation of NH3 with total fertilizer consumption and temperature since high temperature favours volatilization.