

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Railways has written to the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, seeking exemption for procuring certain medical items manufactured outside India, particularly medicines used in the treatment of COVID19 and cancer. Supply of lifesaving medicines affected by 'Make in India' policy.
- 8,848 metres — the answer to one of the most widely popular quiz questions, and a number drilled into the minds of school students around the world for decades, is set for a revision, with the world's tallest mountain getting a new official height that adds a few centimetres to its already lofty peak. New figure of 8,848.86 m replaces 8,848 m, a measurement carried out by the Survey of India in 1954.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah told a select group of farmers' leaders on Tuesday that the Centre would not repeal the three contentious farm sector laws, on a day that saw nationwide road blockades and peaceful protests in support of the demand for a rollback of the laws.
- The Supreme Court gave the green signal for the National Highway Authority of India and the Union government to acquire land for the 277.3 Km long Chennai Krishnagiri Salem National Highway project, worth more than ₹ 10,000 crore, saying "national highways are the arteries of India's economy".
- Officials of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and other teams found the presence of nickel and lead elements in blood samples collected from patients in the Eluru Government General Hospital (GGH), Andhra Pradesh.
- SAARC can only be fully effective in the absence of "terror and violence", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

HATE SPEECH REPUDIATES RIGHT TO EQUALITY IN A POLITY COMMITTED TO PLURALISM: SUPREME COURT

1. Judgement delivered in Amish Devgan v Union of India contains an elaborate discussion on the concept of 'hate speech' vs 'free speech'.
2. hate speech vs free speech-Free speech includes right to comment, favour or criticise government policies, and hate speech creating or spreading hatred against a targeted community or group.
3. Objective of criminalising **hate speech-is to protect dignity of an individual and to ensure political and social equality between different identities** and groups regardless of caste, creed, religion, sex, gender identity etc.

INDIA IN TOP 10 PERFORMERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX(CCPI)

1. CCPI, published annually since 2005, evaluates 57 countries and European Union(EU), which together generate 90%+of global greenhouse gas(GHG) emissions. Index covers four categories-**GHG emissions(40%), renewable energy(20%), energy use(20%) and climate policy(20%)**.
2. Key highlights-Globally none of the countries are on the path to meet their Paris Agreement commitment of keeping global warming increase below 2 degree celsius above pre-industrial levels by end of century.
3. From G20 countries, only EU, along with UK and India, rank among high performers. No country was rated very high in GHG emissions category.
4. **India received high ratings on all CCPI indicators except renewable energy.**

LEBANON REFORM, RECOVERY & RECONSTRUCTION FRAMEWORK(3RF)

1. It is **part of a comprehensive people-centred response to the massive explosion on the port of Beirut in August 2020.**
2. It has been launched by the European Union, UN and the World Bank for a period of 18-month.
3. The 3RF aims to help Lebanon achieve three central goals in response to the Beirut port explosion.
4. Construction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure.

UNCTAD INVESTMENT PROMOTION AWARDS

1. UNCTAD has declared **Invest India-** National Investment Promotion Agency of India as a **winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.**
2. Invest India is the **National Investment promotion and Facilitation Agency of India** under the Department of Industrial Policy and promotion.
3. UNCTAD award recognize the celebrate the outstanding achievements of the world's best-practice investment promotion agencies.

NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINING THE HIMALAYANS ECOSYSTEMS(NMSHE)

1. Recently, 3 centres of Excellence were inaugurated under NMSHE at Central Universities of **Kashmir, Sikkim and Tezpur.**
2. NMSHE was launched under National Action Plan on climate Change.
3. NMSHE includes **enhanced monitoring of the Himalayan ecosystem, promoting community-based management,** human resource development and strengthening regional cooperation.