

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Urging UN Security Council members not to make false distinctions of “good” terrorists and “bad” terrorists, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made indirect references to both China and Pakistan for delaying the process of designating terrorist individuals and entities, as well as failing to stop the funding of terror.
- The Kalapani territorial dispute is expected to be “raised” by Nepal during the Joint Commission meeting to be held here during the visit of Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali this week, but there will be no “border talks”, officials confirmed.
- Army chief Gen. Manoj Naravane said the Army was ready to hold its ground along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh as long as it took to achieve the national objectives, and noted that a collusive threat from China and Pakistan existed and India must be ready for it.
- U.S. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf announced his resignation unexpectedly as worries rose over more violence during President elect Joe Biden’s inauguration next week.
- The Supreme Court stayed the implementation of three controversial farm laws, calling its order “extraordinary” and a “victory for fair play”. The stay on the implementation of the laws means that the Centre cannot, for the time being, proceed with any executive actions to enforce the laws.
- President Donald Trump’s outgoing administration returned Cuba to the U.S. blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism, erecting a roadblock to expected efforts by President elect Joe Biden to ease tensions.
- India’s retail inflation decelerated appreciably to 4.59% in December, from 6.93% in November, dipping below 6% for the first time since March 2020 as food prices cooled.

## NORTH EAST VENTURE FUND(NEVF)

- 1.It is a first-of-its-kind financial instrument dedicated **for the north-eastern region to promote growth of business ventures and skill development in the region.**
- 2.It was launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region(DoNER).
- 3.The fund targets to invest in Start-Ups and unique business opportunities to provide resources for new entrepreneurship.
- 4.NEVF is on early and growth stage investment for mostly the enterprises involved in food processing, healthcare, tourism, segregation of services, IT, among others.

## MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

- 1.The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries (NP&WLS) in the country.
- 2.It was also announced that **from the year 2021 onwards, 10 best national parks, five coastal and marine parks and top five zoos in the country will be ranked and awarded every year.**
- 3.MEE of Protected Areas has emerged as a key tool that is increasingly being used by governments and international bodies to understand strengths and weaknesses of the protected area management systems.
- 4.The assessment process of India’s National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries adopted from IUCN WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas) framework of MEE.

## NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION AWARDS

- 1.The Ministry of Power, in association with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), organised the 30th National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) function.
- 2.It **recognizes the energy efficiency achievements in 56 sub-sectors across industry, establishments and institutions.**
- 3.During the award ceremony, it was specifically mentioned that the impact of Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Cycle II **achieved emission reduction of 61 million ton of CO2.**
- 4.Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) is a market-based mechanism to further accelerate as well as incentivize energy efficiency in the large energy-intensive industries.

## SEVERE STRESS AMONG ARMY PERSONNEL

- 1.According to the findings of a study by United Service Institution of India (USI), a Service think tank, more than half of Indian Army personnel seem to be under severe stress.
- 2.The **Army has been losing more personnel every year due to suicides, fratricides and untoward incidents** than in response to any enemy or terrorist activities.
- 3.Prolonged exposure of Indian Army personnel to Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism (CI/CT) environment has been one of the contributory factors for increased stress levels.

## COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE SEA VIGIL 21

- 1.The second edition of the biennial pan-India coastal defence exercise ‘Sea Vigil-21’ has started.It is billed as India’s largest coastal defence drill.
- 2.**The 2021 exercise is being undertaken along the entire 7516 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India.**
- 3.It involves all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.