

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

14TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a working group on digital lending — including online platforms and mobile apps — to study all aspects of digital lending activities in the regulated financial sector as well as by unregulated players.
- The Supreme Court took *suo motu* cognisance of the contamination of rivers by sewage effluents through lapses committed by municipalities, saying “open surface water resources including rivers are the lifeline of human civilisation”.
- OTT (OverTheTop) platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and others need to be regulated, Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Prasoon Joshi, said at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology.
- In the biggest indigenous defence deal, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the manufacture of 83 Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) by HAL for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The Agriculture Ministry has denied RTI request for details on prelegislative consultations on the farm reform laws, saying the matter is sub judice.
- The Union Health Ministry has postponed the polio immunisation drive scheduled from January 17.
- In his government’s first admission yet of Indian involvement in developing a container terminal at the strategically coveted Colombo Port, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said 49% of the investment will come from the “Adani Group.
- The Supreme Court on Wednesday admitted a petition filed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) seeking to exempt armed forces personnel from the ambit of a Constitution Bench judgment of 2018 that decriminalised adultery.

2D-ELECTRON GAS(2DEG)

1. Produced by-Institute of Nano-Science and Technology(INST), an autonomous institution of Department of Science and Technology.
- 2.2DEG is an electron gas with ultra-high mobility, which can speed up transfer of quantum information and signal from one part of a device to another and increase data storage and memory.
- 3.Strong spin-orbit coupling and relativistic nature of the electrons in the 2DEG resulted in Rashba field.
- 4.Rashba effect consists of splitting of spin-bands in an electronic system, might play a key role in spintronic devices.

FIVE YEARS OF PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA

- 1.The flagship crop insurance scheme of the Government of India - the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) - has completed five years of its launch.It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.
- 2.The Scheme covers over 5.5 crore farmer applications on average per year. Aadhar seeding (linking Aadhaar through Internet banking portals) has helped in speedy claim settlement directly into the farmer accounts.
- 3.One notable example is mid-season adversity claims of nearly Rs. 30 crore in Rajasthan during Rabi 2019-20 Locust attack.

ASIAN HOUBARA BUSTARD

- 1.The Pakistan government has issued special permits to Dubai royal family members, allowing them to hunt the internationally protected bird houbara bustard during the 2020-21 hunting season.
- 2.Bustards are large, terrestrial birds that belong to several species, including some of the largest flying birds.
- 3.The population of the Asian houbara bustards extends from northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert (Egypt).

KAYAKALP AWARDS

- 1.The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has conferred 5th National Kayakalp awards to Public and Private Health Facilities for high standards of Sanitation and Hygiene.
- 2.Those District Hospitals, Sub-divisional hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Health & Wellness Centres in the public healthcare system who have achieved high levels of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control were recognised and felicitated with awards.

SCANDALISING THE COURTS:A GROUND FOR CONTEMPT

- 1.The Karnataka High Court has issued notice to the Union government on a PIL petition, challenging the constitutional validity of a provision of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, that makes “scandalising or tends to scandalising courts” as a ground for contempt.
- 2.Public Interest Litigation (PIL) stands for a legal action taken by a public spirited person in order to protect public interest (any act for the benefit of the public).
- 3.Contempt is the power of the court to protect its own majesty and respect. The power is regulated but not restricted in the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.