

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

18TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) examined a functionary of Khalsa Aid, an international NGO, in connection with a recent case registered against Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a foreign-based group that advocates secessionist and pro-Khalistani activities in India. Khalsa Aid provided aid during the ongoing farmers' agitation.
- The United Kingdom has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the G7 summit that is scheduled to be held in June. Apart from India, Australia and South Korea are also invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as "guest countries".
- Ahead of the tenth round of talks scheduled on January 19, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar appealed to the protesting farm leaders again to give up their "stubborn" stand on the new farm laws and come for a clause by clause discussion.
- The Finance Ministry has extended the bidding deadlines for the strategic disinvestment of Pawan Hans by a month.
- The India Pavilion at the Aero India 2021 next month will showcase a range of indigenously developed helicopters, while Defence Minister is scheduled to hold a conclave of Defence Ministers from the Indian Ocean Littoral (IOR) states.
- India 'intervened' on Jaffna varsity memorial issue. A message from India to the Sri Lankan leadership on the controversial demolition of a memorial for war victims at the Jaffna University appears to have contributed to authorities' decision to "rebuild" the structure on campus.
- Britain's government pressed China to allow UN rights inspectors to visit Xinjiang after raising a new allegations of "appalling" human rights abuses against the Uighur minority people.

ADAPTATION GAP REPORT 2020:UNEP

- 1.The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2020 estimated the annual cost of adaptation to the effects of climate change for developing countries to at least quadruple by 2050.
- 2.It includes **costs of planning, preparing for, facilitating and implementing adaptation measures**. Adaptation costs, in actual terms, is higher in developed countries **but the burden of adaptation is greater for developing countries in relation to their gross domestic product**.
- 3.The current cost for these countries is in the range of USD 70 billion (Rs 5.1 lakh crore) and may rise to USD 140-300 billion in 2030 and USD 280-500 billion in 2050.

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA 3.0

- 1.The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 3.0, in a bid to empower India's youth with employable skills by making over 300 skill courses** available to them.
- 2.Coverage: Launched in 717 districts, 28 States/eight UTs, PMKVY 3.0 is a step towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Implementation: It will be implemented in a more decentralized structure with greater responsibilities and support from States/UTs and Districts.
- 3.District Skill Committees (DSCs), under the guidance of State Skill Development Missions (SSDM), shall play a key role in addressing the skill gap and assessing demand at the district level.

MODIFIED SCHEME TO PRODUCE 1G ETHANOL

- 1.The Department of Food & Public Distribution has notified a modified scheme for **extending financial assistance for producing 1st Generation (1G) ethanol**. The aim is to achieve blending targets of ethanol with petrol (**Ethanol Blending Programme**).
- 2.Aim: It aims at blending ethanol with petrol, thereby bringing it under the category of biofuels and saving millions of dollars by cutting fuel imports and decreasing carbon emissions. Target: **The target is to achieve 20% blending of ethanol by 2025**.
- 3.In 2018, the Central Government extended the ambit of the EBP programme to extract the fuel from surplus quantities of food grains such as maize, jawar, bajra fruit and vegetable waste.

DOPPLER WEATHER RADARS

- 1.The Union Minister for Earth Sciences commissioned two of the ten **indigenously built X-Band Doppler Weather Radars (DWR)** which will **closely monitor the weather changes over the Himalayas**.
- 2.Covering the central and western Himalayas, these dual polarised radars will gather atmospheric variations and pick signals of extreme weather events.

GAVI GANGADHARESHWARA TEMPLE

- 1.The temple derives its name from the combination of topographical features and mythology: **gavi (cave), and Gangadhareswara (shiva) means the Lord who adorns the Ganga. Temple is located in Bengaluru**.
- 2.Celestial Oriented Architecture: Built in Vijaynagar style, it has unique celestial oriented rock cut architecture due to which Surya majana occurs on Sankranti every year.
- 3.Every year on the Makar Sankranti, the sun rays fall on the Shiv linga located in the cave (gavi) making it shine for ten minutes.