

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The economy is within striking distance of attaining positive growth, officials of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) wrote, adding that the letter 'V' in the V-shaped recovery stood for vaccine. The shape of the recovery will be V-shaped after all and the 'V' stands for vaccine.
- Biden begins dismantling Trump legacy. The Biden presidency began with a flurry of activity, with the new President signing 17 executive orders, memos and directives on his first day in office, including on climate change, the pandemic, immigration and equality.
- At a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, Facebook, which owns the messaging platform WhatsApp, clarified that it has not "functionally changed" the privacy policy.
- Protesting farm unions rejected the Centre's proposal to suspend the three farm reform laws for one and a half years. They intend to continue their agitation until the laws are repealed, and a law guaranteeing minimum support price for crops is enacted.
- China said its construction of a village across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh was "beyond reproach" because it had "never recognised" Arunachal.
- The Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Naravane, said that considering the quick pace of defence modernisation being undertaken by India's adversaries, the country was lagging behind slightly.
- The police in the Uttar Pradesh capital are set to install smart cameras in public places that will automatically click the pictures of women in distress situations by reading their facial expressions and alert the nearest police vehicle.

## DESERT KNIGHT-21

- 1.It is a bilateral **Air exercise between Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force.**
- 2.The exercise is **unique as it includes fielding of Rafale aircraft by both sides.**
- 3.Rafale is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate from both an aircraft carrier and shore base.India has signed a 36 Rafale jet deal with France.

## KIIFB BORROWINGS ISSUE

- 1.The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has opined that the off-budget borrowings made by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for critical infra projects have bypassed the limits set on government borrowings under Article 293 (1) of the Constitution and such borrowings do not have legislative approval.
- 2.**Off-budget borrowings are a means by which the government keeps its fiscal deficit in check by making quasi-government entities borrow on its behalf,** to partly fund its expenditure plan for the year.
- 3.The CAG said that Entry 37 of the List 1 of the Seventh schedule of the Constitution gives powers of raising foreign loans only to the Centre. Thus, KIIFB borrowings are in violation of the Constitution and encroachment on the powers of the Centre.

## REGULATORY COMPLIANCE PORTAL:DPIIT

- 1.The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched a regulatory compliance portal that will act as a bridge for citizens, industries and the government to minimise burdensome compliances.
- 2.DPIIT comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is acting as the nodal department for **coordinating the exercise of minimizing regulatory compliance burden for citizens and businesses which have an adverse impact on time and cost of businesses.**
- 3.To boost manufacturing and make Indian industry competitive, there are issues of quality and manufacturing of scale but the compliance burden is a major cost.

## S-400 TRIUMF MISSILE SYSTEM

- 1.The first group of Indian military specialists are scheduled to depart for Moscow (Russia) soon to undergo training courses on the S-400 Triumf missile defence system.
- 2.In October 2018, India signed a 5.43 billion USD deal with Russia for the S-400 Triumf missile system despite objections from the US and the threat of sanctions under **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).**
- 3.The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia. It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world.

## 5th INDIA-SINGAPORE DEFENCE MINISTER'S DIALOGUE

- 1.The 5th Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD) between India and Singapore was successfully held. Agreement Signed : Implementing **Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation between the two Navies was signed.**
- 2.Bilateral Cooperation: Both the countries conveyed their full support towards the early conclusion of agreements to facilitate conduct of live firings and to establish reciprocal arrangements for the cross-attendance of military courses.