

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

25TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Amid a raging debate over data privacy while using messaging platforms such as WhatsApp, terrorist groups and their handlers from Pakistan are switching to new applications, including one developed by a Turkish company.
- The Indian Sunderbans, which is part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, is home to 428 species of birds, a recent publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) states.
- Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said the trials of the Election Commission's remote voting project would be carried out soon.
- The top human rights body of the United Nations has urged the Indian government to release the activists who are in prison for the 2018 Bhima Koregaon case.
- As India and China started the ninth round of Corps Commander talks on Sunday to address the nine month long standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, the head of one of the border villages claimed that Chinese vehicles were using Indian roads to enter Indian territory.
- The ruling Nepal Communist Party, led by rebel leaders Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal expelled Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli from the party.
- India took less than a week to vaccinate over a million beneficiaries, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday, stating that the country is ahead of the U.S. (10 days) and the U.K. (18) in achieving this mark.
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- The Central government has undertaken many initiatives that focus on empowering the girl child, including access to education, better healthcare and improving gender sensitivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on National Girl Child Day.

MASCRADE 2021

- 1.Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade(MASCRADE) is the annual flagship conference organised by FICCI(Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry).
- 2.It provides a **platform to identify opportunities for joint action between governments and private sector, and enforcement machinery to combat illegal trade.**
- 3.Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business(non-government, not-for-profit) in India.

SHREE NARAYAN GURU

- 1.He was saint and social reformer born in Kerala into an Ezhava family, a lower caste. He preached "One Caste, One God for All" and also authored 'Atmopadesa Satakam'(one hundred verses of self-instruction).
- 2.He was one of the **greatest proponents and re-evaluators of Advaita Vedanta, the principle of non-duality put forward by Adi Shankracharya.**
- 3.He extended this non dualistic principle into practical modes of self-realisation through spiritual education, compassion, and peaceful coexistence of humanity.

VARIOUS INITIATIVES LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS FOR TRIBAL MIGRANTS

- 1.ShramShakti-A portal to **collect data related to tribal migrant workers and link them with the existing welfare schemes.**
- 2.It will include demographic profile, livelihood options, skill-mapping and migration pattern.
- 3.ShramSaathi-A tribal training module **to ensure that the process of livelihood migration is safe and productive.**
- 4.Training will enable them to demand and access services, rights and entitlements related to livelihood and social security before and after migration.

ASTROSAT

- 1.AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission(ISRO) aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
- 2.Its **aims to understand high energy processes in binary star systems.**
- 3.Recently, AstroSat's Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope spotted rare ultraviolet-bright stars in a massive intriguing cosmic dinosaur(globular cluster NGC 2808) in the Milky Way.

DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM(DSS) BY COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT(CAQM)

- 1.CAQM will rope in top technical institutions to set up a DSS.DSS will have a web, Geographical Information System and multi-model based operational and planning decision support tool.
- 2.It will have an integrated framework to handle both primary and secondary pollutants using a chemical transport model.
- 3.CAQM was recently established **for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding air quality index in NCR region.**

SMART ANTI-AIRFIELD WEAPON(SAAW)

- 1.Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) successfully test fired SAAW from Hawk-1 jet of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL).
- 2.SAAW is **indigenously designed stand-off weapon developed capable of engaging enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc.** up to a range of 100 kms.