

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

29TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Supreme Court said stopping hate on television was as essential for law and order as arming policemen with lathis and putting up barricades to prevent the spread of violence and riots.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said a recognition of “mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests” was key to repairing India-China relations, after what he called a year of “exceptional stress” in a relationship “profoundly disturbed” by the border crisis.
- On his first full day on the job, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed the administration’s position that if Iran were to become compliant with the terms of the now defunct Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, or the “Iran deal”), the U.S. would reenter it too.
- As many as 18 Opposition parties, led by the Congress, on Thursday announced their decision to boycott President Ram Nath Kovind’s address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session, in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws.
- The Delhi police issued notices to 40 farmers’ leaders for violating the terms and conditions agreed upon for holding tractor rallies on Republic Day.
- After two months of protests without any significant pushback, the farmers’ agitation outside Delhi is now seeing concerted pressure and intimidation from the police, as well as local villagers and administrations, to force them to vacate multiple dharna locations.
- Both COVID19 vaccines approved for emergency use in India — Covaxin and Covishield — are safe for people on blood thinners, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said.

GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH CONSUMER EXPENDITURE SURVEY(CES) SURVEY WITH REVISED TECHNOLOGY

- 1.The all-India Household CES is a quinquennial(recurring every five years) survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office(NSSO).
- 2.It is **designed to collect information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.**
- 3.It is also used to finalize weights for price indices and the survey year is fixed as the base year for most macro-economic indicators. Last CES survey(2017-18) suffered from poor data quality as survey was long.

TEXTILE COMMITTEE

- 1.Textiles Committee signed MoU with M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre of Japan. It will help boost textiles exports to Japan.
- 2.**Textiles Committee is a statutory body under Ministry of Textiles** that aims to ensure quality of all textiles and textiles products for domestic and export markets.
- 3.Chairman of the committee is nominated central government. It is the only body providing for all the quality related needs of the entire Textiles Value Chain in an integrated format on a pan-India basis.

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION(WCO)

- 1.WCO is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- 2.WCO develops international standards, fosters cooperation and builds capacity to facilitate legitimate trade, to secure a fair revenue collection and to protect society, providing leadership, guidance and support to Customs administration.

AGREEMENT WITH IEA

- 1.India has inked a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to strengthen cooperation in global energy security, stability and sustainability.Objective: To **encourage and promote strategic and technical cooperation in the energy sector.**
- 2.Benefits: It will lead to a wider exchange of knowledge and **will be a step towards making India a full member of the IEA.** Strengthen mutual trust and cooperation & enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability. A phased increase in benefits and responsibilities for India as an IEA strategic partner.
- 3.Also, Building on existing areas of work and the Clean Energy Transitions Programme (CETP), such as energy security, clean and sustainable energy, energy efficiency, enhancing petroleum storage capacity, expansion of gas-based economy in India etc.

CYBER INSURANCE POLICY

- 1.A committee set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recommended the introduction of a cyber insurance policy.
- 2.**Cyber insurance policy is a risk transfer mechanism for cyber risk.** Cyber risk is commonly defined as exposure to harm or loss resulting from breaches of or attacks on information systems.
- 3.In October 2020, the IRDAI had set up a committee for cyber liability insurance under P Umesh. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been rising incidences of cyberattacks and a growing number of high-profile data violations.