

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

3RD JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Kazakhstan abolished the death penalty, making permanent a nearly two decade freeze on capital punishment in the authoritarian Central Asian country. President has signed off on parliamentary ratification of the Second Optional Covenant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Habitat management of birds, preventing breeding inside airports and discouraging people from dumping waste near airports and airfields can reduce hazards posed by birds to aircraft, a publication by the Salim Ali Centre For Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) points out.
- Contracting for the third straight month, India's exports slipped marginally by 0.8% in December 2020 even as the trade deficit widened to \$15.71 billion due to the rise in imports.
- Nearly five years after he was released on bail in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks case, Lashkare Taiba (LeT) operations commander Zakiur Rahman Lakhvi was arrested in Pakistan by its Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on charges of using terror funds.
- Management schools and students can play a key role in building on the innovations pioneered during the COVID19 pandemic, turning start-ups into multinationals and taking Indian products to a global audience, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.
- The Kamrup (Metropolitan) district administration has prohibited community fishing in Deepor Beel, a wetland on the south western edge of Guwahati and Assam's only Ramsar site.
- Iran has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it intends to produce uranium enriched to up to 20% purity, well beyond the threshold set by the 2015 Vienna accord, the UN nuclear watchdog said.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA(RBI) INTRODUCES DIGITAL PAYMENTS INDEX(DPI)

- 1.DPI captures the extent of digitisation of payments across the country and its objective is to accurately reflect the penetration and deepening of various digital payment modes.
- 2.RBI-DPI comprises of 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.
- 3.Parameters are-**Payment Enablers(weight 25%),payment Infrastructure-demand side factors(weight 10%), Payment infrastructure-Supply-side factors(15%), Payment Performance(45%) and Consumer Centricity(5%).**

MAJULI ISLAND

- 1.Majuli is the world's largest river island situated on the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
- 2.It sprawls over an extensive area of 352 sq km.
- 3.It has important cultural centres of Assam since the 16th century with primary hub of the neo-Vaishnavite culture.
- 4.**Majuli is disappearing at an alarming rate due to soil erosion and heavy floods that are reducing the size of the island gradually.**

NATIONAL DATABASE OF SEX OFFENDERS(NDSO)

- 1.NDSO comprising those convicted on charges of rape, gang rape, child sex abuse and eve teasing- has crossed 1 million names.
- 2.NDSO is a central database of sexual offenders in the country which is being maintained by National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB).
- 3.This online facility is exclusively for the use of law enforcement agencies having access to inter-operable.

TREASURY BILLS

- 1.RBI, in consultation with GoI, has issued calendar for auction of treasury bills.
- 2.**Treasury Bills are short term(up to one year) borrowing instruments of the GoI or by a central authority of any country which enable investors to park their short term surplus funds while reducing their market risk.**
- 3.At present, the active T-Bills are 91-days T-Bills, 182-day T-Bills and 364-days T-Bills.

REMISSION OF DUTIES AND TAXES ON EXPORTED PRODUCTS(RODTEP) SCHEME

- 1.Government has decided to extend benefit of scheme to all export goods from 1st January, 2021.
- 2.Scheme is meant for replacing Merchandise export from India Scheme(MEIS).
- 3.Earlier,India lost a case against US on MEIS in WTO which considered MEIS as an exports subsidy.
- 4.**RODTEP scheme aims to reimburse the taxes and duties incurred by exporters (subject to specified conditions and exclusions) for making Indian products cost-competitive and create a level playing field for them in the global market.**

ENTIRE NAGALAND DECLARED 'DISTURBED AREA' UNDER ARMED FORCES(SPECIAL POWERS) ACT (AFSPA), 1958

- 1.**According to government, killings,loot and extortion that have been going on in various parts of state which necessitates the action for convenience of security forces operating there.**