

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

4TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Just as it was stepping up its economic offensive against China, India, through a newly floated state-owned company, inked a pact with an Argentine firm mid-last year to jointly prospect lithium in the South American country that has the third largest reserves of the silver-white alkali metal — a crucial building block of the lithium ion rechargeable batteries that power electric vehicles (EVs), laptops and mobile phones. It is also learnt to be exploring options in Chile and Bolivia, two other top lithium-producing countries.
- Tightening the noose around fraudsters rigging the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the government has roped in the Income Tax Department to tap illicit incomes as part of a crackdown against 7,000 fraud companies, identified using data analytics tools, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey told.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5% through an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations.
- China's President Xi Jinping has signed an order that has amended China's National Defence Law, giving the Central Military Commission (CMC), which he heads, greater power in mobilising resources to protect a new and broader definition of what constitutes the national interest.
- The Number of deaths due to lightning strikes reduced by nearly 37 per cent, from 2,800 deaths between April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 to 1,771 during the same period in 2019-20, according to a report published by the Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPC).

INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG HOISTED AT 8 BEACHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

- 1.8 beaches are-Kappad(Kerala), Shivrajpur(Gujrat), Ghoghla(Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri(Karnataka), Rushikonda(Andhra Pradesh), Golden(Odisha) and Radhanagar(Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
2. Also, India sets up target of getting Blue flag certification for 100 more beaches in next 3-4 years.
3. Blue Flag beach is an Eco-tourism model to provide tourists/beach goers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, safe and unhealthy development of the area.

UNITED STATES(US) PASSES THE TIBETAN POLICY AND SUPPORT ACT(TPSA) 2020

1. TPSA strengthens US policy on Tibet and reaffirms government's steadfast support for Dalai Lama and Central Tibetan Administration.
2. It reaffirms rights of Tibetan People to choose next incarnation of Dalai Lama without any interference of China.
3. TPSA empowers US to impose Tibet as a part of China and India has mostly refrained from playing the Tibet card against China, and has a one China policy regarding Tibet.

FASTag

1. Government has announced for 100% collection of toll charges on National Highway network through FASTag.
2. FASTag is an electronic toll collection system, enabling automatic deduction of toll charges and lets vehicle pass through the toll plaza without stopping for the cash transaction.
3. It is operated by National Highways Authority of India.
4. It is based on radio frequency identification(RFID) technology which uses radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object.

TiHAN-IIT HYDERABAD

1. Recently, union Minister of Education laid the foundation stone for TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad.
2. It is India's first Testbed for Autonomous Navigation System(Terrestrial and Aerial).
3. CPS integrate computation and physical processes in a dynamic environment and encompasses technology areas of Cybernetics, Mechatronics, Design and Embedded system, Internet of things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence etc.

LIGHT HOUSE PROJECTS(LHPs)

1. LHPs under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India(GHTC-India) will be constructed at six cities across six states.
2. GHTC-India under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs intends to get the best globally available innovative construction technologies through a challenge process.
3. LHPs are model housing projects with houses built with shortlisted alternate technology suitable to the geo-climatic and hazard conditions of the region.
4. It will demonstrate and deliver ready to live houses at an expedited pace within twelve months, as compared to conventional brick and mortar construction.

SETHUSAMUDRAM SHIP CHANNEL PROJECT(SSCP) SET TO BE WOUND UP

1. It is set to be wound up due to controversy over religious sentiments.