

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Hours after a Pakistan court convicted Lashkar-e-Taiba operations commander Zaki Ur Rahman Lakhvi in a terror financing case, sentencing him to three five year prison sentences, India called the process “farcical”, and accused Pakistan of carrying out quick prosecutions of various UN sanctioned terrorist leaders to avoid punitive action at the upcoming Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meetings.
- More than half of Indian Army personnel seem to be under severe stress and the Army has been losing more personnel every year due to suicides, fratricides and untoward incidents than in response to any enemy or terrorist activities, according to the findings of a study by United Service Institution of India (USI), a Service think tank.
- The Supreme Court urged the government to arm forest officers and provide them with bullet proof vests and vehicles when told that India recorded the “greatest number of mortal fatalities” among forest officials in the world.
- China has held its third multilateral dialogue with countries from South Asia to take forward closer cooperation on fighting COVID19 and coordinating their economic agendas, reflecting a new approach in Beijing’s outreach to the region.
- Bird flu cases were confirmed in Haryana and Gujarat, in addition to Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana where the disease has already been confirmed.
- The Biden-Harris transition team announced the appointment of Indian American Sumona Guha to the role of Senior Director for South Asia at the National Security Council.
- Handover of power to the Biden-Harris administration the United States should be conducted in an “organised and peaceful” manner, India said.

FAO'S FOOD PRICE INDEX(FPI)

- 1.As per FPI of Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO), world food prices rose for a seventh consecutive month in December.
- 2.FPI is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities that includes cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.
- 3.FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- 4.It has more than 180 members(including India), and is governed by the biennial FAO conference, in which each member country, as well as the European Union, is represented.

SELF-HELP GROUPS(SHG)

- 1.Rajasthan government has formulated a plan to empower SHGs with focus on quality, branding and marketing of their products.
- 2.This is part of the strategy for economic empowerment of women SHGs.
- 3.SHGs are informal groups of people who come together to address their common problems.

INDIAN DIGITAL TAX DISCRIMINATORY:USTR

- 1.The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has said that the Digital services taxes adopted by India, Italy and Turkey discriminate against US companies and are inconsistent with international tax principles.
- 2.The USTR has determined that India’s DST is unreasonable or discriminatory and burdens or restricts US commerce and thus is actionable under Section 301 (US Trade Act).
- 3.India has described the equalization levy as a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory tax aimed at all offshore digital economy firms accessing the local market and has denied it targets US companies.

VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL RESERVATIONS

- 1.The Supreme Court (SC), in a case, has clarified the position of law on the interplay of vertical and horizontal reservations.
- 2.Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation. It applies separately for each of the groups specified under the law. Example: Article 16(4) of the Constitution contemplates vertical reservation.
- 3.Horizontal Reservation: It refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories. Example: Article 15 (3) of the Constitution contemplates horizontal reservation.

ADVISORY FOR MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

- 1.The Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) in its 60th meeting has approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the country.
- 2.In the meeting approval was given for including Caracal, a medium sized wildcat into the list of critically endangered species.
- 3.The Advisory: Empower Gram Panchayats, Provide Insurance: Utilising add-on coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, Augmenting Fodder, Provide Instant Relief.