

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal — the 550-million-year-old ‘Dickinsonia’ — on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, about 40 km from Bhopal.
- A day after Andhra Pradesh held an election in a disputed region in Odisha’s Koraput district, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said it was a matter of concern that a State had conducted panchayat elections inside another State’s geographical boundary.
- A week after restoring 4G Internet connectivity to Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre is preparing to take a group of diplomats to Srinagar and Jammu to “showcase” the situation in the Union Territory, officials confirmed.
- Former U.S. President Donald Trump was acquitted by the U.S. Senate in the impeachment trial of inciting an insurrection with regard to the January 6 attack on the Capitol by a mob of his supporters seeking to stop the certification of the Electoral College results.
- Myanmar’s new military regime warned the public not to harbour fugitive political activists after issuing arrest warrants for veteran democracy campaigners supporting massive nationwide anti-coup protests.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the indigenous main battle tank Arjun Mk-1A to the Army in a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.
- In the last year of its mission to double farmers income, the Centre admits that no actual assessment of farm income has been carried out since 2013.
- Protesting farm unions condemned the arrest of Bengaluru-based climate activist Disha Ravi, who has been charged in connection with a “toolkit” to coordinate support for their protest.

CNG TRACTOR

1. Minister for Road Transport and Highways launched country’s first-ever diesel tractor converted to Compressed natural gas(CNG) tractor.
2. It **promises lower running costs (can reportedly save over Rs.1 lakh annually on fuel costs)**, lesser emissions, reduced cost of maintenance.
3. CNG is odourless, tasteless and non-toxic, clean fuel and is **made up of 96% of methane, and traces of nitrogen, carbon dioxide, propane etc.** It is economical as it has zero lead and is non-corrosive, non-dilutive and non-contaminating which helps in increasing the life of the engine.

NITI BORDER, UTTAKHAND

1. Border Roads Organisation is working on a bridge to re-establish connectivity with Niti border, affected by recent glacier burst in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district.
2. Niti is a village located in the Niti Valley. **It is the last village and outpost near Indo-Tibetan border** in Chamoli district

LOSAR FESTIVAL

1. Tibetans celebrated Losar, the Tibetan new year, in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.
2. Losar marks end of winter and start of the spring season.
3. **Losar traces its roots from the pre-Buddhism era when Tibetans followed Bon religion.**

AYU SAMVAD CAMPAIGN(MY HEALTH MY RESPONSIBILITY)

1. It is one of the largest **public awareness campaign programs** on AYURVEDA and COVID-19 Pandemic.
2. It is being organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda, Delhi, as envisioned and supported by the Ministry of AYUSH.
3. The campaign ensures the **uniformity of information to approximately 01 crore target audience across India.**
4. It will be immensely beneficial in understanding the importance of Ayurveda and in the fight against COVID-19 and also for post COVID management.

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION(IIP)

1. IIP turned positive again for December after contracting by 1.9 per cent in November. IIP is an index that tracks manufacturing activity in different sectors of an economy.
2. **Manufacturing, Mining and Electricity are three broad constituents of IIP, with weightage of 77.63 percent, 14.37 percent and 7.99 percent respectively.**
3. Electricity, crude oil, coal, cement, steel, refinery products, natural gas, and fertilisers are the eight core industries that comprise about 40% of the weight of items included in IIP. IIP base year is 2011-12.

VIGYAN JYOTI PROGRAMME SPREADS TO 100 DISTRICTS IN 2ND PHASE

1. Vigyan Jyoti programme aims to promote STEM(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) **learning among girl students and to inspire them towards STEM careers** by creating a level-playing field for meritorious girls from grades 9 to 12 to pursue STEM in their higher education.
2. It was launched by Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with IBM in 2019.
3. The program provides a scholarship, visit to nearby scientific institutions, science camps, lectures from eminent women scientists, and career counselling.
4. Reason for this lower participation include stereotypes, **low access to resources, low career options in STEM due to familial issues** like marriage, family responsibility, etc.