

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman loosened the exchequer's purse strings in an effort at an expansionary Budget for 2021-22 with a push for infrastructure and healthcare spending, even as she sought to reduce the fiscal deficit from an estimated 9.5% of the GDP this year without ostensibly raising the tax burden.
- The government has accepted the 15th Finance Commission's recommendation to maintain the States' share in the divisible pool of taxes to 41% for the five year period starting 2021-22.
- The Centre announced setting up of a Single Security Market Code by consolidating the provisions of SEBI Act, 1992, Depositories Act, 1996, Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and Government Securities Act, 2007.
- Pointing at an immediate need to improve agricultural infrastructure in the country, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on select items such as petrol, diesel, apples and alcohol. However, she stressed that this will not lead to an additional burden on the consumers.
- Microblogging site Twitter, citing "legal demands", blocked several accounts, including that of a news website, actor, political workers and bloggers, that were posting messages in support of the ongoing farmers' agitation.
- Reneging on a 2019 agreement with India and Japan, Sri Lanka has decided to develop the strategic East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port on its own. The Sri Lankan government would instead offer the West Container Terminal to India for possible investments, a senior government source told.
- Military seizes power in Myanmar coup. Army has declared a state of emergency for a year; Aung San Suu Kyi, other elected leaders detained.

MAHARASHTRA-KARNATAKA BORDER DISPUTE

- 1.The dispute is over 7,000 sq km area along Maharashtra border with Karnataka, in districts of **Belgavi, Uttara Kannada, Bidar, and Gulbarga etc.**
- 2.All these areas are **predominantly Marathi-speaking**, and Maharashtra wants them to be merged with the state.
- 3.Karnataka holds the view that settlement of boundaries is final and boundary was neither tentative nor flexible.
- 4.The dispute goes back to 1956, when State Reorganisation Commission included these areas to Karnataka citing more than 50% population as Kannada-speaking.

RESEARCHERS REVEAL IMPORTANT CLUES TO UNDERSTAND THE DEATH OF MASSIVE STARS

- 1.A recent study found that **all three types of the neutrinos from the supernovae are important**, contrary to the common treatments with only two types.
- 2.Neutrino is a **subatomic particles that is very similar to an electron** but has no electrical charge and a very small mass. Neutrinos can be classified into three types/**flavours-electron, muon and tau.**
- 3.The existing models of supernovae predicted that neutrino types 'mu' and 'tau' were very similar in their properties causes at the time of death of some massive stars.

PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE

- 1.For the first time in the country, the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Kerala has **taken up training of a tiger cub to equip it to naturally hunt in the forest environment.**
- 2.Location: It falls in the districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta in Kerala (**saddled in the southern region of Western Ghats**). Formation: Declared a Sanctuary during 1950 and declared as Tiger Reserve during 1978. It gets its name from the River Periyar which has its origin deep inside the reserve. Drainage: The major rivers through the reserve are Mullayar and Periyar.
- 3.Flora:**The sanctuary comprises tropical evergreen, semi evergreen, moist deciduous forests and grasslands.** About 1966 species of flowering plants grow in the sanctuary. Of this about 516 are endemic to the Western Ghats. The sanctuary is a repository of medicinal plants numbering to about 300.

COVID-19 PERFORMANCE INDEX

- 1.The annual event Bharat Parv was celebrated from 26th to 31st January, 2021. The Ministry dedicated three virtual pavilions - Dekho Apna Desh, Statue of Unity & Incredible India.
- 2.About the Bharat Parv: It envisages generating patriotic fervor and showcases the rich and varied cultural diversity of the country. This event celebrates the "Essence of India".
- 3.Dekho Apna Desh' Campaign: It was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2020. It is an **initiative to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country and explore the wonders of India.**

AADI MAHOTVA

- 1.**Aadi Mahotsva is a national tribal festival** and a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India(TRIFED).
- 2.The festival showcases traditional art and handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country.