

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The new labour codes set to be implemented soon would provide companies the flexibility of reducing the number of working days to four days a week and provide free medical checkups to workers through the Employees State Insurance Corporation.
- Sri Lanka's recent decision to pull out of the East Container Terminal (ECT) deal with India and Japan is not the only challenge to New Delhi's interests emerging this year. A week before renegeing on the 2019 Colombo Port terminal agreement, Sri Lanka cleared a Chinese energy project in three islands off Jaffna peninsula that are barely 50 km from the Tamil Nadu coast.
- The U.S. announced plans to reengage with the much maligned UN Human Rights Council that former President Donald Trump withdrew from almost three years ago, as President Joe Biden's administration reverses another Trumpera move away from multilateral organisations and agreements.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government was still open to talks with farmers demanding a repeal of the three farm laws passed last September.
- The hydropower projects in Uttarakhand are particularly vulnerable to damage by extreme flooding events, such as the deluge in the Rishiganga river that damaged at least two plants.
- Though the jury is still out, glaciologists and experts in rock sciences are converging on the view that the cause of the Chamoli deluge was most probably a landslide and not a glacial lake burst.
- Myanmar's Generals issued a stern warning against further protests as an uprising against their coup gathered pace, with hundreds of thousands on the streets demanding the release of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

SRIVILLIPUTHUR-MEGAMALAI TIGER RESERVE IN TAMIL NADU(TN) APPROVED BY CENTRE

- 1.It will be **India's 51st tiger reserve** that will encompass Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuaries. Other Tiger reserves in TN-Kalakkad Mundanthurai, Anamalai, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam.
- 2.**Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary is spread across districts of Theni and Madurai**(Highways mountains and Cardamom Hills) while **Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary lies along Kerala's Periyar Tiger Reserve.**
- 3.Meghamalai hosts ungulates(hoofed mammals), spotted deers, Indian gaurs, wild boars etc.
- 4.Srivilliputhur hosts grizzled giant squirrels, flying squirrels, leopards, Nilgiri tahrs Sambars, elephants, lion-tailed macaque etc.

VIVAD SE VISHWAS SCHEME(VSVS)

- 1.Recently, 24.5% of tax disputes opted for settlement under VSVS. VSVS has received 15 times better response in comparison to Direct Tax Resolution Scheme,2016(DTDRS).
- 2.VSVS is **direct tax dispute resolution scheme.** Depending on the contours of the pending dispute, a proportion of the total tax, interest and penalty demanded, needs to be paid under the Scheme for settlement.
- 3.It was launched **to reduce income tax pending litigation and generate timely revenues for the Government.**

CLEAN FUEL HYDROGEN

- 1.Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) have come up with a way to generate clean fuel hydrogen from water at a low-cost.Hydrogen gas is a viable choice as a renewable substitute for fossil fuels, and can help mitigate emissions to reduce pollution.
- 2.The researchers at IIT-D have successfully split water by a process known as Sulphur-Iodine (SI) thermochemical hydrogen cycle (SI Cycle) to generate low-cost, clean hydrogen fuel for industrial consumption.
- 3.The sulfur-iodine cycle (SI cycle) **is a three-step thermochemical cycle used to produce hydrogen.**The SI process requires an efficient source of heat.

ASSAM'S JARENGA POTHAR AND DHEKIAJULI TOWN

- 1.The Prime Minister visited two significant historical places in Assam. The first was Sivasagar's Jerenga Pothar, where 17th-century Ahom Princess Joymoti sacrificed her life. Second was Dhekiajuli town, associated with the Quit India Movement of 1942.
- 2.**Jerenga Pothar** formerly known as Rangpur, Sivasagar was the **seat of the powerful Ahom dynasty**, who ruled Assam for six centuries (1228-1826). Chaolung Sukapha founded the Ahom kingdom.
- 3.**Dhekiajuli Town:**The British administration came down heavily on 20th September,1942. In Dhekiajuli, at least 15 people were shot dead, three of them women, including the 12-year-old **Tileswari Barua.Tileswari is considered as one of the youngest martyrs of India's freedom struggle.**

KIRAN

- 1.It is a mental health rehabilitation helpline for providing support for early Screening, First Aid, Psychological support, Distress management, Mental well-being, Preventive deviant behaviours etc.
- 2.Services under KIRAN are offered in 13 languages. Launched by-Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.