

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

11TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- India's balance of payments this year is going to be "very very strong" on the back of significant improvement in exports and a fall in imports, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.
- India's imports from China have risen to \$5.6 billion in July, climbing for the second straight month, although imports are still down by 24% from 2019.
- The Centre will not allow this to be a "zero academic year" without any teaching or examinations, Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an undersea optical fibre cable connecting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the mainland that would provide residents of the Union Territory high speed Internet connection.
- The nationwide lockdown had a significant negative impact on inpatient care utilisation under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), with claim volumes falling by more than 50% compared with the months leading up to the lockdown.
- China slaps sanctions on U.S. Senators 11 Americans, are targeted in Beijing's retaliatory move. Washington last week accused 11 officials of suppressing "freedom and democratic processes" in Hong Kong, announced plans to freeze their U.S. assets.
- Several military platforms like the Light Combat Aircraft, Pinaka rocket launchers and Akash missile systems, which have been indigenously developed, were included in the negative list of imports to ensure that the Services do not go in for procurement of similar systems by imports. Manufacturers are also required to ensure indigenisation.

ENVISTATS INDIA 2020 REPORT

1. It is released by National Statistical Office (under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation).
2. Key highlights-Average number of **heat wave days increased 82.6% year-on-year to 157 in 2019**, with the highest number recorded in Rajasthan (20 days).
3. Number of **average cold wave days reported an increase by 55.2% in 2018**, PM less than or equal to 10 was highest in Delhi amongst metro cities.

GLOBAL MAGNETIC FIELD OF SUN'S CORONA MEASURED FOR THE FIRST TIME

1. **Corona is the outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere**, consisting of hot, diffuse, and highly ionized plasma. Sun's magnetic field governs many aspects of the Sun's surface (photosphere).
2. Researchers used a technique known as **coronal seismology or magneto seismology** to measure the coronal magnetic field. This method uses magnetic waves, known as **Alfven waves**.
3. Study will help in understanding-**Reasons which causes corona to heat up**, Mechanism of eruptions of the Sun.

FIRST -EVER ONLINE LOK ADALAT IN DELHI

1. It was organised by Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) as a **creative solution of justice delivery during COVID-19**.
2. **Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Karnataka** have also successfully held e-Lok Adalats.
3. Lok Adalat is one of the **alternative dispute redressal mechanisms** where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.

FIRST SILK TRAINING CUM PRODUCTION CENTER

1. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will open this centre in **tribal village of Chullyu in Arunachal Pradesh**.
2. It will create **local employment and sustainable development in the region**.
3. Centre will help in training of artisans and supporting the production of Eri silk. **Eri silk is indigenous to the North Eastern states** and is traditionally worn by local tribes.

GOVERNMENT e MARKETPLACE (GeM)

1. Government has **called upon more and more buyers and sellers to join the GeM**.
2. GeM is a one stop portal to facilitate **online procurement of common use Goods & Services** required by various Government Departments/Organizations/PSUs.
3. It **operates under Ministry of commerce and industry**, it aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMER WELFARE TAKES VARIOUS INITIATIVES FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

1. **Agriculture Mechanization is one of the key drivers for sustainable development of agriculture** sector.
2. It increases land productivity by facilitating timeliness and quality of cultivation.
3. Reducing the cost of operations by ensuring better management of costly inputs.
4. Farm mechanization level in **India stands at about 40-45%** compared to US(95%), Brazil(75%) and China(57%).