

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The renewed demand for creation of autonomous councils in the two regions of Arunachal Pradesh – Mon Autonomous Region in the west and Patkai Autonomous Council in the east – has raised hackles in the State.
- The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced the startup of its Barakah nuclear power plant, scoring another first for the Arab world.
- The Centre has expanded its credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs to cover loans given to larger firms, as well as to self-employed people and professionals who have taken loans for business purposes.
- The price of gold has crossed the ₹ 40,000 a sovereign mark (eight grams make a sovereign) as retail buyers of ornaments are putting a substantial portion of their lifetime savings into gold and bigtime investors are betting big on a favourable outcome.
- Public comments to the controversial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification, 2020 are closed, it emerges that the text of the notification has only been translated into three languages, instead of at least 22.
- A high level Group of Ministers (GoM) has recommended that India lift the ban on the export of ventilators, India's "low case fatality rate" as well as "substantial growth" in the domestic manufacturing capacity were reasons for the ban to be lifted, the document notes.
- Those displaced by the floods in Assam this year have had a taste of the kind of camps the United Nations runs for the Rohingya in Bangladesh, Kurds in Syria and other conflict refugees across the globe.
- Companies need incentive to share data on cyberattacks, Now, reputation risk is the main concern.

CODE ON SOCIAL SECURITY(CSS),2019

Key facts

1. Code was introduced in Lok Sabha in 2019 and then referred to the Standing Committee by the speaker, CSS replaces nine laws related to social security.
2. Social security refers to measures to ensure access to health care and provision of income security to workers.
3. Key suggestions by parliamentary panel-Definition of social security be modified to make it in line with ILO Convention on social security(minimum standards) 1952.
4. Expand the definition of employee so as to encompass all sorts of workers such as 'Anganwadi' and 'Asha' workers.
5. Clearly mention the status of the gig workers and platform workers.
6. Determine wage thresholds through an automatic process of wages indexation with consumer Price Index periodically. .

15TH FINANCE COMMISSION'S HIGH-LEVEL GROUP(HLEG) ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS SUBMITS REPORT

Key facts

1. HLEG was set up to recommend measurable performance incentives for states to encourage agricultural exports and to promote crops to enable high import substitution.
2. Key Findings of HLEG-Agricultural export has potential to grow from USD 40 billion in FY19 to USD 70 billion in a few years.
3. It will create an estimated 7-10 million jobs and enhance farmer income.
4. Major recommendations-Focus on 22 crop value chains-demand driven approach, Solve Value Chain clusters holistically with focus on value addition.
5. Private sector should play an anchor role in driving outcomes and execution.
6. Robust institutional mechanism to fund and support implementation..

GREEN-AG PROJECT

Key facts

1. It is a pilot project recently launched by Union government in Mizoram, to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.
2. Other states where it will be implemented are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.
3. It aims to bring at least 104,070ha of farms under sustainable land and water management.
4. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility(GEF), while the department of Agriculture, cooperation, and Farmer's welfare is the national executing agency..

POLAR BEARS

Key facts

1. A new study has found that polar bears could become extinct by 2100 unless greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.
2. IUCN Status:Vulnerable.