

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

13TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropical montane grasslands (TMG) in the Shola Sky Islands of the Western Ghats have suffered big reductions due to invasions by exotic trees such as acacias, pines and eucalyptus, shrinking the range sizes of endemic species, including plants, birds, amphibians and mammals.
- Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that India's private credit to GDP ratio was the lowest among its global peers and that the government was in the process of putting in place a framework for a credit push towards untapped segments.
- India was not only on track to fulfilling its climate commitments but would go further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the Climate Action Summit. However, he refrained from announcing enhanced ambitions or targets.
- Kerala is set to augment its wildlife rehabilitation capabilities by establishing a dedicated facility to treat and nurture injured and orphaned big cats and other large carnivores that are rescued from the wild.
- The Centre told the Supreme Court that it was against coercing couples into having a "certain number of children" in a bid to curb population explosion.
- The Health Ministry on Saturday released partial data from the fifth edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) claiming "considerable improvement" in the supply of vaccine for childhood immunisation from the fourth round in 2015-16.
- Six or seven months after the lockdown, people continued to go to bed hungry, skip meals frequently, and are unable to afford nutritious diets because of loss of income, shows a survey by the Right to Food Campaign across 11 States, Hunger continued even after lockdown.

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES(NCDs) ACCOUNT FOR 7 OF THE WORLD'S TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

- 1.Global Health Estimates(GHE) released by World Health Organization estimates that **all noncommunicable diseases together accounted for 74% of deaths globally in 2019.**
- 2.Other findings are-Heart disease has remained the leading cause of death(16% of total) worldwide for the last 20 years. A global decline in deaths from communicable diseases, though they remain major challenges in low-and middle-income countries.
- 3.**Life-spans have increased** over the years, with a global average of more than **73 years(in 2019)** compared to nearly 67(in 2000).

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS DRAFT INDIAN PORTS BILL 2020

- 1.Bill will repeal and replace the Indian Ports Act,1908 to **effectively regulate and control ports in India and facilitate the structured growth and development of the port sector.**
- 2.Key feature of bill-Central Maritime Port Regulatory Authority(MPRA) to regulate state maritime boards and scheduled ports. It aims to ensure **greater investment in the Indian maritime and ports sector** through creation of improved, comprehensive regulatory frameworks for the creation of new ports and management of existing ports.
- 3.Formulation of Maritime Ports Tribunal and Maritime Ports Appellate Tribunal to curb any anti-competitive practices in the port sector.

INDIA, UZBEKISTAN INK 9 AGREEMENTS TO FURTHER COOPERATION

- 1.Agreements are signed in a range of areas including **new and renewable energy, digital technologies, cyber security, community development projects, and in sharing of information on movement of goods.**
- 2.Uzbekistan is a key country to further India's interests in **Centra Asia Regional(CAR).**
- 3.Significance of CAR for India-CAR lies in the middle of Eurasian Continent and **can help India achieve connectivity to Europe.** Economic opportunities, Energy Security, Ensuring regional peace and stability.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLANS 3D PRINTING POLICY

- 1.Policy will help develop a conducive **ecosystem for design, development of 3D printing and additive manufacturing.**
- 2.Global market for 3D printing/additive manufacturing is expected to reach **\$34.8 billion by 2024.**
- 3.The policy would promote 3D printing on an industrial scale and will help domestic companies overcome technical and economic barriers so that they can build supportive and ancillary facilities for world leaders in the technology, such as the US and China.

PRATAS ISLANDS

- 1.**Pratas Islands also known as Dongsha Islands have emerged as a new flashpoint in South China Sea(SCS).**
- 2.Islands are located in the northern part of SCS **under jurisdiction of Taiwan.** Recently, experts are increasingly warning of a **possible Chinese attack to capture the Pratas Islands.**
- 3.If China controlled the Pratas Islands, the islands, the islands could function as a gatekeeper to monitor U.S. and other countries ships and aircraft entering the South China Sea from the Pacific Ocean.