

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

16TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- State governments have been directed to identify at least one Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) management centre in each block to ensure that any adverse reaction or side effects of the COVID19 vaccine could be rapidly contained.
- A committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Education (MoE) to suggest measures for effective implementation of reservation policies in IITs has recommended that these institutions be exempted from following the policies in faculty recruitment.
- The U.S. has imposed sanctions on NATO ally Turkey for its purchase of Russia's S400 missile defence system, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced.
- Hundreds of thousands of ethnic minority labourers in China's north western Xinjiang region are being forced to pick cotton through a coercive staterun scheme, a report has said.
- India needs to direct more insurance and pension savings into bond markets and encourage greater foreign participation in debt in order to finance its infrastructure building plans, said State Bank of India chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry has asked the government to announce a stimulus package focused on generating demand, stressing that its responses so far have focused only on the supply side.
- India's proposed scrappage policy should not distinguish between private and government vehicles as any such exclusion will fail its meaningful implementation.
- Declining for the second straight month, India's exports dipped 8.7% in November to \$23.52 billion on account of contraction in shipments.

SATELLITE INTERNET

1. Instead of connecting through copper wires and fiber optic cables, satellite internet entails **use of satellites in space to beam the internet down to an area through satellite dishes.**
2. Satellite internet dishes do both upstream and downstream connections.
3. It is primarily **used to bring connectivity in an areas where laying cables is difficult or impossible such as hilly terrains, remote areas and islands.**

MARINE PROTECTION FALLS SHORT OF UN SDG TARGETS

1. As 2020 draws near, **marine protected areas(MPAs) cover only 7.66% of the ocean across the globe.** This falls short on targets defined under UN SDG 14.
2. **UN SDG Goal 14 on 'Life Below Water':By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas,** consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.
3. Most MPAs are in national waters where it's easy to implement and manage protection under provision of a single country.

COAL HERE TO STAY, BUT MEASURES CAN CUT DOWN EMISSIONS BY 22%:CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT(CSE)

1. As per CSE analysis, **coal will contribute around 50% of electricity generation mix even in 2030.**
2. India's Coal-based thermal power sector contributes to 1/3rd of India's greenhouse gas(GHG) emissions, 50% of India's fuel-related CO2 emissions and 2.5% of global GHG emissions.
3. Efforts proposed that can reduce CO2 by up to 22%- **Propagate biomass co-firing or co-combustion, Invest in carbon capture and storage(CCS), Bring back coal beneficiation,** Increasing India's renewable electricity generation.

NITI AAYOG RELEASED A WHITE PAPER:VISION 2035:PUBLIC SURVEILLANCE(PHS) IN INDIA

1. It lays out **India's vision 2035 for PHS through integration of three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.**
2. It lays the foundation for integrated surveillance of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.
3. Surveillance is an important Public Health function. It is an essential action for disease detection, prevention, and control. **PHS includes the detection of disease and early warning signs of impending outbreaks or epidemics,** both those endemic to the country or those that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT(MPLAD) FUND

1. **Members of Parliament have urged government to release funds for projects sanctioned in 2018 and 2019,** which were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. MPLAD Scheme is a central government scheme which provides each MP with the choice to suggest to the District Collector for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum.
3. MPs also have to recommend every year, works costing at least 15% of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5 for areas inhabited by S.T population.