

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

18TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A global ranking of personal, civil and economic freedom released placed India at 111 out of 162 countries. The Human Freedom Index 2020 ranked India 110 in terms of personal freedom and 105 on economic freedom, with an overall score coming to 6.43 out of 10.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed into a transfer orbit India's 42nd communications satellite, CMS01, carried on board the PSLVC50, from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota Range.
- Bangladesh is a major pillar of India's 'neighbourhood first' policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the inauguration of summit level talks held virtually.
- The Supreme Court said farmers have a constitutional right to continue with their "absolutely perfect" protest as long as their dissent against the controversial agricultural laws did not slip into violence.
- At a meeting of a parliamentary committee, members demanded the extension of the free foodgrain scheme started by the government as part of the COVID19 relief package. The scheme ended on November 30.
- Five political parties, including the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, collected ₹49.99 crore and spent ₹34.32 crore in the Delhi Assembly election campaign this year, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in a report.
- The top U.S. general held unannounced talks with Taliban peace negotiators in Doha to urge a reduction in violence across Afghanistan.
- Turkey will not step back from its decision to deploy Russian air defence systems despite U.S. sanctions imposed on the country over the purchase. Stepped up Taliban attacks endanger the militant group's nascent peace negotiations.

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD(GIB) CONSERVATION:NO AGREEMENT ON UNDERGROUND POWER LINES, BAN ON NEW PROJECTS

- 1.It is reported that Union Ministry of Power(MoP) and the Rajasthan government has rejected Wildlife Institute of India(WII) proposal to put all power transmission lines passing through GIB habitat underground.
- 2.Earlier, in 2019, on order of National Green Tribunal had suggested some recommendations to protect the GIB,
- 3.Mitigating all power transmission lines passing through priority bustard habitats by underground cables.
- 4.Develop predator-proof enclosures in known breeding sites and keep away nest predators such as dogs, pigs, foxes and other species using professional trappers.

INDIA SEEKS TARIFF RENEGOTIATIONS AT WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION(WTO)

- 1.India has proposed to renegotiate bound rates, or upper tariff limits on certain items, reportedly information technology products, at WTO.
- 2.Move comes at a time when the Centre has been encouraging domestic manufacturing in select sectors through a production-linked incentive scheme under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- 3.Tariffs are tax levied upon merchandise imports. Tariffs give a price advantage to locally-produced goods over similar goods which are imported, and they raise revenues for governments.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER LAUNCHES THE ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY WEBSITE

- 1.Website aims to be a one-stop source to provide critical and relevant information on major economic indicators, central and state government policy updates as well as the latest business news and trade data.
- 2.Website will act as a two-way funnel connecting Indian nationals business and states globally for enhancing exports, exploring employment opportunities as well attracting foreign industries and business to India.
- 3.Website will connect interested investors to relevant government agencies such as APEDA(Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) for agricultural exports from India. Indian trade portal for trade with India. Invest India for inward investment.

REGULATORY SANDBOX(RS)

- 1.This edition of SER focuses on technical and vocational education and training(TVET).
- 2.It aims to support the Government which has already announced skills development as a key national priority under Skill India Mission.
- 3.TVET is a comprehensive term referring to the study of technologies and related sciences, and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life.
- 4.Report highlights the Vision for quality TVET which is also included in India's new National Education Policy 2020 requiring all educational institutions to integrate vocational education into their offerings.

RAHIM KHANE KHANAM TOMB

- 1.Located in Nizamuudin, Delhi it was built by Rahim for his wife in 1598. Bulbous domes, canopies and arches,charbagh pattern and use of red sandstone.Rahim was a reputed military commander and a poet in the court of Akbar.