

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

26TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) have identified a gene that facilitates in the greening of plants by playing a crucial role in regulating the levels of protochlorophyllide — an intermediate in the biosynthesis of the green pigment chlorophyll.
- The perception of large scale illegal immigration from Bangladesh into India is not based on fact, the frontier forces of the two countries have said while deciding to ramp up patrolling to check crossborder crimes.
- A group of seven American lawmakers — six Democrats and a Republican — has written to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the farmers' protest, expressing "serious concern" over the "ongoing civil unrest" in India.
- With the deal for Ka226T utility helicopters with Russia not concluded five years after it was announced and its fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters at the end of their service life, the Army is set to approach the Defence Ministry for a waiver to take the deal forward.
- Israeli jets flew very low over parts of Lebanon early on Friday, terrifying residents on Christmas Eve, some of whom reported seeing missiles in the skies over Beirut.
- Demand conditions in the manufacturing sector returned to recovery mode with a softer contraction of 4.3% year on year in the quarter ended September in terms of nominal sales, according to RBI data.
- With the European Union (EU) and the U.K. clinching a post Brexit trade pact, India should now aggressively pursue free trade agreements (FTAs) separately with both the regions, according to experts.

INDIA-INDONESIA COORDINATED PATROL

1. Recently, the **35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy has been conducted.
2. As part of Government of India's vision of **SAGAR** (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region for coordinated patrols, cooperation in Exclusive Economic Zone (**EEZ**) **surveillance**, passage exercises and bilateral/ multilateral exercises.
3. CORPATs build up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate institution of measures **to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.**

CHILLAI KALAN

1. The 40-day intense winter period "**chillai kalan**" started in Kashmir valley with **sub-zero night temperatures across the region.**
2. Chillai Kalan is followed by Chillai-Khurd and Chillai-Bachha. **Chillai Khurd (small cold) is a 20-day long period** which starts from January 31 to February 19. **Chillai-Bachha (baby cold), a 10-day long period** which occurs between February 20 and March 2.
3. Considered to be the core of winter, Chillai Kalan usually brings snowfall, sub-zero temperatures causing freezing of water bodies including the Dal lake, closure of highways, etc.

MOCK EGG

1. A team of scientists from IIT Delhi won an innovation contest (Innovate 4 SDG) organised by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Lab India for their innovation of a "plant based mock egg".
2. UNDP Accelerator Lab India seeks to address some of the most pressing issues facing India, such as air pollution, sustainable water management and client-resilient livelihoods through innovation.
3. It has been **developed from very simple farm based crop proteins, which not only looks and tastes like an egg** but is also very close in nutritional profile to poultry eggs.

e-SEWA KENDRA

1. An e-Sewa Kendra was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) at the High Court of Tripura.
2. e-Seva Kendras have been created in the High Courts and in one District Court in each State on a pilot basis.
3. They are **dedicated to serve as a one-stop center for all legal aid and assistance for common litigants and advocates.**
4. It enables litigants to obtain information with respect to case status and to obtain copies of judgments and orders.

ARMY VARIANT OF MRSAM

1. Recently, the maiden test of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) for the Indian Army has been conducted.
2. It is a surface to air missile developed jointly by DRDO, India and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian Army.
3. **It is a high response, quick reaction, vertically launched supersonic missile, designed to neutralize enemy aerial threats** – missiles, aircraft, guided bombs, helicopters.