

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- InnerLine Permit (ILP) had been the Centre's biggest gift to Manipur since its statehood. Implemented under the British era Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, the ILP is an official document issued to let an Indian citizen enter a protected area for a limited period. Pressure groups in the northeast view this permit as a shield against the entry of illegal immigrants.
- A report from the Nagaland government has noted how stranded residents from the State were subjected to "racism and harassment" in the wake of the March 24 nationwide lockdown.
- A high level diplomatic team led by vice minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, arrived in Kathmandu to hold a dialogue with the two factions of the Nepal Communist.
- The next round of negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government will be held in Qatar from next month, a top official said, despite President Ashraf Ghani's recent calls for them to be moved home.
- Starting New Year, over a million street vendors across India will accept and make payments digitally, having come on board for the 'Main Bhi Digital drive.
- Bangladesh is set to move a second batch of Rohingya refugees from neighbouring Myanmar to the remote island of Bhasan Charin in the Bay of Bengal.
- China has lowered the Age of criminal responsibility for some serious crimes from 14 to 12, as it looks to combat juvenile crime committed by children.
- On the barren high plains of western Afghanistan, along a roadway south of Herat city, is a collection of sturdy earthen huts known as Qala-e-Biwaha, or "village of widows, where the opium trade has taken a deadly toll.

ANDROTT ISLAND

1. Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Bulbul will undertake a sailing expedition from Kochi to Andrott Island.
2. Andrott Island is the **Largest island in the Lakshadweep.**
3. Andrott is the **nearest island to the mainland and has an east-west orientation unlike other islands lying in the north-south direction.**

CASPIAN SEA

1. As per a recent study, **by the end of the century the Caspian Sea will lose at least 25% of its former size and will also be 9-18 metres lower.**
2. Caspian sea **borders five countries and the major river feeding it is Volga.**
3. Caspian Sea waters are isolated, its surface is **already around 28 metres below global oceans.**

CENTRE'S POWER FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR HIGHWAY: SUPREME COURT

1. Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has upheld notifications issued under the National Highways Act, 1956, for **acquisition of land for construction of the Chennai-Krishnagiri-Salem national highway.**
2. The verdict came on a batch of appeals filed by the Centre and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and few landowners and others. These pleas were filed against the Madras High Court's judgement, holding as "illegal and bad in law" the notifications issued.
3. It is a **part of the first phase of the 'Bharatmala Pariyojna' project. Bharatmala Pariyojna Project stretches across 24,800 km and has an estimated outlay of Rs. 5.35 lakh crore.**

COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

1. US State Department has **designated Pakistan and China among eight other countries that are of particular concern for violation of religious freedom.**
2. Earlier, the US State Department had released its annual International Religious Freedom (IRF) Report in 2019, which is a survey of the state of religious freedom across the world.
3. Designation of the CPC is the top tier recommendation by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) when it comes to violation of international religious freedom. It is followed by Special Watch List Countries for severe violations.

PARTNERS IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

1. The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has digitally addressed the Inter-Ministerial Conference by Partners in Population and Development (PPD).
2. It is an intergovernmental initiative created **specifically for the purpose of expanding and improving South-South Cooperation in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development.**
3. **PPD was launched at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD),**

ELECTRONIC-HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (e-HRMS)

1. E-HRMS was introduced by Department of Personnel and Training to facilitate a digital working environment, and streamline Human Resource services for Government employee.