

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

30TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed a Faridabad based thermal power plant to explore utilisation of fly ash in cement plants and also directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to monitor whether covering of the ash dump meets scientific environmental norms.
- The government has launched the 'Digital Ocean' platform of Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS) here as a one stop solution for all data related needs of a wide range of users, including research institutions, operational agencies, strategic users, academic community, maritime industry, and the public.
- Pakistan had increasingly become a pawn in Chinese policy, and under an increasing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related debt trap, further military dependencies in the future would happen, according to Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria.
- The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet gave its nod to an ordinance on the Bill against religious conversion through fraudulent means.
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board.
- The European Union demanded that China release citizen journalist Zhang Zhan and several other jailed reporters, lawyers and human rights champions.
- Palestinian armed groups staged military exercises in Gaza on Tuesday, including firing rockets into the sea, to mark the anniversary of the start of the 2008 conflict with Israel.
- A powerful earthquake killed at least five people as it tore down buildings in central Croatia on Tuesday.

MALAYALI TRIBES

1. **Giant Rock Bee Honey, a unique variant of honey sourced from Malayali Tribes** was added to Tribes India collection.
2. **Malayali is a tribal group from the Eastern Ghats in North Tami Nadu.** Tribals are usually hill farmers and they cultivate different types of millet.
3. Malayalis originally belonged to the Vellala caste of cultivators and emigrated from the sacred city of Kanchi to the hills about ten generation ago, when Muhammadan rule was dominant in Southern Indian.

ADOPT A HERITAGE: APNI DHAROHAR, APNI PEHCHAN PROJECT

1. It is launched by Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India.
2. Project aims to encourage companies from public sector, private sector, corporate citizens, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced **tourist amenities at these sites.**
3. These organizations would be known as **"Monument Mitras"** for their collaboration initiative.

INDIA-QATAR

1. India's External Affairs Minister met the top leaders of Qatar and discussed strengthening the economic and security cooperation between the two countries.
2. The visit is part of **India's ongoing outreach to West Asia**, which the country sees as part of its extended neighbourhood. **Qatar is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council.**
3. Discussed ways to strengthen the multifaceted bilateral relationship in areas such as energy, trade, investment, food processing, healthcare, education, culture, defence and security. Bilateral trade was worth USD 10.95 billion in 2019-20.

NEW RULE IN GST

1. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has made it mandatory for businesses with a monthly turnover of more than Rs. 50 lakh to pay at least 1% of their Goods and Services Tax (GST) liability in cash.
2. The new rule restricts use of Input Tax Credit (ITC) for discharging GST liability to 99%. The CBIC has booked about 12,000 cases of ITC fraud and arrested 365 persons in such cases so far. The move will curb tax evasion by way of fake invoicing.
3. **ITC is provided to set off tax paid on the purchase of raw materials, consumables, goods or services that were used in the manufacturing of goods or services.** This helps in avoiding double taxation and the cascading effect of taxes.

INDIA TO BECOME FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY IN 2025

1. A recent report published by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CBER) has predicted that **India will again overtake the UK to become the fifth largest economy in 2025** and race to the third spot by 2030. CBER is a UK based company that gives independent economic forecasts for public and private firms.
2. The Indian economy will expand by 9% in 2021 and by 7% in 2022. This growth trajectory will see India become the world's third largest economy by 2030, overtaking the UK in 2025, Germany in 2027 and Japan in 2030.
3. The five economies ahead are the **United States, China, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom respectively.**