

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

31ST DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has sought the inclusion of tourism in the concurrent list to enable the Centre and States to effectively regulate the sector as well as frame policies for growth.
- The protesting farmers and the Union Ministers reached an agreement on the decriminalisation of stubble burning and the safeguarding of power subsidies — two of the four issues on the negotiating table — during their final.
- The government announced that it would open three missions in Estonia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic in 2021, after a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the proposal from the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has asked the State's Forest and Revenue departments to permanently rehabilitate the indigenous forest dwellers of the Dibru Saikhowa National Park within January 31.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Tuesday approved three infrastructure proposals estimated at ₹ 7,725 crore for setting up greenfield industrial cities with connectivity to major transportation corridors such as the eastern and western dedicated freight corridors, expressways and National highways.
- The Union Cabinet approved a modified scheme for interest subvention for ethanol production, expanding the scheme to include grain based distilleries and not just molasses based ones.
- The launching of China's third and largest aircraft carrier is likely to take place next year, with a renewed push to take forward military modernisation plans amid a number of territorial and maritime disputes.

JAPAN TO JOIN FIVE EYES

1. **Five eyes is a network of five nations- Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US who collaborated to better respond to increasing threats by North Korea and China.**
2. **Japan is on its way to become 'sixth eye'.**
3. Japan would provide **key inputs on Chinese clampdown on Uyghurs.** Uyghurs are Turkic-speaking Muslims who live in China's autonomous Xinjiang region, in the country's north-west.
4. Many Uyghur communities also live in countries neighbouring China, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

LADAKH'S TSO KAR WETLAND COMPLEX: RAMSAR SITES

1. **India has added Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site,** a conservation status conferred by International Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
2. The Tso Kar Basin is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies: Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake of about 438 hectares to the south, Tso Kar itself, a hypersaline lake of 1800 hectares to the north, situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh.
3. It is called Tso Kar, meaning white lake, because of the white salt efflorescence found on the margins due to the evaporation of highly saline water.
4. It is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.

DATA ON POLICY ORGANISATION: BPRD

1. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) has released data on police organisations. It shows **different aspects of policing in the country like woman police, police expenditure, constabulary ratio, transport facilities, communication facilities, representation of various castes and police training centres.**
2. The government has spent Rs. 1,566.85 crore in 2019-20 for expenditure and police training. It highlights that Backward Classes, Dalits and Tribals constitute almost 67% of India's population, but their representation in police forces in the country is only at 51%.
3. The goal of proportionate representation has remained unfulfilled despite all state governments providing reservation to these categories.

DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR

1. The Prime Minister of India has inaugurated a 351-km section of the **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) and an Operation Control Centre (OCC) between Khurja and Bhaupur in Uttar Pradesh.**
2. EDFC is a 1,839-km project billed as the largest rail infrastructure being built in independent India and has been in the making since 2006.

NATIONAL SUMMIT ON GOOD, REPLICABLE PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS

1. 7th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices & Innovations inaugurated.
2. The practices and innovation presented in these **summits span across programmatic areas ranging from RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Adolescent Health) to communicable diseases, to new areas of Non-Communicable Disease control programmes.**