

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The output of eight core sector industries shrank 23% in May 2020, the third straight month of contraction-Commerce Ministry Data.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the free grain distribution scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) will be extended by five months till the end of November, with an additional estimated outlay of ₹ 90,000 crore.
- The ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic has led to India's disease surveillance system recording unusually fewer instances of diseases other than COVID 19. In the week of March 16-22-According to Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. (only 6 outbreaks/alerts, 17 in 2019, 28 in 2018 and 45 in 2017.
- China said it was "seriously concerned" by India's move to block 59 Chinese apps, which it described as "a deliberate interference in practical cooperation" between the two countries. The move would bring economic repercussions, including affecting outbound Chinese investment to India.
- With the social inequity in online education coming to the fore due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Centre has plans to distribute laptops or tablets to 40% of all college and university students over the next five years, and to equip all government schools with ICT.
- One in three girls missing globally due to sex selection, both pre and post natal, and One in nine females below the age of 5 die due to postnatal sex selection is from India — 46 million out of the total 142 million, according to the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA).
- The World Bank has approved a five-year loan to the Namami Gange project worth ₹3000 crore to develop and improve infrastructure projects to abate pollution in the river basin.

SPECIAL OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS(OMOS) BY RBI

Key facts

1. RBI has announced that it will be conducting a **special Open Market Operations (OMOs)** on 2nd July 2020.
2. The aim will be to pump up liquidity in the financial system of the country.
3. Open Market Operations (OMOs) are simultaneous **selling and purchase of government securities** are conducted by the RBI.
4. It is also known as "**Operation twist**".

CHINA PASSES HONG KONG NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

Key facts

1. China has passed the National Security Law for Hong Kong.
2. All departments under the Hong Kong government will be **directly answerable to Beijing** once the legislation is implemented.
3. Hong Kong is a **Special Administrative Region** of China **since 1997** when the former colony was returned by Britain to China.
4. Matters related to foreign affairs and defence of Hong Kong are controlled by China.

INDIA BANS 59 CHINESE MOBILE APP

Key facts

1. Government view-Apps are engaged in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India.
2. Bans under section **69A of the IT Act, 2000.**
3. Section 69A provides power to blocking for public access of any information through computer science.

NARCONDAM HORNBILL

Key facts

1. This bird is endemic to the **Narcondam Island** in Andamans.
2. It has been identified as an Important Bird area by **Birdlife International.**
3. Narcondam Hornbill comes under IUCN Endangered category.

WORLD POPULATION REPORT RELEASED BY UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND(UNFPA)

Key facts

1. Gender bias and violence against girls and Women.
2. 3 are most widespread and persistent-Female genital mutilation(**FGM**), Child marriage and Son preferences.
3. In India, **Child Marriage is directly linked to poverty and poor education.**
4. Suggestions-Tackle the root causes like gender based norms.
5. Estimating funding needs and tracking financial flows for sexual and reproductive health services.