

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

29TH JULY, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- China said border troops had “disengaged in most localities” along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), but defence sources said disengagement had only been “partial” at one of the locations that Beijing appeared to be referring to, Admits issues still remain at Pangong Lake.
- The United Kingdom, which holds the Presidency of the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, planned for next year, is committed to building resilience to climate change among communities and working with India on clean energy.
- China announced the suspension of Hong Kong’s extradition treaties with Canada, Australia and Britain in a tit-for-tat move following similar decisions by those countries over a controversial new security law.
- At 2,967 tigers, India’s capacity at peak.
- The government is going to come out with a decision on 74% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in defence and a notification is likely in the next few days.
- States leverage digital resources as pandemic keeps schools shut, Focus on digital classrooms, e-textbooks and mobile apps.
- The spread of the novel coronavirus does not appear to be impacted by seasonality, the WHO said, warning against false beliefs that summer is safer, Hardesthit countries are in different seasons — U.S. in summer, Brazil in winter.
- Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard fired a missile from a helicopter targeting a replica aircraft carrier in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state television reported, an exercise aimed at “threatening” the U.S. amid tensions between Tehran and Washington.

THERMAL,SOLAR POWER CAN BE BUNDLED FOR ROUND-THE-CLOCK(RTC) POWER SUPPLY.

Key facts

1. New guidelines by Ministry of Power provides for supply of RTC power distributors through a **Bundling Scheme**, which is **first of its kind scheme in the world**.
2. Bundling scheme is a **plan to sell renewable energy(RE)** and thermal power in a bundle so that end users can get uninterrupted supply of power.
3. Power generators **have to ensure at least 85% availability** both annually and during peak hours.
4. Bidders have to supply at least **51% of the power from renewable sources**.
5. Bidders **can club smaller thermal projects** to tie-up with their renewable projects.
6. Benefits of Bundling Scheme- Address issues of intermittency,limited hours of supply and low capacity utilisation of transmission infrastructure; Facilitate grid-connected solar power generation.

CENTRE TO CONVERT RAVINES OF CHAMBAL REGION INTO ARABLE LAND WITH WORLD BANK SUPPORT.

Key facts

1. Centre has decided to **convert large area of ravines area of Gwalior-Chambal belt** of Madhya Pradesh into arable land.
2. Currently, more than **3 lakh hectares of rugged land** in this region is not cultivable.
3. Project would involve levelling **of the ravines**,building percolation tanks and creating bunds to prevent erosion of Soil.
3. It will help in improved **agricultural development,creating employment opportunities** etc.
4. Ravines are **badland topography** formed by **deep erosive action of water** on the soil and are intricate network of gullies. E.g. Chambal ravines occur in the catchment area of the Chambal River and its tributary, Kunwari River.
5. These are **worst form of land degradation** and about 3.97 million hectares of land in India from ravines.
6. **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujrat** account for about 70% of the country’s ravines.

INDIA LIKELY TO MISS TARGET OF ERADICATING AIDS BY 2030.

Key facts

1. At the UN’s High-Level meeting on AIDS, India committed towards the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic as public health threat **by 2030**.
2. **SDG 3.3 aims to end AIDS** as public health threat by 2030.
3. Highlights of the Indian council Of medical Research study-**Decline in annual new HIV infections was only 27%** from 2010 to 2017 against a national target of a 75% decline by 2020.
4. People living with HIV/AIDS-2.1 million in 2017.
5. Steps taken to eradicate AIDS-National AIDS control Programme, National Strategic Plan(2017-24),**Project Sunrise**.