

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

21ST NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Union Home Ministry has, for the first time, approved a research study on “Status of radicalisation in India”. The study will attempt to legally define “radicalisation” and suggest amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
- Scottish author Douglas Stuart was awarded the 2020 Booker Prize for his acclaimed debut novel *Shuggie Bain*, set in his home city of Glasgow.
- India has told the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that it calls for an “immediate comprehensive ceasefire” in Afghanistan, while welcoming all opportunities to bring peace to the country.
- The 24th edition of Exercise Malabar, which concluded, was reflective of the “commitment of the participating countries to support a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific as well as a rules based international order.
- Children and adolescents account for one in nine reported COVID19 infections across 87 countries, according to an analysis by UNICEF, which highlights threats due to COVID19 facing children, including the disruption of essential services and rise in poverty and inequality.
- As part of steps to deepen cooperation in civil space activities, the space agencies of India and Australia were working together to position temporarily Indian tracking facilities in Australia. This would support India’s planned human space flight programme.
- Reports showing the construction of a Chinese village inside sovereign Bhutanese territory are incorrect, the envoy of Bhutan has told.
- The Competition Commission has approved Reliance’s proposed acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses of Future Group.

FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

1. It is an alliance comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and US.**
2. It is long-standing alliance where the intelligence agencies of these respective **five countries share signal, military and human intelligence among themselves.**
3. The alliance has urged China to reconsider its actions on disqualifying Hong Kong’s elected legislators.

THE 12TH COUNTER TERRORISM DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION(EU)

1. Key highlights-Both condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism.
2. **India and the EU emphasised the need for strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism** in a comprehensive and sustained manner.
3. They also exchanged views on counter-terrorism challenges, including radicalisation and violent extremism, terror financing, and terrorist use of the internet.

INDIA MAY CALL BIDS FOR SETTING UP GREEN HYDROGEN PLANTS

1. **Green hydrogen is a clean burning fuel that eliminates emissions by using renewable energy (such as wind, solar or hydro) to electrolyse water, separating the hydrogen atom within it from oxygen.**
2. Hydrogen derived using fossil fuels is called gray hydrogen. Blue hydrogen is made in the same way, but carbon capture technologies prevent CO2 being released.
3. Advantage of Hydrogen over conventional fuels- Abundance, high energy density, ease of transportation over long distance, better combustion characteristics, non-polluting nature etc.

KARNATAKA TO RELEASE 6.64 LAKH HECTARES OF DEEMED FORESTS

1. State government has been arguing that classification was done without taking into account needs of the people and is impacting farmers and also barred large tracts from mining.
2. Reports by expert committees constituted by Karnataka government, after Supreme Court judgement in 1996, identified 9.94 lakh hectares as deemed forests.
3. **Deemed forest refers to land tracts that appear to be a forest, but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records. It comprises about 1% of India’s forest land.**

SMALL FARMERS DEPRIVED OF CLIMATE FINANCE: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) REPORT

1. IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized agency United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
2. Key Findings- **Small-scale farmers operating on less than 5 hectares of land represent around 95% of world’s farms** and a cumulated area equivalent to 20% of the global farmland.
3. Barriers to small-scale agriculture finance includes- Limited capacity of national governments to comply with international climate funds procedures. National government’s capacity to develop climate adaptation and mitigation programs.
4. As the agriculture sector is seen risky there is limited capital available for those involved in small-scale agriculture. Financial markets are not providing services adapted to farmer’s needs.