

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

26TH NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A massive nutrition portal developed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), which is used by the Centre as well as most States, and touted as the world's biggest nutrition system, to record and monitor delivery of services to children and mothers across nearly seven lakh anganwadis has been down for nearly three months, several State governments have confirmed.
- President elect Joe Biden introduced a slate of veteran diplomats and policy makers who will make up his national security and foreign policy team, saying: "America is back, ready to lead the world."
- Hundreds of farmers led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) leaders set out for Delhi from Ambala with tractors and trolleys breaking through two barriers on National Highway 44 on Wednesday, in response to a call for "Dilli Chalo" from several farmers' groups for November 26 and 27 in protest against the three controversial farm laws.
- A meeting of the Standing Committee on Information and Technology held turned into a battleground between ruling and opposition parties on the question of whether the committee can discuss the withdrawal of high speed Internet in Kashmir.
- The Cabinet on Wednesday gave the green light to the merger of troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DB Bank India Ltd. (DBIL), paving the way for lifting of restrictions placed on withdrawals from the bank.
- The textile and clothing sector has urged the Centre to remove antidumping duty (ADD) on viscose fibre and address problems related to inverted duty structure in Man Made Fibre (MMF) segment for the industry to benefit from the recently announced Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

JOINT PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE(JPC) PROPOSES TO EXPAND AMBIT OF PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION(PDP) BILL

- 1.PDP Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha last December and it seeks to protect privacy of individuals relating to their personal data. It was referred to JPC.
- 2.Now, JPC members are of the view that-PDP Bill should be about data and protection of data and purpose of the Bill should be redefined and more clearly defined. Ambit of the Bill needs to be expanded to focus more on the digitization and localization of data, with personal data as one part of the Bill.
- 3.Data localisation is the act of storing data on any device physically present within the borders of a country.

INDIA,US EXTEND NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP BY ANOTHER DECADE

- 1.In 2010. India and the US had signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) for cooperation on the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership(GCNEP). The MoU has been extended for 10 more years.
- 2.Extended MoU committed to-Promote cooperation to give impetus to nuclear safety and security.Deepen the dialogue on nuclear and other radioactive material security.Build on the international recognition of the GCNEP. Build on the international recognition of the GCNEP.
- 3.GCNEP is the world's first nuclear energy partnership centre and the sixth R&D unit under the aegis of Department of Atomic Energy.

US ASKS INDIA TO RECONSIDER MANDATORY 'NO-GENETICALLY-MODIFIED(GM)' CERTIFICATE FOR FOOD IMPORTS

- 1.US has asked India to reconsider the FSSAI order which mandates that from January 1, 2021 **importers of 24 identified food products have to mandatorily declare that products are not GM and that they also have a non-GM origin.**
- 2.Orders were passed in India after a study found 21 food products positive for material from genetically-engineered(GE) plants, of which 16 were imported.
- 3.However, US showed its concern that the order causes significant disruptions to trade and lacked a technical rationale for this measure.

VARUNA STRA

- 1.Recently, first production Varunastra Heavyweight Torpedo was delivered to Indian Navy.
- 2.Varunastra is a ship launched, heavy weight, **electrically-propelled anti-submarine torpedo which is capable of targeting quiet submarines,** both in deep and shallow waters.
- 3.The weapon has a range of 40 kilometres, can travel at a speed of up to 70 kilometers per hour and dive to a maximum depth of 400 meters. It is developed by DRDO.

DESALINATION PLANTS

- 1.Recently, Maharashtra announced the setting up of a **desalination plant in Mumbai.**
- 2.A desalination plant turns salt water that is fit to drink which are mostly set up in areas that have access to sea water.
- 3.Reverse osmosis(RO) is the process used in this **to remove the excess salt. Worldwide, desalination is seen as one possible answer to stave off water crisis.**