

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The bloom of *Noctiluca Scintillans*, commonly known as “sea sparkle” that the Karnataka coast has been witnessing since about a month, has displaced microscopic algae called diatoms, which form the basis of the marine food chain.
- The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) has been selected as a ‘Milestone’ facility by the U.S.-based Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), which is the world’s largest technical professional organisation dedicated to advancing technology in all areas related to electrical and electronics engineering.
- India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted 7.5% in the second quarter of 2020-21, following the record 23.9% decline recorded in the first quarter, as per estimates released by the National Statistical Office.
- Tens of thousands of farmers were still camped on the Delhi-Haryana border on Friday night on their way to the national capital for a protest against the Centre’s three new farm laws.
- The Supreme Court gave a clarion call to judges to protect personal liberty and the right of ordinary people to bail, saying “liberty is not a gift for the few”.
- The Madhya Pradesh Information Commission has set up a grievance redressal forum in a bid to bring greater transparency to its functioning and spread awareness on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, arguably the country’s first such initiative.
- Many Tamil families living in Sri Lanka’s north and east on Friday marked ‘Heroes Day’ — an annual commemoration of LTTE cadre who died in the civil war — by lighting lamps in the quiet confines of their homes, after the government obtained a court order banning the remembrance.

BIOLUMINESCENCE

1. Recently, blue tide was spotted along Maharashtra’s shoreline which was produced due to fluorescent blue hue from the process called bioluminescence.
2. Bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism.
3. Blue light was characterised by the emission of light produced by phytoplanktons (microscopic marine plants), commonly known as dinoflagellates.

NITI AAYOG PROPOSES TO REVAMP SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES SUB PLAN

1. Currently, Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) and Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) is being run by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It involves 41 central ministries earmarking 2-20% of their budget outlay for SC/ST welfare schemes.
3. Ministries are required to identify targeted schemes & earmark funds scheme wise to different states.
4. However, fund earmarked by the centre remains poorly utilised as ministries fail to identify schemes targeted to SCs and STs.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS) THROUGH ECLGS 2.0 TO STRESSED SECTORS

1. ECLGS 2.0 scheme will provide funding to 26 stressed sectors identified by Kamath committee and healthcare sector with outstanding credit above Rs 50 crore and not exceeding Rs 500 crore as on February 29, 2020.
2. Sectors identified by Kamath Committee for one-time debt restructuring included power, construction, real estate, textiles, pharmaceuticals, logistics, cement, auto components and hotel, restaurants and tourism.
3. ECLGS 2.0 was announced as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat 3.0 package and it was launched to mitigate distress caused by COVID-19 induced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL (ADC)

1. ADCs are institutions of local governance created under sixth schedule with executive, legislative and judicial powers.
2. Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
3. There are 10 areas—three in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram each and one in Tripura that are registered as autonomous districts.

MOBILE HOSPITAL FOR HURT AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE

1. A mobile hospital for injured wildlife such as Koalas and Kangaroo has been inaugurated in Australia.
2. It will treat and rehabilitate native animals hurt and traumatised during wildlife crises across the country.
3. It is an innovative solution in wildlife protection in the rising human-wildlife conflict where relief can be provided from injuries sooner than later. This provides scope for its implementation in India too.

SHAHTOOT DAM

1. India recently announced that it would build the shahtoot dam in Afghanistan.
2. Dam will be built on the Maidan river, a big tributary of the Kabul river in Afghanistan.