

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

2ND OCTOBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The inclusion of Australia in the Malabar Exercise — the trilateral naval exercises between India, the U.S. and Japan — was still being discussed, a senior U.S. State Department official told.
- A team of researchers at IIT Madras is ready with a prototype of suture thread made of nano fiber yarns that is bio absorbable and can deliver a higher load of antibiotics and/or therapeutics at the site itself.
- Responding sharply to the U.S. and the European governments for expressing their concerns about the investigations into the Amnesty International, the government said foreign governments must not condone NGOs that break Indian Laws.
- GST collections cross ₹ 95,000 cr. in September, Highest mop-up so far in current fiscal year, indicating that economic activity is picking up steam in tandem with the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions.
- The State cannot declare the slowdown caused by the pandemic a “public emergency” to curtail the rights of people, the Supreme Court said.
- India’s manufacturing sector activity improved for the second straight month in September and touched a more than eight and a half year high supported by accelerated increases in new orders and production, a monthly survey showed.
- Coinciding with India’s New Delhi sharpest gross domestic product contraction, the credit ratio (upgrades to downgrades) of Crisil rated firms for the first half plunged to 0.54, the lowest in more than a decade.
- Almost 90% of gig workers in India have lost income during the pandemic, according to a survey by Flourish Ventures, a global fintech venture capital fund.
- Most counterfeits are ₹ 2,000 notes, says NCRB.

STRATEGIC ATAL TUNNEL AT ROHTANG

- 1.Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the strategically important all-weather **Atal Tunnel**, which reduces the distance between Manali and Leh.
- 2.Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world, and the 9.02 km long tunnel **connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley** throughout the year.
- 3.The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the **Pir Panjal range of Himalayas** at an altitude of 3000 metres.

NCRB(NATIONAL CRIME RECORD BUREAU) REPORT:GUJRAT HAS HIGHEST NUMBER OF POLICEMEN ARRESTED IN CUSTODIAL DEATH CASES

- 1.**Gujarat accounted for the highest number of police personnel arrested in custodial death cases in the country and the second highest number of custodial deaths in 2019**, one rank below Tamil Nadu.
- 2.Most of the people who died in police custody in Gujarat were not on remand and the police has explained most to of them as either death by suicide, by illness or a road accident, to the Bureau.
3. India **yet to ratify the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT)**.

PRIVATE FIRM TO MAKE GRENADES FOR ARMY

- 1.The Defence Ministry signed a contract with **Economic Explosive Ltd. (EEL) of Nagpur** for the **supply of Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG)** to the Army.
- 2.The MMHG has been designed by the **Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratories (TBRL)**, a lab under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and will be made by EEL with technology transfer.

EU(EUROPEAN UNION) LAUNCHES LEGAL ACTION OVER U.K. BREXIT BILL

- 1.The European Union launched legal proceedings in response to the **British government's attempt to overturn parts of the Brexit withdrawal agreement**.
- 2.The infringement procedure, which could come before European courts, has not derailed post-Brexit trade talks, but reflects mounting tension at European Union Headquarter Brussels as time runs short for a deal.
- 3.Brexit is the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from EU.

OMAN 16TH COUNTRY TO HAVE AIR BUBBLE ARRANGEMENTS WITH INDIA

- 1.India has established a separate bilateral air bubble arrangement with Oman for operation of special international passenger flights between the two countries.
- 2.Under an air bubble pact between two countries,**special international passenger flights can be operated by their airlines into each other's territories** under restrictive conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.India had formed such arrangements with 15 countries- **Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Qatar, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan, the UK and the USA**.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ACCUSES CHINA OF VIOLATING OTHER NATIONS SOVEREIGNTY

- 1.**A U.S. Congressional report** has sought decisive action against China, accusing Beijing of increasing military buildup, violating other nations' sovereignty and engaging in fatal skirmishes to conduct a land-grab on the Indian border.