KSG:Newspaper Crux

13ᵀᴴ September, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- After concluding a military logistics support agreement with Japan early this week, India is now working on three such agreements with Russia, the U.K. and Vietnam. India now has military logistics agreements with all Quad countries, Australia, Japan and the U.S.

- Afghan groups urged to reach ceasefire World leaders call on the government and the Taliban to seize 'historic opportunity' to make peace. the warring sides were urged by various countries and groups to reach an immediate ceasefire and forge an agreement that upholds women's rights.

- India China standoff casts a shadow on Nathu La border trade. While the pandemic stalled business this year, the 200 traders from Sikkim fear LAC tensions may affect their work next year too.

- The People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China handed over five Arunachal Pradesh youth to the Indian Army, more than 800 km east of where they strayed beyond the McMahon Line separating the two countries.

- Indian taken hostage in '18 returns from Afghanistan(due to intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha).

- Oxford University in a statement said it is resuming the 'paused' vaccine trial of the ChAdOx1 COVID vaccine in clinical trial sites in the United Kingdom.

- Civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan has moved the Supreme Court for a declaration upholding the right of appeal of a person found guilty of contempt.

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson has accused the European Union of threatening to tear the U.K. apart by imposing a food "blockade" between Britain and Northern Ireland, throwing new fuel on the fire of simmering Brexit talks.

VACCINE HESITANCY ON THE RISE ACROSS THE GLOBE

1. A study published in Lancet showed trend of vaccine hesitancy has increased in many countries between 2015 and 2019.
2. Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.
3. **World Health Organization declared vaccine hesitancy as one of top 10 threats to global health in 2019.**

ECOLOGICAL THREAT REGISTER(ETR) 2020

1. ETR is produced by **institute for Economics and Peace**.ETR measures ecological threats that countries are currently facing and provides projections to 2050.
2. It **defines areas where resilience is unlikely to be strong enough to adapt or cope with these future shocks.**
3. ETR identified three clusters of ecological hotspots, which are particularly susceptible to collapse:Sahel-Horn belt of Africa, from Mauritania to Somalia;Southern African belt,from Angola to Madagascar;Middle East and Central Asian belt, from Syria to Pakistan.

INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONAL AGENCIES(IPA)

1. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India(IBBI) has proposed setting minimum qualifications for members of governing boards of insolvency professional agencies(IPA).
2. IBBI is a statutory body with regulatory oversight over insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Information utilities, etc.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

1. It is released by Centre for Civil Society in conjunction with Canada`s fraser Institute.
2. It **measures economic freedom, or ability of Individuals to make their own economic decisions in a country**, by analysing policies and institutions of these countries.
3. **India is ranked 105th(79th in 2018) among 162 countries**. **Hong kong topped the index followed by Singapore.**

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH(ICMR) SERO SURVEY RESULTS DECLARED

1. It was conducted from May 11-June 4, in 21 states for presence of SARS-CoV-2 antobodies.
2. Key Findings:**0.73% adults were exposed to coronavirus, amounting to 6.4 million infections**.
3. Seropositivity(odds of findings a positive case for every test conducted) was highest in 18 to 45 years age group and lowest among those above 60(17.2%).

STATES STARTUP RANKING 2019

1. **Objective is to foster competitiveness and propel states and UTs to work towards uplifting startup ecosystem.**
2. It will encourage mutual learning among all states and will provide support in policy formulation and implementation.India is 3rd largest startup ecosystem in world.
3. States and UTs have been divided into Category 'X' and Category 'Y'.**Gujrat is the best performer in category 'X' and Andaman and Nicobar islands is in the category Y.**