

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

26TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- An upgrade of 90 medium lift Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF) proposed in 2002 could not be achieved even after 18 years the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said, as a result of which these “helicopters were flying with limited capability, thus compromising operational preparedness during these years”.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and The New India Assurance Co. as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (DSIIs) for 2020-21.
- Vodafone wins \$2 bn tax case, An international arbitration tribunal in The Hague ruled that India’s imposition of a tax liability on Vodafone, as well as interest and penalties, were in a breach of an investment treaty agreement between India and the Netherlands.
- Senior officials from the Foreign Ministries of “the Quad” group of countries — India, the U.S., Australia and Japan — met virtually, during the United Nations high level week. Quad discusses Indo-Pacific infrastructure and 5G.
- Thousands take to streets over farm Bills.They block rail, road traffic.accuse Centre of implementing ‘anti-farmer’ Policies.
- Following a meeting with Sri Lanka’s northern fisher leaders, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has promised to take up their concern over “trespassing Indian trawlers” with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the virtual summit.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) has replaced the Medical Council of India (BoGMCI), as per information released by the Health Ministry.

ONLY A FRACTION OF POLLUTED RIVER STRETCHES MAY BE CLEAN BY YEAR END

1. In 2018,Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) had identified 351 stretches of rivers where the Biological Oxygen Demand(BOD),Dissolved Oxygen(DO) levels,faecal coliform(FC) breached recommended standards.
2. **To be considered fit for drinking(without disinfection), a river water must have a BOD of <2 milligram per litre, DO>6 milligram per litre, a pH from 6.5 to 8.5 and Total Coliforms Organisms MPN/100ml shall be 50 or less.**
3. Based on this,States were ordered by the National Green Tribunal to ensure that infrastructure to treat 100% of sewage generated be created by March 31,2021.
4. **But less than 5% of polluted river stretches identified by CPCB in 2018 are likely to be remedied by the year end.**

RBI RELEASES CYBERSECURITY VISION FRAMEWORK FOR URBAN COOPERATIVES BANKS(UCBs)

1. It aims at enhancing the cyber security posture of UCB sector against evolving IT and cyber threat environment.
2. It proposed a five-pillared strategic approach GUARD, viz.,-**Governance Oversight,Utile Technology Investment, Appropriate Regulation and Supervision, Robust Collaboration and Developing necessary IT, cyber security skills set.**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE LAUNCHED CENTRALIZED FARM MACHINERY PERFORMANCE TESTING PORTAL

1. It **aims to improve services of farm machinery testing institutions and bring out transparency in the entire process of testing and evaluation of machines.**
2. This portal will facilitate manufacturers in applying,communicating and monitoring progress of testing of their machines in a seamless manner as it is **easily accessible from any location** and from any device connected to internet.

RAISE 2020-‘RESPONSIBLE AI FOR SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT 2020’

1. It is a first of its kind,global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence(AI) to derive India’s vision and roadmap for **social transformation,inclusion and empowerment through responsible AI.**
2. It will facilitate an **exchange of ideas to create mass awareness** about the need to ethically develop and practice AI.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME(NSS)

1. NSS is a Centrally Sector Scheme(Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports) which was **launched in the year 1969** with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.
2. NSS volunteers work **on issues of social relevance,** which keep evolving in response to the needs of the community, through regular and special camping activities.