KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

27TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A special drive to uproot the invasive lantana bushes in the famous Sajjangarh wildlife sanctuary in Rajasthan's Udaipur district has helped in ecological restoration of grasslands and saved biodiversity.
- Padma Bhushan awardee Isher Judge Ahluwalia, a renowned economist who also worked extensively on issues related to urbanisation and education, passed away.
- PM pitches for larger role in UN Modi assures UN General Assembly that India's vaccines are for the world.
- India calls Imran Khan's UN speech an 'incessant rant'. Pakistan PM had attacked saying India's 'RSS-led' government.
- COVID19 vaccine likely to be free for needy in India.
- Amid mass farmer agitations in Punjab and Haryana, the Centre has advanced kharif paddy procurement, allowing operations to begin on Saturday instead of the scheduled date of October 1.
- The Union Home Ministry has allowed Tibetan migrants in foreign countries to return to India through any of the 107 immigration check posts.
- Coronavirus deaths could more than double to two million without collective action against the pandemic, the World Health Organization has warned, as Australia's Prime Minister urged any nation that develops a vaccine to share it with the world.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has mooted an investigation against the Central government's accounting officials for incorrectly recording ₹10,250 crore of cess receipts from additional excise duties on petrol and diesel.

FLASH FLOODS

- **1.** Recently, few villages in Assam were submerged by a flash flood.
- 2. Flash floods are characterized by very fast rise and recession of flow of small volume and high discharge, which causes high damages because of suddenness.
- **3.** This occurs in hilly and not too hilly regions and sloping lands where heavy rainfall and thunderstorms or cloudbursts are common.

FASTER ADOPTION AND MANUFACTURING OF (HYBRID &)ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN INDIA(FAME INDIA)

- **1.** Government has sanctioned 670 electric buses and 241 charging stations in various/UTs under phase-II of FAME India Scheme.
- **2.** As part of the National Electric Mobility Mission plan(NEMMP) 2020, Department of Heavy Industry formulated FAME India Scheme in the Year 2015.
- **3.** FAME aims to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.

INDIA'S FIRST REGIONAL RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM(RRTS) TRAIN

- 1. RRTS is a new, dedicated, high speed, high capacity, comfortable commuter service connecting regional nodes in National Capital Region(NCR)
- RRTS is different from conventional railway as it will provide reliable, high frequency, point to point regional travel at high speed.
- Once in operation, it will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.

JIMEX-20

- 1. It is a bilateral exercise which is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. It will be held in North Arabian Sea.
- **2.** JIMEX commenced in 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- 3. Other military exercise between India and Japan: Ex Dharma Guardian.

STEPS TAKEN BY ELECTION COMMISSION(EC) TO ENSURE SAFE ELECTIONS IN BIHAR

- **1.** EC announced a series of **extraordinary measures** for the Bihar Assembly elections, which will be held in the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic.
- 2. Maximum number of voters per polling station reduced from 1,500 to 1,000.
- **3. Postal ballots** to all those over the age of 80, to those voters who are Covid-positive and those who have been quarantined due to the infection.

FACELESS APPEALS LAUNCHED BY CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXATION(CBDT)

- 1. Under Faceless Appeals, all income Tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner barring cases of major tax evasion, serious frauds, international tax and black money act.
- **2.** It will give convenience to the taxpayer while ensuring just appeal orders and minimise litigations.