

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Clashes erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the volatile Nagorno-Karabakh region, reigniting concern about instability in the South Caucasus, a corridor for pipelines transporting oil and gas to world markets.
- India's sandalwood trees, the country's pride — particularly of Karnataka — are facing a serious threat with the return of the destructive Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD).
- The Assam government will translate into action the Manipuri language demands, as per the assurances given by Assam Education Minister.
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to three contentious farm Bills that have triggered farmer protests, especially in Punjab and Haryana.
- 16 dead from poisoning in Chinese coal mine, A conveyor belt caught fire, which produced dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, leading to their deaths.
- Sri Lanka issued a joint statement referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to the Sri Lankan government to address the Tamil minority's aspirations, with the implementation of the 13th Amendment, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office released a statement, making no mention of Mr. Modi's call.
- North Korea accused South Korea of sending ships across the disputed sea boundary to find the body of a South Korean official recently killed by North Korean troops, warning on Sunday the intrusion could escalate tensions.
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan cautioned that the Indian Council of Medical Research's first COVID19 Sero-survey should not create a sense of complacency among the people with regard to the virus. India is far from having achieved any kind of herd immunity".

LABOUR CODE GIVES MORE POWER TO STATES ON LABOUR LAW

- 1.Under new labour code approved by parliament centre has bestowed more power to **states to make amendments through executive route.**
- 2.**Labour as a subject falls under concurrent list** wherein both the central and state governments can legislate .
3. **State can exempt new industrial unit** from any or all provisions of the code unconditionally for a specific period of time.

PRADHANMANTRI SAHAJ BIJLI HAR GHAR YOJNA- 'SAUBHAGYA' SCHEME COMPLETES THREE YEARS

- 1.Free electricity connections to **all households(both APL and poor families).**
- 2.Issued faced in implementation are lack of equipment and manpower shortage, deteriorating financial condition of DISCOMs etc.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATE IN SPACE SECTOR

- 1.**There are more than 500 companies that partner with ISRO** in sectors like- providing materials, mechanical fabrication, electronic fabrication, system development, integration, etc.
- 2.Creation of **Indian national space promotion and authorization centre(IN-SPACe)**: it will allow private companies to use Indian space infrastructure and will also hand-hold, promote and guide them through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment.
- 3.**New role for new space India limited (NSIL) that would include** building launch vehicles, providing launch service, build satellites, providing space based services, technology transfers, etc.

SHELL COMPANIES

- 1.Refers to a **company without active business operation or significant assets**, which in some cases are used **for illegal purposes such as tax evasion, money laundering, obscuring ownership, benami properties etc.**
- 2.Recently,Governmnet has undertaken a special drive for identification and strike off shell companies based on non-filing of financial statement consecutively for two years or more.

ABOUT 40% OF CESS RECEIPTS PARKED IN CFI INSTEAD OF RELEVANT RESERVE FUNDS: CAG

- 1.Comptroller and auditor general of India(CAG) pointed out lack of transparency and disclosures by centre, with regard to accounting of cesses and levies.
2. In FY 19, centre had collected Rs. **2.75 lakh crore from 35 cesses/levies.** However only 60% of the proceeds were transferred to the relevant reserve funds .
- 3.**The cess, an additional tax levied by the government,** is collected by the central government under the consolidated fund of India(CFI). The collected fund is the transferred to the respective funds under different ministries, who utilise the funds for the specified purposes.

ASSESSMENT OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME(ADP) RELEASED

- 1.**Most districts are 40-90% away from their targets** and there are no clear achiever or laggard districts.
- 2.**ADP covers 5 sectors- health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water** resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure.