

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- After the information technology sector in Gurugram expressed strong reservations about the new law guaranteeing 75% jobs in private sector to the local population, the garments industry, employing close to 10 lakh people in the State, has also given a thumbs down to the legislation and demanded exemption from it.
- The Union government has told the Bombay High Court that making FASTag (electronic toll collection system) mandatory for all vehicles plying on national highways does not breach a citizen's fundamental right to freedom of movement in any way.
- India and Russia are "committed" to completing their contract for the S400 missile system, due to be delivered to India at the end of the year, Russian Ambassador to India Nikolai Kudashev confirmed. He said both countries opposed U.S. sanctions on the issue.
- Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said he hoped India would "reassess" its stand on regional trading agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact that India withdrew from in 2019.
- The Quad navies of India, the U.S., Japan and Australia "already" enjoy a "high degree of interoperability" and have the capability and capacity to come together in an "almost plug and play mechanism" if the opportunity arises, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said.
- Foreign troops under NATO command will withdraw from Afghanistan in coordination with a U.S. pullout by September 11.
- There is an opportunity for India to become a hardware manufacturing location as the world's technology majors have been moving their supply chains out of China over the past 18 months, Microsoft president Brad Smith said.

6th EDITION OF RAISINA DIALOGUE

1. Indian Prime Minister inaugurated the 6th edition of Raisina Dialogue in virtual format.
2. It is **India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, held annually since 2016.**
3. It is jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation. The theme for the 2021 Edition is "Viral World: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control".
4. It attracts leading minds from the global strategic and policy-making community to discuss broader foreign policy and strategic issues facing the world.

REDUCING RISK OF ZONOSIS IN FOOD PRODUCTION

1. The World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme have laid down fresh guidelines for governments to reduce the risk of transmission of zoonotic pathogens to humans in food production and marketing chains.
2. A zoonosis is an infectious disease that jumps from a non-human animal to humans. Zoonotic pathogens may be bacterial, viral or parasitic. They can spread to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment.
3. WHO Guidelines: Emergency regulations **to suspend live wild animal sales in traditional food markets.** Conducting risk assessments for developing regulations to control the risks of transmission of zoonotic microorganisms from farmed wild animals and caught wild animals.
4. Ensuring that **food inspectors are adequately trained to ensure that businesses comply with regulations** to protect consumers' health and are held accountable. Strengthening surveillance systems for zoonotic pathogens.

DECRIMINALISING BEGGING

1. The Supreme Court has asked the Centre and four States to file their response on a plea seeking a direction to repeal the provisions criminalising begging. It has been argued in the plea that a person, who is compelled to beg due to certain circumstances, cannot be faulted for his actions.
2. Criminalising Begging Against Right To Life: The provisions of the statutes criminalising the act of begging put people in a situation to make an unreasonable choice between committing a crime or not committing one and starving, which **goes against the very spirit of the Constitution and violates Article 21 i.e. Right to Life.**

NATIONAL MISSION ON SUSTAINING HIMALAYAN ECOSYSTEM

1. Scientists, with support from the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) Programme, have been able to disseminate available scientific information to the farmers to enable sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in the Leh region. NMSHE is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
2. It contributes to the sustainable development of the country by enhancing the understanding of climate change, its likely impacts and **adaptation actions required for the Himalayas- a region on which a significant proportion of India's population depends for sustenance.**
3. States and UT concerned- Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.