

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- India alone straddles both U.S. and China led strategic groupings, providing an equity based perspective to competing visions. It must be prepared to play a key role in moulding rules for the hyper connected world, facing off both the U.S. and China to realise its potential of becoming the second largest economy.
- India will soon join 15 other countries in the hydrogen club as it prepares to launch the National Hydrogen Energy Mission(NHEM). The global target is to produce 1.45 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2023. Currently, India consumes around 5.5 million tonnes of hydrogen.
- In 2030, according to an analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, green hydrogen demand could be up to 1 million tonnes in India across application in sectors such as ammonia, steel, methanol, transport and energy storage. However, several challenges in scaling up to commercial scale operations persist.
- The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent bipartisan commission, has recommended for the second year in a row that the State Department put India on a list ('Countries of Particular Concern' or CPCs) for the worst violations of religious freedoms in 2020.
- The Chhattisgarh police said the "allegation being levelled by Maoists regarding air strike/drone attack were baseless and it was an outcome of fear and confusion in the rank and file of Maoist cadres".
- An analysis of Indian advertisements on television and YouTube has shown that while they are superior to global benchmarks insofar as girls and women have parity of representation in terms of screen and speaking time, their portrayal is problematic as they further gender stereotypes.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2021

- 1.India has ranked 142nd yet again out of 180 nations in the recently unveiled World Press Freedom Index. The index is published each year by the international journalism not-for-profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- 2.India has fared poorly amongst its neighbours with Nepal at 106, Sri Lanka at 127 and Bhutan at 65. Pakistan is a close follower at 145th spot. **India is among the countries classified "bad" for journalism and is termed as one of the most dangerous countries for journalists** trying to do their jobs properly.
- 3.The report has blamed an environment of intimidation created by the nationalist government for any critical journalist often brandishing them as anti state or anti national.
- 4.Based in Paris, Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders is an independent NGO with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). OIF is a 54 french speaking nations collective.

STARTUP INDIA SEED FUND SCHEME

- 1.The Government has launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The Scheme was announced during the 'Prarambh: StartupIndia International Summit' which marked the five-year anniversary of the Startup India initiative.
- 2.Aim:**To provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.** Launched by: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- 3.It will support an estimated 3,600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators in the next 4 years. An Experts Advisory Committee (EAC), constituted by DPIIT, will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Scheme.
- 4.**It will help in creating a robust startup ecosystem in Tier 2 and 3 regions**, as the smaller towns in India are often not provided with appropriate funding.

STATE OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE 2020:WMO

- 1.The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released its annual State of the Global Climate for 2020. The report was released ahead of the Leaders Summit on Climate, hosted by the US.
- 2.Extreme weather combined with Covid-19 was a double blow for millions of people in 2020. However, the pandemic-related economic slowdown failed to put a brake on climate change drivers and accelerating impacts.
- 3.2020 was one of the **three warmest years on record, despite a cooling La Niña event. The global average temperature was about 1.2° Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level.** The other two warmest years are 2016 and 2019.
- 4.Globally, averaged mole fractions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have already exceeded 410 parts per million (ppm).

NONGKHYLLEM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- 1.India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs(Eudiscopus denticulus) was recorded in Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 2.This sanctuary, in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya, is one of the best protected areas in the Northeast.
- 3.**It falls in the Eastern Himalayan Global bio-diversity hot spot.** It is drained by rivers and streams like Umran, Umring, Umpurthih and Umtru.