

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Adding another feather in its cap, Telangana has joined a group of States that has ensured tap water connections to all schools and anganwadi centres (AWCs). The State was the first to provide tap water connections to all households and the achievement was acknowledged by the Central government a few days ago.
- India waited for China to clear the north and south banks of Pangong Tso (lake) first before reciprocating the first phase of disengagement agreement reached between the two countries in eastern Ladakh, a senior government official said.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said there is no intent to discourage higher income earners from saving with the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and that she was open to reviewing the contribution limit of ₹2.5 lakh a year for tax-free interest, imposed in the recent Union Budget.
- Thousands of opponents of Myanmar's February 1 military gathered again on Sunday in towns from north to south, undeterred by the bloodiest episode of their campaign the previous day when police and soldiers opened fire in the city of Mandalay, killing two.
- Iran said it had held "fruitful discussions" with UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi in Tehran, ahead of a deadline when it is set to restrict the agency's inspections unless the United States lifts painful sanctions.
- Australia's government pledged a publicity campaign for its rollout of COVID-19 vaccine — but not in Facebook advertisements, as a feud continues over the social media giant blocking news content from its platform.
- India and the Maldives signed a defence Line of Credit agreement worth \$50 million during the ongoing visit by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED EPILEPSY DRUG

1. A major drugmaker has developed the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) indigenously and the finished dosage formulation of Brivanext, a drug for epilepsy.
2. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) APIs, also called bulk drugs, are significant ingredients in the manufacture of drugs. The Hubei province of China is the hub of the API manufacturing industry.
3. India is heavily import-dependent for APIs from China. India's API imports stand at around \$3.5 billion per year, and around 70%, or \$2.5 billion, come from China.
4. Initiative to Raise Awareness: In 2019, a report Epilepsy, a public health imperative was released by the World Health Organization.

ROADS ON ARUNACHAL BORDER

1. The Union government approved more than Rs 1,100 crore for critical infrastructure development in Arunachal Pradesh. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) also cleared a proposal for construction of 32 roads under phase II of the Indo-China Border Roads (ICBR) scheme. Earlier, the government followed a restrictive policy and areas along the China border were not developed much.
2. Critical Infrastructure Development in Arunachal Pradesh: Most projects have been earmarked in areas along the China border in the north and northeast part of Arunachal. It includes motorable roads, mule tracks and facilities for porters. It envisages construction of roads and 18 foot-tracks measuring 598 km.
3. This will enhance the capabilities of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which maintains vigil along the border. These tracks can be used by the Army to supplement the main border roads for transportation of men and material.

SAMBHAR LAKE:RAJASTHAN

1. The State Government of Rajasthan will identify new tourist points at Sambhar Salt Lake. The Lake forms part of the desert circuit in the Centre's Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
2. It is the largest inland salt lake in India. It represents the depression of the Aravalli Range. The lake's salt supply was worked by the Mughal dynasty (1526-1857) and it was later owned jointly by the Jaipur and Jodhpur princely states.
3. Ramsar Site: It is a wetland of 'international importance' under the Ramsar Convention, declared in 1990.

NAVDEX 21 AND IDEX 21:UAE

1. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Pralaya arrived at Abu Dhabi, UAE to participate in the NAVDEX 21 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 21 (International Defence Exhibition). INS Mysore (an indigenously built guided missile destroyer deployed in the Persian Gulf) is also participating in the exhibition.
2. IDEX/NAVDEX takes place biennially. The exhibitions showcase the latest technologies and innovation in the global defence sector, support the growth of UAE's defence industry, and forge new relationships between major international companies.
3. IDEX is the only international defence exhibition and conference in the MENA region demonstrating the latest technology across land, sea and air sectors of defence. MENA Region: MENA is an acronym for the Middle East and North Africa region and includes approximately 19 countries.