

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The International Criminal Court convicted Dominic Ongwen, a Ugandan child soldier turned Lord's Resistance Army commander of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Following expressions of support on social media to the farmers' protest by several well known personalities and celebrities, including pop icon Rihanna, youth climate activist Greta Thunberg and others, the U.S. government has also spoken, encouraging dialogue and supporting the right to peaceful protest.
- More than 1.23 lakh "high net worth individuals" (HNIs) deposited more than ₹62,500 crore into their Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) accounts in 2018-19 alone, and the largest EPF account has a staggering ₹ 103 crore balance, sources in the Department of Revenue said, defending the Budget move to tax the income on employees' PF contributions over ₹ 2.5 lakh a year.
- The Delhi police cyber cell has registered an FIR and will investigate an "international conspiracy" to defame the country, a senior police officer said.
- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has refrained from taking a call on a plea for the early release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan. He said the President was the "appropriate competent authority" to deal with Perarivalan's request for freedom.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) is actively looking for exports of the Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) with countries in South East Asia and West Asia.
- The Adviser to the National Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) Committee for COVID-19, Dr. N.K. Arora, has said that data from the assessment of the deaths of health care and frontline workers would be placed in the public domain.

MATUA COMMUNITY, WEST BENGAL

1. Matuas constitute the **second largest SC Population of West Bengal around 17% of the state's electorate.**
2. The community has members on either side of the Bengal border. For years, they were **demanding an amendment to Citizenship Act of 2003**, whose provisions made it difficult for refugees to get citizenship.
3. Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 has now provided them with hope of being granted citizenship.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

1. It is an orbiting infrared observatory which is planned to be launched in October 2021.
2. It will complement discoveries of Hubble space telescope of NASA, with longer wavelength coverage and improved sensitivity.
3. **It will study every phase in the history of Universe, ranging from Big Bang to the evolution of our Solar System.**
4. It is an international collaboration between NASA, European Space Agency, and Canadian Space Agency.

GALVANIZING ORGANIC BIO-AGRO RESOURCES DHAN(GOVAR-DHAN) SCHEME

1. Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a unified portal on 'Gobardhan' scheme. Under new unified approach, all biogas programmes/schemes will be coordinated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen(SBMG).
2. It is an **important element of achieving Open Defecation Free(ODF) strategy.** It aims to support villages in affectively manage their cattle and biodegradable waste.
3. Scheme focus on keeping villages clean, increasing income of rural households, and generation of energy from cattle waste.

NEW START TREATY

1. **USA and Russia both have extended New START nuclear disarmament treaty** for five years.
2. Treaty was signed in 2010, between USA and Russia, and it caps the number of nuclear warheads to 1,550 and deployed missiles and bombers to 700 for each country.
3. USA and Russia control the world's largest nuclear arsenals.
4. It was due to expire on February 5, 2021, and now it is renewed.

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY

1. In the Budget 2021-22, Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) have been proposed to be set up by state-owned and private sector banks, and there will be no equity contribution from the government.
2. The ARC, which will have an Asset Management Company (AMC) to manage and sell bad assets, will look to resolve stressed assets of Rs. 2-2.5 lakh crore that remain unresolved in around 70 large accounts. This is being considered as the government's version of a bad bank.
3. It is a **specialized financial institution that buys the Non Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions** so that they can clean up their balance sheets.

UNIFORM MINIMUM AGE FOR MARRIAGE

1. The Supreme Court (SC) decided to examine a plea to transfer to itself cases pending in the Delhi and Rajasthan High Courts to declare a "uniform minimum age" for marriage.
2. The Union government has also **set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women, which is currently 18.**