

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

19TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has directed all Ministries/Departments of the Union government to strictly adhere to the time limits for various stages of disciplinary proceedings in vigilance cases since unexplained delay was causing undue advantage or harassment to the charged officials.
- Those with a history of allergies, fever and bleeding disorder, people on blood thinners and those with compromised immunity or on medication that affects the immune system have been told by Bharat Biotech, manufacturer of Covaxin, not to take the COVID19 vaccine.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it was aware of infrastructure construction by China in the past several years "along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)" and that India had also stepped up its construction, after a report showed satellite images of a new Chinese settlement in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi government to issue notification pertaining to the demarcation of the Southern Ridge area within three months.
- Forest Department personnel on Monday seized as many as 414 live endangered Indian star tortoises from a gang that was smuggling them from the Samalkot area in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The task force set up to take a relook at the age of marriage for women has submitted its report to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- India is considering raising import duties by 5%10% on more than 50 items including smartphones, electronic components and appliances in the upcoming budget. The move to increase import duties is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-reliant India campaign.

GUCCHI(MOREL) MUSHROOM

- 1.A geographical indication(GI) tag has been sought for Gucci(Morel).
- 2.It is one of the costliest mushrooms in the world growing in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.
- 3.It is said to have medicinal and **anti-inflammatory properties and is found in the temperate forests of the Doda district.**

5G TECHNOLOGY

- 1.The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought inputs from telecom companies and other industry experts on the sale and use of radio frequency spectrum over the next 10 years, including the 5G (Fifth Generation) bands.
- 2.**The 5G networks will operate in the millimeter wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts of data at very high speeds** because the frequency is so high, it experiences little interference from surrounding signals.
- 3.For India: 5G networks **could improve the accessibility of services such as mobile banking and healthcare, and enable exponential growth in opportunities for unemployed or underemployed people to engage in fulfilling and productive work.** For this Government has rolled out enabling policies.

SEMERU VOLCANO OF INDONESIA

- 1.Semeru volcano erupted in **Indonesia's East Java province.** Other volcanoes, such as the Merapi volcano (Java) and Sinabung volcano (Sumatra), also erupted recently.
- 2.Semeru - also known as "The Great Mountain" - is the highest volcano in Java and one of the most active.Indonesia, with the maximum number of active volcanoes in the world, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific's Ring of Fire.
- 3.Semeru volcano is also the part of the Island arcs **formed by the subduction of the Indo-Australian plate below Sunda Plate (part of Eurasian Plate).** The trench formed here is called Sunda trench whose major section is the Java Trench.

INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA AT FIVE-YEAR LOW IN 2020

- 1.The trade deficit, between India and China, declined to a five year-low of 45.8 billion USD in 2020, the lowest since 2015. Trade Deficit: A trade deficit is an amount by which the cost of a country's imports exceeds its exports.
- 2.India's overall imports declined, due to **slump in domestic demand in 2020. There is, yet, no evidence to suggest India has replaced its import dependence on China** by either sourcing those goods elsewhere or manufacturing them at home.

K-SHAPED ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- 1.Recently, the latest readings of the Nomura India Normalization Index (NINI) suggested the impact of Covid-19 on Indian Economy and the K-Shaped Recovery through which the Indian Economy is recovering.Nomura Services India Private Limited (Nomura Holdings Inc) is a consumer services company.
- 2.A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, **different parts of the economy recover at different rates,** times, or magnitudes. This is in contrast to an even, uniform recovery across sectors, industries, or groups of people.