

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH JUNE, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **To be a pillar of the multipolar world is not to be a military power, manufacturing and/or financial hub, and/or a global investor alone. Countries that strive for global leadership should be able to provide moral leadership as well. This includes critical self-reflection, humility, compassion, and care not only towards their own people, but also towards the most vulnerable communities around the world.**
- **This year, the world woke up to June, pride month, gazing at the Google Doodle of Dr. Frank Kameny, an American astronomer, veteran, and gay rights activist. Kameny, in the early 1970s, ‘successfully challenged the American Psychiatric Association’s classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder’. The global LGBTQ+ community marched ahead after the 1970s.**
- **With no vaccines in sight, and just days to go for Bhutan’s deadline for giving its eligible population of half a million people their second dose of COVID19 vaccines, India’s smallest neighbour is searching for any alternative that could help.**
- **The Union government has a tricky political decision to make over the next couple of days, with the quarterly reset of interest rates on small savings schemes due on June 30. A cut in small savings rates at this point would be an “unpopular” move and further hurt households amid a surge in inflation, according to economists.**
- **In the first instance of a drone attack on a defence installation in the country, unmanned aerial vehicles are suspected to have dropped and detonated two explosive devices at the Jammu Air Force Station on Sunday, leaving two Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel injured.**

LIDAR BASED SURVEY OF FOREST AREAS

- 1.The Union Environment Minister in a virtual event released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) based survey of forest areas in ten states.
- 2.The 10 mapped states are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.
- 3.**It is a first of its kind and a unique experiment using LiDAR technology which will help augment water and fodder in jungle areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict.** LiDAR technology has been found to have 90% accuracy.
- 4.States will be given Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to use in this project. CAMPA is meant to promote afforestation and regeneration activities as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses.

INS VIKRANT:FIRST INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

- 1.India’s Defence Minister reviewed the ongoing work on the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), INS Vikrant (IAC-1), which is a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- 2.INS Vikrant, is likely to be commissioned in 2022. At present, India has only one aircraft carrier, the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.Earlier, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved issuance of Request for Proposal (RFP) for six advanced submarines for the Indian Navy under Project-75I.
- 3.Significance: The combat capability, reach and versatility of the aircraft carrier will add formidable capabilities in the defence.
- 4.**It would offer an incomparable military instrument with its ability to project air power over long distances, including air interdiction, anti-surface warfare, offensive and defensive counter-air, airborne anti-submarine warfare and airborne early warning.**

TOYCATHON 2021

- 1.The Prime Minister of India urged people **to be “vocal for local toys”, while interacting with the participants at the Toycathon 2021.**
- 2.It was a joint initiative by the Ministry of Education, WCD (Women and Child Development) Ministry, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Textile Ministry, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and All India Council for Technical Education.
- 3.Aim: To conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system which will inculcate positive behaviour and good value among the children.

TAX INSPECTORS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAMME

- 1.The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan.
- 2.India was chosen as the Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for this programme.
- 3.**It aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors, and through sharing of best audit practices.** The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing.
- 4.This programme is another milestone in the continued cooperation between India and Bhutan and India’s continued and active support for South-South cooperation.