

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Access to COVID19 vaccines, cooperation on technology, and climate change are on the top of the agenda as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join U.S. President Joseph Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga for a virtual summit of the Quadrilateral Framework (Quad) — the first time leaders of the Indo-Pacific grouping are meeting.
- The Election Commission said an FIR had been lodged over “fake news” about hacking of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) being spread on social media.
- Residents of industrial town of Rourkela, where activities were advised to be restricted on account of deterioration in air quality, heaved a sigh relief following minor improvement in Air Quality Index (AQI).
- After severe criticism over not holding consultations with digital media publishers before bringing in the new IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar held a meeting with members of the Digital News Publishers Association.
- Indian and Japanese space agencies reviewed cooperation in earth observation, lunar cooperation and satellite navigation, and also agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in “space situational awareness and professional exchange programme”.
- China passed sweeping changes for Hong Kong’s electoral system that will give Beijing appointed politicians a greater say in running the Special Administration Region (SAR), marking the biggest change since the handover in 1997.
- Moody’s Investors Service on Thursday said the credit downturn arising out of the COVID19 pandemic would be shortlived.

## INTERNATIONAL LUNAR RESEARCH STATION:RUSSIA AND CHINA

- 1.China and Russia have **agreed to build a International Lunar Research Station (ILRS)**, possibly on the moon’s surface, marking the start of a new era in space cooperation between the two countries.
- 2.Russia is a part of International Space Station which is a habitable artificial satellite - the single largest man-made structure in low earth orbit.
- 3.The station would be built on the lunar surface and/or on the lunar orbit that would carry out scientific research activities such as the lunar exploration and utilization, lunar-based observation, basic scientific experiment and technical verification.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIA-BANGLADESH TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY:WORLD BANK

- 1.World Bank report named “**Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia**” stated that seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17% in Bangladesh and 8% in India.
- 2.The report analyzes the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA).BBIN: **The Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative is a sub-regional architecture** of countries in Eastern South Asia, a sub-region of South Asia.
- 3.Important Recommendations: Strengthen the MVA: Harmonizing driver’s licensing and visa regimes. Establishing an efficient regional transit regime. Rationalizing and digitizing trade and transport documents. Liberalizing the selection of trade routes.
- 4.Benefits of PMSSN: Enhanced access to universal & affordable health care through availability of earmarked resources, while ensuring that the amount does not lapse at the end of financial year.

## PRADHAN MANTRI SWASTHYA SURAKSHA NIDHI

- 1.The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a **single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess**.The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.
- 2.Salient Features of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN): It is a non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account. Proceeds of share of health in the Health and Education Cess will be credited into PMSSN.
- 3.Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilized for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

## PLACES IN NEWS

- 1.**Salda lake**-Scientists hunting for signs of ancient life on the distant planet are using data gathered from Salda lake. Salda lake, a mid-size crater, is located in southwestern Turkey, within Burdur Province.
- 2.It has an extremely high concentration of magnesium ions, and it is highly alkaline.
- 3.**French Polynesia**-According to a recent report, Nuclear tests by France(in 1960`s and 70`s) affected more than 1,10,000 people in French Polynesia.
- 4.French Polynesia, an overseas collectivity of France, is located in the South Pacific. It is made up of more than 100 islands and atolls, the largest and most populated being Tahiti.