

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The country's education system should break through linguistic barriers in order to ensure that those in rural areas or from poor homes were not deprived of opportunities to let their talent flourish, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.
- Voicing dissent against the government does not amount to sedition, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while rejecting a plea to "terminate" the Lok Sabha membership of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah and book him for sedition.
- Freedoms in India have reduced, according to a report from a U.S. thinktank, Freedom House, resulting in India being classified as 'partly free'. India's score was 67, a drop from 71/100 from last year (reflecting 2019 data) downgrading it from the free category last year (based on 2020 data).
- Antibodies against COVID19 begin to appear only 14 days after a vaccine injection. But in people who have already been infected, the increase can be observed in a week. According to several sero surveys, 21% to 60% of India may have been exposed to the virus.
- The British Parliament will discuss the three farm laws on March 8. The discussion comes a month after the Ministry of External Affairs defended the laws as "reformist legislation".
- At least 38 people were killed in Myanmar as security forces opened fire on prodemocracy protesters in a number of cities, the UN confirmed, calling it the "bloodiest day" of protests against military rule in the country.
- The U.S. Department of Commerce is preparing to tax aluminium sheet exporters from 18 countries including India after determining that they had benefited from subsidies and dumping.

## INFILTRATION GALLERY TECHNIQUE

1. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, this technique has been used in **water supply in Ladakh, where water supply in winter is affected due to freezing of water pipes.**
2. It is a method of water treatment through soil filtration. Under this, pipe is connected to the bottom of reservoir or river and water is cleaned and transported to the supply site.
3. Also, water is kept hot in the overhead tank with the help of solar energy. From where it is supplied at scheduled time.

## HIMALAYAN SEROW

1. In a first, Himalayan serow spotted in Assam at Manas Tiger Reserve (MTR). Earlier it was spotted in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley.
2. There are several species of serows, and all of them are found in Asia. Himalayan serows are herbivores, and are typically found at altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres.
3. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. IUCN status is Vulnerable.
4. MTR is named after Manas river and is contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.

## MARITIME INDIA SUMMIT 2021

1. Maritime India Summit 2021' is being organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
2. Focus Area: To further the port-led development along the 7,516-km long coastline. India will invest USD 82 billion in port projects by 2035 (under Sagarmala Programme), **raise the share of clean renewable energy sources in the maritime sector, develop waterways and boost tourism around lighthouses.**
3. Current Status of Indian Ports: India has 12 major ports and several minor ports along its West and East coast. **Capacity of major ports have increased from 870 million tonnes in 2014 to 1550 million tonnes in 2021.**

## GLOBAL BIO-INDIA-2021

1. The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare inaugurated the second edition of Global Bio-India-2021 in New Delhi through virtual mode. It showcases the strength and opportunities of India's biotechnology sector at national level and to the global community.
2. It is a mega international congregation of Biotechnology, with stakeholders including international bodies, regulatory bodies, Central and State Ministries, SMEs, large industries, bioclusters, research institutes, investors, and the startup ecosystem.
3. It aims at facilitating the recognition of India as an **emerging Innovation Hub and the bio-manufacturing hub globally. India was ranked 48th in the Global Innovation Index Report 2020.**

## BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE (BTCA)

1. BTCA along with Indian Government and FICCI hosted Merchant Digitization Summit 2021.
2. **BTCA (based at UN) is a partnership of governments, companies, and international organizations that accelerates transition from cash to digital payments** to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
3. BTCA members (including India) are committed to digitizing payments in order to boost efficiency, transparency, women's economic participation and financial inclusion.