

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

7TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- In what is claimed to be the First of its kind gender inclusive community policing initiative in the country, the Cyberabad police inaugurated a 'Transgender Community Desk' at Gachibowli Police Station.
- Days after the Sri Lankan Cabinet decided to allocate Colombo's West Container Terminal (WCT) to an Adani Group consortium to compensate for cancelling the East Container Terminal (ECT) agreement, previously signed by India and Japan, both New Delhi and Tokyo have signalled their distancing from the decision.
- Living just 850 metres away from the Pakistan Army positions on the hill slopes of Pakistanoccupied Kashmir (PoK), villagers of Balkote and Silikote, near the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla's Uri, are finally picking up the threads of life, left frayed by frequent shelling and sniping in the past three years.
- The Election Commission of India has asked the Union Health Ministry to come up with a way to ensure that vaccine recipients in the pollbound States of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry don't get certificates with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo on it till the model code of conduct is in force.
- A three member panel constituted by the Orissa High Court made a field trip to the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary here and assessed the measures taken for the conservation of endangered olive ridley sea turtles.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has reiterated through a gazette notification that Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders can lay claim to "only NRI (Non Resident Indian) quota seats" in educational institutions based on all India entrance tests such as NEET, Joint Entrance Examination (Mains), or other such all India professional tests.

INDIA-SWEDEN VIRTUAL SUMMIT

- 1.Prime Minister welcomed Sweden's decision to join International Solar Alliance(ISA).
- 2.ISA is a treaty based intergovernmental organization working to create a global market system to tap the benefits of solar power and promote clean energy applications.
- 3.Leaders also noted the growing member-ship of the India-Sweden joint initiative-Leadership Group on Industry Transition(LeadIT).
- 4.**LeadIT gathers countries and companies that are committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions from industry by 2050.** It was launched during 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

EL SALVADOR CERTIFIED AS MALARIA-FREE

- 1.Certification of Malaria elimination is granted by WHO when a country has proven, beyond reasonable doubt, **that the chain of indigenous transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the previous 3 consecutive years.**
- 2.Globally, a total of 38 countries and territories have reached this milestone. El Salvador is the first Central American Country.

FALLING RUPEE RESERVES OF IRAN

- 1.Indian merchants have almost entirely stopped signing new export contracts with Iranian buyers due to caution about Iran's falling rupee reserves with Indian banks.
- 2.Iran's rupee reserves in India's UCO and IDBI Bank, the two **lenders authorised to facilitate rupee trade, have depleted significantly.**
- 3.Reasons:Iran previously had a deal to sell oil to India in exchange for rupees, which it used to import critical goods, including agricultural commodities, but India stopped buying Tehran's oil in May 2019 after a US sanctions waiver expired.
- 4.Apprehension of Exporters: Exporters are not sure whether they would be paid on time for new shipments and they are avoiding dealing with Iran since payments are getting delayed.

ROAD TO GENDER INEQUALITY:UNDP

- 1.The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its latest report named "Protecting Women's Livelihoods in Times of Pandemic: Temporary Basic Income and the Road to Gender Equality" has proposed a Temporary Basic Income (TBI) for poor women in developing countries.
- 2.Gender Inequality: Unpaid Labor: **On an average, women spend 2.4 more hours per day than men on unpaid care and domestic work.** Among people who participate in the paid economy, women spend an average of four hours more per day than men on paid and unpaid work combined.
- 3.Major Proposals: Temporary Basic Income: **A TBI for millions of the world's poorest women, to help them cope with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic** and alleviate the economic pressures they face every day.

RASHTRIYA UCCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN(RUSA)

- 1.Minister of Education chaired a review meeting of RUSA.
- 2.RUSA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
- 3.Central funding(60:40 for general category states, 90:10 for special category states and 100% for UTs).
- 4.Primary components of RUSA includes-Creation of Universities by conversion of colleges in a cluster, Vocationalisation of Higher Education and **Quality and Excellence in select State Universities.**