

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Insightful words of Justice S.M. Fazalali, in A.C. Jose vs Sivan Pillai (1984): “if the [Election] Commission is armed with such unlimited and arbitrary powers and if it ever happens that the persons manning the commission shares or is wedded to a particular ideology, he could by giving odd directions cause a political havoc or bring about a constitutional crisis.**
- **The monsoon forecasts were primarily evolved to assist with agriculture and it is only now getting more urban focused because of the natural disasters that accompany even ‘normal’ monsoons. Several business and service sector industries need weather products and in terms of science and infrastructure, few have the resources the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has.**
- **A ‘normal’ monsoon forecast this year is primarily predicated on ‘neutral’ surface temperatures in the Central Equatorial Pacific. In 2019 and 2020, the IMD forecast normal rains but India ended up with 110% and 109% of the LPA. This year, a warming El Niño is unlikely, and another ocean parameter closer home, the Indian Ocean Dipole, too is expected to be unfavourable for excess rains.**
- **‘Green contracts’ refer to commercial contracts which mandate that contracting parties cut down greenhouse gas emissions at different stages of delivery of goods/services, including design, manufacturing, transportation, operations and waste disposal, as applicable to the industry.**
- **More than two years after a train ran over 61 persons participating in the Dasara celebrations near Amritsar, the Ministry of Railways has decided to map local festivals celebrated along the railway tracks across the country and issue an advisory to loco pilots on speed restrictions and other safety aspects.**

## DOLPHIN POPULATION IN ODISHA

- 1.Odisha has released the final data on the dolphin census, indicating a spectacular growth in numbers.The population of dolphins in Chilika, India’s largest brackish water lake, and along the Odisha coast has doubled this year (2021) compared with last year.
- 2.Three species were recorded during the census, **with 544 Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins sighted this year, compared with 233 last year.**
- 3.The rise in the Irrawaddy dolphin population in Chilika can be attributed to the eviction of illegal fish enclosures.
- 4.Major attraction at Chilika is Irrawaddy dolphins which are often spotted off Satapada Island.

## REASSESSMENT OF REGIONAL TRADING AGREEMENTS FOR INDIA

- 1.Singapore’s Foreign Minister while addressing the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue suggested India to reassess its stand on Regional Trading Agreements (RTA) such as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- 2.RCEP is the world's largest Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and was signed by all **10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization (ASEAN) members** and key partners including China, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand at the 4th RCEP leaders’ summit in November 2020.
- 3.**India withdrew from the RCEP largely because of concerns it would open it up to Chinese goods** amid an already wide trade imbalance with China, and the failure of the agreement to adequately open up to services.
- 4.The **CPTPP is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 11 countries** around the Pacific Rim which are : Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan.

## NEFT & RTGS DIRECT MEMBERSHIP FOR PAYMENT SYSTEM OPERATORS

- 1.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to enable, in a phased manner, payment system operators to take direct membership in RTGS and NEFT.Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) are the Centralised Payment Systems (CPSs) of the RBI.
- 2.This is expected **to minimise settlement risk in the financial system and enhance the reach of digital financial services to all user segments.**
- 3.Increase Digital Transactions: Just as use of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) increased over the last 4-5 years since it was opened to third-party aggregators, opening the payment system to non-banks would increase digital payments and transactions significantly.
- 4.The opening up of fund transfer and cash withdrawal through non-banks is certainly a sign of a changing banking horizon. Traditional brick-and-mortar banking is slowly disappearing with non-banks entering the space.

## S-400 TRIUMF(NATO CODENAME SA-21 GROWLER)

- 1.Russia is going to deliver the first set of S-400 Triumf air defence systems to India. It is a long-range surface-to-air missile(SAM) system.
- 2.It has the **capability to detect and destroy high and low targets, and also form an impenetrable grid of missiles.**
- 3.It has four different types of missiles with ranges between 40km,100km,200km and 400km which can be deployed in a very short time. It is resistant to electronic jamming.