

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

24TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- “The voice of the people is the voice of god; The voice of the Panchayat is the voice of the people,” is the quote attributed to Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Panchayati raj ensures that the voices of the people are heard loud and clear. 24th April is the Panchayati Raj Day.
- The National Human Rights Commission said that it had commissioned six studies on human rights issues, including food security for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, extent of cyber exploitation of children and falling participation of women in the workforce.
- Indonesia has sentenced scores of prisoners to death over Zoom and other video apps during the pandemic, in what critics say is an “inhumane” insult to those facing the firing squad.
- The Union government announced that 5 kg of foodgrains would be provided to 80 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in May and June as many States were undergoing curfews and the high rates of COVID19 infections had led to a slowdown in economic activity.
- Amid reports of a glacier breaking off in the Sumna area, located close to the India-China border in Uttarakhand, the Chamoli Police on Friday night said there was no official confirmation of the incident. Efforts were under way to determine the location of the possible event.
- Protesters marched through downtown Yangon to demand that regional leaders “stand with Myanmar people”, ahead of a weekend ASEAN summit to be attended by junta leader Min Aung Hlaing.
- Hong Kong is set to grant a site on the western Kowloon peninsula, close to the highspeed railway to the mainland, to Beijing’s national security office for its permanent base in the city.

PROTEST AGAINST BLUE FLAG BEACHES

1. Recently Odisha government’s plan to get Blue Flag Certification for five beaches was opposed by the fishermen. Odisha planned to develop five more beaches in three districts to meet international standards after receiving the certification for Puri’s Golden Beach in 2020.
2. Fishermen’s Demands: The **proposed land for the certification is used by the fishermen to anchor their boats. They want a permanent sea mouth to anchor the fishing boats. Protection of livelihood should be ensured and protected.**
3. Blue Flag Certification: Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world. The Blue Flag is one of the world’s most recognised voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.

INDIA’S FALLING CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

1. According to the latest government data India's crude oil production and natural gas output declined in the Financial Year (FY) 2020-2021. India’s crude oil and natural gas production have been falling consistently since 2011-12.
2. Reason for Decline: Ageing Sources: **Most of India’s crude oil and natural gas production comes from ageing wells that have become less productive over time.**
3. Need of Intensive Technology: There is no more easy oil and gas available in India and that producers would have to invest in extracting oil and gas using technologically intensive means from more difficult fields such as ultra deepwater fields.
4. Some Government Initiatives to Improve Production: Reforming Exploration & Licensing: In October 2020 Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Policy framework on reforms in the exploration and licensing sector for enhancing domestic exploration and production of oil and gas.

TOUGH CORALS

1. A recent study has suggested that coral structures may withstand climate change owing to their impressive process of forming rock-hard skeletons.
2. It studied *Stylophora pistillata*, a common stony coral in the Indo-Pacific revealing that coral structures consist of a biomineral containing a highly organized organic mix of proteins that resembles human bones.
3. It **highlighted that several proteins are organized spatially – a process that’s critical to forming a rock-hard coral skeleton.**
4. The study highlighted that corals have survived global climate change over millions of years by the process called Biomineralization. Biomineralization is the study of processes that lead to the formation of hierarchically structured organic-inorganic materials generated by living organisms, such as shells, bone and teeth.

PLACES IN NEWS, CHAD

1. Recently Chad’s President Idriss Deby has died of his injuries following clashes with rebels called Fact (the Front for Change and Concord in Chad).
2. **Chad is named after Lake Chad. This is the second-largest lake in Africa, but has shrunk by 90% since the 1960s.**
3. The Sahara Desert roughly covers 1/3rd of the country.
4. Remains of a seven-million-year-old human-like creature-or hominid-known as “Toumai” were unearthed in 2001.