

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

29TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Covering an entire State in as few phases as possible will help localise the potential for violence, prevent the spread of tension due to the virulence of the campaign, besides reducing the fatigue of forces deployed throughout the campaign, up to the day of counting. A shorter election may be a safer one too.**
- **U.S. President Joe Biden elaborated on his phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the COVID19 outbreak in India. He said the U.S. was sending “a whole series of help” to India, including Remdesivir and vaccine inputs.**
- **The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) formally launched by the Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia brought a wary response from China, which has described the effort as ‘unrealistic’.The move is seen aimed at reducing their reliance on China.**
- **European Union leaders, their British counterparts and European businesses expressed hope that the final ratification of the postBrexit trade deal will open a new, positive era of cooperation despite the many divisive topics remaining between the former partners.**
- **Moscow expelled seven European diplomats after their countries ordered Russian diplomats to leave in solidarity with the Czech Republic, which is engulfed in a row with Russia.**
- **China’s Minister of Defence Wei Fenghe, visiting Bangladesh and Sri Lanka this week, has called on countries in the neighbourhood to resist “powers from outside the region setting up military alliances in South Asia”.**
- **India’s ‘escalating’ second wave of COVID19 infections poses serious downside risks to the economy and heightens the possibility of business disruptions, S&P Global Ratings said.**

UK’S INDO-PACIFIC TILT

- 1.The British Government said that the UK Carrier Strike Group’s “globe-spanning maiden deployment will feature visits to India, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore”.
- 2.The European Union had announced that it will reinforce its strategic focus, presence and actions in the Indo-Pacific with the aim of contributing to the stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development of the region.
- 3.Carrier strike groups are often formed for a specific mission rather than by platform. The carrier is typically part of a larger formation, usually including destroyers, frigates and submarines, as well as logistical-support ships.
- 4.With the **UK expanding its footprint in the Indo-Pacific and India working toward gaining prominence as the net security provider in the region, both countries’ aspirations and future seem to be intertwined.**

GREEN INITIATIVES:SAUDI ARABIA

- .Saudi Arabia launched Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative to combat the threat of climate change.
- 2.Background and G20 Summit: **One of the main pillars of the Saudi G20 presidency was to safeguard the planet.** In 2020, G20 introduced initiatives like establishing a Global Coral Reef Research and Development Accelerator Platform and the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform.
 - 3.Saudi Green Initiative:To raise the vegetation cover, reduce carbon emissions, combat pollution and land degradation, and preserve marine life.
 - 4.Middle East Green Initiative : **To preserve marine and coastal environments, increase the proportion of natural reserves and protected land, improve the regulation of oil production,** accelerate the transition to clean energy and boost the amount of energy generated by renewables.

JOINT LOGISTICS NODE

- 1.The Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat has operationalised the third Joint Logistics Node (JLN) in Mumbai. Other operationalised JLN are in Guwahati and Port Blair.
- 2.Significance of Joint Logistics Nodes: These JLN will provide integrated logistics cover to the Armed Forces for their small arms ammunition, rations, fuel, general stores, civil hired transport, aviation clothing, spares and also engineering support in an effort to synergise their operational efforts.
- 3.**It would accrue advantages in terms of saving of manpower, economical utilisation of resources, besides financial savings.**
- 4.An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.

CT VALUE

- 1.Ct is short for ‘Cycle Threshold’. The Ct value refers to the **number of cycles after which the virus can be detected.** If a higher number of cycles is required, it implies that the virus went undetected when the number of cycles was lower.
- 2.The lower the Ct value, **the higher the viral load-because the virus has been spotted after fewer cycles.** It has been found that the time since the onset of symptoms has a stronger relationship with Ct values as compared to the severity of the disease.