

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Kerala Model' showed that a country or a region need not wait till it becomes rich to bring about significant improvements in people's material conditions of living, and that people's movements can be the driving force of such changes by forcing governments to adopt redistributive measures and other programmes.
- It is binding on a welfare state to take care of every single citizen. Securing the wellbeing of every one, particularly those unable to help themselves, irrespective of whether they constitute a critical mass or not, is important. The recent notification of the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 after various interventions, including the court, is pegged on this principle of inclusion.
- Every year on March 21, a global movement gathers to fight prejudice and intolerance by marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This provides an opportunity to explore the nuanced causes and consequences of modern racism, and renew an important commitment to combat discrimination.
- In allowing the ban on H-1B visa issuance to expire, Mr. Biden has walked a fine line between restoring the inflow of skilled workers into the U.S., a source of productivity increases for its labour force, and not being seen as aggressive in unwinding Trump-era immigration policies.
- The Philippines' Defence Secretary said that China was looking to occupy more areas in the South China Sea, citing the continued presence of Chinese vessels that Manila believes are manned by militias in disputed parts of the strategic waterway.
- NASA's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars in preparation for its first flight, the U.S. space agency said. The ultra-light aircraft had been fixed to the Perseverance rover.

## BANDHAVGARH TIGER RESERVE

- 1.This is the **second tiger reserve where a forest fire has raised concern** among environmentalists and conservationists. Earlier this month, a similar incident was reported at Odisha's Similipal Reserve.
- 2.It resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.
- 3.**Due to the tropical monsoon climatic zone, the park has been characterized by well defined winters summers and rains.** It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.

## JOINT LOGISTICS HUB

- 1.Third joint logistics node(JLN) IN Mumbai was operationalised recently to boost tri-service integration and resource optimisation.
- 2.These JLN's will provide **integrated logistics cover to the armed forces for their small arms ammunition,ration,fuel, etc.**

## SHIVAKUMARA SWAMIGALU

- 1.Shivakumara Swamiji was a prominent Lingayat scholar, educator and a spiritual leader.
- 2.He was a **Lingayat religious figure** and head of the Siddaganga Matha in Karnataka. He was described as the most esteemed adherent of Lingayatism.He founded Sri Siddaganga Education Society.
- 3.He was known as **"Nadedaaduva Devaru" or the "Walking God" among his followers.He had founded 132 institutions** for education and training. Here, the children are provided free shelter, food, and education.
- 4.The term Lingayat denotes a person who wears a personal linga, the aniconic form of god Shiva, on the body, which is received during the initiation ceremony.

## NGT ORDERS POLLUTION BOARDS TO INCREASE CAPACITY

- 1.The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) to strengthen its capacity and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to form a uniform recruitment criteria.
- 2.In 2018, a case was filed with NGT's principal bench **for revising existing monitoring mechanism by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).**
- 3.This included an interval of mandatory inspections of highly polluting industries and policy for auto renewal of Consent to Operate (CTO) certificate under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as well as the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- 4.**In the name of 'ease of doing business', powers and authorities of SPCB have been compromised.** The latest judgement of NGT is a fresh start to the long-delayed initiative of strengthening CPCB/SPCBs/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).

## ACT-ACCELERATOR

- 1.Carl Bildt has been appointed as WHO Special Envoy for the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator).
- 2.The ACT-Accelerator is a groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments and vaccines.
- 3.It was launched in the month of April, 2020 by the Director-General of WHO, French and European Commission President, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 4.It **brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists and global health organizations.**