

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

6TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Maoist insurrection which began first as the Naxalite movement in the 1970s and then intensified since 2004, following the merger of two prominent insurgent groups, remains a mindless guerrilla-driven militant movement that has failed to gain adherents beyond those living in remote tribal areas either untouched by welfare or are discontents due to state repression.**
- **A recent Pew Research Report shows that India's middle class may have shrunk by a third due to the novel coronavirus pandemic while the number of poor people earning less than ₹150 per day more than doubled. The Pew report also warned that the situation may actually be worse than estimated because of worsening inequalities.**
- **Enhancing tax and non-tax revenues of the government is needed to spend on the priorities. The tax/GDP ratio has to be raised, with a wider tax base. Richer sections have to pay more taxes. Similarly, the inequalities between the Centre and States in finances should be reduced.**
- **In as many as nine laws, the Centre has replaced the existing appellate authorities and vested those powers in the High Courts through an ordinance, the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance 2021, promulgated.**
- **Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has drawn up a new proposal for peace with the Taliban ahead of an international conference aimed at jump-starting faltering talks between the two warring sides. it wants to see some form of transitional government involving the Taliban, although Mr. Ghani has insisted leaders can only be chosen at the ballot box.**
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a law allowing him to potentially hold onto power until 2036.**

POET SARLA DAS

- 1.The Vice President addressed Odia Adikabi Sarala Das's 600th birth anniversary function in Cuttack. Sarala Das was one of the great scholars of Odia literature.
- 2.He was the first scholar who wrote his works in Odia in **15th century A.D. Best known for three Odia books, Mahabharata, Vilanka Ramayana and Chandi Purana. He also wrote the book Laxmi Narayana Vachanika.** He started writing his Mahabharata in the reign of Kapileswar, otherwise known as Kapilendra, the famous Gajapati king of Odisha (AD 1435–67).
- 3.Odia Language Oldest of the eastern group of the Indo-Aryan family, Odia is derived from Ardhamagadhi Prakrit. Odia is one of the six languages that got Classical Status in India. A language officially "scheduled," in the Indian constitution.

EFFECTS OF DUST ON MONSOON

- 1.A study details how the Indian monsoon gets influenced by the atmospheric dust particles swept up by winds from deserts in the Middle East (Asian Deserts).
- 2.Dust is very small dry particles of earth or sand. PM10 and PM2.5 refers to dust classified by the size of particles. The natural erosion of soil, sand and rock is the most common source of dust.
- 3.Dust storms from the desert when lifted by strong winds can absorb solar radiation and become hot. This **can cause heating of the atmosphere, change the air pressure, wind circulation patterns, influence moisture transport and increase precipitation and rainfall.**
- 4.Effect on Indian Monsoon:The hot air over the Iranian Plateau can heat the atmosphere over the plateau, strengthen the circulation over the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula and increase dust emission from the Middle East [West Asia].

DECLINE IN FOREX RESERVES

- 1.According to the recent data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's Foreign Exchange (Forex) reserves declined by USD 2.986 billion to reach USD 579.285 billion in the week ended 26th March 2021.
- 2.The gold reserve component of the Forex Reserve increased **whereas the other components - Special Drawing Rights (SDR), the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) and the Reserve Position witnessed decline.**
- 3.Objectives Behind Holding Forex Reserves: Supporting and maintaining confidence in the policies for monetary and exchange rate management. Provides the capacity to intervene in support of the national or union currency. Limits external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during times of crisis or when access to borrowing is curtailed.
- 4.India's Forex Reserve include: Foreign Currency Assets Gold reserves Special Drawing Rights Reserve position with the IMF.

CHENAB ARCH BRIDGE

- 1.Chenab Bridge is 1,315m-long bridge is being built at a height of 359m. Once completed, it will be the tallest rail bridge in the world.
- 2.It forms the **crucial link in the 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal which is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla section** of the Kashmir Railway Project.
- 3.It will be able to withstand earthquakes with a magnitude of up to eight and high-intensity blasts. It will provide much-needed all-weather conne activity between Kashmir and the rest of the country.