

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

7TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The 21st century is host to multitudinous crises impacting different sectors. For instance, the 2007-08 financial crisis seriously dented the economies of many nations, and the recovery has been slow, or sporadic. Since then, a succession of unrelated crises have heralded forebodings of still graver damage not only to the economy but also to the body politic and people everywhere.
- In the Paris Agreement, 'climate justice' was relegated to the preamble as a political, not policy, statement. It needs to be fleshed out with a set of 'big ideas'. One is the reframing of the global concern in terms of sustainable development for countries with per capita emissions below the global average.
- India is a "red-hot" investment opportunity because of its "clean energy" shift, said U.S. special envoy, suggesting that having the U.S. as a partner in tackling climate change is a unique advantage.
- A solution to the Afghan civil war should balance the ethnic and religious groups of Afghanistan and no group should be left out of the final settlement, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov after holding bilateral discussions with his Indian counterpart Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- If the nascent re-engagement between India and Pakistan is to have any chance, there must be also more clarity on what the two governments have decided to embark upon and hope to achieve from it.
- An unstable Myanmar is not in the interest of any country. India, China and other countries in ASEAN should heap pressure on the junta and work towards restoring democracy in Myanmar, which is the only way forward.
- President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Justice N.V. Ramana as the 48th Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24.

CHALLENGES WITH NATIONAL SECURITY ACT, 1980

1. In some cases it has been found that the National Security Act-1980 (NSA) was invoked to prevent the person from being released from judicial custody even if the accused had got bail. The NSA empowers the state to detain a person without a formal charge and without trial.
2. Issues with the Act: It is an administrative **order passed either by the Divisional Commissioner or the District Magistrate (DM) and not detention ordered by police based on specific allegations or for a specific violation of the law.**
3. Article 22 (3) (b) of the Constitution allows for preventive detention and restriction on personal liberty for reasons of state security and public order.
4. Gives Power to the Government: The NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.

FOREST FIRES:A BIG CONCERN

1. Since the advent of the year 2021, there has been a series of forest fires in many states of India, including in Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. Instances of Forest Fires in 2021: January saw prolonged fires in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh (**Kullu Valley**) and Nagaland-Manipur border (**Dzukou Valley**). The Simlipal National Park in Odisha saw a major fire between February-end and early March. Recent fires also include those in **Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve in Madhya Pradesh**, and in sanctuaries for the Asiatic lion and the great Indian bustard in Gujarat.
3. Vulnerability of India's Forests to Fires: Based on previous fire incidents and records, forests of the **Northeast and central India regions are the most vulnerable areas to forest fires.**
4. Cause of Forest Fires: Emerging studies link climate change to rising instances of fires globally, especially the massive fires of the Amazon forests in Brazil and in Australia in the last two years. Fires of longer duration, increasing intensity, higher frequency and highly inflammable nature are all being linked to climate change.

SANKALP SE SIDDDHI:TRIFED

1. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched "**Sankalp se Siddhi**" - **Village and Digital Connect Drive. The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages.**
2. The drive will entail 150 teams (10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/Mentoring Agencies/Partners) visiting ten villages each.
3. Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVKs) are for **providing skill upgradation and capacity building training to tribals and setting up of primary processing and value addition facilities.**
4. Tribals are trained here and then provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.

PLACES IN NEWS

1. **East Timor, island country in the eastern Lesser Sunda Islands, at the southern extreme of the Malay Archipelago.**
2. It is bounded by the Timor Sea to the southeast, the Wetar Strait to the north, the Ombai Strait to the northwest.
3. Dilli is the capital and largest city.
4. East Timor is extremely mountainous.