

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH APRIL, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The Food Corporation of India and the Agricultural Prices Commission (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, or CACP since 1985) were set up in 1965. The idea was that as farm output rises with the Green Revolution, farmers are assured that their surplus would be bought by the government at a price high enough to leave them a margin. The crops procured were then made available to consumers at subsidised rates through the Public Distribution System (PDS).**
- **Economies of scale allow producers in industry to make profits by cutting unit costs, even as prices fall, while those who fail to make the cut, get eliminated from competition. But in agriculture, members of the family can be drafted to work on the family's farm, as also in other farm and nonfarm work. This phenomenon is quite widespread in India today: of the nine crore rural families who draw their main income from unskilled manual labour, four crore are small and marginal farmers.**
- **The visit of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, ahead of a leaders' summit convened by President Joe Biden later this month on the climate challenge, has prompted a review of India's long term policy course. To the developed world, India presents a study in contrasts, with carbon dioxide emissions that rank in the top five globally, while millions of its citizens remain mired in energy poverty and underdevelopment.**
- **Two days after the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, India reiterated that the "timetested ties" with Moscow were not dependent on third parties.**
- **The Supreme Court agreed that a plan to appoint retired judges on an ad hoc basis to reduce pendency in the High Courts should not become an excuse to stop or further delay the appointment process of regular judges.**

UKRAINE'S BID TO JOIN NATO

1. Ukrainian President urged the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to speed up his country's membership in the alliance. Ukraine hopes to be invited this year to join a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP).
2. Reasons for Ukraine to Join NATO: **Ukraine is of the opinion that joining NATO is the only way to end fighting with pro-Russia separatists.**
3. Ukraine accuses Russia of massing thousands of military personnel on its northern and eastern borders as well as on the Crimean peninsula (annexed by Russia in 2014).
4. NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of 4th April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. It is headquartered at Brussels, Belgium.

INDIA'S LIFE EXPECTANCY ON WORLD HEALTH DAY 2021

1. According to the estimates from the Sample Registration System (SRS)-based Abridged Life Tables 2014-18 of the Census and Registrar General of India, the life expectancy of an Indian child born on World Health Day 2021 is below the world's average. Every year 7th April marks the celebration of World Health Day.
2. India's life expectancy (for a child born in 2021) **which is 69 years and 4 months is less than the world's average lifespan of 72.81 years.**
3. The quality of life of these children will suffer and the average life span is estimated to be cut short by two years and six months due by constant exposure to "toxic air" in the country.
4. India **topped the chart by recording the world's highest annual average concentration of PM 2.5 exposure in its air in 2019**, according to the State of Global Air 2020.

ANAMAYA:TRIBAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

1. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched Tribal Health Collaborative (THC) 'Anamaya' through a video conference. In 2018, an expert committee released a comprehensive report on tribal health in India which highlighted the issues and concerns of tribal health.
2. It is an initiative bringing together governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) **to end all preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.**
3. It will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations **to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India.**
4. It is **aimed at empowering tribal Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI)** representatives by enhancing their decision making capabilities at local government level.

INDIA ENERGY EXCHANGE

1. The electricity market at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) achieved an all-time high volume of 8,248.52 MU (million units) in the month of March 2021 surpassing all the previous milestones.
2. It is the **first and largest energy exchange in India providing a nationwide, automated trading platform for physical delivery of electricity, Renewable Energy Certificates and Energy Saving Certificates.**
3. It is a publicly listed company with National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).