

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

11TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- In the wake of the Uttarakhand avalanche, there is increased anxiety among the people in the Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh who have been up in arms against the hydropower projects proposed in this tribal region.
- China's military announced that frontline troops of India and China had begun disengaging in a "synchronised and organised" manner from the north and south banks of Pangong lake, where both sides have been locked in a standoff for months which, an official source in Delhi said, was the first step in the long process of disengagement and deescalation.
- With the government and Twitter at loggerheads over issues related to content removal and freedom of expression, the Centre expressed "deep disappointment" over the microblogging platform's partial compliance of its orders "grudgingly" and with substantial delay.
- The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has slammed Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi for a "gag order" that prescribes stern penal and disciplinary action against government servants who post "seditious and subversive" content on social media.
- An emergency cleanup was launched along the coast to mitigate the fallout of furnace oil leak into the sea from the Kerala government undertaking Travancore Titanium Products Ltd. (TTP) at Kochuveli, near the State capital.
- An Education Ministry notification that requires public funded institutions to seek permission from the External Affairs Ministry before organising virtual academic seminars is "unenforceable", leading academics have said.

SEDITION LAW

- 1.The Supreme Court protected a political leader and six senior journalists from arrest in multiple sedition FIRs registered against them.
- 2.Historical Background of Sedition Law: **Sedition laws were enacted in 17th century England when lawmakers believed that only good opinions of the government should survive**, as bad opinions were detrimental to the government and monarchy.
- 3.The law was originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay, the British historian-politician, but was inexplicably omitted. **Section 124A was inserted in 1870 by an amendment introduced by Sir James Stephen** when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with the offence.
- 4.Sedition Law Today: Sedition is a crime under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). **Section 124A IPC:** It defines sedition as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION(FAO) CALLS FOR END TO ILLEGAL FISHING

- 1.**FAO in its first-ever Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, pressed for stronger action** to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated(IUU) fishing.
- 2.**IUU fishing is a broad term that captures a wide variety of fishing activity.** IUU fishing is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries, it occurs both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction.
- 3.FAO urged countries to become a party to FAO agreement on port state measure(PSMA), an international instrument to combat IUU fishing. India is not party to PSMA.

ECO SENSITIVE ZONE AROUND WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- 1.The draft notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) which runs around the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) has triggered protests in Wayanad (Kerala).**
- 2.Draft Notification: The 118.5 sq km area has been earmarked as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), of which 99.5 sq km is outside the sanctuary and the remaining 19 sq km comprises revenue villages within the sanctuary.
- 3.**There will be restrictions on several human activities in ESZ, including a ban on all new and existing mining, stone quarrying etc.**
- 4.It also includes a ban on establishment of major hydroelectric projects and setting up of new sawmills, brick kilns and commercial use of firewood within ESZ.

STATE DEVELOPMENT LOANS(SDL)

- 1.SDL yields on 10-year bonds issued by some states crossed 7% mark indicating the struggle for the states ahead to keep their interests costs in check.
- 2.**SDLs are debt securities issued by state governments, to fund their deficits.** RBI issues these securities on their behalf, through auctions.
- 3.Participants in SDL market include banks, insurance companies, provident and pension funds, mutual funds etc.