

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

17TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The Law Commission's consultation paper in 2018 had said: "In a democracy, singing from the same songbook is not a benchmark of patriotism... People should be at liberty to show their affection towards their country in their own way." While issuing fresh guidelines and safeguards is one way of quelling the potential for its misuse, it will be more helpful if Section 124A is struck down altogether.
- It would be done best if the new Health Minister acts on three core health system lessons of the COVID19 pandemic — a need for strengthening public health systems; regulating private health care, and preventing further privatisation of the health sector. It is not unjustified to expect our new Health Minister to present an example to the people of India, by acting decisively for public health systems.
- Two Manipur Right to Information activists, in hiding for more than a year for seeking to know how the funds for a tribal council were spent, have sought the support of the people and the authorities before they are silenced by an extremist group.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said his country was likely to be most affected by turmoil in Afghanistan and hence had tried to bring the Taliban to negotiating table to avoid conflict.
- In a new online fraud, cybercriminals have been targeting senior citizens by posing as pension disbursing authorities calling to update Digital Life Certificate.
- The death toll from devastating floods in Europe soared to at least 126 on Friday, most in western Germany where emergency responders were frantically searching for missing people.
- China introduced its long-awaited emissions trading system on Friday, a key tool in its quest to drive down climate change causing greenhouse gases and go carbon neutral by 2060.

AMAZON FORESTS:NO LONGER CARBON SINKS

1. According to a recent study, Amazon Forests have started emitting Carbon dioxide (CO₂) instead of absorbing it. Growing trees and plants have taken up about a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions since 1960, with the Amazon playing a major role as the largest tropical forest.
2. **A significant amount of deforestation (over the course of 40 years) in eastern and southeastern Brazil has turned the forest into a source of CO₂ that has the ability to warm the planet.** It might have also affected a long-term decrease in rainfall and increase in temperatures during the dry season.
3. Not only the Amazon rainforests, some forests in Southeast Asia have also turned into carbon sources in the last few years as a result of formation of plantations and fires.
4. A part of the Amazon emitting carbon even without fires was particularly worrying. This was most likely the result of each year's deforestation and fires making adjacent forests more susceptible the next year.

EMERGING MARKET FOR RENEWABLES ENERGY

1. According to a recent report, fossil fuel electricity generation has peaked worldwide as emerging markets seize the opportunities of low-cost renewables. The Report was published by India's Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and the financial think tank Carbon Tracker (both are not-for-profit organisations).
2. **Emerging markets are key to the global energy transition, accounting for 88% of all expected growth in electricity demand from 2019-2040.**
3. Overall, 82% of current emerging market electricity demand and 86% of expected demand growth comes from countries that import coal and gas, and they have powerful incentives to switch to solar and wind.

VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. Riots and looting in South Africa have left more than 70 people dead, hurt thousands of businesses and damaged major infrastructure. It is the worst civil unrest since the end of white minority rule in 1994.
2. Protests began over calls for release of former president Jacob Zuma, who served the country from 2009-18 and is facing corruption charges. Former Cabinet ministers, high-ranking government officials and executives of state-owned enterprises have implicated Jacob Zuma in corruption.
3. **Many feel that his successor as president, Cyril Ramaphosa, has failed to provide decisive leadership - either to calm anger over Zuma's imprisonment or to reassure South Africans that they will be safe.**

PLACES IN NEWS

11. **Xinjiang**-The US Senate passed the Uyghur forced labour prevention act to ban import of products from China's Xinjiang region. Xinjiang, lying in the desert region of North-West China, is inhabited by Turkic speaking Uyghur Muslims.
2. China is accused of intentions to destroy the national, ethnical, racial or religious identity of Uyghurs through forced sterilization and other suppression measures like detention camps in the name of Homogenization and Counter-terrorism.
3. **Tel Aviv**-The United Arab Emirates(UAE) became the first Gulf Nation to open its embassy in Tel-Aviv as part of diplomatic relation normalisation with Israel.
4. Tel Aviv, also known as Tel--Aviv-Yafo, is a major economic and cultural centre of Israel lying on the Mediterranean Coast which served as government centre till 1949, when the government moved to Jerusalem.