

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The Harappan city of Dholavira, in present-day Gujarat, was named the 40th Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- A global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, the International Press Institute (IPI), on Tuesday called on United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken to raise the issue of press freedom with Indian leaders during bilateral meetings.
- The Committees on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, had been requested to grant further extension of time up to January 9, 2022, to frame the rules under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Union Home Ministry told the Lok Sabha.
- The Centre's new National Farmers Database will only include land-owning farmers for now as it will be linked to digitised land records, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar told the Lok Sabha.
- Human Rights Watch accused the Israeli military of carrying out attacks that "apparently amount to war crimes" during the 11-day war in May against the Hamas militant group.
- With the tourism industry among the hardest hit due to the pandemic, it is estimated that about 21.5 million people working in the sector lost their jobs during the nine month period from April 2020-December 2020, as per the data shared by the government.
- U.S. President Joe Biden and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi sealed an agreement on Monday formally ending the U.S. combat mission in Iraq by the end of 2021, but American forces will still operate there in an advisory role.
- The deaths of 57 migrants off the Libyan coast brings the number of lives lost on the central Mediterranean crossing route this year to around 970, the United Nations said.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES

1. Under the Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) programme, the government has given approval for establishing two additional facilities.
2. The new facilities will be commercial-cum-strategic facilities with a total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT (Million Metric Ton) underground storages at: Chandikhol, Odisha (4 MMT) Padur, Karnataka (2.5 MMT).
3. Strategic petroleum reserves are huge stockpiles of crude oil to deal with any crude oil-related crisis like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war or other calamities.
4. According to the agreement on an International Energy Programme (I.E.P.), **each International Energy Agency (IEA) country has an obligation to hold emergency oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of net oil imports.** In case of a severe oil supply disruption, IEA members may decide to release these stocks to the market as part of a collective action.

INDIA TO EXPLORE INDIGENOUS DEPOSITS OF PHOSPHATIC ROCK

1. India plans to explore indigenous deposits of Phosphatic rock and Potash and make it available to indigenous industries to produce DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) and SSP (Single Super Phosphate), NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium) and MOP (Muriate of Potash).
2. Rock Phosphate is the raw material for DAP and NPK fertilizers.
3. Fertiliser mineral resource deposits are **available in Rajasthan, central part of Peninsular India, Hirapur (Madhya Pradesh), Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), Mussoorie syncline, Cuddapah basin (Andhra Pradesh).**

SUSPENSION OF FCRA CERTIFICATE

1. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) has challenged the suspension of its Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) certificate for 180 days.
2. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) CHRI is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, working for the practical realisation of human rights across the Commonwealth. Headquarters: New Delhi.
3. Issues Related to FCRA: **Scope not defined:** It prohibits the receipt of foreign contributions "for any activities detrimental to the national interest" or the "economic interest of the state".
4. **Limits Fundamental Rights:** The FCRA restrictions have serious consequences on both the rights to free speech and freedom of association under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(c) of the Constitution.

EMIGRATION BILL 2021

1. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) invited public inputs to the Emigration Bill 2021. The Bill presents a long overdue opportunity to reform the recruitment process for nationals seeking employment abroad.
2. The Bill intends to replace the Emigration Act of 1983. The **Bill envisages comprehensive emigration management, institutes regulatory mechanisms governing overseas employment of Indian nationals** and establishes a framework for protection and promotion of welfare of emigrants.
3. The bill proposes a three-tier institutional framework: It launches a new emigration policy division in (MEA) which will be referred to as the Central Emigration Management Authority. It proposes a Bureau of Emigration Policy and Planning, and a Bureau of Emigration Administration.
4. It proposes nodal agencies under a Chief Emigration Officer to ensure the welfare and protection of the emigrants.