

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

29<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Inter-religious relations, media freedom, farmers' protests, love 'jihad' violence and minority rights were part of the discussion that visiting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had with a group of people, including a representative of the Dalai Lama. The "civil society round-table" discussion, which is expected to raise some concerns from the Union government.**
- **Stating that the geo-strategic location of India makes it both a Eurasian land power as well as a stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed terrorism the most serious threat to international peace and security, while also cautioning against non-traditional security threats against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The Standing Committee on Information Technology, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, could not deliberate on "Citizens' Data Security and Privacy", as none of the officials attended the meeting, citing various reasons for their absence. A discussion would have entailed questions on the alleged Pegasus cyberattack in India.**
- **The governments of Assam and Mizoram, at a meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, agreed to the deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces in the disturbed areas along their border and National Highway 306.**
- **The Supreme Court held that lawmakers cannot indulge in criminal acts on the Parliament or Assembly floors and then take cover behind the right to free speech.**
- **The Chandrayaan-3 mission is likely to be launched late next year, Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh said in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha.**
- **China hosted a rare nine-member Taliban delegation amid its recent ascendancy in Afghanistan, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi describing the group as "a pivotal military and political force" in the country.**

## INITIATIVE ON MAKING WATER SENSITIVE CITIES IN GANGA BASIN

1. A new capacity building initiative on 'Making water sensitive cities in Ganga basin' was launched by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in association with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
2. **Aim: The aim of the program is capacity building and action research for promoting sustainable urban water management for improved river health in Ganga basin cities.**
3. **Key Focus Areas:** Water Sensitive Urban Design and Planning. Urban Water Efficiency and Conservation. Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and Local Reuse. Urban Groundwater Management. Urban Water Bodies/Lake Management.
4. **Stakeholders:** The program will engage all the stakeholders which includes: SPMGs (State Program Management Group, Namami Gange), Municipal corporations, Technical & research constants, international organizations and local grassroots communities.

## WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:IMF

1. The latest edition of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook has cut its 2021 growth forecast for India to 9.5% from 12.5% estimated earlier in April 2021. While re-calibrating its forecast IMF considered two major factors which are access to vaccines and risk of new Corona-variants.
2. **Global Economy:** Retained its global growth forecast at 6% for the year 2021, and it is expected to grow at 4.9% for the year 2022.
3. **Suggestions: Tighter External Financial Conditions:** Emerging markets should prepare for possibly tighter external financial conditions by lengthening debt maturities where possible and limiting the buildup of unhedged foreign currency debt. **Avoid Premature Tightening Policies:** Central banks should avoid premature tightening policies when faced with transitory inflation pressures.
4. **Prioritize Health Spending:** Fiscal policy should continue to prioritize health spending, including on vaccine production and distribution.

## GRB200826A:GAMMA-RAY BURST

1. A group of astronomers have detected a very short, powerful burst of high-energy radiation also known as Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) that lasted for about a second. It was named GRB 200826A after the date it occurred, which is 26th August 2020. It was detected by National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.
2. **Long GRBs:** They observe long bursts in association with the demise of massive stars. When a star much more massive than the Sun runs out of fuel, its core suddenly collapses and forms a black hole.
3. **Short GRB,** on the other hand, forms when pairs of compact objects – such as neutron stars, which also form during stellar collapse – spiral inward over billions of years and collide. A Neutron star comprises one of the possible evolutionary end-points of high mass stars.

## INDRA-21

1. The 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise INDRA will be held at Volgograd, Russia in August 2021.
2. **About Exercise INDRA:** The exercise will entail conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups.
3. **In the domain of international relations, military diplomacy has, in recent years, emerged as a major tool to further diplomatic interests of nations.**