

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

30TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Chola idols among 14 art works to be returned by Australia.** The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) announced that it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India.
- **With the functioning of the Upper House curtailed for eight consecutive days due to protests by Opposition parties seeking clarification from the government on the Pegasus snooping issue, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat will now list all the issues that could not be taken up due to the disruptions.**
- **The Supreme Court of India must declare a moratorium on the export, sale, transfer and use of the Pegasus spyware in India and investigate the snooping scandal, women's rights activists, human rights defenders and concerned citizens have urged Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana in an open letter to him.**
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha that India would not accept any outcome in Afghanistan that was decided by force and that there was "strong convergence" on this between India and the United States.**
- **A total of 391 complaints have been filed by employees of Central government Ministries about sexual harassment at workplace, the government told Parliament.**
- **The Orissa High Court has ordered the immediate satellite verification of illegal aquaculture being taken up around the Bhitarkanika wetland in Kendrapara district.**
- **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that nuclear talks with Iran "cannot go on indefinitely" but that Washington was "fully prepared" to continue negotiations.**
- **Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Thursday he would request the deployment of Russian border guards along his country's frontier with Azerbaijan to prevent further escalation after new clashes.**

EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

1. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), humanity has again used up all biological resources that our planet regenerates during the entire year by **29th July, 2021.**
2. **Humanity currently uses 74% more than what the planet's ecosystems can regenerate — or 1.7 Earths.** From Earth Overshoot Day until the end of the year, humanity operates on ecological deficit spending.
3. The day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year.
4. The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation, which partnered with Global Footprint Network in 2006 to launch the first global Earth Overshoot Day campaign.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AMENDMENT BILL, 2021

1. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021, was passed in the Rajya Sabha. The bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
2. Key Amendments Proposed by the Bill: Serious Offences: **Serious offences will also include offences for which maximum punishment is imprisonment of more than seven years,** and minimum punishment is not prescribed or is of less than seven years.
3. The present Act provides that an offence which is punishable with imprisonment between three to seven years to be cognizable (where arrest is allowed without warrant) and non-bailable. The Bill amends this to provide that such offences will be non-cognizable.
4. Adoption: Presently, the adoption order issued by the court establishes that the child belongs to the adoptive parents. **The Bill provides that instead of the court, the District Magistrate (including Additional District Magistrate) will issue such adoption orders.**

SLDE AND GHG CALCULATOR

1. The government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE) along with a Calculator for GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Emissions to boost Ease-Of-Doing Business in the country. In World Bank's Ease-Of-Doing Business Report, 2020 India was ranked 63 out of 190 countries.
2. Secured Logistics Document Exchange: The SLDE platform is a solution **to replace the present manual process of generation, exchange and compliance of logistics documents with a digitized, secure and seamless document exchange system.**
3. GreenHouse Gas Emission Calculator: **The GHG Calculator is an efficient, user-friendly tool and provides for calculating and comparing GHG emissions across different modes.** It allows for commodity-wise comparison of GHG emissions and total cost of transportation, including their environmental cost, between movement by road and rail.

INDIA CYCLES 4CHANGE CHALLENGE

1. India Cycles4Change, launched on 25th 2020, is an initiative of the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to inspire and support Indian cities to implement quick cycling-friendly initiatives in response to COVID-19.
2. Cycling is seen as a means of staying healthy-physically and mentally. **It promotes initiatives such as pop-up lanes, traffic claimed streets, community cycle rental schemes, and cycle-training programs.**