

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

31ST JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- A Centre for Science and Environment study has found that ozone levels are exceeding the permitted levels even during winter in Delhi-NCR, making the smog more “toxic”. “Ozone is now a round the-year problem requiring urgent [action] and the situation demands refinement of clean air action plan to add strategies for ozone mitigation, with stronger action on vehicles, industry and waste burning.
- A total of 9.27 lakh severely acute malnourished children between the age of six months and six years have been identified in the country till November 2020, the government told Parliament. Over 40% of such children were found in Uttar Pradesh alone.
- The BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan that will strengthen counter-terror cooperation among the members of the grouping has been finalised. The discussion in this regard was held at the sixth meeting of the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group held on July 28-29.
- India and China are scheduled to hold the 12th round of Corps Commander talks on Saturday with the focus on working out an agreement for the second phase of disengagement from Gogra and Hot Springs in Eastern Ladakh.
- The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear next week a petition filed by senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar for an independent investigation, headed by a former or a sitting judge, of mass surveillance of more than 142 potential “targets”, including journalists, lawyers, Ministers, Opposition politicians, constitutional functionaries and civil society activists, using the military-grade Israeli spyware Pegasus.
- A team of retired special forces personnel, under CLAW Global, will lead a group of differently abled people to attempt a world record by trekking the Siachen Glacier, the world’s highest battlefield.

I-MESA

- 1.The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme, namely Information-Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I-MESA) in FY 2021-22.
- 2.Under this scheme, Social Audits are to be conducted for all the schemes of the Department starting FY 2021-22. These social audits are done through Social Audit Units (SAU) of the States and National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- 3.Schemes for Economic Development: Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) Scheme of Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs).

SUTLEJ RIVER POLLUTION

- 1.The pollution in river Sutlej has posed serious health threats to the people living around the Indira Gandhi Canal.
- 2.The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Punjab and Rajasthan governments to submit quarterly compliance reports to Jal Shakti ministry about remedial action being taken to curb the inflow of effluent discharge into the Satluj and Beas.
- 3.Source of Sutlej’s Pollution: Major Sources Polluting the Buddha Nallah: Buddha Nallah (Tributary) is a major source of pollution in the river Sutlej.Untreated sewage waste from Ludhiana city sewage treatment plants (STP).
- 4.Component of Pollutants: **Traces of chromium and arsenic can be found in the Sutlej after the confluence of Buddha Nallah. Prevalence of mercury, lead, chromium, cadmium and selenium in more than permissible limits (MPL) in the groundwater and surface water.**

NEW INITIATIVES FOR EDUCATION SECTOR

- 1.The Prime Minister launched multiple initiatives in the education sector at a conference, to mark the completion of one year of reforms under the National Education Policy 2020 which aims at making India a global knowledge superpower.
- 2.The Prime Minister also noted the role played by portals like Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) and Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) in online education during the pandemic.
- 3.Academic Bank of Credit: **It is envisaged as a digital bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course. It is a major instrument for facilitating multidisciplinary and holistic education.** It will provide multiple entry and exit options for students in Higher education.

PLACES IN NEWS

- 1.**Baghjan**-Baghjan, a village in Tinsukia district of Assam, is yet to recover from a 5 month long oil well fire that happened in 2020. The fire incident damaged the Maguri-Motapung Wetland, a critical habitat for numerous species, and Dibru-Saikhowa Biosphere Reserve(part of Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot).
- 2.**Armenia**-Armenia(Capital-Yerevan) is a landlocked country in the Trans-caucasia region. Separated from Soviet Union in 1991, it has been in conflict with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region since 1988.
- 3.**Alaska**-Recently, an 8.2 magnitude earthquake struck south of the Alaska Peninsula, largest in the last half century history of the USA. Alaska(49th state of USA), lying in the Northwest extreme of the North America, shares its border with Canada.