

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- A container shortage and heightened congestion have sent freight rates out of Indian ports soaring. Policymakers need to look beyond headline numbers (Inflation) and expedite action to restore the health of every constituent sector if economically enduring long-term growth in exports is to be ensured.
- Odisha has come up with more than 10,000 rainwater harvesting structures (RWHS) to facilitate water conservation and groundwater recharge in 114 towns in less than three-month time before onset of southwest monsoon. A State-wide campaign on the theme 'Catch the Rain: Where it Falls and When it Falls' was launched on April 15 across all urban local bodies under Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan Yojana (MUKTA), an urban wage employment scheme for migrant labourers.
- The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday banned the sale, use and possession of unmanned aerial vehicles in Srinagar, a week after two Indian Air Force personnel were injured in a drone attack on the Air Force Station in Jammu.
- The Taliban's march through northern Afghanistan gained momentum overnight with the capture of several districts in Badakhshan province from fleeing Afghan forces, several hundred of whom escaped across the border into Tajikistan.
- The Centre's new mission to ensure that every Class 3 child has foundational literacy and numeracy within five years will be rolled out on Monday. Although the National Education Policy had included a 2025 deadline to achieve the goal, the Centre has pushed back the target date to 2026-27, given that COVID19 has already disrupted two academic years.

## ANDHRA PRADESH-TELANGANA WATER DISPUTE

1. Amid escalating tensions, the Police forces were deployed at various hydel power projects in bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
2. Andhra Pradesh has complained to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) about the drawing of water from the Srisailem project by Telangana for power generation.
3. The KRMB, in its recent orders, had asked Telangana to stop power generation. The tension has emerged over defiance of orders of the KRMB by Telangana Government.
4. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh share stretches of the Krishna and the Godavari and own their tributaries. **Both states have proposed several new projects without getting clearance from the river boards, the Central Water Commission and the Apex Council, as mandated by the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.** Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. Under this, Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.

## FIRST MOVABLE FRESHWATER TUNNEL AQUARIUM: INDIAN RAILWAYS

1. Indian Railway (IR) has opened the first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium at Bengaluru Railway Station.
2. The Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station also known as Bengaluru City Railway Station has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.
3. The aquarium has been opened by the Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) in collaboration with the HNi Aquatic Kingdom.
4. **The aquarium is a one-of-its-kind aquatic park based on the Amazon River (of South America) concept.**

## VEMBANAD LAKE: KERALA

1. Kerala houseboats in Vembanad Lake are about to begin soon amid a robust vaccination drive. This is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India.
2. Vembanad Lake is also known as Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi). Spanning several districts of Kerala and covering a territory of more than 2033.02 km<sup>2</sup>.
3. **The lake has its source in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala. It is separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island and is a popular backwater stretch in Kerala.**
4. Vallam Kali (i.e. Nehru Trophy Boat Race) is a Snake Boat Race held every year in the month of August in Vembanad Lake. In 2002, it was included in the list of wetlands of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention.

## TILLANCHONG ISLAND

1. **Tillanchong Island** is located furthest east in the Central Nicobar group of islands.
2. The island has the largest surviving populations of the endemic Nicobar megapode bird (Megapodius nicobariensis), and is a protected sanctuary.
3. Tillanchong harbours virtually all animal species found in the Nicobar archipelago, including endemic bird species such as the Nicobar Megapode, Nicobar Sparrowhawk, Glossy Swiftlet, Edible-nest Swiftlet, Andaman Wood Pigeon, and Nicobar Parakeet.