

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Prominent African voices have emphasised that their own agency is often overlooked in global discourse on the subject. In that sense India has consistently chosen well to underline the development partnership to be in line with African priorities. It is pertinent, therefore, that we collectively craft a unique modern partnership with Africa.**
- **The Supreme Court found it “distressing”, “shocking” and “terrible” that people were still booked and tried under Section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act even six years after it struck down the provision as unconstitutional and a violation of free speech.**
- **Even though the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) admitted in a recent RTI query response to the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) for online verification of beneficiaries at vaccination centres, it failed to provide any legislative or legal order that authorised the use of such technology.**
- **Cities situated on river banks will have to incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans, says a policy document from the National Mission for Clean Ganga.**
- **Israel’s Parliament is set to vote on whether to renew a temporary law first enacted in 2003 that bars Arab citizens of Israel from extending citizenship or even residency to spouses from the occupied West Bank and Gaza.**
- **Tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy, 84, who was an accused in the BhimaKoregaon caste violence case, passed away on Monday afternoon, the Bombay High Court was told.**
- **The Centre informed the Delhi High Court that microblogging site Twitter had failed to comply with India’s law regulating tech companies, losing its immunity as ‘intermediaries’.**

## DRAFT ANTI-TRAFFICKING BILL

- 1.The Ministry of Women and Child Development released Draft anti-trafficking Bill, the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021.
- 2.Criticism to the Old Bill: According to the United Nations’ human rights experts, it was not in accordance with the international human rights laws. The Bill seemed to combine sex work and migration with trafficking. The Bill was criticised for addressing trafficking through a criminal law perspective instead of complementing it with a human-rights based and victim-centred approach.
- 3.Provisions in the New Bill: **It extends to all citizens inside as well as outside India, Persons on any ship or aircraft registered in India wherever it may be or carrying Indian citizens wherever they may be,** A foreign national or a stateless person who has his or her residence in India at the time of commission of offence under this Act.
- 4.Victims Covered: It extends beyond the protection of women and children as victims to now include transgenders as well as any person who may be a victim of trafficking.

## MELTING OF ARCTIC’S LAST ICE AREA

- 1.The ‘Last Ice Area’ (LIA), located in the Arctic’s Ice north of Greenland, has started melting earlier than what the scientists had expected.
- 2.Last Ice Area: This region is located north of Greenland and Ellesmere Island in the Canadian territory of Nunavut. This area was believed to be strong enough to withstand global warming.
- 3.The total disappearance of summer ice in the Arctic was estimated by the year 2040, however the ‘Last Ice Area’ was the exception.Importance: It was thought to be able to help ice-dependent species as ice in the surrounding areas melted away. It is used by polar bears to hunt for seals who use ice to build dens for their offspring. Walrus too, use the surface of the ice for foraging (to search for food).
- 4.Reasons for Melting: **About 80% of thinning can be attributed to weather-related factors such as winds that break up and move the ice around.** The remaining 20% can be attributed to longer-term thinning of the ice due to global warming.

## FLY ASH

- 1.National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for sale of fly ash, in its endeavour to achieve 100% utilization of fly ash, from the designated plants of the Middle East and other regions. Fly Ash is a byproduct from burning of coal in the thermal power generation.
- 2.It is called **fly ash because it is transported from the combustion chamber by exhaust gases. It is collected from the exhaust gases by electrostatic precipitators or bag filters.**
- 3.An electrostatic precipitator (ESP) is defined as a filtration device that is used to remove fine particles like smoke and fine dust from the flowing gas.

## ANTI-METHANOGENIC FEED SUPPLEMENT:HARIT DHARA

- 1.Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) **has developed an anti-methanogenic feed supplement ‘Harit Dhara’ (HD), which can cut down cattle methane emissions by 17-20% and can also result in higher milk production.**
- 2.About: HD decreases the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen, responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea (structure similar to bacteria) for reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to methane.