

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The entry of drones calls for a more complex response to terrorism. Terror groups do capitalise on state patronage but technology is enabling them too to be autonomous in an unprecedented fashion. From turning passenger planes into missiles in 2001, terrorism has come a long way, and one cannot foresee where it will go next. Enhanced international cooperation and consensus on the development and deployment of technologies are required to deal with the challenge. India can and must take an active role in the process.**
- **New restrictive laws have come into place for overthetop (OTT) platforms as well. Giving the Government powers to vet content not only curbs freedom of expression but also quells democratic dissent. Fresh barriers to content generation are a threat to the existing space for public discourse and are indicative of the current pressures on freedoms from authoritarian tendencies of the ruling establishment.**
- **The criminal justice system is an instrument of state and a key index of the state of democracy. Every punishment which does not arise from absolute necessity is tyrannical, said French jurist Montesquieu. In fact criminal law should be used only as a 'last resort' (ultima ratio) and only for the 'most reprehensible wrongs'.**
- **With concerns mounting over the impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has released an updated atlas of glacial lakes that are part of the Ganga river basin. About 4,707 glacial lakes have been mapped in the Ganga basin.**
- **A government cannot "abdicate" its duties to feed migrant workers, especially during a pandemic, merely because they did not have ration cards, the Supreme Court said in a judgment.**

## BAIHETAN DAM

- 1.China has put into operation the Baihetan Dam, world's Second Biggest Hydropower Dam. The Three Gorges Dam is the largest hydropower dam in the world and is also along China's Yangtze River.
- 2.About the Dam: It is on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze (the longest river in Asia). It has been built with a total installed capacity of 16,000 megawatts.
- 3.Water Resources: **India is worried about the release of water during the monsoons, when north-eastern states such as Assam experience floods. Change in the flow rate during times of standoff between the countries is also a cause of concern.** During the 2017 Doklam border standoff between India and China, China stopped communication of water flow levels from its dams.

## AGNI-P

- 1.A new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-P (Prime) was successfully test-fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.
- 2.Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class (under IGMDP - Integrated Guided Missile Development Program).
- 3.It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.
- 4.**Many advanced technologies including composites, propulsion systems, innovative guidance and control mechanisms and state-of-the-art navigation systems have been introduced.** The Agni-P missile would further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities.

## ECONOMIC RELIEF PACKAGE

- 1.The Ministry of Finance announced a slew of measures to provide relief to diverse sectors affected by the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.**It aims to prepare the health systems for emergency response and provide impetus for growth and employment. However it will increase the Fiscal Deficit by 0.6% as per a report of State Bank of India.**
- 3.Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme: Expand the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), launched as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Package in May, 2020, by Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- 4.Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions: It is a new scheme which aims to benefit the smallest of the borrowers who are served by the network of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

## BARNADI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- 1.The World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF) found a few tigers inhabiting the Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. It is one of the smallest WS (Wildlife Sanctuary) of Assam and covers an area of 26.22 sq. km.
- 2.**Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) is located in northern Assam's Baksa and Udalguri districts bordering Bhutan. The Sanctuary is bordered by the Barnadi river and Nalapara river to the west and east respectively.**
- 3.It was affirmed as the WS in 1980 by the Government of Assam. Barnadi was established specifically to protect the Pygmy Hog (*Sus salvanius*) and Hispid Hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*).
- 4.This is important for threatened species such as the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Gaur Bos *frontalis*. About 60% of the BWS is reported to be grassland, most of it is now grassy woodland.