

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

8TH JUNE, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- There needs to be a road map for mental health awareness. This should include the traditional media, government programmes, the education system, industry, and social media. Media awareness and government involvement is already happening in India but both can improve. It is high time that industry and private sector companies set up counselling facilities. The application of big data and crowd sourcing ideas may help us in informed decision making.
- A good monsoon could aid agriculture which has been among the few bright spots in the Indian economy. Two good years of rains have boosted storage in the key reservoirs. However, the flip side of a forecast for a bounteous monsoon is the possibility of flash floods, landslides and disease outbreaks.
- It is time for Israel and Palestine to underline the renunciation of violence and murder as a moral imperative and an alternative course of action. But for that, they both need to understand that they are victims of the same fear, prejudice and intolerance. Undoubtedly, light and hope can only come from a nonviolent dialogue between young Palestinians and Israeli youth.
- As the Quad gains more momentum and the churn in the waters of the Indo-Pacific leads to new countervailing coalitions against China, Beijing's belligerence can only be expected to grow. For many regional states in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific, it has been a smooth ride so far with China being the only game in town.
- Empathising with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and such others' (LGBTQIA+) community, the Madras High Court directed the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to enlist NGOs that could provide counselling, monetary support, legal assistance and protection to them until a law could be enacted to protect them.

PERFORMANCE GRADING INDEX

- 1.The Union Education Minister has approved the release of Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories. The PGI is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.
- 2.Objectives: The PGI exercise envisages that the index would propel States and UTs towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes.
- 3.Methodology: The PGI is structured in two categories, namely, Outcomes and Governance & Management and comprises 70 indicators in aggregate with a total weightage of 1000.
- 4.Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have improved their overall PGI scores by 10%.

US SUSPENDS RETALIATORY TARIFFS ON INDIA

- 1.US suspended imposition of retaliatory tariffs against six countries, including India, that had begun imposing digital services tax on companies such as Google and Facebook.
- 2.Tariffs were imposed after the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) noted that the Digital services taxes adopted by India, Italy and Turkey **discriminate against US companies and are inconsistent with international tax principles.**
- 3.Reason for Suspension: Multilateral Solution: **To allow time for ongoing international tax negotiations to continue.** The US is seeking a multilateral solution while maintaining the option of imposing tariffs under Section 301 if warranted in the future.
- 4.Damage to Global Economy: **The six countries potentially impacted are passing through a weak post Covid-19 recovery and opening a new trade war front could be damaging not only to them, but also to the broader global economy.**

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

- 1.The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) informed the United Nations (UN) that in 17 cases chemical weapons were likely or definitely used by Syria. OPCW was formed under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 1997.
- 2.Chemical Weapons Convention:It is a **multilateral treaty banning chemical weapons and requiring their destruction within the stipulated time.**It became effective from April 1997.Headquarters: Hague, Netherlands.
- 3.Convention Prohibits: The development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, or retention of chemical weapons. Transferring of chemical weapons. Using chemical weapons. Assisting other States to indulge in activities that are prohibited by the CWC. Using riot-control devices as 'warfare methods'.

PROJECT 75I

- 1.The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the issuance of a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the construction of six conventional submarines under Project-75I (India).
- 2.This project envisages **indigenous construction of submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system.**
- 3.The strategic partnership model allows domestic defence manufacturers to join hands with leading foreign defence majors to produce high-end military platforms to reduce import dependence.