

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

18TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in the past few years, India had developed a reputation of being the first and reliable responder in the region, stating that the country had provided “Made in India” vaccines for COVID-19 to 72 countries. Medicines have been supplied to 150 nations, 82 of them as grants.
- Mission POSHAN 2.0, likely to be sent for Union Cabinet approval soon, provides for testing of meals and food packets distributed at anganwadis for nutritional standards and quality by FSSAI labs.
- The Supreme Court said it was a “very serious” matter if the Centre had really cancelled around three crore ration cards, even those of tribal people and the poor, solely because they could not be biometrically linked with Aadhaar. A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, asked the Centre to respond to the allegation.
- The Union government informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that “till now”, it had not taken any decision to prepare the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) at the national level.
- More than a year after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was revoked and the State made a Union Territory, the administration has identified over 22,000 government jobs but recruitment is yet to take place. No person from outside J&K has purchased land in the UT so far, according to information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to a parliamentary panel.
- President Joe Biden urged migrants not to come to the United States, as criticism mounted over a surge in people arriving at the southern border with Mexico, including thousands of unaccompanied children.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

1. The central government introduced the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991. It aims to “further define the responsibilities of the elected government and Lieutenant Governor (LG) in Delhi”.
2. Provisions of the Bill: The expression ‘**Government referred to in any law to be made by the Legislative Assembly shall mean the Lieutenant Governor (LG)**’.
3. Widening of Discretionary Powers of LG: The Bill gives discretionary powers to the LG even in matters where the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is empowered to make laws.
4. Necessarily Granted an Opportunity to LG: It seeks to ensure that the LG is “necessarily granted an opportunity” **to give her/his opinion before any decision taken by the Council of Ministers (or the Delhi Cabinet) is implemented.**

BACK DOOR ENTRY CLOSED FOR DEFAULTERS: SC

1. The Supreme Court (SC) has closed the back-door entry of defaulting promoters by using a special provision of compromise or arrangement during the liquidation phase of the insolvency proceeding. The ruling reaffirms the spirit of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
2. In a case involving the liquidation of a Limited Company, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in 2019 held that any person who was ineligible, under Section 29A of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), to bid for his company, was **also barred from proposing a scheme of compromise and arrangement under Section 230 of the Companies Act 2013.**
3. Reason Given by SC: The company has to be protected from its management and a corporate death. It would lead to a manifest absurdity **if the very persons who are ineligible for submitting a resolution plan, participating in the sale of assets of the company in liquidation.**

REMOVAL OF HEAVY METALS FROM WATER

1. A research team at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi has developed a new method for efficient removal of heavy metals from water.
2. Background: Several methods like chemical precipitation, ion exchange, adsorption, membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, solvent extraction, and electrochemical treatment have been used to remove heavy metals from contaminated water.
3. About the Research: **A research team has developed a fibrous membrane filter using a biopolymer-based material that helps to separate out the heavy metals** from water samples.

MOVING BLACK HOLE

1. Scientists have discovered the first moving supermassive black hole whose mass is about three million times that of our Sun.
2. **The black hole was travelling within its own galaxy (J0437+2456) which is around 228 million light years away** from Earth.
3. Possible Causes for the Motion: **Two Supermassive Black Holes Merging:** Scientists might have spotted the resulting black hole moving in a rearward motion after the merger before settling down in a position.
4. One in a Binary System of Black Holes, where not one but two supermassive black holes might exist within the host **galaxy held together by a shared centre of gravity**, which they might be orbiting.