

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

23RD MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Culture Ministry announced that the father of the nation of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the former Sultan of Oman, the late Qaboos bin Said Al Said, will be awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2020 and 2019, respectively.
- The Lok Sabha passed a Bill that defines that the word "government" in Delhi means the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) and makes it mandatory for the elected government in the national capital territory to take the opinion of the L-G before any executive action.
- The Delhi government set up a six-member advisory committee for the restoration of the Central Ridge through biodiversity enrichment, which will include replacing invasive Mexican trees 'vilayati kikar [prosopis juliflora]' with indigenous species.
- The governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have signed an agreement that nudges forward a longstalled project to link the Ken and Betwa rivers and irrigate the Bundelkhand region, spread over both States.
- The Ministry of External Affairs refused to comment on the latest in a series of reports that the India-Pakistan détente, signalled by the ceasefire announcement by border commanders at the Line of Control (LoC) last month, was prompted by a back-channel dialogue between Indian and Pakistani officials, and facilitated by a third country.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which seeks to raise the limit for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance companies from 49% to 74%. The Bill had earlier been cleared by the Rajya Sabha and now requires presidential assent to become law.

RIGHT TO HEALTH

- 1.Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced the implementation of the Rajasthan Model of Public Health that would include a Right to Health as well as measures for preventive, primary and curative care as envisioned by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- 2.Right To Health: **The right to health, as with other rights, includes both freedoms and entitlements:** Freedoms include the right to control one's health and body (for example, sexual and reproductive rights) and to be free from interference (for example, free from torture and non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation).
- 3.**Entitlements include the right to a system of health protection that gives everyone an equal opportunity to enjoy the highest attainable level of health.**
- 4.International Conventions: India is a signatory of the Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) by the United Nations that grants the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being to humans including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

GRAM UJALA

- 1.Government has launched the Gram UJALA Programme - an ambitious scheme offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at a mere Rs. 10.
- 2.Coverage: In its first phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of 5 districts - Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat.
- 3.Help in meeting **intended nationally determined contributions under Paris climate accord. If all 300 million lights in India were replaced**, the total energy savings would be 40,743 million kWh/year, avoiding peak demand of 22,743MW/year and CO2 reductions of 37 million tons per year.

GLOBAL WATER CRISIS:UNICEF

- 1.According to a new report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), one in five children worldwide reside in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability.
- 2.The new report is part of UNICEF's 'Water security for all' initiative that identifies areas where physical water scarcity risks overlap with poor water service levels.
- 3.UNICEF identified **37 hot-spot countries where children faced especially distressing circumstances in terms of absolute numbers, where global resources, support and urgent action had to be mobilised.**
- 4.Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen were especially vulnerable.

PLACES IN NEWS

- 1.**Reykjavik**-Recently, Volcano near Iceland's capital, Reykjavik. It is located on the Seltjarnar Peninsula Peninsula, at the southeastern corner of Faxa Bay, in southwestern Iceland.
- 2.**Tigray**-Recently, Ethiopian government has requested international community to not interfere in its handling of the war in Tigray, claiming it is solely a domestic matter. It is northernmost region of Ethiopia, bordered north with Eritrea.