

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

11TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The international community, which largely overlooked Israel's violent repression of Palestinians, should pressure Tel Aviv to at least treat the Palestinians with dignity, if not to ease the yoke of the occupation. U.S. President Joe Biden has said that America's commitment to human rights would be at the centre of his foreign policy. In West Asia, he faces a reality check.**
- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wanted 10%-20% reverification of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He said his coalition government favoured 20% reverification of the updated list of citizens in districts that shared a border with Bangladesh and 10% in the remaining districts.**
- **Children born to Indians staying illegally in the United Kingdom will be granted emergency travel documents to return along with parents based on birth certificates issued by the British authorities, according to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries on May 4.**
- **The Taliban and Afghan government declared a three-day ceasefire for this week's Id-ul-Fitr holiday, following a sharp spike in violence as Washington goes about withdrawing its remaining troops from Afghanistan.**
- **Pakistan, keen to exit from the grey list of the FATF, is set to introduce new rules relating to anti money laundering cases and change the prosecution process to meet its remaining tough conditions. Pakistan was put on the grey list by the Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).**
- **Of the 40 lakh tonnes of free foodgrains promised under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for May, one lakh tonnes has been distributed so far.**
- **Iran's Foreign Ministry for the first time confirmed the Islamic republic is holding talks with regional rival Saudi Arabia, but said it is "too soon" to discuss the results.**

POST DEVOLUTION REVENUE DEFICIT

- 1.The Ministry of Finance has released the second monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 9,871 crore for the year 2021-22 to 17 States.
- 2.About the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD): The Centre provides the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States **under Article 275 of the Constitution.**
- 3.The grants are released as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post-devolution (of the divisible tax pool of the Centre).
- 4.The 15th Finance Commission has recommended post devolution revenue deficit grants amounting to about Rs. 3 trillion over the five-year period ending FY26.The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State.

THIRD ARCTIC SCIENCE MINISTERIAL

- 1.India participated in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM) and shared plans for research and long-term cooperation in the Arctic Region.
- 2.Third Arctic Science Ministerial Conference: Host Countries: It was jointly organised by Iceland and Japan. It was the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia (Tokyo in Japan).
- 3.India's Stand: **To contribute observing systems in the Arctic, both in-situ and by remote sensing.** Would deploy open ocean mooring in the Arctic for long-term monitoring of upper ocean variables and marine meteorological parameters. The **launch of NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission, in collaboration with the USA, is underway.**
- 4.Arctic Region The Arctic region comprises the Arctic Ocean and parts of countries such as Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Russia, USA (Alaska), Finland, Sweden and Iceland.

KAZIRANGA ANIMAL CORRIDOR

- 1.There are cases of clearance of forest land, digging and construction activities on at least three animal corridors within the eco-sensitive zone of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- 2.The Supreme Court of India in its 2019 order had said that "No new construction shall be permitted on private lands which form part of the nine identified animal corridors."
- 3.A special committee formed by the Supreme Court in its report had recommended the delineation of nine animal corridors in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
- 4.Significance of Animal Corridors: These **corridors are crucial for the rhinos, elephants, tigers, deer and other animals that escape a flooded Kaziranga during the monsoon months for the safety of the hills of Karbi Anglong district beyond the highway skirting the southern boundary of the tiger reserve.**

BLACK FUNGUS

- 1.It is a **serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes**, which is abundant in the environment.
- 2.It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.
- 3.It occurs through inhalation, inoculation, or ingestion of spores from the environment.
- 4.Mucormycosis does not spread between people or between people and animals.