

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- To ensure that the privacy of the Indian citizen is protected in the digital sphere, the data protection Bill needs to be reformulated to ensure that it focuses on user rights with an emphasis on user privacy. A privacy commission would have to be established to enforce these rights. The government would also have to respect the privacy of the citizens while strengthening the right to information.
- The fluctuations in weather conditions in the recent past have brought a cause of concern for the sugarcane crop in Uttar Pradesh. The government issued an advisory to its officials to make proper arrangements for prevention of insects and pests which attack the crop by conducting onsite inspections along with scientists of the Sugarcane Research Council.
- The government has asked social media companies to immediately remove any content on their platforms which mentions or refers to the term 'Indian variant' of coronavirus, in a bid to curb spread of misinformation around COVID19.
- Egyptian mediators held talks on Saturday to firm up an Israel-Hamas ceasefire as Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip began to assess the damage from 11 days of intense Israeli bombardment. A 130-truck convoy carrying urgent humanitarian aid headed to Gaza.
- The central government may transfer the vaccines rather than the money that it has budgeted for transfer. Some of the smaller States may find procuring vaccines through a global tender to be quite challenging.
- This is the right time for India to adopt environmental fiscal reforms as they will reduce environmental pollution and also generate resources for financing the health sector.

## SIX SITES IN TENTATIVE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

1. Six Indian places have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) world heritage sites.
2. About New Six Places: **Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh):** Home to 26 species of the Himalayan region including reptiles, and 42 species of Nilgiri areas. It is the largest tiger-occupied forest and also has the largest tiger population. **Ghats of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh):** The ghats date back to the 14th century but most were rebuilt, along with Varanasi, in the 18th century by Maratha rulers.
3. **Megalithic Site of Hire Benkal (Karnataka):** This 2,800-years-old megalithic site is one of the largest prehistoric megalithic settlements where some funerary monuments are still intact.
4. **Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra:** There are 12 forts in Maharashtra dating back to the era of the 17th century Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji, **Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Temples of Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu).**

## SUBSISTENCE ASSISTANCE TO TRANSGENDER

1. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will give transgender persons a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 1,500.
2. Immediate subsistence assistance to trans persons would be given through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), for which beneficiaries can register with the National Institute of Social Defence.
3. Major Initiatives Related to Transgender: Supreme Court declared transgender people to be a '**third gender**'. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019: A transgender person is one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes transmen and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar.
4. **Establishes National Council for Transgender persons. Gives right to obtain Certificate of Identity. Provides the right of residence with parents and immediate family members.** Prohibits discrimination against a transgender person in various sectors such as education, employment, and healthcare etc. Offences against transgender persons will attract imprisonment between six months and two years, in addition to a fine.

## CHIPKO MOVEMENT

1. Sunderlal Bahuguna, the Gandhian who was the driving force behind the Chipko movement died.
2. It was a non-violent agitation which originated in Uttar Pradesh's Chamoli district (now Uttarakhand) in 1973. The name of the movement 'chipko' comes from the word 'embrace', as the villagers hugged the trees and encircled them to prevent being hacked.
3. It is best remembered for the collective mobilisation of women for the cause of preserving forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society.
4. It's **biggest victory was making people aware of their rights to forests, and how grassroots activism can influence policy-making regarding ecology and shared natural resources.**