

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

25TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- While the September 11 exit would bring the U.S.'s "forever war" to an end, it is unlikely to result in peace if Afghan stakeholders show their utter inability to take the process forward. But if the path of negotiations is either abandoned or accepted half heartedly, it will be impossible to stop Afghanistan's descent into chaos and civil war.
- There is an urgent need to reform and revise our laws to account for various developments such as historical reporting of child sexual abuse. At the very least, the Union government must frame guidelines to direct effective and purposeful prosecution in cases which are not covered by the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).
- The record export of foodgrains at a time of widespread hunger and distress due to COVID19 exposes "the government's apathy towards the people", according to the Right to Food Campaign. The advocacy group has called for the universalisation of the public distribution system (PDS) for at least six months.
- Scared, unemployed and hungry migrant workers may just want to go home and will hardly care for the finer nuances of the "national" and "mini" lockdowns imposed by the government, the Supreme Court said.
- Facebook owned WhatsApp has told the government that it will not limit functionality for users in the coming weeks, but will continue the current approach of reminding users about the update until "at least the forthcoming Personal Data Protection law comes into effect".
- Discontent is simmering in the verdant environs of the Lakshadweep group of islands over a slew of regulations introduced by the new administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

DATA PROTECTION IN INDIA

- 1.The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has sent a notice to WhatsApp asking it to withdraw a controversial update to its privacy policy which might be a threat to Data Protection of Indians.
- 2.According to WhatsApp's updated privacy policy, users would no longer be able to stop the app from sharing data (such as location and number) with its parent Facebook unless they delete their accounts altogether.
- 3.According to the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)'s Digital in India report 2019, there are about 504 million active web users and India's online market is second only to China.
- 4.It is **time that requisite changes are made in the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. It 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.

NET ZERO BY 2050:IEA

- 1.The International Energy Agency's (IEA) released its Net Zero Emissions (NZE) Roadmap - named 'Net Zero by 2050'.**'Net zero emissions' refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.**
- 2.It is the World's first comprehensive energy roadmap which comes ahead of the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate change convention in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.
- 3.Need: Climate pledges by governments till date even if fully achieved would fall well short of what is required to bring global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to net zero by 2050 and give the world an even chance of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 °C.

KHARIF STRATEGY FOR OILSEEDS

- 1.The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has formulated Kharif Strategy 2021 to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils.
- 2.An ambitious plan for the free distribution of high yielding varieties of seeds to the farmers for the Kharif season 2021 in the form of mini-kits.
- 3.Strategy for both area and productivity enhancement has been formulated for soybean and groundnut under the National Food Security Mission (Oil Seeds and Oil Palm).
- 4.It **will bring an additional 6.37 lakh hectare area under oilseeds and is likely to produce 120.26 lakh quintals of oilseeds and edible oil amounting to 24.36 lakh quintals.**

LITHUANIA QUILTS CHINA'S 17+1

- 1.Lithuania quit China's 17+1 cooperation forum with central and eastern Europe, by calling it "divisive".
- 2.Lithuania (Baltic Country) urged other EU (European Union) members to pursue "a much more effective 27+1 approach and communication with China."
- 3.The **17+1 (China and Central and Eastern Europe Countries) initiative is a China-led format founded in 2012 in Budapest with an aim to expand cooperation between Beijing and the CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) member countries.**
4. The platform is largely seen as an extension of China's flagship Belt and Road initiative (BRI). India has consistently opposed BRI as a key part of it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).