

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

4TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The GST Council must begin gearing up early for shortfalls in GST compensation to States that may arise this year. India can ill afford a repeat of the 2020 face off between the Centre and States that almost upended the very spirit of co-operative federalism the GST emerged from.
- The North Korea, as acknowledged by Mr. Kim recently, is going through a tough economic crisis and is open to talks. Mr. Biden should seize this opportunity and try to reach common ground with Mr. Kim that addresses both North Korea's economic worries and the U.S.'s nuclear concerns.
- Media cannot be stopped from reporting oral remarks made by judges during a court hearing. The honest and full reportage of these comments give the public an insight into whether judges are genuinely applying their minds to resolve their crisis, the Supreme Court told a "hurt" Election Commission of India (ECI).
- The High Court of Manipur allowed seven Myanmar nationals, who entered India secretly following the February military coup, to travel to New Delhi to seek protection from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- The "local" was of utmost importance in the decision making of voters in the Assembly elections, according to a special postpoll survey conducted by the Lokniti-CSDS.
- The Supreme Court held that the States cannot impinge on the autonomy of private unaided schools to fix and collect 'just' and 'permissible' school fees from parents, especially in the name of the pandemic.
- Top Biden administration officials and U.S. Senators crisscrossed the West Asia, seeking to assuage growing unease among Arab partners over America's reengagement with Iran and other policy shifts in the region.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSING SHIFT IN EARTH'S AXIS

1.A study published in Geophysical Research Letters of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) says that **due to the significant melting of glaciers because of global temperature rise, Earth's axis of rotation has been moving more than usual since the 1990s.**

2.While this change is not expected to affect daily life, it can change the length of the day by a few milliseconds.

3.Since the 1990s, climate change has caused billions of tonnes of glacial ice to melt into oceans. This has caused the Earth's poles to move in new directions.

4.The north pole has shifted in a new eastward direction since the 1990s, because of changes in the hydrosphere (meaning the way in which water is stored on Earth).As millions of tonnes of water from below the land is pumped out every year for drinking, industries or agriculture, most of it eventually joins the sea, thus redistributing the planet's mass.

US HINTS AT 'WAY FORWARD' ON TRIPS PROPOSAL MOVED BY INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA IN OCTOBER, 2020

1.To ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines and therapeutics around the world, **India and South Africa had moved a proposal at the WTO to temporarily waive on intellectual property protection under Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights(TRIPS).**

2.TRIPS(came into force in 1995) is a multilateral agreement on IPRs like copyright, industrial designs, patents and protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets.

3.It harmonises intellectual property(IP) protection by imposing binding obligations on member countries to ensure a minimum level of protection and enforcement of IP rights in their territories.

4.Critics argue that IP rights, especially those on patents, hinder the introduction of affordable vaccines and drugs in developing countries and deny people their right to health.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK 2021:ADB

1.According to the report Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021, the second wave of Covid-19 can put India's economic recovery at "risk". **ADO is a series of annual economic reports on the Developing Member Countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

2.For India: **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will rebound strongly by 11% in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 due to continued economic recovery** boosted by increased public investment, vaccine rollout, and a surge in domestic demand.

3.Developing Asia comprises 46 members of ADB list on the basis of geographic group. These include new industrialized economies, countries in Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. India is also part of Developing Asia.

4.Analysis for India: Increased government expenditure on health care, water, and sanitation will strengthen the country's resilience against future pandemics.

XYLOPHIS DEEPAKI

1.A tiny snake "Xylophis deepaki" has been named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan for his contribution in erecting a **new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes. The common name suggested for the species is 'Deepak's wood snake'.**