

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Social media is an “uncontrollable medium” with a potential to even destabilise society, but “response” to such a problem should be national in nature and come from Parliament, the Centre argued before the Supreme Court.**
- **The Union Cabinet approved a slew of amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, empowering the District Magistrates (DM) to issue adoption orders as well as monitor the implementation of the law.**
- **India announced a gift of 2,00,000 doses of vaccine to the UN Peacekeeping Forces.**
- **The five aspirational districts in Rajasthan have geared up to improve nutritional status of children with the distribution of fortified rice through midday meal scheme and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).**
- **The Bhagyalakshmi temple abutting the Charminar ‘came into existence’ after the merger of Hyderabad State with the Union of India, and there are no records of the chilla (a small shrine) at the monument, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has stated.**
- **The disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso (lake) would be completed in two or three days, a government official said.**
- **The government denied in the Supreme Court any link between the Char Dham road-widening project in Uttarakhand and the recent flash floods in the Rishiganga valley.**
- **U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that his country would pay the WHO \$200 million by the end of this month. The announcement is significant as former U.S. President Donald Trump had begun the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the WHO.**

## TECHNOGRAHIS

1. An enrolment module for TECHNOGRAHIS has been launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
2. TECHNOGRAHIS are **students from IITs, NITs, engineering, planning and architecture colleges, faculty members etc.**
3. These students will visit live Laboratories at six Light House Projects (LHPs) sites for learning, consultation, generation of ideas and solutions, experimentation, innovation and technical awareness.
4. **LHPs are model housing projects with houses built with shortlisted alternate technology suitable to the geo-climatic and hazard conditions of the region.**

## RBI SETS UP PANEL FOR STRENGTHENING, CONSOLIDATING URBAN CO-OPERATIVES BANKS (UCBs)

1. Panel has to **come up with a vision document for a vibrant and resilient UCB sector, and suggest effective measures for faster rehabilitation and resolution of UCBs.**
2. It will also look into regulatory measures RBI has taken with respect to UCBs, evaluate the need for differential regulations for UCBs etc.
3. Earlier, parliament passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020 that seeks to protect depositors of cooperatives banks and empower the RBI to regulate banking activities of cooperative societies.

## POLLUTION FROM COAL BURNING: IEACCC

1. A study by the International Energy Agency's Clean Coal Centre (IEACCC) has stated that **coal burning is responsible for heavy air pollution in India.** Recently, a Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has also discussed the measures to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) of India's coal-based power sector.
2. Findings: Pollution from Coal-Based Thermal Power Stations: Coal-based thermal power stations contribute over half **sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), 30% oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), about 20% particulate matter (PM), etc.**
3. Persistent burning of coal in thermal power stations and a delay in implementation of latest carbon capture storage technology are among major reasons of air pollution in India.

## SECURITIES APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

1. The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) stayed the order passed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) that had **put a one-year ban on a retail company Chairperson and some other promoters from the securities market.**
2. SAT is a **statutory body** established under the provisions of Section 15K of the SEBI Act, 1992.
3. SAT consists of a Presiding Officer and Two other members. The Presiding officer of SAT shall be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India or his nominee.
4. It has the same powers as vested in a civil court. Further, if any person feels aggrieved by SAT's decision or order can appeal to the Supreme Court.

## MANDRINE DUCK

1. **It is migratory bird that breeds in Russia, Korea, Japan and Parts of China.**
2. Though it is not a threatened bird globally they only make **rare appearances.**
3. Recently, it was **spotted at Maguri Motapung wetland of Assam.**