

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A day after Male and New Delhi signed an agreement to jointly develop the Maldives National Defence Force Coast Guard Harbour, Maldives's Parliament, 'the People's Majlis', took up an emergency motion, demanding greater transparency on the bilateral pact.
- China's President Xi Jinping may visit India in the second half of this year to attend the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) leaders' meeting, if a physical summit is held as is increasingly expected.
- The Supreme Court allowed National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) proceedings in connection with the proposed ₹24,713 crore deal between Future Group and Reliance Industries to go on, but directed the Tribunal to refrain from passing any "final order of sanction of the scheme".
- The three day virtual plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), during which Pakistan's performance in terms of measures taken against money laundering and terror funding will be reviewed once again.
- The IIT Council has set up committees to look at greater autonomy for the elite institutions, in line with the National Education Policy recommendations, as well as reform of the academic Senate, grooming faculty to head the IITs, and innovative funding mechanisms.
- India and Mauritius signed a \$100 million Defence Line of Credit agreement.
- The UN nuclear watchdog chief announced a "temporary solution" to allow Iranian facility inspections to continue after days of talks with officials, giving some much-needed breathing space for diplomatic negotiations.

## MEDIA PLATFORM BILL:AUSTRALIA

- 1.Australia has reached out to India among several countries, including Canada, France and the UK, in a move to stitch a global coalition against tech giants Google and Facebook amid a faceoff over compensation for sharing news content from media companies on their platforms.
- 2.Australia's proposed law, News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code Bill 2020, mandates a bargaining code that aims to force Google and Facebook to compensate media companies for using their content. The Bill is expected to set a precedent in regulating social media across geographies.
- 3.The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), in its 2019 report, Digital Platforms Inquiry, noted that there was a fundamental imbalance in the power between news media and internet platforms.

## MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE:UNEP REPORT

- 1.The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the 'Making Peace with Nature' report, ahead of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5).
- 2.The Report explains how climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution add up to three self-inflicted planetary emergencies that are closely interconnected and put the well-being of current and future generations at unacceptable risk.
- 3.Planetary Emergencies: Climate Change: Climate change is increasing the chances of the Arctic Ocean being ice-free in summer, further disrupting ocean circulation and Arctic ecosystems.
- 4.Climate change drives changes in wildfires and water stress and combines with biodiversity loss to degrade land and enhance drought in some regions.

## CONCLUSIVE LAND TITLING

- 1.Recently, as many States have failed to send in their feedback on a Model Bill on Conclusive Land Titling, the Centre has warned that their agreement would be presumed. The Bill was prepared by the NITI Aayog.
- 2.Land Titling: It is the generic term used to describe the programs implemented by the government to enable individuals and government to efficiently trade in rights in land and property. Recently, the Supreme Court held that a citizen's right to own private property is a human right.
- 3.Conclusive Land Titling: Under a conclusive land titling system, land records designate actual ownership. **Ownership: The title is granted by the government, which takes the responsibility for accuracy.**

## DECLINING RAINFALL IN CHERRAPUNJI

- 1.A recent study that looked at the rainfall pattern in the past 119 years found a decreasing trend at Cherrapunji (Meghalaya) and nearby areas.
- 2.Reduction in Rainfall: The annual mean rainfall for the period 1973-2019 showed decreasing trends of about 0.42 mm per decade. It was statistically significant along seven stations (Agartala, Cherrapunji, Guwahati, Kailashahar, Pasighat, Shillong and Silchar).
- 3.Reasons: Rising Temperature: The changes in the Indian Ocean temperature have a huge effect on the rainfall in the region.Increased Human Activities: The satellite data showed that there was a reduction in the vegetation area in northeast India in the past two decades.**Jhum cultivation or shifting cultivation is now decreased** and being replaced by other methods.