

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

1ST MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched Brazil's optical earth observation satellite, Amazonia-1, and 18 co-passenger satellites — five from India and 13 from the U.S. — from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- Security forces in Myanmar opened fire and made mass arrests on Sunday as they sought to break up protests against the military's seizure of power. A UN human rights official said it had "credible information" that 18 people were killed and 30 wounded.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said there was a need to start conserving water right away and that the Jal Shakti Ministry would be launching a 100-day "catch the rain" campaign soon.
- The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) and the Sarang helicopter display team, along with the light combat aircraft, of the Indian Air Force will perform at an airshow at the Galle Face in Colombo from March 3 to 5 as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF).
- The annual convening of China's National People's Congress (NPC), or Parliament, on March 5 will hear a proposal for the wider deployment of more advanced drones along border areas, with a legislator proposing the move in the wake of last year's clash between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Remarking that a normal bilateral trade relationship with China was contingent on peace and tranquillity on other fronts, Indian Foreign Secretary H.V. Shringla said the country was looking to diversify its trade dependencies.
- Switzerland's traditional foreign policy of neutrality has become attractive again because of the changing political reality in the world, said its Ambassador Ralf Heckner at a think tank event.

SWACHH ICONIC PLACES(SIP)

- 1.Ministry of Jal Shakti(MoJS) announced selection of 12 sites for transforming them into 'Swachh Tourist Destinations' under Phase-IV of SIP.
- 2.Sites include **Ajanta Caves(Maharashtra),Rock Garden(Chandigarh),Sanchi Stupa(MP), Sun Temple(Odisha), Agra Fort(UP) etc.**
- 3.SIP is an initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen. It aims at enhancing experience of visitors by improving sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites.
- 4.It is coordinated by Department of Drinking water and Sanitation(MoJS) in association with Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and concerned State governments.

PAGRI SAMBHAAL MOVEMENT

- 1.This movement was started by Bhagat Singh's uncle Ajit's Singh in 1907 against British government three laws related to agriculture.
- 2.Three laws-related acts-Punjab Land Alienation Act 1900, Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906 and Doab Bari Act.
- 3.**These acts reduced farmers from owners to contractors of land, and gave the British government the right to take back the allotted land** if the farmer even touched tree in his field without permission.
- 4.British government later repealed the three controversial laws in May 1907.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE

- 1.The Central Government opposed same-sex marriage in Delhi High Court stating that a marriage in India can be recognised only if it is between a "biological man" and a "biological woman" capable of producing children.
- 2.Supreme Court's Order: In reading down the provision of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Supreme Court only decriminalised a particular human behaviour but neither intended to, **nor did in fact, legitimise the human conduct in question.**
- 3.Societal Morality: There exists a "legitimate State interest" in limiting the recognition of marriage to persons of opposite sex. The **considerations of "societal morality" are relevant in considering the validity of a law and it is for the Legislature to enforce such societal morality** and public acceptance based upon Indian ethos.

MIGRATORY BIRDS AND CHILKA LAKE

- 1.Migratory birds in and around Chilika lake and Bhitarkanika National Park have **started leaving earlier (in February) than other years, as temperatures in Odisha (in and around Chillka lake) began to soar.** The birds usually arrive in the region in November and migrate back around mid-March or early April when the temperature hovers around 39 degree Celsius.
- 2.Reasons for Early Departure: **Warming of the Region:** The average temperature of Bhubaneswar (located 35 kilometers from Chilika) recorded for the month of February was 34-35 degrees Celsius between 2015 and 2019.
- 3.**Decreasing Water Levels:** Rising temperature coupled with the decreasing water levels in the lake also contributed to this early migration.
- 4.In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.