KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX
28ᵀᴴ AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A five judge Bench of the Supreme Court held that States can sub-classify Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central List to provide preferential treatment to the "weakest of the weak". within the reserved castes itself.

- The Centre acknowledged that States are likely to face a GST revenue gap of ₹ 3 lakh crore this year, as the economy may contract due to COVID19.

- While China asked India to keep in mind "the big picture", New Delhi said only the full restoration of peace and tranquillity on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) would enable the development of bilateral relations.

- Amnesty International India has demanded an independent investigation into all allegations of human rights violations by the police during the north-east Delhi riots.

- A 22 year old Kashmiri youth, seeking help in the Capital for economically challenged brides in Kashmir, ended up being grilled by the Delhi police for 30 hours just for being found on the Rajpath lawns.

- The 60 member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly resolved to persuade the Centre for inclusion of the State under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect the rights of its indigenous communities. Tribal areas of four north-eastern States – Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura – are under the Sixth Schedule.

- The All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) has toughened its stand on the Naga peace process, warning of "drastic movements" if the territorial integrity of the State is compromised for a final solution.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE ANNOUNCES 7 NEW CIRCLES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA(ASI)

1. The New Circles: Trichy,Raiganj,Rajkot,Jabalpur,Jhansi,Meerut and Hampi.
2. Earlier there were 29 ASI circles across country.
3. ASI, under Ministry of Culture, is premier organization for archaeological researches and protection of cultural heritage of the nation.
4. It regulates archaeological activities as per provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Act, 1958.

PULIKKAI

1. Pulikkali(Tiger Dance) is folk art form of Kerala. This year, it will be celebrated online due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow,red, and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil.
3. Pulikkali was introduced by erstwhile ruler of Cochin, Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran, two centuries ago.

GOVERNMENT TO AMEND LAW FOR DELIMITATION IN NORTH EAST STATES.

1. Centre seeks to amend Representation of the People Act 1950 to give legality to its earlier order setting up a Delimitation Commission for Arunachal Pradesh,Manipur,Assam and Nagaland.
2. Section 8A of the RP Act 1950 states that delimitation in these four northeast states, when held, would fall within Election Commission's remit.
3. Hence, any delimitation exercise by new Delimitation Commission would be "declared void by the courts".
4. Delimitation is act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies on the basis of preceding census.

FLASH DROUGHTS HIT NEARLY 15% RICE,MAIZE AREAS IN 1951-2018 MONSOONS

1. Unlike conventional drought that propagates slowly, flash drought is characterized by rapid onset and intensification caused by high evapotranspiration rates due to abnormally high temperatures, winds, and high incoming solar radiation.
2. It can be classified as agricultural droughts due to their direct association with soil moisture and crop stress.
3. A recent study identified 39 flash droughts during 1951-2018 and found that 82% of those occurred during monsoon season in India.

ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT(AFSPA) EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS IN ASSAM

1. States has been declared a "disturbed area" on account of recent insurgent attacks on security forces and recovery of illegal arms and ammunition.
2. AFSPA has been continuing in Assam since November 1990. It is renewed every six months.
3. AFSPA enacted in 1958, grants extra-ordinary powers and immunity to armed forces to bring back order in "disturbed areas".