

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2021

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Finance Ministry has put to rest all speculation about the inflation targeting framework that will guide the interest rate decisions of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee over the five-year period starting on April 1. In a terse notification, the Department of Economic Affairs announced that the inflation target for the quinquennium ending on March 31, 2026, will be 4%, with an upper tolerance level of 6% and a lower tolerance level of 2%.**
- **Myanmar junta shuts down Internet Pro-democracy groups vow to use radio, SMS messages to keep up the protests.**
- **Amid tensions with Saudi Arabia over oil production cuts, India has asked its state refiners to review contracts for buying crude oil from the West Asian nation and negotiate more favourable terms, a top official said.**
- **The Supreme Court has cautioned courts against mechanically granting bail in heinous offences, saying the seriousness of the charge is a basic consideration before releasing an accused on bail.**
- **The failure of the health system to cope with COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in maternal deaths and stillbirths, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.**
- **The remaining points of tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh should be resolved "quickly", said an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). "prolongation" of differences in the remaining points of friction was not helpful for restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC.**
- **India said it stood for revival of democracy in Myanmar, and added that violence would not solve the prevailing situation in the country.**

## ARTICLE 244(A) OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. The demand for an autonomous state within Assam has been raised by some of the sections of the society in Assam under the provisions of Article 244A of the Constitution.
2. **In the 1950s, a demand for a separate hill state arose around certain sections of the tribal population of undivided Assam.** After prolonged agitations, Meghalaya gained statehood in 1972.
3. The leaders of the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills were also part of this movement. They were given the option to stay in Assam or join Meghalaya. They stayed back as the centre promised them more powers, including Article 244 (A).
4. **Article 244(A) accounts for more autonomous powers to tribal areas than the Sixth Schedule.** Among these the most important power is the control over law and order.

## CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICS

1. According to the National Election Watch (NEW) and Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), in the Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, at least **1,157 out of 6,318 candidates have criminal cases against them.**
2. **NEW is a nationwide campaign since 2002 comprising more than 1200 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)** and other citizen led organizations working together on electoral reforms, improving democracy and governance in India.
3. Section 8 of the The Representation of Peoples Act 1951, i.e. disqualification on conviction for certain offences, according to which an individual punished with a jail term of more than two years cannot stand in an election for six years after the jail term has ended. The law does not bar individuals who have criminal cases pending against them from contesting elections.

## STAR CAMPAIGNERS AND MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) delisted Ex-Telecom Minister A. Raja from the list of star campaigners. He has also been reprimanded for violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for making certain remarks during election times.
2. A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party. There is no law governing who can or cannot be made a star campaigner.
3. **A 'recognised' National or State party declared as such by the ECI can nominate a maximum of 40 star campaigners. An unrecognised political party can nominate a maximum of 20 star campaigners.**
4. Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added to a candidate's poll expenditure giving him/her more scope for expenditure.

## ATAL INNOVATION MISSION, NITI AAYOG LAUNCHED 'AIM-PRIME'

1. **AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship)** is an initiative to promote and **support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.**
2. It has been launched in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
3. Implemented by Venture Center- a non-profit technology business incubator.
4. It is open to CEOs and senior incubation managers of AIM Funded Atal Incubation Centers that are supporting deep tech entrepreneurs.