

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

The Centre has exempted posts under the Indian Police Service (IPS) from the mandated 4% reservation for persons with disabilities (PwD) in government jobs, a move that rights groups say goes against the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016., the Social Justice Ministry issued a notification saying that Section 34 of the RPD Act, which provides for 4% reservation in jobs for PwD in government establishments, would not apply to all categories of posts of IPS, the Indian Railway Protection Force Service and the police forces of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Terror groups such as the Lashkare-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) continue to operate with both impunity and encouragement, India told the UN Security Council (UNSC), asserting that the international community must never host sanctuaries for terrorists as it recalled the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, Pathankot air base and Pulwama attacks carried out by Pakistan-based terrorists. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, chairing a high-level United Nations Security Council briefing, held under India's current presidency, on 'Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts', said the heightened activities of the proscribed Haqqani Network justified this growing anxiety. ISIL-Khorasan [ISILK] has become more energetic and is constantly seeking to expand its footprint.

Afghan protesters defied the Taliban for a second day, waving their national flag in scattered demonstrations, and the fighters again responded violently as they faced down growing challenges to their rule. A UN official warned of dire food shortages and experts said the country was severely in need of cash while noting that the Taliban are unlikely to enjoy the generous international aid that the civilian government they dethroned did.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has "observed" that government procuring agencies, including Public Sector Undertakings, had not implemented the Public Procurement (Preference to 'Make in India' Order), 2017, in "letter and

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

1. A group of experts under the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed "**serious concerns over the slow pace of reforms in the criminal justice system to ensure speedy justice**". Current concerns/challenges: The delay in disposal of cases was leading to human rights violations of the under-trials and convicts. Despite the Supreme Court's directions on police reforms, there had been hardly any changes on the ground. Court orders convicting a person are also taking years to implement.

2. Suggested Reforms: **Special laws and fast-track courts could replace certain offences under the Indian Penal Code in order to reduce the piling up of cases at every police station.** Digitisation of documents would help in speeding up investigations and trials. The construction of new offences and reworking of the existing classification of offences must be guided by the principles of criminal jurisprudence which have substantially altered in the past four decades.

3. The classification of offences must be done in a manner conducive to management of crimes in the future. The discretion of judges in deciding the quantum and nature of sentence differently for crimes of the same nature should be based on principles of judicial precedent.

4. Criminal law in India: **The Criminal law in India is contained in a number of sources – The Indian Penal Code of 1860, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.** Criminal Justice System can impose penalties on those who violate the established laws. The criminal law and criminal procedure are in the concurrent list of the seventh schedule of the constitution. Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay is said to be the chief architect of codifications of criminal laws in India.

5. Need for reforms: Colonial era laws. ineffectiveness. Pendency of cases. Huge undertrials.

DETENTION CENTRES FOR FOREIGNERS

1. Assam's detention centres for foreigners and those declared such by specific tribunals have been renamed as transit camps. The State currently has six detention centres and they have 181 inmates, 61 of whom are declared foreign nationals and 121 convicted foreign nationals awaiting deportation. Two of these centres house 22 children along with their "foreigner" mothers.

2. **Detention centers are places designated to keep illegal migrants (people who have entered a country without necessary documents) once they are detected by the authorities till the time their nationality is confirmed and they are deported to the country of their origin.** Detention centres were set up in Assam after the Union government authorized the state to do so under the provisions of the Foreigners' Act, 1946 and the Foreigners Order, 1948.

3. Foreigners Act, 1946: It replaced the Foreigners Act, 1940 conferring wide powers to deal with all foreigners. The act empowered the government to take such steps as are necessary to prevent illegal migrants including the use of force. The concept of 'burden of proof' lies with the person, and not with the authorities.

4. **The act originally empowered the government to establish tribunals which would have powers similar to those of a civil court.** Amendments (2019) to the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 empowered even district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

UN-UNITE AWARE

1. External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar has announced the rollout of a technological platform in partnership with the UN — 'UNITE Aware' — to help enhance the safety of UN peacekeepers. The platform has been used in four UN missions. This was announced during the recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate on technology and peacekeeping.

spirit". It was found that "excessive turnover, requirements of specific brands/make, requirement of foreign certification, requirement of unreasonable prior experience and requirement of prior experience of supplying to specific nations/entities" were sometimes prescribed as qualifying criteria.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday launched the 5th edition of the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) under Innovations for Defence Excellence. Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEXDIO) meant to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in the defence and aerospace sectors.

The Calcutta High Court directed a CBI investigation into all cases of murder and crimes against women in connection with alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal. For other cases, the court constituted a special investigation team of three senior IPS officers of the West Bengal cadre.

Hopes of an India-U.S. trade pact are off the table even as India is keen to resolve trade issues with the U.S., Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, after referring to signals from the Joe Biden administration that it is not interested in a free trade agreement. The comments are significant as this is the first time that the stance of the Biden administration on the FTA negotiations, something the previous Donald Trump administration was keen to work on, has been spelt out officially.

A ₹60,000 crore loan guarantee scheme for helping sectors hit the hardest by COVID-19 is yet to get off the ground, 52 days after it figured at the top of an economic relief package to cope with the shocks of the second wave.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has sought to allay fears over an exercise akin to Assam's National Register of Citizens, allegedly designed to leave out certain Nagas and non-Nagas for their eventual eviction or denial of opportunities. The State government, through a notification on June 29, 2019, had decided to update the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) with December 1, 1963, as the cutoff date for the inclusion of people in it.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

2. The minister has also outlined a four-point framework for securing the peacekeepers: Need for the deployment of proven, cost-effective and field-serviceable technologies that were environmentally friendly in their construction. Peacekeepers needed sound information and intelligence. Need for precise positioning and overhead visualisation. Investment in capacity building and training of peacekeepers with regard to technology.

3. Outcomes of the meet: A Memorandum of Understanding has been announced between India and the UN in support of the "Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping" initiative and the UN C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP).

4. UNITE AWARE: **UNITE AWARE is a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrain-related information to the UN peacekeepers so as to ensure their safety. It is being developed in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.** India has spent 1.64 million USD for this project.

5. Funding of UN Peacekeeping operations funded? While decisions about establishing, maintaining or expanding a peacekeeping operation are taken by the Security Council, the financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States. Every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

PURIFIED DRINKING WATER SUPPLY VIA TANKERS TAXABLE

1. Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has ruled that supply of drinking water to the public through mobile tankers or dispensers by a charitable organisation is taxable at 18% under the GST. About Advance Ruling and AAR:

2. Advance ruling means the determination of a question of law or fact specified in the application in relation to tax liability of an applicant arising out of transactions which have been undertaken or proposed to be undertaken.

3. Composition: **The Authority for Advance Rulings consists of a Chairman who is a retired Judge of the Supreme court and two members of the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India**, one each from the Indian Revenue Service and the Indian Legal Service.

TIWA TRIBE AND WANCHUWA FESTIVAL

1. This festival is celebrated by Tiwa tribesmen to mark their good harvest. It comes with songs, dances, a bunch of rituals and people clad in their native attires.

2. The people of Tiwa tribe associate the bountiful harvest with the higher power from nature. 3. This takes the form of pigs' skulls and bones which act as deities and are preserved through many generations.

4. **Tiwa also known as Lalung is indigenous community inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya and are also found in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.**

AGENCY BANK

1. The Kerala based private sector lender South Indian Bank has been empanelled as an 'Agency Bank' by Reserve Bank of India.

2. This will allow South Indian Bank to undertake general banking businesses of the Central and State government on behalf of the RBI.

3. **South Indian Bank is now authorised to undertake transactions related to government businesses such as revenue receipts and payments on behalf of the Central/State governments**, pension payments in respect of Central/State governments, work related to Small Savings Schemes (SSS), collection of stamp duty through physical mode or e-mode and any other item of work, specifically devised by the RBI as eligible for agency commission.

SAINIK SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

1. The announcement was made by prime minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on the occasion of 75th Independence Day.

2. **Sainik Schools are the brainchild of VK Krishna Menon, who was the Union defence minister from April 1957 to October 1962.** Menon conceived this idea in 1961.

3. These schools are run by the Sainik Schools Society under the

will lead a delegation of multiparty leaders from the State to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 23 to press for a caste based census in the country. Union government has so far remained noncommittal on the issue.

Union ministry of defence (MoD).