

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

13TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- A list of new Union Cabinet ministers issued triggered a debate in political circles in Tamil Nadu, as well as on social media, by referring to 'Kongu Nadu', the informal name for a region in the western part of the state. The list mentions new minister L Muruganas hailing from 'Kongu Nadu'. This has led to allegations that the government trying to bifurcate Tamilnadu.
- India must actively contribute to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) deliberations on Afghanistan, but must temper its hopes for a collective regional solution. At the same time, Delhi should focus on intensifying its engagement with various Afghan groups, including the Taliban, and finding effective regional partners to secure its interests in a changing Afghanistan.
- In a verdict with far-reaching Constitutional implications, Nepal's Supreme Court reinstated its Parliament which was dissolved in May by President Bidya Devi Bhandari on the advice of caretaker Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and directed her to appoint Oli's rival Sher Bahadur Deuba as the new Prime Minister by Tuesday.
- Staying above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper target of 6 per cent for the second consecutive month, retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index came in at 6.26 percent for June, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Monday.
- Cuban President Miguel Diaz Canel blamed historic protests this weekend on US "economic asphyxiation" and social media campaigns by a minority of counter-revolutionaries while US President Joe Biden said he stood with the Cuban people.
- The US general leading the war in Afghanistan, Austin Miller, relinquished command on Monday at a ceremony in Kabul, in what was a symbolic end to America's longest conflict there.

CONSERVATION PLAN FOR CITIES ALONG RIVERS

1. A policy document from National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has proposed that cities situated on river banks should incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans.
2. **The recommendations are currently for towns that are on the main stem of the river Ganga which are in five States — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.**
3. NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)). Along with its state counterpart organizations, NMCG implements the Namami Gange Programme.
4. **Emphasis of the Policy Document:** On the need for river-sensitive plans that must be practical (as envisaged in the National Water Policy). There should be a systematic rehabilitation plan to remove encroachment that emphasizes on alternative livelihood options along with a proper relocation strategy.

NAGA PEACE TALKS

1. The Nagaland Government appealed to all Naga political groups and extremist groups to cooperate in establishing unity, reconciliation and peace in the region.
2. **The peace process between the central government and two sets of the Naga extremist groups has been delaying for more than 23 years.**
3. **Background of Naga Insurgency:** The Naga Hills became part of British India in 1881. The effort to bring scattered Naga tribes together resulted in the formation of the Naga Club in 1918.
4. The club aroused a sense of Naga nationalism. The club metamorphosed into the Naga National Council (NNC) in 1946.

INDIA INDUSTRIAL LAND BANK

1. The India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), a GIS-based portal, has seen a 30% increase in page views each month since April 2021. Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) has developed IILB portal, a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the country to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial upgradation and sustainability.
2. **The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information including availability of raw material, agriculture, horticulture, minerals, natural resources;** distance from key logistic nodes; layers of terrain and urban infrastructure.
3. It aims to provide information on available land for prospective investors looking at setting up units in the Country.

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS SYNDROME

1. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water supply to more than 97 lakh households in five JE-AES (Japanese Encephalitis-Acute Encephalitis Syndrome) affected states.
2. **The five states with priority districts are Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.**
3. JJM envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. The Jal Shakti Ministry is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.
4. AES is a severe case of encephalitis transmitted by mosquitoes and is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.