

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH JULY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The Supreme Court will examine a petition filed by a retired Major General who said a nearly 60 yearold judgment of the court that helped sedition survive in the Indian Penal Code was behind time and needed a relook.
- The world will not legitimise a Taliban regime that comes to power in Kabul by force, indicated External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar amid rapid advances made by the militant group on towns and border checkpoints in various parts of Afghanistan.
- The concerns over a third wave have been voiced but meaningful preparedness entails having enough vaccines. While daily vaccination rates will see spikes and dips, aggressive publicity measures and campaigns are necessary to boost vaccination, as was seen in end June. The Centre and States must work towards sprucing this up.
- Most people have accepted Brexit though few are satisfied with the divorce settlement. No version of Brexit will satisfy everyone, and it has left the United Kingdom less united.
- India and Russia will hold the first 2+2 Ministerial meeting later this year before a summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Russian envoy Nikolay Kudashev said.
- The impasse between Indian and Chinese troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is “visibly impacting” bilateral ties “negatively”, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi as they met in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the SCO meeting.
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asked his Southeast Asian counterparts Wednesday to press for an end to violence in Myanmar, its return to democracy and the release of all political prisoners.

ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER DISPUTE

1. Several IED (Improvised Explosive Device) blasts were carried out inside Cachar district of Assam allegedly by miscreants from Mizoram. These blasts signal the re-emergence of long-unresolved Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute.
2. The boundary issue between Assam and Mizoram has existed since the formation of Mizoram — first as a union territory in 1972, and then as a full-fledged state in 1987.
3. The **Assam-Mizoram dispute stems from two notifications passed under British era. First, notification of 1875(Mizoram accept this), that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar.** Second, notification of 1933, that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.

CABINET COMMITTEES

1. After a large-scale rejig at the Council of Ministers, Prime Minister effected some changes in Cabinet committees.
2. Eight Cabinet Committees: Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs. Cabinet Committee on Security. Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth. Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development.
3. All committees except Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the Prime Minister.
4. They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment. **The executive in India works under the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961. These Rules emerge from Article 77(3) of the Constitution,** which states: “The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

1. The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers has reviewed the initiatives of the Department of Fertilisers for making India Atmanirbhar in Fertilisers.
2. The Government is planning to liberalise Market Development Assistance (MDA) policy to promote the use of alternative fertilisers. MDA Policy: MDA policy was earlier limited to city compost only.
3. There were **demands to expand this policy by incorporating organic waste like Biogas, Green Manure, organic compost of rural areas, solid/liquid slurry, etc.** This expansion will fully complement the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

SUBORBITAL FLIGHT

1. A six person crew on Virgin Galactic’s VSS Unity spaceship undertook a brief trip to the “edge of space” which is known as Suborbital Flight. Sirisha Bandla, an astronaut born in India, was a part of the crew. She was the third woman of Indian origin to go to space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.
2. **When an object travels at a horizontal speed of about 28,000 km/hr or more, it goes into orbit once it is above the atmosphere.**