

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

17TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The provisional data for the latest Census and National Population Register (NPR) will be available before the Lok Sabha election in 2024, according to information provided by the Union Home Ministry to a parliamentary committee.
- The Supreme Court said the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary will be “personally responsible” and “appropriate action” will be taken on failure to give information on the ‘rule curve’ for the Mullaperiyar dam to the Supreme Court-appointed Supervisory Committee.
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that COVID-19 vaccines were not being sent to foreign countries at the expense of Indian citizens.
- A number of China’s missions, including its Embassy in New Delhi, announced that they will begin “facilitating” travellers provided they have taken “Chinese-made vaccines”. Beijing was “ready to advance mutual recognition of vaccines with other countries”, but that is expected to take time.
- Delhi remained the most polluted capital city in the world but India, on the whole, had improved its average annual PM2.5 levels in 2020 than in 2019.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 that increases the time period within which an abortion may be carried out. Opposition MPs said the Bill still did not give women the freedom to decide, since they would need a nod from a medical board in the case of pregnancies beyond 24 weeks.
- No parliament should discuss laws passed in other parliaments and issues that are internal to sovereign countries, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said while hosting the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) president Duarte Pacheco.

DECLINE IN INDIA’S ARMS IMPORTS:SIPRI

1. According to a recent report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) India’s arms imports came down by a third (about 33%) between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.
2. India Specific Findings: Second Highest Importer: India remains the second highest importer, only behind Saudi Arabia.
3. Reasons for the Fall in Imports: **India’s Push for Self-Reliance: The report said that the fall is not attributed to the government’s push to make India self-reliant** in defence manufacturing.
4. Earlier, the government had announced a negative imports list of 101 defence equipment and platforms will provide an opportunity to manufacture the items in the negative list.

KENYA-SOMALIA DISPUTE

1. Kenya has declined to take part in proceedings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over its maritime border dispute with neighbouring Somalia.
2. Direction of Maritime Boundary: The main point of **disagreement between the two neighbours is the direction in which their maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean should extend.**
3. Somalia’s Stand: The sea border should be an extension of the same direction in which their land border runs as it approaches the Indian Ocean, i.e. towards the southeast. **Kenya’s Stand: The maritime border should run parallel to the equator.**
4. Importance of Disputed Area: The triangular area thus created by the dispute is around 1.6 lakh sq. km. large, and **boasts of rich marine reserves.**

KATHAKALI MAESTRO GURU CHEMANCHERI KUNHIRAMAN NAIR

1. The Kathakali actor **Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair** died at the age of 105 in Kozhikode, Kerala. He played a significant role in making Indian classical dances popular in Kerala.
2. He studied at **Kalladikkodan school of Kathakali** and was specialised in “Kalladikodan” style. The Kalladikodan shailee was created by Chathu Panicker Aasaan, and is one among the three major styles of Kathakali. The other two are Vettathu and Kaplingadu.
3. Kalladikodan style gives equal importance to the three aspects of nritta (the dance movements in their basic form), nritya (expressional component i.e. mudras or gestures) and natya (the dramatic element of the dance i.e. the imitation of characters).
4. Kathakali is one among the eight classical dances of India. It is a blend of dance, music and acting. The dance involves dramatisation of stories, adapted mostly from the Indian epics.

PLACES IN NEWS

1. **Shetrunjay Hills Reserve Forest Area**-It is a habitat of Asiatic lions, leopards as well as herbivores such as blue bulls in Bhavnagar, Gujrat. The forest is a patch hilly, dry and deciduous forest and Shetrunji River flows near the area.
2. Satrunjay Mahatirth, Palitana temples built on the hills are considered the most sacred pilgrimage place by the Jain community.
3. **Port Anjouan**-As part of Mission Sagar-IV, INS Jalashwa arrived at Port Anjouan(PORT OF Mutsamudu in the Island of Anjoua), Comoros.
4. Its Location is in Mozambique Channel. Mutsamudu is the second largest city in the Comoros.