

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

25TH MARCH, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- By abstaining from the vote on the UN Human Rights Council resolution on Sri Lanka, India has signalled its unwillingness to upset its neighbour. At the same time, it does not want to be seen as ignoring Sri Lanka's reluctance to meet the political aspirations of the Tamils or endorsing the country's stubborn refusal to ensure any sort of accountability for its war-time past.
- While we are still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is airborne, we have forgotten that another such blight could well come from contaminated water. NITI Ayog and WaterAid, amongst others, have found that over 70% of India's surface and groundwater is contaminated by human and other waste and is likely to carry viruses.
- A group representing ethnically related communities, (Zo Reunification Organisation (ZORO) across the India-Myanmar border said the Centre's order to prevent Myanmar nationals from entering India was discriminatory.
- Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde has recommended Justice N.V. Ramana, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as the next top judge.
- The Supreme Court flagged its concern that political parties could misuse crores of rupees received as donations through electoral bonds to bankroll violent protests or even terror. The court asked the government whether there was any "control" over how these donations were used by the political parties.
- India should have been included by the China-Russia-U.S. "troika" that met in Moscow with regional stakeholders, including Pakistan, last week, said Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Haneef Atmar during a three-day visit to India, where he discussed a new peace plan proposed by President Ashraf Ghani.

LACHIT BORPHUKAN

1. He was a general during 17th Century period of the Ahom dynasty (Assam).
2. He is **best known for the Battle of Saraighat on the Brahmaputra, where he defeated the Mughals, in 1671.**
3. Lachit was appointed as Borphukan by king Chakradhwaj Singh. Borphukan is a position embedded with both executive and judicial powers.

MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTIONS

1. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has asked **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) to begin operations from disaster recovery sites within 45 minutes of a disruption to critical systems, including trading.**
2. The directive comes against the backdrop of a technical glitch at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on 24th February that halted trading for nearly four hours.
3. In the event of disruption of any one or more of the 'critical systems', the MII would, within 30 minutes of the incident, declare that incident as 'disaster'.

COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX 2020: OXFAM

1. The Labour and Employment Minister has informed the Lok Sabha that Oxfam Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020 lacked clarity and **did not take into account provisions of the four new labour codes.**
2. The Index ranked countries measuring their policies and actions in three areas that it said are proven to be directly related to reducing inequality: Public services (health, education and social protection) Taxation Workers' rights
3. **Nigeria, Bahrain and India, which experienced the world's fastest-growing outbreak of Covid-19, were among the world's worst-performing countries** in tackling inequality going into the pandemic.
4. Overall, India ranked 129 in the CRI index out of 158 countries on government policies, and actions in areas of public services of education, health, social protection, taxation, and workers' rights.

RESERVATION QUOTA LIMIT OF STATES

1. Tamil Nadu told a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court that the percentage of reservation should be left to the "subjective satisfaction" of individual States.
2. Subjective satisfaction **refers to the State's discretion to identify its socially and educationally backward classes and fix the percentage of reservation** for them in State government jobs and educational admissions.
3. A nine-judge bench in the Indra Sawhney case (famously known as the Mandal Commission case) imposed the ceiling of 50% on total reservation.
4. Notwithstanding the judgement passed by the Supreme Court, since Indra Sawhney judgment 1992, many states have passed laws breaching the limit of 50% such as Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

PORT EHOLA

1. As Part of Mission Sagar-IV, Indian Naval Ship arrived at Port Eholá.
2. Mission Sagar was launched in May, 2020 to provide COVID-19 related assistance to the island nations of Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles.
3. **Eholá is a multipurpose deep water port situated on Southern coast of Madagascar.**