

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

27TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- The tapestry of India's GST was stitched on a fabric of implicit trust and painted with vibrant economic colours. The fabric is now torn and the colours have faded. The loose thread of guaranteed revenues that holds this together is about to snap. The end of India's grand GST experiment seems inevitable unless there is a radical shift in the tone and tenor of India's federal politics, backed by an extension of revenue guarantee for the States for another five years.
- The rationale for carving out Union Territories as an administrative unit is to protect the unique cultural and historical situations of their inhabitants. The Centre is inverting its responsibility to protect into a licence to interfere. It should recall the Administrator of Lakshadweep and reassure the islanders.
- It is clear that political uncertainty will continue in Nepal. India has traditionally supported constitutionalism and multiparty democracy there. At this juncture, it needs to remain actively engaged with all the political actors, and equally importantly, avoid being perceived as partisan.
- A large population is facing hunger and a cash crunch. The situation is only becoming more dire as the pandemic continues to rage on. Therefore, the Union government should prioritise food and work for all and start making policy reforms right away.
- Instant messaging app WhatsApp has approached the Delhi High Court challenging the Central government's new Information Technology Rules, 2021, which include a requirement for social media platforms to compulsorily enable "the identification of the first originator of the information" in India.
- The Assam government on Wednesday created the Welfare of Bodoland Department for dealing with issues related to Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

DEFINING HATE SPEECH

- 1.As there is no clear definition of what constitutes a "Hate Speech" in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws constituted by the Union Home Ministry **to suggest reforms to the British-era IPC, is attempting for the first time to define such speech.**
- 2.The Bureau of Police Research and Development recently published a manual for investigating agencies on cyber harassment cases that defined hate speech as a language that denigrates, insults, threatens or targets an individual based on their identity and other traits (such as sexual orientation or disability or religion etc.).
- 3.In the 267th Report of the Law Commission of India, hate speech is stated as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like.
- 4.In order to determine whether a particular instance of speech is a hate speech or not, the context of the speech plays an important role.

DRAFT LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULATION, 2021

- 1.The latest Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, for the creation of a Lakshadweep Development Authority (LDA) is widely resented by the people of Lakshadweep.
- 2.It empowers the government, identified as the administrator, to constitute Planning and Development Authorities under it to plan the development of any area identified as having "bad layout or obsolete development".
- 3.The authority would be a body corporate with a government-appointed chairman, a town planning officer and three 'expert' government nominees besides two local authority representatives.
- 4.The **island community is a close-knit group with families living in close proximity. The regulation will destroy the way of life practised by them for generations.**

ONE STOP CENTRES

- 1.The Ministry of Women and Child Development will set up One Stop Centres (OSCs) across 10 countries to provide assistance to Indian women who are survivors of gender-based violence.
- 2.The missions where the OSCs will come up are Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and Singapore. It will also set up 300 OSCs in the country in addition to the nearly 700 existing ones across all districts.
- 3.Objectives: **To support women affected by the violence that they may face within the family or at the workplace or within the community**, in private or public places.
- 4.Specially for women who face sexual, physical, psychological, emotional and economic abuse, irrespective of their caste, creed, race, class, education status, age, culture, or marital status.

SHAHI LITCHI

- 1.The **geographical indication(GI) products Shahi Litchi from Bihar was exported to United Kingdom.**
- 2.Other GI certification agricultural products from Bihar- Jardalu mango, Katarani rice and Magahi paan.
- 3.India is the second largest producer of litchi in the world, after China. Bihar tops in terms of production of litchi.