

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

14TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The revival of the demand for two autonomous councils has made political parties and community based groups call for bringing the entire Arunachal Pradesh under the ambit of the Sixth Schedule or Article 371 (A) of the Constitution.
- Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde has said that the government should consider amending the Official Languages Act of 1963 to include more vernacular languages in governance, and not just confine it to Hindi and English.
- Members of the National Human Rights Commission(NHRC) have raised concerns over the inadequate number of forensic science laboratories in the country that delays evidence gathering, leading to cases pending in courts and undertrial prisoners remaining behind bars.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a “Transparent Taxation — Honouring the Honest” platform that provides faceless assessment, faceless appeal and a taxpayers’ charter.
- Malayalam cinema loses prolific lyricist Chunakkara Ramankutty, He wrote more than 200 songs in a career that spanned over five decades.
- India and Australia are sharing experiences on protecting critical infrastructure, including 5G networks, said a senior Australian High Commission official.
- India announced a slew of new connectivity measures for the Maldives, including air, sea, intra island and telecommunications in an effort to help the Indian Ocean Islands deal with the economic impact of the COVID19 pandemic.
- The Navy, should now focus on design and development of armaments, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said after virtually launching the Indian Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO).

LAKSHADWEEP CORALS

1. A recent study has stated that corals found in **North Indian Ocean** can provide **new insights on Indian monsoon**.
2. Bands growing on coral surface reveal about **paleoclimatic conditions,rainfall, ambient water temperatures** and similar aspects from the past.
3. Coral reefs are large **underwater structures composed of the skeletons of colonial marine invertebrates** called coral.

RBI ASKS URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS(UCBs) TO IMPLEMENT SYSTEM-BASED ASSET CLASSIFICATION(SBAC)

1. SBAC means asset classification(downgrading as well as upgrading) carried out by the computerised systems of the bank in an automated manner on an ongoing basis.
2. It is aimed at **improving efficiency,transparency and integrity of the asset classification process**.
3. UCBs **having total assets of Rs.1,000 crore or above** and meeting specified criteria have to implement SBAC from 2021.

MAURITIUS STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN MASSIVE OIL SPILL FROM DAMAGED SHIP

1. **Mauritius** has declared a **state of environmental emergency** after a grounded ship off its coast is said to be leaking tonnes of crude oil.
2. Oil is the most abundant pollutants in the oceans.**About 3 million metric tons of oil** containments the oceans annually.
3. Impact on Mauritius-Site of the leak is **Pointe d`Esany region, home to wealth of sanctuaries for rare and endemic wildlife** and a marine park with pristine protection coral reefs.

SEAGRASSES

1. Report by United Nations Environment Programme has highlighted **importance of seagrasses to the Environment and to People**.
2. Seagrasses are marine **flowering plants found in shallow waters** from tropics to Arctic circle.
3. Benefits-Contribute to **community well-being through food security from fish production**, improved quality of water, protection of coasts from erosion, storms and floods, carbon sequestration and storage.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR`S(MHA) COMMITTEE ON CLAUSE 6 OF ASSAM ACCORD

1. Assam accord was signed between Indian Government and leaders of the Assam movement at the end of a **6 year agitation(1979-85) against illegal migration into Assam**.
2. **Clause 6 of accord states that “Constitutional,legislative and administrative Safeguards”** shall be provided to protect,preserve and promote the cultural,social,linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
3. This gives rise to two questions-what will these safeguards be and who are the Assamese people eligible for these?
4. Now, members of the MHA`s committee have independently released the report on implementation of clause 6.According to the report-**definition of Assamese people and certain safeguards**.