

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

26TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- For the first time, the government, under the ambit of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, has brought in detailed guidelines for digital content on both digital media and Over The Top (OTT) platforms, while giving itself overriding powers.
- The Centre notified new, stricter guidelines for social media intermediaries, making it mandatory for platforms such as WhatsApp to help identify the “originator” of “unlawful” messages. It will also require the likes of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to take down such messages within a specific timeframe and set up grievance redressal mechanisms.
- In a first joint statement issued by the two sides in years, India and Pakistan said they have agreed to a “strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control (LoC) and all other sectors” with effect from the midnight of February 24-25.
- The Centre opposed any changes to the existing laws on marriage to recognise same-sex marriages, saying such interference would cause “a complete havoc with the delicate balance of personal laws in the country”.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Jal Shakti to devise an appropriate mechanism for effective monitoring of steps to curb pollution and rejuvenation of all polluted river stretches across the country.
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is planning to take the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) for aerial mapping of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep to get a better picture of the ocean floor, also called ‘bathymetric’ study.

KARBI INSURGENCY

1. Over 1,000 militants of five militant groups of Karbi Anglong district ceremonially **laid down arms at an event in Guwahati, Assam.**
2. **Karbi is major ethnic community of Assam demanding** for a separate state of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.
3. Presently, the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) is an autonomous district council, protected under the 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

UNHRC'S NEW RESOLUTION AGAINST SRILANKA

1. Sri Lanka has made an appeal to the member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) **to reject the impending resolution on the island nation's human rights accountability and reconciliation.**
2. Sri Lanka is facing a new resolution calling on it **to hold human rights abusers to account and deliver justice to victims** of its 26-year civil war (1983-2009).
3. The war was mainly a clash between the Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) insurgent group, the latter of which had hoped to establish a separate state for the Tamil minority.
4. Sri Lankan forces and Tamil rebels were accused of atrocities during the war, which killed at least 1,00,000 people.

CENTRE LIFTS EMBARGO ON GRANT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESSES TO PRIVATE BANKS

1. With this, **all private sector banks now will be allowed to conduct government-related banking transactions**, such as tax and pension payments.
2. The embargo was imposed in 2012, when finance ministry had not allowed private banks, barring some, to undertake government business. This embargo continued since then.
3. This move will spur competition and promote greater efficiency in standards of customer services.

CECPA: INDIA & MAURITIUS

1. The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius. The India-Mauritius CECPA is the first trade agreement signed by India with a country in Africa.
2. About CECPA: **It is a kind of free trade pact that aims to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.**
3. Benefit to India: **More than 300 domestic goods** from agriculture, textiles, electronics and other sectors will get market access at concessional customs duties in Mauritius.
4. Indian service providers will have access to around 115 sub-sectors from the 11 broad service sectors, such as professional services, computer related services, research & development, other business services, etc.

GREATER TIPRALAND

1. Greater Tipraland is new political demand of Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura-IPFT which sought a separate state, Tipraland, for tribals of Tripura.
2. Tipra kingdom joined **India as a C-Model State on 15 October 1949 under the name Tripura, and later achieved statehood on 21 January 1972.**