

ASSAM RIFLES



Killing of over a dozen civilians in Mon district of Nagaland saw angry crowds vandalise camps of Assam Rifles in the district.

About:

While the botched operation was launched by the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, which has the responsibility of the area where the incident occurred, issued a statement expressing regret over the loss of innocent lives. Assam Rifles is one of the six central armed police forces (CAPFs) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The other forces being the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). It is tasked with the maintenance of law and order in the North East along with the Indian Army and also guards the Indo-Myanmar border in the region. Assam Rifles is the oldest paramilitary force raised way back in 1835 in British India with just 750 men.

BOOSTER SHOT

With the Omicron variant of Covid-19 spreading across the country, the need for a booster shot or an additional jab may feel more urgent than ever.



What is an additional dose of a Covid-19 vaccine?

An additional dose, originally called a third dose, is given to people with moderately or severely compromised immune systems to improve their response to the initial vaccine series. The term “third dose” was used to refer to additional doses for the two mRNA vaccines, but now the term is “additional dose” because

those who received a Johnson & Johnson “one dose” vaccine may also be eligible for a dose based on their immune systems. People with weakened immune systems might not develop enough immunity after vaccination with two doses of a vaccine. An additional dose, thus, might improve their protection against the novel coronavirus.

What is a booster shot?

A booster shot is nothing but a means of strengthening one’s immune system against a particular pathogen. It may be exactly the same original vaccine, in which case its goal is to increase the magnitude of protection by producing more antibodies. The booster shot is an additional dose after the protection provided by the original shot(s) has started to decrease over time.

HORNBILL FESTIVAL

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To protest the killings of civilians by the security forces in Mon district on Saturday, eight of the 17 tribes in Nagaland have announced their withdrawal from the annual Hornbill Festival, which is currently underway at Kisama village.



About:

The 22nd edition of the annual event started on December 1, 2021. Also called the “festival of festivals”, the 10-day annual programme brings all the 17 tribes of the Nagaland on a platform and facilitates the promotion of their culture to the rest of the world. The first edition of the festival – which is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state’s tribes – was held in 2000. Organised by the State Tourism and Art &

Culture Departments, the Hornbill Festival is held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, about 12 km from Kohima. One of the major highlights of this festival is the Hornbill International Rock Festival, held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, where local and international rock bands are roped in to perform.

ASEEM PORTAL

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal, which acts as a directory of skilled workforce.



A · S · E · E · M
Aatmanirbhar
Skilled Employee
Employer Mapping

About:

The objective is to provide a platform that matches supply of skilled workforce with the market demand, thereby facilitating better livelihood opportunities for youth and availability of ready skilled manpower to employers. ASEEM portal is being managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry. As on 16.07.2021, 1.3 crore candidates have been registered on ASEEM portal which includes directly registered candidates and the candidates registered on Skill India Portal (SIP).

ASEEM as such consists of three IT based AI (artificial intelligence) driven interfaces for stakeholder interactions:

- A job application for individuals with access to hyper local jobs using machine learning and automated match based on persona.
- A demand and campaign management system for employers to forecast the current and future demand.
- A management dashboard for analytics and insights. This could also be used for future decision making.

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AFSPA



The recent killings of civilians by security forces in a case of alleged mistaken identity in Nagaland has once again rekindled the debate over the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), a law that gives enormous discretionary powers to the armed forces over a civilian population.

About:



- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said he has urged the Centre to remove AFSPA from Nagaland as the law is a “black spot on the image of the country”. AFSPA gives armed forces special powers to control “disturbed areas”, which are designated by the government when it is of the opinion that a region is in such a disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary. Under its provisions, the armed forces have been empowered to open fire, enter and search without warrant, and arrest any person who has committed a cognisable offence, all while having immunity from being prosecuted. AFSPA can be implemented in an area after it has been declared as “disturbed”. The power to declare a territory “disturbed” initially lay with the states, but passed to the Centre in 1972.

21st INDIA – RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT



President of the Russian Vladimir Putin, paid a working visit to New Delhi on 06 December 2021 for the 21st India – Russia Annual summit with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

About:

- The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the sustained progress in the ‘Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership’ between both countries despite the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic. They welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the 2+2 Dialogue of Foreign and Defence Ministers and the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military-Technical Cooperation in New Delhi on 6 December 2021. The role of connectivity through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the proposed Chennai - Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor figured in the discussions. Both sides renewed the military-technical cooperation agreement for another 10 years till 2031 and also signed the deal for the manufacture of AK-203 assault rifles. AK-203 Assault Rifles will tremendously augment the operational capability of our soldiers. Hence, this contract ends the long quest of Indian Army to replace aging INSAS Rifle with a modern weapon. AK-203 Rifle, having an effective range of 300 meters is a light weight and easy to use Modern Assault weapon with proven technology. Both sides concluded 28 agreements and several hydrocarbon projects are on the anvil. They have set a target of trade worth 30 billion dollars and investment worth 50 billion dollars by 2025.

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RUSSIA-UKRAINE BORDER TENSION

The tension on the Russia-Ukraine border represents a major security crisis for the region, with the potential to snowball into a broader conflict.

About:

- Ukraine says that Russia has amassed around 90,000 troops at the border, and US intelligence reports say that a Russian invasion of Ukraine is possible as early as next month. Russia has shown, as recently as 2014, that it is not averse to taking military action in Ukraine. In that year, Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in what was the first time a European country annexed territory from another country since World War Two.

Background



Ukraine and Russia share hundreds of years of cultural, linguistic and familial links. As part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the second-most powerful Soviet republic after Russia, and was crucial strategically, economically and culturally. Ever since Ukraine split from the Soviet Union, both Russia and the West have vied for greater influence in the country in order to keep the balance of power in the region in their favour. For the United States and the European Union, Ukraine is a crucial buffer between Russia and the West. Efforts to induct Ukraine into NATO have been ongoing for many years and seems to have picked up pace recently. Russia has declared such a move a “red line”, with Moscow worried about the consequences of the US-led military alliances expanding right up to its doorstep.