

Sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes in Reservations

In a 6:1 landmark verdict, the Supreme Court allowed the sub-categorisation of scheduled castes in reservations, allowing wider protection for underrepresented groups.

Background

- ❖ The Supreme Court was reviewing the constitutional validity of Section 4(5) of the Punjab Act, which depends on whether sub-classifications can be made within the Scheduled Castes or Tribes or if they should be treated as homogenous groups.

More on News

- ❖ A seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud ruled that sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) is permissible.
- ❖ The bench, which included Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal, Manoj Misra, and Satish Chandra Sharma, delivered six separate judgments.
- ❖ This judgment overrules the 2004 decision in *EV Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*, where a five-judge bench had held that sub-classification was not permissible, arguing that SC/STs form homogenous classes.

New Guidelines for State Governments

- ❖ States cannot allocate 100% reservation to any one sub-caste within SCs.
- ❖ States must base sub-categorization on empirical data of representation.

Rationale Behind the Decision

- ❖ Addressing complaints that the benefits of SC/ST reservations were being monopolized by a few subcastes, leaving others disadvantaged.
- ❖ The court aims to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among all sub-castes

Impact:

- ❖ States can now provide subcategories within SC reservations, ensuring that marginalized subcastes also receive benefits.

Guidelines of PG Facility

Set government guidelines will soon be implemented for running private paying guests (PG) facilities and hostels in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- ❖ **Committee formation:** The draft guidelines have already been prepared and a seven-member committee has been formed under the chairmanship of special secretary, higher education, Shipu Giri for scrutinizing it.
- ❖ The committee will provide its recommendation regarding the registration and operation of such hostels in the interest of students and the public within a month, after which the rules will be implemented.
- ❖ **Members:** In the committee, one representative each from the basic education, secondary education, technical education, medical education and Home departments have been included as members.

Benefits

- ❖ Lakhs of students are preparing for various competitive exams for pursuing higher education in different cities of U.P. away from their hometowns, including Prayagraj, Kanpur and Lucknow, will be the biggest beneficiaries of this step of the state government framing the rules for registration and operation of PG facilities and hostels.
- ❖ With its implementation, the arbitrariness of landlords will be checked and the students will be able to get at least the minimum basic facilities and safety as per government norms while staying in these facilities.

Model Solar City- Ayodhya

Recently, The Uttar Pradesh has achieved a 40 MW power generation capacity through a solar energy plant in Ayodhya.

Key Points

- ❖ Due to this Ayodhya achieved the prestigious designation of a model solar city under the Uttar Pradesh Solar Energy Policy 2022.
- ❖ According to the policy, a solar city is defined as one where renewable energy plants can reduce the estimated total demand for conventional energy by at least 10%.
- ❖ Ayodhya has exceeded this benchmark, achieving double the required capacity.

World Craft City

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has been awarded the title of 'World Craft City' by the World Crafts Council (WCC).

Key Points

- ❖ This recognition is a testament to the city's rich cultural and artistic heritage and the exceptional skills of its artisans.
- ❖ Kashmir has become the fourth Indian city to be honored with the World Craft City certificate by the World Crafts Council, the other cities are:
 - Jaipur in Rajasthan,
 - Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu, and
 - Mysore in Karnataka.

Short News

- ❖ For the first time, the Prayagraj Mela Authority is setting up a 2000-tent city near Samudra Koop in Jhansi, allowing guests to follow the activities of Naga Sadhus, Mandaleshwars, and Maha Mandaleshwars closely due to their camp located close to the tents of the akhadas.

- ❖ The Seventh edition of India International Hospitality Expo (IHE 2024) is to take place from 3rd to 6th August 2024 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR.

Important News- Other States

Odisha	❖ Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology Deemed to be University has been granted the distinguished Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC), recognizing the University's substantial contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From a pool of 476 applications around the World, only 19 organizations, including KIIT DU, were selected for this prestigious honour.
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Miscellaneous

- ❖ Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Tokyo's Edogawa Ward, highlighting Gandhi's global legacy and eternal message of peace and non-violence.

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