

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

14TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The COVID19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown have proved to be new drivers of child marriages in rural Madhya Pradesh, with several reports of such ceremonies from different parts of the State during the ongoing marriage season.
- Myristica swamp treefrog, a rare arboreal species endemic to the Western Ghats that bears the scientific name *Mercurana myristicapalustris*, has been recorded for the first time north of the Shencottah gap in the Vazhachal Reserve Forest in Kerala's Thrissur district.
- A U.S. court has rejected the bail plea of Tahawwur Rana, key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack lodged in a Los Angeles prison, who awaits extradition to India.
- There has been some slowdown in loans sanctioned to struggling businesses and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) over the months of October and November under the ₹ 3 lakh crore emergency credit guarantee scheme announced by the government in May.
- Connectivity projects, including the resurrection of the 12km Chilahati-Haldibari rail link after 55 years, will be highlighted when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hold a virtual bilateral summit on December 17.
- A Chinese spacecraft carrying rocks and soil from the moon has begun its journey back to Earth, putting China on course to become the first country to successfully retrieve lunar samples since the 1970s.
- The detection of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in sewage samples has raised the possibility of using environmental water surveillance to monitor virus activity in infected areas, researchers have said.

GLOBAL SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS(SWF) INVESTMENT

1. India has replaced China as the most sought-after destination for global sovereign wealth funds investment in the private sector.
2. It is sign of the country's growing attraction for investors.
3. An SWF is an investment fund which is primarily owned by the National Government. These funds generally invest in financial instruments such as bonds, stocks, gold and real estate.

POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

1. It is also known as the Mini Kaziranga as it harbors the highest density of Rhino in the world and second highest concentration of Rhino in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.
2. It is situated in Assam and its boundary is made by the Garanga Beel on the south and the river Brahmaputra on the North.
3. Other fauna found in the sanctuary are Leopard, Asiatic Water buffalo, Jungle Cats, Flying fox etc.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK(ADB)

1. ADB narrowed India's GDP Contraction projection to 8% in 2020-21 as compared to 9% estimated earlier.
2. Findings were released in ADB's supplement to Asia Development Outlook.
3. ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966 to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific through environmentally sustainable growth. It's headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
4. Top 5 shareholders-Japan(15.6%), USA(15.6%), China(6.4%), India(6.3%) and Australia(5.8%).

RAMANUJAN PRIZE FOR YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS

1. Dr. Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from Brazil, received the 2020 award for her work in algebraic geometry. Dr. Carolina is the first non-Indian to receive the prize.
2. Prize is given annually since 2005 to a researcher from a developing country who is less than 45 years of age.
3. Award has been instituted by Department of Science and Technology(DST) in memory of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

PRIME MINISTER STREET VENDORS ATMANIRBHAR NIDHI(PM SVANIDHI) SCHEME

1. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.
2. Based on the profiled data, benefits of the various eligible Central Schemes would be extended to them for their holistic socio-economic upliftment.
3. PM SVANidhi was launched with an objective to provide affordable working capital loan up to Rs.10,000 to street Vendors for facilitating resumption of their livelihoods adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

SHAHTOOT DAM

1. India will be constructing the Shahtoot Dam upon the Maiden river tributary of Kabul river in Afghanistan.
2. Benefits-It will provide irrigation facilities, Supply drinking water to around 2 million people in the city of Kabul, recharge the underground water for drinking purposes in and around Kabul etc.