

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

30TH JULY, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A longpending case of idol theft finally saw an important development as Natesa, a rare sandstone idol in the 9th century Pratihara style of Rajasthan, is returning to the country after 22 years. The Natesa icon, currently at the Indian High Commission, London, was originally from the Ghateswara Temple, Baroli, Rajasthan.
- Food habits during COVID19 may have shifted from diverse and nutritive diets to staple foods such as wheat and rice as the prices of vegetables, pulses and eggs rose sharply after the lockdown. according to a new study by the Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition in New York.
- Antibiotics are extensively misused in the dairy sector and its residues remain largely untested in milk, noted a recently published survey report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
- 4year UG courses in, M.Phil. out in new education policy Common higher education regulator to be set up; focus on mother tongue, It also envisions universalisation of early childhood education from ages 3 to 6 by 2030.
- Days after J&K Lieutenant Governor G.C. Murmu hinted at restoring high speed 4G Internet, the Union Territory administration on extended the ban up to August 19, citing fears of antinational activities.
- The Supreme Court threatened contempt action against the IIT(Bombay) on learning that the premier institution has opted to pull out of a court ordered project to instal an experimental smog tower to curb air pollution in Delhi.
- Forest officials in southern Assam's Cachar district have rescued a kangaroo and blue macaws among exotic wildlife species being smuggled out of Mizoram.

INDIA REPORT ON DIGITAL EDUCATION

Key facts

1. Report elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by MHRD, Education departments of States and UTs for **ensuring accessible and inclusive education to children** at home and reducing learning gaps.
2. COVID19 has to closure of schools and has impacted learning of over 240 million children in India.
3. Report identifies 3 broad pathways being followed to ensure continuous learning, depending upon level of available technology as follows.
4. Where videoconferencing tools are available; Where digital technology is completely absent, Asynchronous digital education that uses already prepared digital content hosted on platforms such as DIKSHA.
5. Following Plans- **Digital Classroom as an instructional modality**, Virtual vocational training, Quality E-content in local languages.

HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS(HICDP) IN MALDIVES.

Key facts

1. Maldives launches 9 development projects of fish-processing plants, Addu Tourism Zone etc. In 2019, India and Maldives signed a bilateral pact under **HICDP**.
2. HICDPs are those with a **high-level of community impact** and participation in areas of livelihood and income generation, health education, gender and child empowerment, sports and sustainable development.
3. Importance of Maldives for India- **Proximity to the west coast of India**, Located at the **hub of commercial sea-lanes** running through Indian ocean.

BAGHJAN OIL WELL, ASSAM

Key facts

1. **Committee formed by the National Green Tribunal(NGT)** has faulted Oil India Limited for fire breakout in May 2020.
2. It also found that fire breakout has led to extensive damage to both **Maguri-Motapung wetland and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park**.
3. Maguri-Motapung wetland, a spot known for avian and aquatic species is located towards the south of the oil well.
4. Dibru Saikhowa National Park, a biodiversity hotspot, is also located around two kilometres in the north.

MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES LAUNCHES TWO INITIATIVES.

Key facts

1. **Knowledge Resource Centre Network(KRCNet)**, It aims to develop an integrated information system for providing one-point 24*7 access to the knowledge products like books, reports, journals etc.
2. It is done under Digital India initiative.
3. **Mobile app "Mausam"** for India Meteorological Department.
4. It will communicate weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner without technical jargons.