

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

15TH MAY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **Regardless of one's view of a regime's inaction, there should be no departure from the principle that any advice or warning the Governor wants to give to the elected government ought to be in private and in confidence.**
- **The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) recently wrote to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories on the issue of children orphaned due to COVID19. It said that that 'if any such information about an abandoned or orphaned child is received by any entity, organisation, or NGO, then the NCPCR has to be informed.**
- **A 'cute' American turtle popular as pet is threatening to invade the natural water bodies across the Northeast, which is home to 21 of the 29 vulnerable native Indian species of freshwater turtles and tortoises.**
- **After the Centre filed a review petition challenging the Supreme Court's interpretation of the 102nd Constitutional Amendment in the Maratha reservation case, the Maharashtra government has said it should also seek a review of the 50% reservation cap in the Indra Sawhney case.**
- **ASHA workers struggle with pandemic surveillance in rural Uttar Pradesh. They lack adequate protective gear and monitoring kits for door-to-door visits.**
- **A total of 186 elephants were killed after being hit by trains across India between 2009-10 and 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).**
- **The UN Security Council will hold a virtual public meeting on Sunday to address the soaring violence between Israel and the Palestinians, diplomats said on Thursday.**
- **K.P. Sharma Oli, heading a minority government, was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister.**

MAKE IT THE LAST PANDEMIC REPORT

1. An independent global panel, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) in its report named "Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic" concluded that the catastrophic scale of the Covid-19 pandemic could have been prevented. The report was requested by World Health Organization (WHO) member states in May 2020.

2. **Poor strategic choices, unwillingness to tackle inequalities and an uncoordinated system created a toxic cocktail which allowed the pandemic to turn into a catastrophic human crisis.**

3. **Recommendations: Rich Should Help Poor:** Rich, well-vaccinated countries should provide the 92 poorest territories in the Covax scheme with at least one billion vaccine doses by September 2021, and more than two billion by mid-2022.

4. The G7 industrialised nations should pay 60% of the USD19 billion required to fund vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics via the WHO's access to Covid Tools Accelerator programme in 2021.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES RELATED TO BAMBOO

1. The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has virtually inaugurated **22 bamboo clusters in 9 states viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.**

2. **Other Initiatives-National Bamboo Mission (NBM):** The restructured NBM was launched in 2018-19 for the holistic development of the complete value chain of the bamboo sector and is being implemented in a hub (industry) and spoke model.

3. It aims at connecting farmers to markets so as to enable farmer producers to get a ready market for the bamboo grown and to increase the supply of appropriate raw material to the domestic industry.

4. **Removal of Bamboo from 'Tree' Category:** The Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees.

MOORHEN YOGA MAT

1. Recently, six young girls from the fishing community from Assam have developed a biodegradable and compostable yoga mat called 'Moorhen Yoga Mat'.

2. The intervention was triggered through an initiative by North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR).

3. **The 'Moorhen Yoga mat' is named after Kam Sorai (Purple moorhen, a resident bird of Deepor Beel Wildlife sanctuary). It is a hand-woven 100% biodegradable and 100% compostable mat developed from water hyacinth.**

4. NECTAR is an autonomous society, set up under the Department of Science & Technology, with its headquarter at Shillong, Meghalaya.

NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AUTHORITY

1. National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) is in the process of **creating a verified and accurate database of companies (Public Interest Entities) and auditors that come under the regulatory ambit of it.**

2. In this regard, the NFRA has been engaging with the Corporate Data Management (CDM) division of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and three recognised stock exchanges in India.

3. NFRA was constituted in 2018 by the Government of India under section 132 (1) of the Companies Act, 2013. It is an audit regulator.