

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

21ST AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Commenting on the result of second serological survey of Delhi, epidemiologists said that the city is on its way to attain herd immunity with the survey showing that 29.1% people have developed antibodies against the virus.
- The Delhi High Court allowed Federation of Indian Animals Protection Organisations(FIAP) and People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to be part of a nationwide survey being conducted by Animal Welfare Board of India on the conditions of animals in circuses.
- Community based organisations (CBOs) in Arunachal Pradesh differed on the issue of creation of two autonomous councils but agreed that the State needs to be brought under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Kerala government had decided to participate in the bidding process for the Thiruvananthapuram airport based on the principle of right of first refusal, but despite the special provision it didn't qualify, said centre.
- 'Namath Basai', the Kerala government's unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue, has become a runaway hit in Attappady. Government's programme of teaching them in their mother tongue has found many takers.
- India and China held another round of border talks aimed at breaking the impasse along the LAC, with complete disengagement still remaining a faroff prospect. Gaps remain but both sides agreed to resolve outstanding issues, says Centre.
- India maintained a cautious approach to the announcement of Russian vaccine Sputnik V, saying the "National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid19".

PHULDUNGSAI

1. It is a village on the **Tripura-Mizoram border** and has found itself at the centre of a jurisdiction dispute between the two states.
2. Traditionally, Phuldungsai village council as a whole(despite eastern side falling in Mizoram) has been accepted as a part of Tripura.
3. **Betlingchip, Tripura's highest peak, is in Phuldungsai** and is a key tourist destination.

FIRST SNOW LEOPARD CONSERVATION CENTRE

1. It will be **opened in Uttarkashi forest division** in Uttarakhand.
2. Conservation centre will be built by Uttarakhand forest department with United Nations development programme(**UNDP**) help as art of its project, **SECURE Himalayas**.
3. SECURE Himalayas aims at **securing livelihoods,conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems**.
4. IUCN status of snow leopard:Vulnerable.

NTPC DEVELOPS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INCREASING USE OF FLY ASH UTILIZATION

1. **NTPC Ltd. Has developed an infrastructure at Rihand project** in Uttar Pradesh to transport fly ash in bulk to cement plants, located at distance, at a cheaper cost.
2. This is in line of its target to achieve **100% utilization of fly ash from power plants**. 77.59% of generated fly ash was utilized in 2018-19.
3. About Fly Ash- Fly ash is a **fine powder, which is the by-product of burning coal in thermal power Stations(TPS)**.

DEATH VALLEY,USA

1. Death Valley in **California's Mojave Desert recorded one of the hottest air temperatures** of 54.4 degree Celsius.
2. It is believes this is the **hottest daytime temperature ever recorded**, after Previous records were shown to have errors.
3. At 282 feet below sea level, Death Valley is the **lowest point in North America**.

PINAKA

1. Recently the **first ever pinaka rockets fully manufactured by the private sector** have been successfully test fired by the army.
2. Pinaka is indigenous **multibarrel rocket launch system** developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
3. Each Pinaka rocket is capable of carrying a 100kg payload for a range of 40km.

INDIA ENERGY EXCHANGE(IEX) GETS CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION(CERC)'S NOD FOR 'GREEN MARKET'

1. CERC has approved IEX's proposals for transactions in the **Green Term-Ahead Market(G-TAM) contracts**.
2. G-TAM will provide an exclusive platform for trading of renewable and it would be the first physical trading of renewable energy.
3. Green market confers recognition on a trade as **'green' power**. Thus, obligated entities be able to discharge their renewable purchase obligations(RPO) by buying power from renewable energy companies in the exchange.