

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Delhi government is planning to restore Najafgarh lake and augment the city's water supply by leasing farmers' lands and building ponds to recharge the groundwater table at Southwest Delhi's Rawta village.
- Defence minister Rajnath Singh said that India wants an end to the border tension with China and aims to establish peace but reiterated that Indian soldiers will never allow even an inch of land to be taken by anyone.
- The Top leaders of the Army will review the stand-off with China in Eastern Ladakh and the country's overall security situation, among other issues, during a four-day biannual conference that starts Monday in Delhi.
- The Seaplane that will connect Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district flew into Kochi in India on Sunday from Male in Maldives and will arrive in Gujarat on Monday.
- After taking stringent measures to control onion prices, the government is now cracking the whip on potato hoarding, with Uttar Pradesh asking private cold stores to offload the stock by October 31 in an attempt to bring down prices in the market.
- Seychelles elected an opposition candidate, Wavel Ramkalawan as president for the first time since 1977, authorities announced.
- Pakistan's Major Opposition parties held their third massive joint rally despite security threats in the troubled south-western Balochistan province's capital Quetta, as part of their nationwide campaign to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan.
- The Government plans to extend the deadline for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSMEs beyond October 31 in case the targeted loan sanction amount of Rs 3lakh crore is not achieved.

## SUSTAINABLE PROCESSING OF SOLID WASTE: 'WASTE TO WEALTH'

1. Increasing population & rapid urbanization necessitate sustainable waste management.
2. Volume of waste is projected to rise from the **present 62 million tonnes to about 150 million tonnes by 2030.**
3. Waste to wealth refers to the process of conversion of waste to a product that can be put to primary use which can be viewed as a process of generating wealth.
4. Some of the technologies for 'Waste to wealth' are **Plasma arc gasification process, Bio-gasification, Biomass Waste Disposal and Pyrolysis.**

## LOST RIVER IN THAR DESERT

1. Researchers have found evidence of a **"lost" river that ran through the Central Thar Desert**, near Bikaner, as early as 172 thousand years ago.
2. That Desert, also called Great Indian desert, is located partly in Rajasthan state, northwestern India, and partly in Punjab and Sindh provinces, eastern Pakistan.
3. It would have offered a life-line to **Paleolithic populations(roughly 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 B.C.),** and potentially an important corridor for migrations.

## UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (UNHCR) EXPRESSES CONCERN ON FCRA LAW

1. Foreign Contributions(Regulation) Amendment Act(FCRA), 2020 allows: For the central government to hold a summary inquiry to direct bodies with FCRA approval to **"not utilise the unutilised foreign contribution or receive the remaining portion of foreign contribution"**.
2. Limits use of foreign funds received for administrative purposes from the current limit of 50% to 20%.
3. Recently, UNHCR pointed that **FCRA violates India's obligations under International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its "vaguely worded and overbroad" provisions** curtail these freedoms for NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY(IFSCA) PRESCRIBES REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR REITS AND INVITS IN IFSC

1. IFSCA with an objective to develop the financial products and services in GIFT International Financial Services Centre(IFSC) has prescribed the regulatory framework for Real Estate Investment Trusts(REITs) and infrastructure Investment Trusts(InvITs).
2. **REITs and InvITs registered in IFSC have been permitted to invest in real estate assets and infrastructure projects** respectively in IFSC, India and other foreign jurisdictions.
3. Permission to global participants i.e. REITs and InvITs incorporated in Financial Action Task Force(FATF) compliant jurisdictions to list on the stock exchanges in GIFT IFSC.

## COVIRAP

1. Recently, Indian Council of Medical Research certified COVIRAP. **It is a COVID-19 diagnostic machine developed by IIT Kharagpur.**
2. Unlike real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction(RT-PCR) machine, which could cost up to Rs.25 lakh, and needed to be operated by a molecular biologist, the COVIRAP machine cost less than Rs.5,000 to make and the test kits would each cost about Rs.500.