

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

9TH OCTOBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- In a sign of India's increased engagement with the ongoing Intra-Afghan Dialogue, Prime Minister had a meeting with chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) Abdullah Abdullah.
- Fresh investment proposals surged sharply in the second quarter of this year, rising 107% over the first quarter, with 2,219 new projects entailing an investment of ₹2.19 lakh crore.
- The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority has directed Delhi and neighbouring States to implement air pollution control measures under "very poor" and "severe" category air quality of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) from October 15, including a ban on use of diesel generators.
- The Gauhati High Court has said that people declared as foreigners cannot be kept in jails that serve as detention centres, depriving them of basic human rights and human dignity.
- The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that the Indian media is free and it reports on issues on merit. The Ministry's response came a day after the Chinese Embassy sent an email to around 250 journalists asking them not to refer to Taiwan as a "country" or a "nation".
- American poet Louise Gluck won the 2020 Nobel Literature Prize, an unexpected choice known for themes of childhood and family life that draw inspiration from myths and classical motifs.
- High-powered Chinese delegation visits Sri Lanka. Officials, led by Yang Jiechi, will meet Sri Lanka's President and PM.
- World Bank widens GDP contraction forecast to 9.6% Poverty reduction suffers setback; 'continue key reforms to reverse virus impact.'

INDIA GETS ITS FIRST EVER BRAND & LOGO FOR ITS COTTON

1. India's premium Cotton would be known as **Kasturi Cotton** in the world cotton trade.
2. Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.
3. India grows all four species of cultivated cotton Gossypium arboreum and herbaceum (Asian Cotton), G. Barbadense (Egyptian Cotton) and G. hirsutum (American Upland cotton).

CABINET RATIFIED BAN ON SEVEN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs) LISTED UNDER STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

1. **7 POPs** are Chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, Hexabromodiphenylether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octa-BDE), Tetrabromodiphenylether and Pentabromodiphenylether (Commercial penta-BDE), Pentachlorobenzene, Hexabromocyclododecane and Hexachlorobutadiene.
2. The ratification process would enable **India to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) financial resources** in updating National Implementation Plan (NIP).

DELHI SERVICE SUSPENSION INITIATIVE (DSSI)

1. This initiative aims to grant debt-service suspension to poorest countries to help them manage the severe impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. It allows **poor countries to concentrate their resources on fighting pandemic and safeguarding lives.**
3. It was endorsed by World Bank's Development Committee, IMF and G20 Finance Ministers in April 2020. **IMF and World Bank are supporting the implementation of the DSSI.**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ZSI) AND INTERNATIONAL BAR CODE OF LIFE (iBOL)

1. It will help further efforts in DNA barcoding and comparing individual sequences to a reference database.
2. **DNA barcoding helps in identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions.**
3. iBOL, a Canadian not-for-profit corporation, is a research alliance to use the reference library to inventory, assess, and describe biodiversity.

MY GANGA MY DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN

1. Campaign aims **to conduct census in the 250 km stretch of the Ganga River.**
2. According to last census, there are about 2,500 to 3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India. Dams are biggest hindrance as they disturb their migration.
3. Gangetic Dolphin is National Aquatic Animal of India. It is protected **under First Schedule of Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972.**

ANAKKAMPOYIL-MEPPADI TUNNEL ROAD LAUNCHED

1. It is a 7Km tunnel, being described as the third longest in the country.
2. It is part of an 8 kilometre road cutting through sensitive forest and hills of Western Ghats.
3. It connects Kozhikode and Wayanad districts of Kerala. This region is **part of an elephant corridor spread between Wayanad and Nilgiri Hills in Tamilnadu.**