

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

8TH NOVEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Karnataka Biodiversity Board has decided to declare four more areas in the State as biodiversity heritage sites. Antargange Betta in Kolar; Aadi Narayana Swamy Betta in Chickballapur; Mahima Ranga Betta in Nelamangala, Bengaluru; and the Urumbi area on the Kumaradhara river basin in Dakshina Kannada as biodiversity heritage sites.
- India is not a part of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway at present, but as Iran begins the second phase of the 628km project, Tehran hopes New Delhi will help it procure equipment to run the rail line from the Chabahar port to the Afghan border.
- The United Arab Emirates announced a major overhaul of the country's Islamic personal laws, allowing unmarried couples to cohabit, loosening alcohol restrictions and criminalising so-called "honor killings."
- Democratic candidate Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., was elected the 46th President of the United States late on Saturday morning, beating incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump, by securing more than the required 270 of the 538 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House.
- India successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite EOS01 and nine international customer spacecraft on board a Polar rocket from Sriharikota.
- Amid protests by right wing parties, six constituents of the People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) held a meeting in Jammu and decided to contest the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections jointly.
- Indian pepper has suffered a sharp erosion in domestic prices as unrestricted dumping of Vietnamese pepper — via Nepal and Sri Lanka — has gained momentum in the last couple of years, planters said.

MICRO-PLASTIC POLLUTION IN HOT LIQUID CONSUMED FROM DISPOSABLE PAPER CUPS

1. A recent research by IIT Kharagpur has confirmed the existence of **contaminated particles. In hot liquid served in paper cups, due to the degradation of micro-plastics and other hazardous components** from the lining material of the cup.
2. Paper cups are usually lined by a thin layer of hydrophobic film which is made of mostly plastic (polyethylene) and sometimes co-polymers to hold in the paper cup.

SITARE-GYTI AND SRISTI-GYTI AWARDS

1. Recently, Union Minister of Science & Technology gave away Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SITARE-GYTI) and Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SRISTI-GYTI) awards.
2. **SITARE-GYTI awards** are given every year **to the most promising technologies developed by the students in life sciences, biotechnology, agriculture, medical devices etc.**
3. **SRISTI-GYTI awards** are given to students in other engineering discipline.

INDIAN TEENS RANK LOW ON BMI

1. India ranked 198th and 196th respectively among 200 countries ranked on average **Body Mass Index (BMI) of 19-year-old boys and girls**, according to a study published in the Lancet.
2. BMI is measured as the **weight in kg divided by the square of the height in metres**. The WHO guidelines define a normal BMI range as 18.5 to 24.9, overweight as 25 or higher, and obesity as 30 or higher.
3. The mean BMI of 19-year old boys is 20.1 and 20.1 for the girls.

RBI ANNOUNCES CO-LENDING MODEL (CLM) SCHEME FOR BANKS, NBFCs FOR PRIORITY SECTOR

1. Primary focus of CLM scheme is **to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost**, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and greater reach of the Non-Banking financial Companies (NBFCs).
2. Under CLM scheme banks along with NBFCs (including housing finance companies) can provide loans to priority sector borrowers based on a prior agreement.

NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILDLIFE (NBWL) HAS APPROVED AN ACTION PLAN FOR VULTURE CONSERVATION 2020-2025

1. New plan has laid out strategies to stem decline in vulture population, especially of the three Gyps species- **Oriental white-backed vulture (Gyps bengalensis), Slender-billed vulture (Gyps tenuirostris) and Long-billed vulture (Gyps indicus)**
2. Key highlights of new plan- A system to automatically remove a drug from veterinary use if it is found to be toxic to vultures.
3. Diclofenac, a drug used to treat cattle, was linked to kidney failure in vultures and a decline in the bird's population. Though the drug was banned in 2006, it is reportedly still available for use.