

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

8TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- With the entire Lakshadweep group of islands being declared an organic agricultural area, the island administration is eyeing an expansion of the traditional business in coconuts and coconut products through value addition, better marketing, and round-the year processing.
- President Nicolas Maduro seized total control of Venezuela's political institutions with a sweeping victory in legislative elections that were boycotted by the main Opposition parties.
- On the eve of the Bharat Bandh, farmer leaders tried to find a balance between highlighting Opposition endorsement of the nationwide strike call as a sign of the widening support for their movement and refuting the government's accusation that the protests have now been hijacked by vested political interests.
- The Supreme Court allowed the foundation stone laying ceremony of a new parliament building to go ahead as scheduled on December 10 after the government gave an undertaking to keep in abeyance the construction or demolition of buildings and the shifting of trees in the Central Vista area for now.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will include transgenders as a separate third gender in their annual publication of Prison Statistics India from 2020 onwards.
- U.S. and Chinese companies dominated the global arms market in 2019, while West Asia made its first appearance among the 25 biggest weapons manufacturers, a report by the SIPRI research institute said.
- India's imports from China as well as its trade deficit declined sharply in November, marking an exception to a record month for Chinese exports around the world that registered the fastest growth in almost three years and underlined China's continuing recovery amid a pandemic induced global slump.

6TH INDIA-CLMV(CAMBODIA, LAO PDR, MYANMAR AND VIETNAM) BUSINESS CONCLAVE HELD

1. Confederation of Indian Industry in association with Ministry of Commerce and industry organised conclave to enhance regional cooperation with a focussed assimilation of key players from this region.
2. India invited CLMV to join International Solar Alliance and Resilient Supply Chain Initiative.
3. Significance of CLMV countries for India-**Proximity to northeastern states and disaster access to ASEAN markets. CLMV countries have witnessed high rates of economic growth and macro-economic stability in recent years** and have become important destinations for FDI flows.

WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA(WII) EXPERTS EVALUATE SITES IN MADHYA PRADESH FOR AFRICAN CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION

1. Experts **looked for best habitat based on prey base, safety and topography.** Cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.
2. Shortlisted sites include Kuno Palpur sanctuary, Nauradehi sanctuary, Gandhi sagar sanctuary and Madhav National Park.
3. **IUCN status-African Cheetah-Vulnerable and Asiatic Cheetah-Critically endangered.**

AYUSH EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

1. It will be set up by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Ayush to boost AYUSH exports.
2. Both ministries will work together to facilitate more exports of AYUSH products, by standardising their HS(Harmonised System) codes used for global trade.
3. Bureau of Indian Standards will help in developing international standards for AYUSH products and services.

URBAN QUALITY INDEX

1. It was released by IIT-Bombay. It ranked cities on 7 parameters-Basic amenities, Economic development, Safety and security, transportation access, environmental impact, Infrastructure development and Gender role.
2. **Key Findings-Chennai is the most women-friendly and Patna the least. Gap in literacy rate between men and women is the widest in Jaipur and lowest in Kolkata.**
3. In transport access Delhi was highest ranked and Indore was at the bottom.
4. Pune topped in providing basic amenities while Patna was last.

BHASHAN CHAR

1. **Bhashan Char is an island formed by sedimentation in the Bay of Bengal. It is surfaced in 2006 from the sediment deposited by Meghna river.** It is vulnerable to going under water from tides and flooding.
2. Bangladesh has **begun sending Rohingya refugees to Bhashan char from the overcrowded camps at Cox's Bazar.**
3. Rohingya are one of the ethnic communities of Myanmar living in Rakhine state. In 2017, a crackdown by Myanmar's army sent fleeing across the border.

VITTALA TEMPLE

1. Vittala Temple at Hampi was built during the reign of King Devaraya II(1422-1446 A.D.) of Vijayanagara Empire.
2. Several sections of the temple were expanded and renovated during the reign of Krishnadevaraya(1509-1529 A.D).
3. Temple is dedicated to Vittala, an avatar of Lord Vishnu.