

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

28TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Supreme Court questioned the government about the delay in clearing Collegium recommendations for judicial appointments to various High Courts. A Bench of Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Surya Kant asked the Centre if there was a timeline for government clearance of such recommendations.
- The Supreme Court appointed conservationist Nandita Hazarika as Member of a Technical Committee constituted by it on October 14 last year to hear complaints by land owners against the action taken by the Nilgris Collector, which included sealing of their buildings and allegations about the “arbitrary variance in acreage of the elephant corridor.”
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.
- India’s new farm laws have the potential to increase income, but vulnerable cultivators need to be given a social safety net, International Monetary Fund’s Chief Economist Gita Gopinath Said.
- If 2020 was the year of discovery of COVID19 vaccines, 2021 will be the year India faces the challenge of getting them to people across the world, has said.
- Supply of foodgrains came to a halt in Kerala morning after technical glitches in the Aadhaar based electronic Point of Sale (ePoS).
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security declared a nationwide terrorism alert, citing the potential threat from domestic anti-government extremists opposed to Joe Biden as President.

M-SAND(MANUFACTURED SAND) POLICY, RAJASTHAN

- 1.Manufactured sand(M-Sand) is **artificial sand produced from crushing hard stones into small sand sized angular shaped particles**, washed and finely graded to be used as construction aggregate.
- 2.Significance of the policy-Reduced dependency on the river sand, boost the use and production of M-Sand, resolve the problem of waste coming out from the mines in the sate, create employment opportunities at the local level.

BIOCOAL

- 1.UP government has set up Bio-Coal Production Plant in Bahraich district to convert farm waste into fuel for power generation.
- 2.Biocoal is a carbon neutral solid biofuel made from organic waste. It is a viable option for coal consumers looking to reduce their emissions.
- 3.It is **produced by processing dry biomass in an inert environment(no oxygen) at high temperatures, a process referred to as pyrolysis.**

ELECTRONIC ELECTORAL PHOTO IDENTITY CARD(e-EPIC)

- 1.It is a secure portable document format(PDF) version of the EPIC which can be downloaded on mobile or in a self-printable on the computer.
- 2.Digitisation is **to ensure there is no delay in getting voter ID cards as the physical card takes time to print and reach the voter.**
- 3.Digital voter ID cards can be stored on Digilocker.This will be first time that government will issue voter identity cards in digital formats.

50 YEARS OF INDIA BANGLADESH RELATIONS

- 1.Commemorating 50 years of the 1971 India-Pakistan war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh, **a 122-member contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces has recently participated in the 72nd Republic Day parade.** This year, India and Bangladesh are also celebrating 50 years of the establishment of their ties.
- 2.This is the third time the Republic Day parade in India has witnessed the participation of a **military contingent from abroad. Previously French troops marched in 2016 and UAE troops in 2017.**
- 3.India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971.
- 4.Defence Cooperation: Various Joint exercises of Army (Exercise Sampriti) and Navy (Exercise Milan) take place between the two countries. Border Management: India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border, which is the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbours.

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:IMF

- 1.The latest World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) **has estimated that India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 11.5% in the Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.**
- 2.India Specific Projections: FY 2020-21: For the current fiscal, the IMF had forecast a record 10.3% contraction.
- 3.Governments Projection for 2020-21: The latest revision for the current fiscal is higher than the government’s first advance estimate of 7.7% and also the RBI’s estimate of 7.5%.