

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

6TH JANUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Supreme Court, in a majority judgment, gave its go ahead to the multicore Central Vista redevelopment project, which proposes to build a new Parliament three times bigger than the existing 93 year old heritage building and modify the use of 86.1 acres of land, home to India's power corridor in the national capital.
- While the global economic recovery has been hit by second waves of infections and more stringent lockdowns in several countries, India's economy is 'riding against the COVID19 wave' with persistent improvements in economic indicators showing a V-shaped recovery, the Finance Ministry said.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that as part of efforts to make India a natural gas based economy, 10,000 more CNG (compressed natural gas) stations would be opened and several lakh PNG (piped natural gas) household connections given in the coming days.
- The two day Asian Water bird Census 2020 commenced in Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of experts from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), covering at least two dozen sites, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolleru Lake and Krishna Sanctuary.
- The Centre launched a hackathon for students, teachers and start ups to design and develop toys and games "based on Indian culture and ethos, local folklore and heroes, and Indian value systems."
- Gulf leaders signed a "solidarity and stability" deal after leaders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar publicly embraced, bringing Doha back into the regional fold after a three year long rift.
- Global economic output is projected to grow by 4% in 2021 assuming widespread rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine throughout the year, as per the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) Report.

SMALL FINANCE BANKS(SFBs)

1. Several SFBs, which are preparing to launch their public(IPOs), are hoping to get an extension in their listing deadline.
2. RBI guidelines require SFBs to list within three years of their net worth reaching Rs.500 crore.
3. **SFBs aim to further financial inclusion by provision of savings, supply of credit to small business units; small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries**, other unorganised sector entities, through high technology-low cost operations.
4. SFBs were proposed by **Nachiket Mor Committee**.

NATIONAL METROLOGY CONCLAVE 2021

1. The Prime Minister has inaugurated the National Metrology Conclave 2021 and also laid the foundation stone of National Environmental Standards Laboratory.
2. The Conclave was organised by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, on its 75th year of inception. National Atomic Time Scale and Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali were dedicated to the nation on the occasion.
3. **The National Atomic Time Scale generates Indian Standard Time with an accuracy of 2.8 nanoseconds.**
4. **Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali (BND):** These are Indian reference materials developed by CSIR-NPL. It is committed **to ensure the quality of products in every manufacturing and consumer sector** by providing SI traceable measurements and enhancing quality life of citizens through metrology.

BANANA GRIT

1. Scientists at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) at Pappanamcode in Kerala have come up with a new product, Banana Grit or Granules, developed from raw Nendran bananas.
2. **Banana Grit and its byproduct can improve gut health and is an ideal ingredient in a healthy diet.** The concept was introduced to utilise the presence of resistant starch in bananas.
3. Starch is a white, granular, organic chemical that is produced by all green plants.

BIRDS FLU THREAT

1. Hundreds of crows have died in Rajasthan prompting authorities to sound a bird flu alert in the state.
2. Bird flu, also known as Avian influenza (AI), is a highly contagious viral disease affecting several species of food-producing birds, including humans, may contract avian influenza.
3. **Influenza viruses are grouped into three types; A, B, and C. Only type A is known to infect animals and is zoonotic, meaning it can infect animals and also humans. Type B and C mostly infect humans and typically cause mild disease.**

FIGHTING DRUG ADDICTION

1. People in a few villages of Jodhpur district's Bilara block, Rajasthan have come together to tackle Drug Addiction among the youth.
2. Steps Taken By the Villagers: **Boycott of persons consuming liquor, tobacco and narcotics.** Imposition of a penalty on the sellers and buyers of these substances.
3. India is sandwiched between two largest Opium producing regions of the world that is the Golden triangle on one side and the Golden crescent on other.