

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

10TH FEBRUARY, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Generally, flowers lose their value if they get spoilt either due to rain or delay in harvest. But the new variety of marigold developed by the Hessarghatta-based Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) will fetch money even if they get spoilt as it can be used for extraction of crude carotene, which is mainly used in the pharmaceutical sector.
- A rock mass, weakened from years of freezing and thawing of snow, may have led to the creation of a weak zone, triggering its collapse that resulted in flash floods in the Chamoli district, initial observations by scientists of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) suggest.
- The Enforcement Directorate conducted searches on the premises of digital news platform *NewsClick* and several other places in connection with alleged receipt of about ₹ 30 crore from overseas in the past three years.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which extends protection from punitive action to certain kinds of unauthorised constructions by three years.
- U.S. President Joe Biden discussed democratic institutions and norms with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per a White House readout of the call between the two leaders.
- The Centre has refused to disclose the minutes of the Lokpal selection committee's meetings, and its decision has now been upheld by the Central Information Commission (CIC).
- Amid the ongoing tussle between the government and Twitter over blocking of content and accounts related to the farmers' protest, Union Ministers and government departments are setting up accounts on Koo, a Made in India alternative to Twitter.

KURBA COMMUNITY:KARNATAKA

- 1.A massive rally was organised by the **Kuruba community to urge the state government of Karnataka to recommend the Centre inclusion of the community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list.**
- 2.Background: From Independence, the community enjoyed the ST status. In 1977, Justice LG Havanur, who headed the backward class commission, moved the Kurubas to the 'most backward classes' category from ST list.
- 3.About Kurubas: The **Kurubas of Karnataka are a traditional sheep rearing community.**
- 4.Kurubas in other states are known by different names – as Dhangars in Maharashtra, Rabaris or Raikas in Gujarat.

MISSION INNOVATION 2.0

- 1.The Union Minister of Science & Technology addressed the Mission Innovation (MI) to mark the beginning of phase-2 of the mission or Mission Innovation 2.0.
- 2.Mission Innovation: Mission Innovation was announced on 30th November 2015, on the sidelines of the Paris Climate Agreement to undertake ambitious measures to combat climate change.
- 3.Membership: It is a **global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to accelerate global clean energy innovation.**
- 4.Principle: **Commitment by all members to seek to double their clean energy innovation investments over five years in selected priority areas.**

MAPPING SEISMIC HAZARD OF EASTERN HIMALAYA

- 1.Scientists have found the first geological evidence of an earthquake on the border of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, documented as the Sadiya earthquake in history. This finding could contribute to a **seismic hazard map of the eastern Himalaya, which can facilitate construction and planning in the region.**
- 2.This site is near the **Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone- a major part of the Eastern Himalaya**, where the Himalaya takes a sharp southward bend and connects with the Indo-Burma Range.
- 3.Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) carried out a mega trench excavation at Himebasti village.

HUNTER SYNDROME:MPSII

- 1.Two brothers suffering from Mucopolysaccharidosis II or MPS II (Hunter Syndrome, Attenuated Type) have approached the Delhi High Court seeking direction to the Centre and AIIMS to provide them free treatment. MPS II is a rare disease that is passed on in families.
- 2.About: **MPS II mostly affects boys and their bodies cannot break down a kind of sugar that builds bones, skin, tendons and other tissues.**
- 3.Cause: It is **caused by changes (mutations) of the IDS gene that regulates the production of the iduronate 2-sulfatase (I2S) enzyme.** This enzyme is needed to break-down complex sugars in the body.

PONG DAM LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- 1.Over a **lakh migratory water birds arrived at the Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh in winter 2020-21.**Location: Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.
- 2.Formation: In 1975, Pong dam was built across the Beas River. It is also called the Pong reservoir or the Maharana Pratap Sagar.