

PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

25TH JULY, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ind- SAT:-** Union HRD Ministry conducted the first ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its Study in India programme..

- **DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH (DIHAR):-** DRDO has established a COVID-19 testing facility at the Leh based laboratory Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) to enhance the rate of testing to identify the Corona cases in the Union Territory of Ladakh..

- **The Navy's largest Solar plant was inaugurated at the INA, Ezhimala:-**

1. The project is a part of the Indian Government's initiative of National Solar Mission, to achieve 100 GigaWatt (GW) of solar Power by 2022..

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) becomes the 1st Indian port and 7th Port globally to sign up for the Science-Based Targets initiative(SBTi).**

- **China on ordered the U.S. consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu to close in retaliation for one of its missions in the United States being shuttered, capping a furious week of Cold Warstyle diplomacy.**

OIL PALM CULTIVATION IN NORTH EAST

Key facts

1. PM appealed to **North-East States to take up oil palm cultivation**, State governments to set up oil palm missions.
2. North-East region has about 2.18 lakh hectares (ha) of land potential for oil palm plantations but only 30,000 ha covered.
3. **Hot and humid climate of North-east** is conducive for the oil crop.
4. **India imports nearly 68%** of its annual edible oil requirements.
5. Government efforts so far- National Mission on Oilseeds and oil palm; Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses.

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2020.

Key facts

1. Assessment is done every five years since 1990. This report assesses the state of forests, their conditions and management for all member countries. It is **done by Food and Agriculture organization (FAO)**.
2. Key findings-World has a **total forest area of 4.06 billion hectares**, which is about **31%** of the total land area.
3. India has ranked third among countries that have gained in forest in forest areas. Top 5 countries are China, Australia, **India**, Chile, Vietnam.
4. Report has credited India's Joint Forest Management programme for the significant increase in community-managed forest areas.
5. **India accounts for 2% of total global** forest area.

CASES OF VACCINE-DERIVED POLIOVIRUS(VDPV)

Key facts

1. According to WHO, **a total of 149 immunodeficiency** VDPV cases had been reported between January 1961 and December 2019.
2. Of this, 66% were detected between 2010 and 2019, with 59% occurred in children aged less than two years.
3. Polio is a highly infectious viral disease which invades the nervous system, and causes paralysis.
4. Two types of vaccines-Inactivated poliovirus vaccine and Oral Poliovirus vaccine.
5. However, in some cases, **the vaccine-virus is genetically altered during replication**. This is called **VDPV**.
6. VDPVs are extremely rare and found in children with immune-deficiencies.

NATIONAL TRANSIT PASS SYSTEM (NTPS)

Key facts

1. NTPS will replace manual paper-based transit system by online transit system enabling ease of movement of timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce.
2. The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Telangana, and by this Diwali it will be operational in pan India..

- **RestartIndia' to Support MSME Sector :-**

1. It is a mentoring platform. It was initiated jointly by Muthoot Fincorp and INKtalks to support the MSME sector to restart the business across the nation.
2. The RestartIndia platform provides global management information and expertise to the common people and connects them to the experts and professionals from various fields, that are in line with the self-dependent India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) project..

- **SECTION 153 IN THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951 :-**

1. Political parties are increasingly voicing concerns over holding elections in Bihar amid a pandemic.
2. Under Section 153 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission can “extend the time” for completing an election, but such extension should not go beyond the date of the normal dissolution of the Lok Sabha or the Assembly.
3. But, Powers under Section 153 can be exercised only after an election schedule has been notified.
4. If the election schedule is not notified then EC can postpone elections through its extraordinary powers under Article 324. The Commission will have to inform the government of its inability to hold polls on time.