

# PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

(26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020)

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court has held that a Governor is bound to convene a meeting of the Assembly for a floor test on the recommendation of the Cabinet. Governor cannot employ his "discretion", and should strictly abide by the "aid and advice" of the Cabinet to summon the House. A 2016 SC order is significant in the Rajasthan faceoff as it limits the Governor's power to specific areas.
- **KUMHAR SASHAKTIKARAN YOJANA** :- Union Home Minister distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans from Gandhinagar under Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- **WORLD CLASS STATE OF ART HONEY TESTING LABORATORY** :- Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated the 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory' at Anand, Gujarat.
- A UN report on terrorism has warned that there are "significant numbers" of Islamic State (IS) terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka, noting that the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) terror group is planning attacks in the region.
- **SPRING Project-India & EU Partnered to Purify Sewage Water in Ganga & Godavari Rivers**
  1. The IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to develop a biotechnology based water treatment system for the purification of sewage water flowing into the rivers Ganga and Godavari through the SPRING Project.
- The J&K administration issued the certificate of geographical indication (GI) registration for saffron grown in the Kashmir Valley

## RBI RELEASES THE FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT (FSR) 2020

### Key facts

1. Bi-annual report that reflects **risks to financial stability** and the resilience of the financial system.
2. The report gives various scenarios for impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
3. GDP growth shows contraction in all scenarios.
4. Combined **gross fiscal deficit**-to GDP ratio (including centre and states) **is expected to exceed 10%** in all scenarios.
5. Current account balance to GDP ratio is expected to fall.
6. Risks to global economic prospects.

## INCLUSION OF HYDROGEN ENRICHED CNG (H-CNG) AS AUTOMOTIVE FUEL

### Key facts

1. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways step is aimed at promotion of **Green fuels for automobiles** in the country.
2. **H-CNG is a blend of hydrogen and CNG**, the ideal hydrogen concentration being 18%.
3. CNG is compressed natural gas.
4. As natural gas is mainly composed of **methane**, CNG emits less air pollutants-carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter- than petrol or diesel.
5. Benefits of H-CNG- Compared to conventional CNG, use of **H-CNG can reduce emission of carbon monoxide** up to 70%.

## MINISTRY OF SHIPPING WAIVES WATERWAYS USAGE CHARGES (WUC) FOR THREE YEARS

### Key facts

1. WUC has been waived off considering the centre's vision to promote **inland waterways as a supplementary, eco-friendly and cheaper mode of transport**.
2. Presently, **Inland Waterways Authority (IWAI)** of India levies **WUC** for plying of inland cargo vessels on national waterways.
3. IWAI is the statutory authority in charge of the waterways in India.
4. Intended Benefits-It is estimated to increase the inland traffic movement to 110 million metric Tonnes (MMT) in 2022-23 from 72 MMT in 2019-20.
5. It will attract the industries to use the national waterways.
6. India has about **14,500 km of navigable waterways** which comprise of rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc.

## RBI SIGNS \$400 MN CURRENCY SWAP FACILITY FOR SRI LANKA

### Key facts

1. It aims to meet **short-term internationally liquidity requirements**. A currency swap is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

- **COVID-19 Law Lab' Initiative launched to provide legal information worldwide**
  1. The World Health Organization (WHO) along with other key bodies had launched COVID-19 Law Lab ([www.COVIDLawLab.org](http://www.COVIDLawLab.org)).
  2. It is a database of laws that countries had implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  3. The lab is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.
  
- **Mr. Sahil Seth appointed as honorary advisor for BRICS CCI**
  1. The Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Customs and a 2011 batch Indian Revenue Service Officer, Mr. Sahil Seth, has been appointed as an honorary advisor for the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) for the period 2020 to 2030.