

# PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

### • DRONES

1. In a significant development, the Trump administration has relaxed standards for exporting drones to friendly countries.
2. Under the new policy, drones that fly at speeds below 800 km per hour are no longer subject to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)..

### • INLAND WATER TRANSPORT :- Ministry of Shipping has decided to waive waterway usage charges with immediate effect to promote inland waterways..

### • The ministry of Science and Technology is set to come out with the first draft of India's fifth science, Technology and Innovation policy. The Government for the first time has decided to take a "bottom-up" approach in order to address the everyday concerns of Indians.

### • "First Bell", the digital classroom started by the Kerala government to impart education to 41 lakh students in the state after schools due to the lockdown, has gained a global audience. US to West Asia, Kerala govt's digital classes find learners across continents.

### • First in the World: India builds electrified rail tunnel capable to run double-stack containers

1. It cuts through Aravali mountain on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) near Sohna, Haryana..

### • Remittances to India are estimated to decline sharply by about 25% in FY2021 amid the economic crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### • RIL becomes world's second most valuable energy company, overtaking ExxonMobil.

### • India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after Bahrain's disqualification

## INDIAN RAILWAYS TO RFID TAG ALL WAGONS BY DECEMBER 2022

### Key facts

1. Radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) will be used for **tracking all wagons** which will make it easier to track and know the exact position of all the wagons, locomotives and coaches.
2. RFID is the **use of radio waves to read and capture information** stored on a tag attached to an object. A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not to be within direct line of sight of the radar to be tracked.
3. It is **similar to barcoding** in that data from a tag or label are captured by device that stores the data in a database.

## ENHANCED AND REVISED PICTORIAL HEALTH WARNINGS ON ALL TOBACCO PRODUCTS

### Key facts

1. Government notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs.
2. Persons engaged directly or indirectly in the manufacture, production, supply, import or distribution of cigarettes or any tobacco products have to ensure the specified health warnings exactly as prescribed.
3. Violation of the provisions is a **punishable offence** with imprisonment or fine.

## GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS BIDDING REGULATIONS FOR BORDER COUNTRIES

### Key facts

1. Citing grounds of defence and national security, Government has amended General Financial Rules, 2017 to **impose restriction on public procurement from bidders of countries that share a land border** with India.
2. Bidders from these countries will be eligible only if they are registered with registration committee constituted by Department for promotion of Industry and Internal trade.

## INDIA'S FIRST IN-ORBIT SPACE DEBRIS MONITORING AND TRACKING SYSTEM

### Key facts

1. It will provide global **real-time earth coverage** by deploying a constellations of cost-efficient nano-satellites in LEO (Low Earth Orbit).
2. It will help **international space agencies to track and map the space debris** and minimize the major threat to the future space explorations.
3. It has been **developed by Digantara**, India's first air and space surveillance company.

## TIANWEN 1 OR QUEST FOR HEAVENLY TRUTH 1

### Key facts

1. It is **china's first Mars probe aiming to complete** orbiting, landing and roving in a single mission.
2. It will be orbiting Mars for **comprehensive observation, landing on Martian soil** and sending a rover to roam the landing site.

- **INDIA-RUSSIA JOINT TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCELERATED COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAMME**

1. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme.
2. The programme will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D for technology development and for cross-country technology adaptation.

- **India ranked 3rd in gaining forest area in world.**

1. In accordance with the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 brought out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), India has ranked 3rd among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas during 2010-2020.
2. India reported 0.38% annual gain in forest, or 266,000 ha of forest increase every year at an average.

- **Kashmir saffron :-** Kashmir Saffron has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL (above mean sea level).