

PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

(15TH JULY, 2020)

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- In accordance with the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the United States (US) remained India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal in 2019-20 as bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 88.75 billion as against USD 87.96 billion in 2018-19.
- On 13 July, after a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Alphabet Inc. Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai announced an investment of \$10 billion (Rs 75,000 crore) in India which will be utilised in another five to seven years to digitize the Indian Economy.
- Iran dropped India from the Chabahar rail project because of "absence of active Indian engagement, :Iran.
- The International Academy of Astronautics(IAA) has announced Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan, Chief of Indian Space Research Organisation(ISRO) as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award, the highest distinction of the IAA. The award will be presented to Dr.K.Sivan in March 2021 at Paris..
- The United Nations(UN) designated 12th July of every year as Malala Day, to commemorate the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani activist and the youngest recipient of the Nobel prize for peace. In 2013 first "Malala Day: An Education for All Children" was celebrated..
- China making deep inroads into Iran(Both countries are at odds with the U.S.).Tehran could get an economic lifeline, while China seeks to expand role in region.
- On July 14, 2020 the Bloomberg Billionaires Index has ranked Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd(RIL) as the World's 6th richest man with a worth USD 72.4 billion after surpassing Elon Musk, co-founder & CEO of Tesla and Alphabet Inc co founders, Sergey Brin and Larry Page..
- Former Maldivian President Nashed has urged to his Government to build closer ties with India, which he described as the "closest and dearest of our neighbours", in order to safeguard the country's sovereignty as well as benefits from India's economy.
- United Arab Emirates sets its sights(to launch) on Mars, with a spacecraft named Hope.
- 'Buy Local' Sentiment, shift to e-learning open a new avenues for Indian PC makers.
- Chouhan said MP tops in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM Swa Nidhi) scheme, which is aimed to help the street vendors to continue their business and to expand it.

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT(NABARD) LAUNCHES INITIATIVES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Key facts

1. Steps will boost **offtake of economic activities** in areas grappling with reverse migration.
2. NABARD announced finance to the beneficiaries of its **2,150 watershed development projects**.
3. NABARD watershed development programmes aim to **reduce risk associated with dry land farming systems** and livelihood through development.
4. NABARD also announced **fund for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** into multi service centres (One-stop shops for meeting the varied needs of the farmers).

STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD REPORT 2020

Key facts

1. 8.9% of world population (**690 million people**) are estimated to have been undernourished in 2019.
2. COVID-19 pandemic may add between 83 to 132 million people to total number of undernourished in 2020.
3. Reason-Greater number of conflicts, **climate-related shocks**, economic slowdowns.
4. World is not on track to achieve the **SDG 2.1**: Zero Hunger target by 2030.
5. Suggestions-Reorient agricultural priorities towards **more nutrition-sensitive agricultural production**, Avoid Taxation of Nutritious foods.
6. The joint report is issued annually by Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Fund for Agriculture Development, UNICEF, World Food Programme and WHO.

RIGHT TO SHEBAITSHIP

Key facts

1. Recently, supreme Court upheld **Shebaitship rights** of Travancore royal family in the Padmanabhaswamy temple case.
2. Shebaitship right refers to manage the financial affairs of the deity in the position of a trustee.

YETI TERRITORY

Key facts

1. India has proposed **to build a road in this territory** of Bhutan, which was claimed by China recently.
2. It will enable quick **access to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh** which borders China.

ANTI-SMOG GUN

Key facts

1. It was recently installed in Delhi **to reduce air- pollution** mainly concentration of PM10 and PM2.5.
2. It is designed **to create an ultra-fine fog**, comprising very fine water droplets, which can absorb smallest dust particles in air.

MP CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **ARAD and CARMEL – New Israeli Assault Rifles Are Set to Manufacture in India under Make in India Initiative.**
 1. The latest Israeli Assault Rifles, Arad and Carmel, will be manufactured under the Make in India initiative in the PLR Systems Private Limited, established by Israel Weapons Industries(IWI) in 2017 as a joint venture with Punj Lloyd in Madhya Pradesh (Bhind district).
 2. PLS Systems is the first private sector company that has a license for manufacturing Small Arms and Ammunition.
- **Webinar Conducted for Sensitization of MPs from ST Constituencies on GOAL Project.**
 1. In partnership with Facebook India, the GOAL Project was launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The GOAL- 'Going Online As Leaders' Project is an initiative under which 5,000 youths from the Tribal Communities of the country will be identified and empowered so that they can become the change-makers of tomorrow.
 2. The GOAL project has started as a Pilot Project by Facebook India back in March 2019,in 5 states of India (Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh).