

PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

13TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Mukesh Ambani becomes 4th richest man in world: Bloomberg Index.
- Centre Formed committee for procurement, administration of COVID-19 vaccine; Headed by Dr VK Paul.
- U.S. Senator from California Kamala Harris has been named running mate of presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, as per an announcement from Mr. Biden.
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal scientists' study on seed germination may lead to crop improvement on agriculture in the long run by helping determine the optimum timing of seed germination and thus ensure high plant yields.
- Overregulation of drugs to curb gender biased sex selection such as through government programmes like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' has hindered access to safe, legal and cost effective abortion, according to a survey (by Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India (FRHSI)) across six States (Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Delhi, Assam).
- A study based on satellite data has flagged a high rate of deforestation in a major hornbill habitat in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Skyroot Aerospace, India's 1st Private Aerospace Company to Test Fire 1st of its Kind Upper Stage Rocket Engine Named "Raman".
- **KRISHI MEGH**
 1. Union Agriculture Minister has launched ICAR's data recovery centre - Krishi Megh.
 2. The move is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
 3. It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad.

SUNSPOTS

1. A massive Sunspot group, **AR2770**, was observed by images of **NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory**.
2. A sunspot is an area on the sun that appears dark on the surface as they are **relatively cooler than surrounding parts**.
3. Sunspots form **due to strong magnetic field lines** coming up from within the sun.

PROJECT CHEETAH

1. Under this project, around **90 Heron drones** of the three defence services would be **upgraded to be armed with laser-guided bombs**, air to ground and air launched anti-tank guided missiles.
2. Heron is a **medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned air vehicle (UAV) system** primarily designed to perform strategic reconnaissance and surveillance operations.
3. It is designed and manufactured by **Israel Aerospace Industries**.

COLLAPSE OF CANADA'S MILNE ICE SHELF

1. Milne ice shelf in Canada has **lost more than 40% of its ice in last 2 days**.
2. Ice shelves are permanent floating sheets of ice that connect to a landmass. However, they can also form wherever ice flows from land into cold ocean waters.
3. It has increased fears of the Arctic region being under severe stress **due to global warming**.
4. Arctic region is warming at twice the rate compared to the rest of the planet due to a feedback mechanism known as the **Arctic amplification**.

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION ACADEMY(SBMA) LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

1. It is an **interactive Voice Response (IVR)-based training course with modules on open Defecation free(ODF) Plus** programme.
2. ODF Plus is an extension of the ODF programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
3. SBMA will boost the capacity building efforts in training of **Swachhagrahis, community-based organisations, NGOs, SHGs** and others who are associated with phase 2 of SBM(G).

2ND EDITION OF STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME(SEP)

1. It was launched by **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with Dell Technologies** for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs(ATLs).
2. They will receive **mentor support**; prototyping and testing support; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas etc, from Dell volunteers.
3. SEP is a 360-degree development program for technology leaders and entrepreneurs.
4. It is dedicated to **encourage innovation spirit of students and nurturing their leadership** and entrepreneurial skills.

APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL(AEPC)

1. Minister for MSME called upon AEPC to take measures for **increasing exports two times**.
2. **AEPC** is the official body of apparel exporters in India that **provides assistance to Indian exporters** as well as importers/international buyers who chose India as their preferred sourcing destination for garments.
3. It aims to promote, support and facilitate Indian apparel Industry.

- **STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME 2.0 (SEP 2.0)**

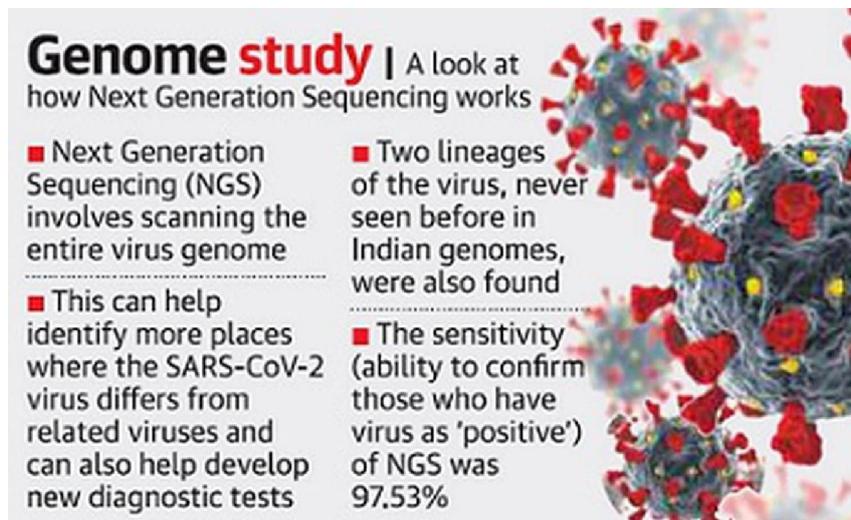
1. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
2. SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers.
3. They will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.

- **UNION HOME MINISTER'S MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN INVESTIGATION, 2020**

1. This medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.
2. Among the personnel receiving these awards this year, 15 are from CBI, 10 each are from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, 8 are from Uttar Pradesh Police, 7 each are from Kerala and West Bengal Police, and the remaining from the other States/UTs.

- **NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING MACHINES (NGS)**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is working on developing “mega labs” to ramp up testing for COVID-19 as well as improve the accuracy rate.



Genome study | A look at how Next Generation Sequencing works

- Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) involves scanning the entire virus genome
- This can help identify more places where the SARS-CoV-2 virus differs from related viruses and can also help develop new diagnostic tests
- Two lineages of the virus, never seen before in Indian genomes, were also found
- The sensitivity (ability to confirm those who have virus as 'positive') of NGS was 97.53%