

# PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Moothon' and 'Son Rise' wins awards at 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival.
- U.S. intelligence agencies are scrutinising efforts by Saudi Arabia to build up its ability to produce nuclear fuel that could put the kingdom on a path to developing nuclear weapons.
- RBI keeps key policy rates unchanged It allows banks to restructure corporate, individual loans.
- Mahindra Rajapaksas' party(Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Party)) poised for big win in Sri Lanka.
- Manoj Sinha appointed as Lt Governor of J&K; Succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu.
- The famous Journalist and Author, Yatish Yadav wrote a new book titled, "RAW (Research and Analysis Wing): A History of India's Covert Operations", narrates the heroic operations carried out by the Indian external spy agency..
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has urged UN members not to support Cuba's bid to join the organisation's Human Rights Council.
- Prem Bhatia award 2020 :
  1. Prem Bhatia award 2020 is conferred upon Indian Express reporter Dipankar Ghose- 'Outstanding Political Reporting of The Year' and People's Archive of Rural India(PARI), a non-profit journalism website - 'Outstanding Environmental Reporting of The Year'.
- FutureBrand Index 2020:
  1. FutureBrand Index 2020 was released, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Oil and Gas Company ranked as the Second Biggest Brand for its recognition associated with its growth, innovative products and customer service after Apple which topped the index.

## SHADESMART & RADIANTCOOLING TECHNOLOGIES

1. These are two technologies to promote energy-efficient cooling in buildings.
2. Shadesmart is an **external shading system** developed as an innovative and cost-effective solution for windows in residential and commercial buildings under the project Habitat Model for Efficiency and comfort.
3. In Radiant Cooling, cooling is achieved through **radiant heat transfer**, as against regular convective air conditioning is efficient and gives better quality of thermal comfort.

## POKKALI RICE

1. It is **Known for its saltwater resistance** and flourishes in the rice paddies of coastal Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts of Kerala.
2. It has **Geographical indication tag**.
3. **Vyttila-11** is one of the varieties of Pokkali rice. It is being sown in paddy fields of Sundarbans on an experimental basis.

## INDIA CONTRIBUTES OVER \$15.46 MN TO INDIA-U.N. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND(IUDPF)

1. The **tranche of \$15.46 million** includes \$6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.
2. It underscores **India's commitment to supporting developing nations** in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. IUDPF **was established in 2017**. It is supported and led by India, managed by the United Nations Office **for South-South Cooperation(UNOSSC)**, and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.

## LOCKDOWN PUSHES UP DEMAND FOR DATA CENTRES

1. **Data centres** are centralized locations where computing and networking equipment is concentrated for the purpose of collecting, storing, processing, distributing or allowing access to large amounts of data.
2. Data storage in India **has grown 8 times to 2.8 zettabytes since 2014**, driven by rapid adoption of Cloud, growth in digital transactions and e-commerce.
3. Due to COVID-19 induced lockdown, **there was a 25-35% increase in data centre capacity** usage as companies began to overhaul their digital infrastructure to deal with the new work environment.

## LAND ACQUISITION REMAINS A MAJOR ISSUE FOR SOLAR PROJECTS.

1. Industry is **asking for faster decision-making for making land available** and simplifying government approvals to attract investments in power projects.
2. **Delay in government land allotment**/registration under Solar Park scheme.
3. Exemption on Stamp duty for land registration is not provided by most of the states; Non agricultural conversion of land demands high charges and multiple permissions.

- **UN's Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond:**

1. **António Guterres Secretary-General of United Nations(UN) launched the report titled “Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond” states that around 23.8 million additional children and youths may drop out or not have access to education in 2021 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.**
2. **The Policy brief was built on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation(UNESCO)'s data and features recommendations on ways to avoid the emerging disaster.**

- **Dragon Capsule**

1. **Crew Dragon is a part of the Dragon 2, a class of reusable spacecraft developed and manufactured by American aerospace manufacturer SpaceX.**
2. **Falcon 9, which carried the spaceship into the orbit, was also built by SpaceX.**
3. **It is done under the Demo-2 Mission of NASA and SpaceX.**

- **Ammonium Nitrate**

1. **Ammonium nitrate ( $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ ) is one of the world's most widely used fertilizers.**
2. **Recently there was an ammonium nitrate blast in Lebanese capital Beirut injured many.**
3. **Ammonium nitrate does not burn on its own, instead it acts as a source of oxygen that can accelerate the combustion (burning) of other materials.**

- **Hoolock Gibbons**

1. **Hoolock Gibbons are native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India and Southwest China.**
2. **The tailless Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India.**
3. **They cannot adapt to living on the ground and cannot bear the high temperatures brought about by the loss of green cover.**

