

PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

9TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **PYROLYSIS :-**
 1. Plastic from used personal protective equipment (PPE) can be transformed into renewable liquid fuels, according to a new study published in the journal Biofuels.
- **ENVISTATS INDIA 2020 REPORT**
 1. National Statistical Office (NSO) released the state-wise data in the EnviStats India 2020 report.
 2. The average number of heat wave days increased 82.6 % year-on-year to 157 in 2019, with the highest number recorded in Rajasthan (20 days) followed by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand (13 days each)..
- **With over 200 COVID19 vaccine candidates in development across the world, Chief Scientist at the World Health Organisation (WHO) Soumya Swaminathan raised the need to have a multilateral or global approach to vaccine deployment and distribution, rather than a more nationalistic approach.**
- **Reaching an understanding with China is one of the big challenges before Sino-Indian relations, said External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S Jaishankar**
- **Come 2023, new policy will drive 50% delivery fleet to e-mobility Half of State-run buses to be procured over next 3 years will be electric bus(Delhi).**
- **Ration card portability yet to gain pace Fewer than 2,000 inter-State transactions carried out under the scheme.**
- **As floodwaters ebb in Assam hunters killed a female rhinoceros in the partially flooded Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) and sawed off her horn.**

LEOPARD POACHING

1. A recent study by **TRAFFIC** (leading NGO working globally on trade in wild animals in the context of biodiversity conservation) India revealed that of the total of 747 leopard deaths between 2015-2019 in India, **596 were linked to illegal wildlife trade** and poaching.
2. Highest poaching incidents were reported from **Uttarakhand and Maharashtra**.
3. Threat- increasing habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflict and illegal trade. IUCN conservation status: Vulnerable.

KAVKAZ 2020

1. It is the Russian strategic command and staff exercise. **India will take part in the Russian Kavkaz 2020** next month.
2. The invitees for the exercise **also include China and Pakistan** apart from other member-states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

NEW EDUCATION POLICY REFLECTS IDEAS OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE ON EDUCATION:PM

1. Rabindra Nath Tagore was a humanist and he **wanted to uplift human values and cultures** through proper education curriculum.
2. Tagore's View on education- Three cardinal principles of his educational philosophy are **Freedom, creative self-expression and active communication** with nature and man.
3. Childhood ought to be a **time of self-learning**; Teachers had to be imaginative; Education should help develop sensitivity.

SEZ-BASED SOLAR MANUFACTURERS OPPOSE BASIC CUSTOMS DUTY(BCD)

1. Solar equipment makers have pointed out that local solar factories in SEZs will have to shut down if the government levies a BCD on the import of solar cells.
2. If the BCD is imposed, those in the domestic tariff area who buy cells and modules from the SEZ units will have to pay the duty under the 2005 SEZ Act.
3. **BCD is a type of duty or tax imposed under the Customs Act, 1962.**

PM AWAS YOJANA(URBAN)-PMAY(U)

1. Recently, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs approved the **construction of around 10.28 lakh houses** under the PMAY(U) taking the total number of houses sanctioned so far under the scheme to 1.06 crore.
2. **PMAY(U) was launched in 2015** which intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.
3. It provides Central Assistance to the implementing agencies through States/UT for providing houses to all eligible families/beneficiaries against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 cr.

LACK OF UNIFORMITY IN CLEARANCE OF PROPOSALS HURTING SHALE EXPLORERS

1. A shale gas exploration plan, by Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL), has been rejected by Environment Ministry citing that **production of Coal Bed Methane(CBM) and shale gas drilling** are technologically different activities.
2. Policy made a **shift from 'One Hydrocarbon Resource Type' to 'Uniform Licensing policy'**. This lack of uniformity is hurting the investments in shale gas exploration.

- **TABLETOP AIRPORT**

1. **What is it? ‘Tabletop Airport’ is an airport located and built on top of a plateau or hilly surface, with one or both ends of the runway overlooking a drop. There are not many differences between a ‘normal’ airport and a ‘tabletop’ airport.**
2. **On 7 August 2020, a Boeing 737 aircraft of Air India Express (the low cost subsidiary of national carrier Air India) overshot the runway while landing at Calicut International Airport. The crash killed 18 people and over 100 were injured. The accident has once again turned the spotlight on operations to what are called ‘tabletop airports’ in India.**



- **AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

1. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the financing facility of 1 lakh crore rupees under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.**
2. **The Fund will catalyse the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets such as cold storage, collection centres and processing units.**
3. **These assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce, as they will be able to store and sell at higher prices, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition.**