

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- With a focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, India, Australia and France held the first trilateral dialogue where they discussed “economic and geostrategic challenges and cooperation” in the region.
- As Indian troops are engaged in a standoff on the south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) for the past week, a massive buildup had again begun in the Finger area of the north bank, a senior government official told.
- Asset quality risks for banks are rising amid the country’s economic contraction, even though risks from corporate loans have decreased from the previous credit cycle, Moody’s Investors Service said in a new report.
- A three judge Bench of the Supreme Court referred a group of petitions challenging the Maratha reservation law to a Constitution Bench.
- The ongoing border tension and the pandemic have cast a shadow over the upcoming election to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh, an elected body that governs local issues in the Union Territory.
- Israel hopes that tensions between India and China will ease and it is in talks with both countries on trade agreements, according to an Israeli official. While India and Israel were negotiating a limited trade deal for about 200 designated products.
- The States and the Union Territories have been advised by the centre to organise free COVID19 testing for migrant workers.
- The Indian travel and tourism industry, one of the worst impacted sectors by the COVID19 pandemic, may suffer a loss of ₹• 5 lakh crore, or \$65.6 billion, this year, according to the latest research report from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

## UR RIVER, MADHYA PRADESH

1. **Citizens, state officials came together to rejuvenate Ur river by recharging underground water sources** to ensure soil absorption and low run-off of rainwater.
2. This is done by digging pits or farm ponds on every small plot of land in the area.
3. Villagers in the area were inspired by rejuvenation of ody river, in Uttar Pradesh by similar collaboration at ground level.

## WHITE GRUB(HOLOTRICHIA SERRATA) INSECT LARVAE

1. It is an **agricultural pest that affects sugarcane crop. The pests eat at the roots of sugarcane, decreasing, the moisture and nutrient supply to the plant.**
2. This leads to the **yellowing and wilting of leaves** and causes damage to the base of the shoot.
3. Earlier it attacked sugarcane and groundnut crops; now it is also devouring soyabean, cotton and turmeric crops.

## LOW OZONE OVER BRHAMPUTRA RIVER VALLEY

1. Reasearchers have found that **concentration of near surface ozone in this region in North-East is low compared to the other urban locations.**
2. Tropospheric, or ground-level ozone, is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen(NOx) and volatile organic compounds.
3. It usually increases when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, refineries and other sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight, impacting human health.

## THAILNAND SCRAPS KRA CANAL PROJECT

1. Recently, Thailand stepped back from the Chinese led Kra canal proposal.
2. **Kra Canal proposal was to construct a 120-kilometre mega canal cutting through the isthmus of kra in Thailand.**
3. This waterway would connect the Andaman sea with the Gulf of Thailand, **providing a maritime shortcut by rerouting shipping away from the strait of Malacca.**

## KIRAN

1. It is a 24\*7 Toll-free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline to **provide support for issues like early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being etc.**
2. It will offer services in 13 languages.
3. It was launched by Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

## E-KISAN MANDIS

1. **First e-Kisan mandi became operational in Pune.** It is an initiative of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd(NAFED).
2. Unlike e-NAM, which focuses on APMCs, the e-Kisan mandis will seek to bring farmers, agri-producers, traders and small buyers on a common platform for trading agricultural commodities.
3. It would operate in a hub-and-spoke model, in which the NAFED-owned land will operate as a hub for FPCs in the area.