

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The situation along the disputed boundary over the past four months is a direct result of the actions taken by the Chinese side that sought to effect “unilateral change of status quo” and negotiations are the way ahead, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.
- India wants the Quad (informal strategic forum between the United States, Japan, Australia and India) to become a system to “ensure freedom of navigation (FoN) and freedom of navigation operations (FONOPS)” in the Indian Ocean and around, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said.
- The Supreme Court has ordered the removal of about 48,000 slum clusters located in safety zones along railway tracks in Delhi within three months. The court declared “no interference, political or otherwise, should be there” against their removal.
- China hit out at India’s move to ban 118 Chinese apps, accusing New Delhi of “abusing the concept of national security” and suggesting India was coordinating with the United States.
- Gorakhpur paediatrician Kafeel Khan, released from the Mathura jail after the Allahabad High Court set aside his detention under the National Security Act, demanded his reinstatement in the Uttar Pradesh medical service.
- Higher consumption of white rice regularly is associated with an increased risk of diabetes, observes a paper published after studying 1,32,373 individuals from 21 countries over 9.5 years.
- A group of Special Rapporteurs to the United Nations has written to the Centre expressing concern over the proposed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020.

## NERVE AGENT NOVICHOK

1. As per German government, Russian opposition figure **Navalny was poisoned with a variant of Novichok, a Soviet-era nerve agent.**
2. Novichok means newcomer in Russian and applies to a group of advanced nerve agents developed by Soviet Union in 1970s and 1980s.
3. **Nerve agents cause their toxic effects by preventing the proper operation of an enzyme that acts as the body’s off switch for glands and muscles.**

## NATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR DEVELOPING AND HARNESSING INNOVATIONS (NIDHI)

1. Recently, NIDHI-EIR Brochure featuring Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) was launched.
2. EIR Programme under NIDHI supports aspiring or budding entrepreneur of considerable potential for pursuing a promising technology business idea.
3. NIDHI is an umbrella program, pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology, **for nurturing ideas and innovations (Knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful start-ups.**

## TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING (WUR) 2021

1. The assesses performance of **1527 higher education institutes from 93 countries or regions on several parameters including teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.**
2. 63 university from India qualified for the ranking (highest ever from India). However, none could make it to top 300.
3. **Among India varsities, the highest rank is occupied by Indian Institute of science, Bengaluru.**

## GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX (GII) 2020

1. GII, by world Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), provides **detailed metrics about the innovation performance of 131 countries.**
2. Its 80 indicators explore a broad vision of innovation, including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication.
3. WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation.
4. **Switzerland is ranked first followed by Sweden. India has been ranked 48<sup>th</sup> (52<sup>nd</sup> in 2019)**

## ADVISORY ISSUED ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RURAL WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) SERVICE PROVIDERS

1. With lockdown eased out and socio-economic activities resumed, **it is imperative WASH service providers to follow precautions to avoid contraction and spread of virus.**
2. During lockdown Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has issued an advisory to all States/UTs for ensuring safe drinking water.
3. Advisory includes arranging hand-washing equipment, ensuring potable water in quarantine/isolation centres, Prioritize retrofitting in schools/anganwadis etc.