

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

5TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is mulling over changing the rules governing the standing committees' tenure to make it two years from the present one so that the panels have enough time to work on the subjects selected by them.
- UN human rights experts have told China a new security law for Hong Kong "infringes on certain fundamental rights" and voiced concerns that it could be used to prosecute political activists in the former British colony.
- Turkey accused Greece of shunning dialogue and lying after Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said NATO brokered talks to reduce tension in the eastern Mediterranean could only be held if Ankara stopped making "threats".
- Rajnath Singh meets Chinese counterpart Wei in Moscow, China had sought meeting on sidelines of the SCO(Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Defence Ministers conference.
- As part of an exercise to decriminalise/ rationalise penalties under the provisions of the Railway Act, 1989, the Ministry of Railways has proposed to decriminalise begging on trains or railway premises.
- Naval vessels from India and Sri Lanka continued their efforts for the second day to douse the fire that broke out on a large oil tanker off Sri Lanka's east coast, amid fears of a possible oil spill, following an explosion in the engine room of *MT New Diamond*.
- Indian companies have raised a record \$31 billion in equity capital in 2020, Refinitiv data showed, as banks strengthen their balance sheets to prepare for future economic uncertainty and corporates tap into the elevated global liquidity levels.

OPHIOCORDYCEPS SINENSIS

1. It is a **fungus that is now categorized as vulnerable species** in IUCN's red list. It faces threats like- Overharvesting, Habitat loss and climate change.
2. It is a **caterpillar fungus endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau.**
3. In India, It is primarily found in **Pithoragarh and Chamoli districts** of Uttarakhand. Locally known as Kira jari (in India).
4. It is used **widely as tonic, therapeutic medicine for lung, liver and kidney.**

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK AND TIGER RESERVE(KNPTR), ASSAM

1. Assam government approved the addition of over 3,000 hectares (ha) to KNPTR.
2. It will help in better wildlife conservation and reduction in human-wildlife conflicts.
3. It will help movement of tigers along Kaziranga to Nameri and Orang national parks (both in Assam).
4. **KNPTR is the biggest habitat of one-horned rhinos in the world.**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE(ETI)

1. Aim of ETI is **to assist in recommending appropriate policy choices and help inform negotiating capacities** vis-a-vis global technology governance rules, and standards, keeping in mind India's development and national security priorities.
2. Emerging technologies have the potential to disrupt many existing industries and significantly impact employment, security, social equity, and global relations.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION(HOE-2)

1. It is a **global scientific program that engages international scientific community in collaborative oceanographic and atmospheric research** from coastal environments to deep sea over period 2015-2020.
2. It reveals new information on Indian Ocean (i.e. its currents, influence upon climate, marine ecosystems) which is fundamental for future sustainable development and expansion of Indian Ocean's blue economy.

JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY LAUNCHES WATER HEROES' CONTEST

1. It aims to **reach out to people with message of water conservation and management.**
2. Participants will post their success stories through a specially made video of 1-5 minutes.
3. They have to also write-up of up to 300 words and some photographs, depicting the efforts.

US-INDIA 2020 SUMMIT OF US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM(US-ISPF)

1. Prime minister addressed the summit.
2. Talks were held on opportunities in **India's Gas market, Ease of doing Business,** Common opportunities & Challenges in Tech Space.
3. **USISPF is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.**