

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The denial of salaries and loss of employment faced by domestic workers as well as harassment by employers and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) following the nationwide lockdown have brought into focus the need for safeguarding their rights. They have now brought out a manifesto demanding universal registration of employers.
- Iran said a longstanding UN embargo on arms sales to and from it expired on Sunday in line with a 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers. Tehran can now buy 'necessary arms'.
- India past COVID peak, says Department of Science and Technology panel. Predicts 'minimal' cases by Feb., if festival spikes are avoided.
- The levy of compensation cess on Goods and Services Tax (GST) may have to be extended for quite a few years, perhaps till as late as 2025-26, to pay off the States' GST dues, Chairperson of the Fifteenth Finance Commission N.K. Singh has said.
- Women soldiers check drug smuggling through LoC. Two major recoveries made since they were deployed at Sadhna Pass, at an altitude of over 10,000 feet.
- China passes law to safeguard national security, sensitive tech. It allows Beijing to act against nations that abuse export controls.
- Israel and Bahrain will officially establish diplomatic relations on Sunday at a ceremony in Manama as the wealthy Gulf region continues to open up to the Jewish state.
- A Naval version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Navy's indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea.

## BIOREMEDIATION

1. Bioremediation is a process that **uses microorganisms or their enzymes to remove and or neutralize contaminants** within the environment to their original condition.
2. **National Institute of Ocean Technology Chennai** has developed an eco-friendly crude oil remediation mechanism technology using consortia of marine microbes wheat bran.
3. These hydrocarbon **degrading bacteria don't depend on hydrocarbon for survival**, but have a metabolic mechanism where they use petroleum products as carbon and energy source and thus, help cleaning up oil spills.

## CENTRE PLANS LIMIT ON PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS BY FARMERS

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1. Plan is to cap number of subsidised fertiliser bags that individual farmers can buy in any cropping.
  2. For 2019-20, the total amount allocated to fertiliser subsidy was Rs.79,996 crore.
  3. Currently, government is following a "no-denial" policy: anybody, including non-farmers, can buy any quantity of fertiliser through POS machines.

## WOMAN HAS RIGHT OF RESIDENCE IN 'SHARED HOUSE' OF IN-LAWS: SUPREME COURT(SC)

1. SC ruled that **woman will have the right to residence in the shared house even if it was rented or owned by the in-laws** and the husband had no ownership right over it.
2. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act(DVA), 2005 defines shared household as the place where the woman lives at any stage has lived in a domestic relationship either singly or along with the husband and it includes the house "owned or tenanted".

## MANDATORY BUILDING ENERGY CODE(BEC) NEEDED BY 2030, SAYS UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME REPORT

1. BEC outlines sustainable building design interventions that cut down energy required to provide cooling and heating.
2. Key highlights-Global energy demand and carbon emissions from the building sector have been on the rise. **Building and construction sector account for more than a third of global energy use.**

## NECHIPHU TUNNEL, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

1. Recently, Defence Minister laid the foundation stone of the **Nechiphu Tunnel** on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang(BCT) road in the **West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
2. It will **reduce distance to the area bordering China by 10km.**

## CABINET APPROVES Rs.5718 CRORES 'STRENGTHENING' TEACHING-LEARNING AND RESULTS FOR STATES(STARS) PROJECT

1. **STARS** is a world bank aided project, to be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Education(MOE).
2. It envisions improving the **overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System** through interventions. Project is **aligned with objectives of National Education Policy 2020.**