

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- As much as 40% of the Amazon risks crossing a tipping point from rainforest to savanna as greenhouse gas emissions reduce the rainfall needed to sustain its unique ecosystem.
- The discoveries by scientists Harvey J. Alter, Charles M. Rice and Briton Michael Houghton, which has identified the Hepatitis C virus, that has helped to limit the spread of the fatal disease and develop antiviral drugs to cure it, won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Medicine.
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council failed to iron out differences between States ruled by non-NDA parties and the Centre over a plan to get the States to borrow from the market to meet an estimated ₹ 2.35 lakh crore shortfall in compensation cess collections this year.
- The Supreme Court asked the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India about the steps taken to implement the K.V. Kamath Committee report on recommendations to bail out sectors affected by the COVID19 pandemic. SC Bench notes Centre yet to address issues of borrowers.
- Chief of the Air Staff R.K.S. Bhaduria asserted that India was fully prepared for a two front war.
- Australia,India,Japan,United States Quadrilateral or Quad will discuss vaccine, 5G. Beijing has criticised meeting as an 'exclusive clique' and 'anti China frontline'.
- Shouldn't let AI become weapon of non-state actors, says PM. 'Collective responsibility to ensure trust in how it is used'.
- The Financial Action Task Force is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status in a virtual meeting scheduled later this month..

## PLASTIC-EATING ENZYME "COCKTAIL"

- 1.Scientists who re-engineered the plastic-eating PETase have now **created an enzyme cocktail** which can digest plastic up to six times faster.
- 2.**PETase breaks down polyethylene terephthalate(PET) back into its building blocks**,creating an opportunity to recycle plastic infinitely and reduce plastic pollution and the greenhouse gases driving climate change.
- 3.PET is the most common thermoplastic,used to make single-use drinks bottles, clothing and carpets.

## KAMCHATKA PENINSULA

- 1.An ecological disaster of sorts is unfolding on a black volcanic beach of the Kamchatka Peninsula.
- 2.Peninsula lies in far eastern Russia,**lying between the Sea of Okhotsk on the west and the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea on the east.**
- 3.It hosts number of volcanoes and is a UNESCO world heritage site.

## MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(MoSJE) LAUNCHES AMBEDKAR SOCIAL INNOVATION & INCUBATION MISSION(ASIIM)

- 1.ASIIM launched **under venture capital fund for SCs(VCF-SC) to promote innovation and enterprise among Scheduled Castes(SC) students** studying in higher educational institutions(HEI).
- 2.VCF-SC(by MoSJE) id for developing entrepreneurship amongst SC and Divyang youth,by providing concessional finance to entities of SC entrepreneurs, and **enabling them to become job-Givers.**

## INDIA PV EDGE 2020

- 1.It is a global symposium to catalyze cutting-edge PV(Photovoltaics) manufacturing in India. It is organized by NITI Aayog, Ministry of New Renewable Energy, and Invest India.
- 2.Solar PV manufacturing is one of the **strategic sectors** announced by the Indian government as **part of the Post-COVID Aatmanirbhar Bharat recovery initiative.**
- 3.India has become the third-largest capacity in the world and set an **ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030**, comprising 300GW of solar capacity.

## REGIONAL RURAL BANKS(RRBs) INCUR NET LOSS OF 2206 CR IN FY20

- 1.Data was recently published by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD). As on March 31,2020,there were **45 RRBs functioning in 685 districts of 26 states and 3UTs.**
- 2.RRBs were set up as state-sponsored, regionally based and rural oriented institutions under the Regional Rural Banks Act,1976.RRBs are regulated by Reserve Bank of India and are supervised by NABARD.

## GOVERNMENT SEEKS LEGAL STATUS FOR ELEPHANT RESERVES

- 1.Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate has proposed an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act(WPA),1972 to accord legal status to elephant reserves and corridors on the lines of tiger reserves.
- 2.Elephant reserves or corridors not covered under WPA or under the Environment Protection Act and are out of the purview of any National Board of Wildlife(NBWL).
- 3.Therefore, **such lands are at risk of being diverted for mines, polluting industries, etc.**