

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Kashmir is not new to winter woes, but this year's unprecedented and unscheduled electricity cuts have left hundreds of oxygen dependent COVID19 patients on edge.
- The sparkling stones that triggered a 'diamond' rush in Nagaland's Mon district in the last few days could be quartz, a preliminary finding by a team of geologists has revealed.
- India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of intelligence sharing, including terrorism and cyber security, after a meet in which they discussed "common security threats".
- India will host the Heads of Government Council meeting of the eight nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), It will be chaired by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- Iran's Supreme Leader called for the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist linked to Tehran's disbanded military nuclear programme, a slaying the Islamic Republic has blamed on Israel.
- U.S. aircraft carrier *USS Nimitz* was deployed to the Gulf this week, days before the killing of Iran's top nuclear scientist, although the U.S. Navy said the deployment was not related to any specific threat.
- China has powered up its first domestically developed nuclear reactor — the Hualong One — a significant step in Beijing's attempts to become less dependent on Western allies. It can generate 10 billion kilowatthours of electricity each year and cut carbon emissions by 8.16 million tons.
- India's Sherpa to the G7 and G20 Suresh Prabhu has said that the growing tendency among nations to frame inward looking policies and spurn multilateralism is a recipe for a greater disaster for the global economy that is already hobbled by the COVID19 pandemic.

## SUSTAINABLE PEATLAND MANAGEMENT CAN PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS

- 1.As per a recent study, Peatlands being rich in biodiversity include many potential **vertebrate and invertebrate vectors, or carriers of disease.**
- 2.They also faced high levels of habitat disruption such as wild or human-made fires etc that were perfect conditions for potential zoonotic infections diseases.
- 3.First reported case of **Ebola in 1976 was from a peatland area** and HIV/ AIDS pandemic was also believed to be from peatland in Congo.
- 4.Therefore, sustainably managing peatlands can prevent spread of Zoonotic disease and future pandemics.

## STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2020 REPORT RELEASED BY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION(FAO)

- 1.FAO's report presents new estimates on the pervasiveness of water scarcity in agriculture and on the number of people affected.
- 2.Key highlights of report-Achieving Sustainable Development Goal(SDG) pledges, including the **zero hunger**, is still achievable, but only by ensuring more **productive and sustainable use of freshwater and rainwater in agriculture.**
- 3.Agriculture accounts for 70% of the world's freshwater withdrawals.
- 4.About 11% of rain-fed cropland and 14% of pastureland experienced severe recurring droughts.

## CORE SECTOR INDUSTRIES

- 1.Output at India's eight core sectors shrank 2.5% in October.
- 2.Eight core sector industries are(in the order of weightage from highest to lowest): Refinery products, Electricity, Steel, Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Cement, Fertilizers.
- 3.Since these eight industries are the essential basic and/or intermediate ingredient in functioning of the broader economy, mapping their health provides a fundamental understanding of state of the economy.

## INDIA CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

- 1.Portal was recently launched by Ministry of Environment, forest and Climate Change.
- 2.It will be a single **point information resource on different climate initiatives taken by various Line Ministries.**
- 3.It will help in disseminating knowledge among citizens about all the major steps Government is taking at both national and international levels to address climate change issues.

## INDIA'S PUSH FOR GENDER EQUITY IN SCIENCE

- 1.Department of Science and Technology,under new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, is **incorporating a system of grading institutes depending on the enrolment of women and advancement of careers of women faculty and scientists.**
- 2.In 2015-16, share of women in scientific research and development was 14.71% .
- 3.This concept is borrowed from Athena SWAN(Scientific Women's Academic Network) program of UK.

## LINGAYATS

- 1.Karnataka govt. has deferred plan to provide OBC status to Lingayat community in the Central OBC List.
- 2.Lingayats are member of a Hindu sect with a wide following in southern India that worships Shiva as the only deity.