

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Kerala High Court has ruled that quarries during their valid period of licence or lease need not fulfil the distance norm of 200 metres from residential and inhabited areas set by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- The CSIR is working on developing “mega labs” to ramp up testing for COVID19. The labs will be repurposing large machines, called Next Generation Sequencing machines (NGS).
- U.S. Senator from California Kamala Harris has been named running mate of presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, as per an announcement from Mr. Biden.
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal scientists’ study on seed germination may lead to crop improvement on agriculture in the long run by helping determine the optimum timing of seed germination and thus ensure high plant yields.
- Overregulation of drugs to curb gender biased sex selection such as through government programmes like ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ has hindered access to safe, legal and cost effective abortion, according to a survey (by Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India (FRHSI)) across six States (Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Delhi, Assam).
- A study based on satellite data has flagged a high rate of deforestation in a major hornbill habitat in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Traditional tribal groups in Nagaland and some extremist groups do not appear to be on the same page as the Isak Muivah faction of the NSCN (IM) over Governor R.N. Ravi’s continuation as the interlocutor for the ongoing peace talks.

## SUNSPOTS

1. A massive Sunspot group, **AR2770**, was observed by images of **NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory**.
2. A sunspot is an area on the sun that appears dark on the surface as they are **relatively cooler than surrounding parts**.
3. Sunspots form **due to strong magnetic field lines** coming up from within the sun.

## PROJECT CHEETAH

1. Under this project, around **90 Heron drones** of the three defence services would be **upgraded to be armed with laser-guided bombs**, air to ground and air launched anti-tank guided missiles.
2. Heron is a **medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned air vehicle(UAV) system** primarily designed to perform strategic reconnaissance and surveillance operations.
3. It is designed and manufactured by **Israel Aerospace Industries**.

## COLLAPSE OF CANADA’S MILNE ICE SHELF

1. Milne ice shelf in Canada has **lost more than 40% of its ice in last 2 days**.
2. Ice shelves are permanent floating sheets of ice that connect to a landmass. However, they can also form wherever ice flows from land into cold ocean waters.
3. It has increased fears of the Arctic region being under severe stress **due to global warming**.
4. Arctic region is warming at twice the rate compared to the rest of the planet due to a feedback mechanism known as the **Arctic amplification**.

## SWACHH BHARAT MISSION ACADEMY(SBMA) LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

1. It is an **interactive Voice Response(IVR)-based training course with modules on open Defecation free(ODF) Plus** programme.
2. ODF Plus is an extension of the ODF programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
3. SBMA will boost the capacity building efforts in training of **Swachhagrahis, community-based organisations, NGOs, SHGs** and others who are associated with phase 2 of SBM(G).

## 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION OF STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME(SEP)

1. It was launched by **NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with Dell Technologies** for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs(ATLs).
2. They will receive **mentor support**; prototyping and testing support; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas etc, from Dell volunteers.
3. SEP is a 360-degree development program for technology leaders and entrepreneurs.
4. It is dedicated to **encourage innovation spirit of students and nurturing their leadership** and entrepreneurial skills.

## APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL(AEPC)

1. Minister for MSME called upon AEPC to take measures for **increasing exports two times**.
2. **AEPC** is the official body of apparel exporters in India that **provides assistance to Indian exporters** as well as importers/international buyers who chose India as their preferred sourcing destination for garments.
3. It aims to promote, support and facilitate Indian apparel Industry.