

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

4TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parliamentary Committee on Labour has, in its latest report, recommended that the eligibility period for gratuity payable to an employee on termination of his employment should be reduced to one year from the present provision of five years.
- Two NASA astronauts returned to Earth in a dramatic, retrostyle splashdown, their capsule parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico to finish an unprecedented test flight by Elon Musk's SpaceX company.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami categorically stated that the government will "never allow the three language policy [which has been proposed as part of the NEP 2020], and will continue to implement the two language policy".
- An online survey done by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) students showed that 55% of them did not use any form of renewable energy.
- The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), has announced a "Corporates Leave Farming" campaign across the country on August 9 against the Centre's recent ordinances on agriculture and farmer issues.
- With the aim of achieving a manufacturing turnover of \$25 bn or ₹1,75,000 crore, including exports of \$5 bn in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) put out a draft 'Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020' for public feedback.
- One-third of the way through the financial year, government data show that MGNREGA scheme has used up almost half its allocated funds, spending more than ₹48,500 crore out of the expanded ₹ 1 lakh crore allocation announced following the COVID19 outbreak.

INDIAN DEPOSITORY RECEIPT(IDR)

1. Recently, **Standard Chartered Bank** (the only Domestic Depository) decided to delist its IDRs from Indian bourses.
2. An IDR is an instrument denominated in Indian Rupees in the form of a depository receipt create by a Domestic Depository(DD) against the underlying equity of issuing company.
3. **DD is a custodian of securities registered with the SEBI.**

US,EUROPEAN UNION,OTHERS QUESTION INDIA ON USING WTO PEACE CLAUSE

1. India's **minimum support programme(MSP) for rice is under scrutiny** at the WTO with the US and the EU challenging the increase in subsidies beyond ceiling limits.
2. Earlier, India had **invoked peace clause** as it informed WTO that it had exceeded the ceiling on support it can offer farmers for rice for the marketing year 2018-19.
3. Peace clause **protects a developing country's food procurement programmes against action from WTO** members in case subsidy ceilings are breached.

GRAMODYOG VIKAS YOJANA

1. It Was recently approved by ministry of MSMEs
2. It aims to benefit of artisans involved in **manufacturing of Agarbatti** and to develop village industry under the scheme.
3. **Khadi and Village industries Commission will provide training**, and assist artisans working in this area, with agarbatti manufacturing machines.
4. Recently, Government had placed the '**Agarbatti' item under restricted trade** in the import policy.

MUNICIPAL BONDS

1. They are **fixed income instruments issued** by local bodies like municipal corporations.
2. They are issued **to raise money for public projects**, such as to construct roads, bridges or other infrastructure, and are repaid from returns generated by such projects or tax revenue.
3. These are regulated by the SEBI.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

1. It is the process of **assisting the recovery of an ecosystem** that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed which helps build resilience and regenerative ability of the ecosystem.
2. This is done through a **scientific process of benchmarking** with reference models from the same native ecosystem.
3. India has an ambitious target of **restoring 26 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030.**

YOUNGSTERS SHUNNING HIGHER EDUCATION

1. Survey(NSSO) shows deterioration in access to higher education between 2014 and 2018.
2. **Dropout rate was around 5%(2014-18) for graduates.**
3. Gross enrolment ratio(GER) at graduate level is as low as 26% against nearly 100% at the primary level.
4. Other issues faced by higher education sector-Low employability of graduates, poor quality of teaching, weak governance, insufficient funding and complex regulatory norms.