

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

7TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- A day after China prompted the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to discuss the Kashmir issue in a closed door meeting, India “firmly” rejected the Chinese initiative and reiterated that Kashmir is a domestic issue. Veteran diplomats demanded that South Block launch a campaign to remove Kashmir from the agenda of the council.
- U.S. intelligence agencies are scrutinising efforts by Saudi Arabia to build up its ability to produce nuclear fuel that could put the kingdom on a path to developing nuclear weapons.
- RBI keeps key policy rates unchanged It allows banks to restructure corporate, individual loans.
- Manoj Sinha appointed J&K LG, Mr. Murmu was appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Mahindra Rajapaksas’ party(Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People’s Party)) poised for big win in Sri Lanka.
- The recent busting of an interstate smuggling racket by Telangana Forest Department officials has exposed the rampant poaching of pangolins in the forests of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Among the key motives of the proposed Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020 (EIA 2020) was to bring environmental violators under a regulatory regime by imposing a heavy penalty on them.
- U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has urged UN members not to support Cuba’s bid to join the organisation’s Human Rights Council.
- In view of the continued need to support viable MSME entities on account of the fallout of COVID19, the RBI extended the onetime debt restructuring for small businesses by another three months to March 2021.

SHADESMART & RADIANTCOOLING TECHNOLOGIES

1. These are two technologies to promote energy-efficient cooling in buildings.
2. Shadesmart is an **external shading system** developed as an innovative and cost-effective solution for windows in residential and commercial buildings under the project Habitat Model for Efficiency and comfort.
3. In Radiant Cooling, cooling is achieved through **radiant heat transfer**, as against regular convective air conditioning is efficient and gives better quality of thermal comfort.

POKKALI RICE

1. It is **Known for its saltwater resistance** and flourishes in the rice paddies of coastal Alappuzha,Ernakulam and Thrissur districts of Kerala.
2. It has **Geographical indication tag**.
3. **Vyttila-11** is one of the varieties of Pokkali rice. It is being sown in paddy fields of Sundarbans on an experimental basis.

INDIA CONTRIBUTES OVER \$15.46 MN TO INDIA-U.N. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND(IUDPF)

1. The **tranche of \$15.46 million** includes \$6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.
2. It underscores **India’s commitment to supporting developing nations** in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. IUDPF **was established in 2017**. It is supported and led by India,managed by the United Nations Office **for South-South Cooperation(UNOSSC)**, and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.

LOCKDOWN PUSHES UP DEMAND FOR DATA CENTRES

1. **Data centres** are centralized locations where computing and networking equipment is concentrated for the purpose of collecting, storing, processing, distributing or allowing access to large amounts of data.
2. Data storage in India **has grown 8 times to 2.8 zettabytes since 2014**, driven by rapid adoption of Cloud, growth in digital transactions and e-commerce.
3. Due to COVID-19 induced lockdown, **there was a 25-35% increase in data centre capacity** usage as companies began to overhaul their digital infrastructure to deal with the new work environment.

LAND ACQUISITION REAMAINS A MAJOR ISSUE FOR SOLAR PROJECTS.

1. Industry is **asking for faster decision-making for making land available** and simplifying government approvals to attract investments in power projects.
2. **Delay in government land allotment**/registration under Solar Park scheme.
3. Exemption on Stamp duty for land registration is not provided by most of the states;Non agricultural conversion of land demands high charges and multiple permissions.