

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Following a plea alleging violation of environmental norms by restaurants, banquets and hotels operating in the Delhi, government informed the National Green Tribunal that guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board were adopted and necessary actions were being taken.
- China is yet to either fully disengage or dilute its extensive military buildup at most points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), according to a new assessment of satellite images by Stratfor, the United States based intelligence platform.
- With virtual meetings being the new normal, parliamentarians at a meeting of the Lok Sabha House Committee complained about the slow Internet facility provided by MTNL/BSNL and batted for replacing the PSUs with private service providers.
- India invited greater participation from Israeli defence companies under the new liberalised foreign direct investment (FDI) regime in defence manufacturing.
- China on ordered the U.S. consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu to close in retaliation for one of its missions in the United States being shuttered, capping a furious week of Cold Warstyle diplomacy.
- U.S. accuses Russia of testing weapon in space Washington says it has proof that Moscow conducted a non-destructive test of an anti-satellite weapon.
- The Taliban says it is ready for talks with Afghanistan's political leadership after the IdulAdha.
- India, Sri Lanka seek to reset ties in the time of polls and pandemic, From economic cooperation to fighting COVID19, both countries have diverse avenues to deepen ties, say experts.

## OIL PALM CULTIVATION IN NORTH EAST

### Key facts

1. PM appealed to **North-East States to take up oil palm cultivation**, State governments to set up oil palm missions.
2. North-East region has about 2.18 lakh hectares(ha) of land potential for oil palm plantations but only 30,000 ha covered.
3. **Hot and humid climate of North-east** is conducive for the oil crop.
4. **India imports nearly 68%** of its annual edible oil requirements.
5. Government efforts so far- National Mission on Oilseeds and oil palm; Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses.

## GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2020.

### Key facts

1. Assessment is done every five years since 1990. This report assesses the state of forests, their conditions and management for all member countries. It is **done by Food and Agriculture organisation(FAO)**.
2. Key findings-World has a **total forest area of 4.06 billion hectares**, which is about **31%** of the total land area.
3. India has ranked third among countries that have gained in forest in forest areas. Top 5 countries are China, Australia, **India**, Chile, Vietnam.
4. Report has credited India's Joint Forest Management programme for the significant increase in community-managed forest areas.
5. **India accounts for 2% of total global** forest area.

## CASES OF VACCINE-DERIVED POLIOVIRUS(VDPV)

### Key facts

1. According to WHO, **a total of 149 immunodeficiency** VDPV cases had been reported between January 1961 and December 2019.
2. Of this, 66% were detected between 2010 and 2019, with 59% occurred in children aged less than two years.
3. Polio is a highly infectious viral disease which invades the nervous system, and causes paralysis.
4. Two types of vaccines-Inactivated poliovirus vaccine and Oral Poliovirus vaccine.
5. However, in some cases, **the vaccine-virus is genetically altered during replication**. This is called **VDPV**.
6. VDPVs are extremely rare and found in children with immune-deficiencies.

## NATIONAL TRANSIT PASS SYSTEM

### Key facts

1. It was launched by Ministry of Environment for issuing **transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce**.
2. It generates **Pan India Transit Passes** facilitating seamless movement of forest produce.