

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Domestic violence cases were higher in red zone COVID19 districts as compared to those in orange and green zones, according to a new study (By National Bureau of Economic Research.) which argues that gender based violence shifted from streets to domestic spaces.
- Anthony Fauci, top infectious disease specialist and senior adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump on COVID19, said that India would play a critical role in supplying the world with a COVID19 vaccine.
- On the implications of the Draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 (EIA 2020), the Parliamentary Committee of Science and Technology headed by Mr. Jairam Ramesh will deliberate on the subject at its meeting scheduled for August 7.
- The Ministry of Railways has suspended all new/umbrella works (upgradation of passenger amenities, station development and other nonsafety work) included in the 'Pink Book' in 2020-21.
- China was not in favour of resuming the process of clarifying the Line of Actual Control (LAC) because it could "create new disputes", its Ambassador to India said. 'China's traditional customary boundary line is in accordance with the LAC'.
- Australia urges India, China to show restraint. Opposes attempts to alter *status quo*. Expressed support to the ongoing de-escalation efforts.
- An "anxious" Supreme Court accentuated the urgent need to find an alternative to killing marauding wild animals as vermin even while protecting crops from them, CJI suggests 'explosives that do not kill' but make noise and 'rubber bullets' to scare off vermin.

## INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND TRILATERAL HIGHWAY(IMTTH)

### Key facts

1. Supreme court stayed the litigation initiated by the defaulting contractor of IMTTH highway project before the Manipur high court.
2. Ministry of external affairs said further pendency of litigation before Manipur HC will **harm bilateral relations with the neighbours**.
3. MEA is responsible for the execution of IMTTH project, which is being implemented by National Highways Authority of India.
4. IMTTH- It will connect **Moreh in Manipur and Mae sot in Thailand**, It is a part of "Act east policy".
5. Benefits of Project- Greater connectivity and seamless movement of goods & people and traffic across three countries.
6. India has also proposed **extending highway to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam region** which is important both for strategic as well as trade reason.
7. Challenges faced in completion of project- **Geographical terrain, excessive rainfall** etc.

## PIED CUCKOO TO BE TRACKED IN MIGRATION

### Key facts

1. Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Institute of Remote sensing and Department of Biotechnology have begun a study of the migration of  **pied cuckoo from Africa to India and back**.
2. It is done by tagging two of the birds with satellite transmitters.
3. This is for the **first time that a bird species is being tagged** to understand its relationship with climate patterns like change in monsoon winds, erratic rainfall, seasonal fluctuations, etc.
4. Arrival of pied cuckoos has traditionally been seen as onset of the monsoon.
5. **Pied Cuckoo (Clamator jacobinus or Jacobin Cuckoo)**- There are two populations of pied Cuckoo found in India- Southern part (resident) and North and Central India (Migratory).
6. IUCN status- Least concern.

## OFFSHORE WIND CAN YIELD TWIN BENEFITS OF GHG REDUCTIONS, RETURN ON INVESTMENTS.

### Key facts

1. Report by World Resources Institute claims that, Reduction of 0.3-1.61 gigatons of carbon dioxide every year by 2050 if offshore wind energy generation is scaled up.
2. Every \$1 invested in increasing production capacities of Offshore wind power can generate a **\$2-17 benefit on return on investment**.
3. Offshore wind energy is the clean and renewable energy obtained by taking advantage of the force of the wind that is produced on the high seas.
4. India and Offshore wind energy- India notified the **"National offshore Wind energy Policy" in 2015**.
5. India has set target of at least **5,000 MW** of offshore wind energy generation capacity by 2022 and **30,000 MW by 2030**.