KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

21ST OCTOBER, 2020

- **Cybercrimes in India caused losses of ₹ 1.25 lakh crore in 2019 and cyber threats will continue to increase as the country starts developing smart cities and rolling out 5G networks, among other initiatives, National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen. (Dr.) Rajesh Pant said.**

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has held that environmental clearance (EC) to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) in Telangana was granted *ex post facto*, is "in violation of law".**

- **Enactment of laws is a sovereign prerogative, India said , responding to criticism of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.**

- **The Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to seal the Srinagar office of Kashmir Times newspaper has evoked strong reaction from the media and regional parties.**

- **China asked India to approach ties with Taiwan "prudently and properly", and said it would "firmly oppose" any official exchanges between New Delhi and Taipei.**

- **The Army has significantly improved its electronic surveillance along the Line of Control (LoC) to check infiltration, and work on converting the existing border fence into a smart fence integrated with several sensors is under way.**

- **Russia said it was ready to offer the U.S. a mutual one year freeze on the number of nuclear warheads held by both countries in order to extend a landmark arms reduction deal due to expire next year.**

- **U.S. justice department files antitrust lawsuit against Google Justice Department accuses it of maintaining illegal monopoly over search.**

ALLEVIATING POVERTY:FORESTS,TREES CAN BE TRUMP CARD POST COVID-19,SAYS GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANEL REPORT

1.Report highlights the nexus between SDG 1(on ending poverty) and SDG 15(on protecting and restoring sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem),as well as relevant links to other SDGs such as SDG 3-Good health,SDG 11-sustainable cities.

2.How forests and tree-based system can help reduce poverty? Forest products:Worldwide, more than a billion people,many living below **international poverty line($1.90 a day), derive direct and indirect benefits from forests.**

3.Agroforestry, community forest management, ecotourism and forest producer organisations have been successful in reducing poverty.

SURETY BONDS

1.Surety Bond is a three-party agreement that legally binds together.

2.A principal who purchase the bond to guarantee the quality of work to be done in the future. An oblige who requires the principal to purchase a bond to avoid potential financial loss and third party is surety company.

3.Surety bonds provide financial guarantee that contracts will be completed according to pre-defined and mutual terms.

OSIRIS-Rex

1.OSIRIS-Rex is **NASA`s first asteroid sample return mission,** launched in 2016, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to Earth for scientific study.

2.It will be attempt **to touch surface of asteroid Bennu and determine its physical and chemical properties.**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE(MoAFW) LAUNCHES AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME

1.Scheme is formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation(NCDC) **for financial assistance to cooperatives** on holistic healthcare infrastructure,education and services.

2.NCDC would extend term loans to the tune of Rs.10,000 Crore to prospective cooperatives in the coming years.

3.NCDC is an apex level **statutory autonomous institution under MoAFW set up in 1963.**It has been created for the purpose of planning and promoting programmes on cooperative principles.

ASAFOETIDA(HEENG)

1.CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource has introduced **asafoetida cultivation in Indian Himalayan region(Lahaul,Himachal Pradesh).**

2.Presently,Heeng is not cultivated in India and India **imports it from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan**.

3.Plant prefers cold and dry conditions.

GRAND CHALLENGES INDIA(GCI) PLATFORM

1.GCI is a partnership framework of Department of Biotechnology,Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance council(BIRAC), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Wellcome Trust and other funders.

2.It was launched in 2013 with the aim of fostering Indian innovation and research **to develop affordable and sustainable solutions to improve health,** in India and across the globe.