

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- Speaking at the United Nation's 75th anniversary commemoration, Secretary-General António Guterres said the world had a surplus of multilateral challenges but not enough multilateral answers to these.
- An unchecked digital media is capable of spreading "venomous hatred," terror and violence, In fact, the digital media has already done all of this, the Centre told the Supreme Court.
- In the earliest announcement of minimum support prices, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar told the Lok Sabha that the Cabinet had approved MSP hikes for six crops, including a 2.6% increase in the rate for wheat.
- The Rajya Sabha suspended eight Opposition MPs for their "unruly" behaviour during the debate and voting on two farm sector Bills.
- Sub Lt. Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lt. Riti Singh will be the first women airborne tacticians (combatants) in the country who will operate from the deck of warships.
- The Centre informed the Rajya Sabha that due to some limitations, collating national data on the causes of farmers' suicides was untenable.
- Sixth round of Corps Commander level talks between Indian and China aimed at ending the five month long standoff along the disputed boundary in Ladakh.
- A woman fighter pilot is expected to soon join the No. 17 Golden Arrows squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF) flying the recently inducted Rafale fighter jets, a defence source said.
- China ramped up its rhetoric over Taiwan, describing any support for its independence as "doomed to fail", and threatened retaliation against U.S. diplomatic visits to the island.

## KOMODO DRAGONS

1. Recent study shows that **komodo dragons, world's largest lizards could soon go extinct.**
2. IUCN status: Vulnerable and trade is prohibited under CITES.
3. Habitat-It occurs on **Komodo island** and a few neighbouring islands of the Lesser Sunda islands of Indonesia.
4. Threats-Habitat loss due to Climate change and poaching.

## WHAT IS SPICE+

1. It is an integrated web form offering 10 services by 3 central Govt. Ministeries & Departments (Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue) and One State Government.
2. It was introduced as a **part of Government's Ease of Doing Business initiatives.**
3. It helps by saving procedures, time and cost for starting a Business.

## e-GRAMSWARAJ PORTAL

1. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched this portal to strengthen e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country.
2. It **aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.**
3. It provides a single window for capturing Panchayat Information with the complete Profile of the Panchayat, details of Panchayat finances, asset details, activities taken up through Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GRDP) etc.

## FIFTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION (FFC) IN ITS REPORT FOR 2020-21 RECOMMENDED GRANTS FOR RURAL LOCAL BODIES (RLBs)

1. Grants have been recommended for all tiers of the Panchayati Raj and also to the fifth and Sixth schedule areas.
2. **Total size of the grants is Rs.60,750 crore in 2020-21.**
3. Grants are provided in two parts: 50% are Basic Grants that are untied and can be used for location-specific felt needs, except for salary or other establishment expenditure.
4. 50% as Tied Grant to be used for basic services of sanitation and maintenance of open-defecation free status and supply of drinking water.

## FELUDA TEST

1. It is a **low-cost, paper-based test strip to detect COVID-19 in less than 30 minutes.**
2. It is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology and Tata Group.

## MEMORY OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) SIGNED BETWEEN MINISTRY OF AYUSH AND MoWCD FOR CONTROLLING MALNUTRITION

1. Convergence between Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and Ministry of AYUSH will **help address malnutrition through the principles and practices of ayurveda, yoga and other AYUSH systems.**