

# PRAYAS KSG NEWSPAPER SPOTLIGHT'S

10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020

## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- **International Cricket Council(ICC) confirmed that India will host the T20 Cricket World Cup 2021 in October – November 2021 as the Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI) retained the hosting rights and Australia will host the 2020 World Cup edition, which was postponed due to the global pandemic in 2022.**
- **Amid pandemic, India & Pak. spar over Indus water talks, Differences arise over design of Ratle project on Chenab.**
- **The proposed new Secretariat complex, the design for which was approved by the Telangana Cabinet recently, draws inspiration from a few major temples in the State.(the Neelakanteshwara temple and Hanuman temple at Salangpur).**
- **Traders body — Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) launched a “China Quit India” campaign, calling for checks on “China’s growing footprint in India”.**
- **The Defence Ministry will “introduce import embargo on 101 items beyond given timeline to boost indigenisation of defence production”.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new financing scheme under the ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund meant for setting up storage and processing facilities, which will help farmers get higher prices for their crops.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Andaman and Nicobar islands region, owing to its strategic importance, was going to be developed as a “maritime and startup hub”.**
- **The Afghan government and the Taliban are “on the verge of peace talks” after thousands of prominent Afghans approved the release of about 400 contentious militant prisoners, the head of Kabul’s peace council(Loya jirga) said**

## SEVERAL STATES TO QUIT PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA(PMFBY)

1. Several states have felt that **claims paid out by insurance companies are much lesser than the gross premium(GP)** collected by them.
2. This has implications for government finances because the farmers’ contribution to **GP is very small**(2% for all Kharif crops, 1.5% for all Rabi crops and 5% for annual commercial and horticultural crops)-It is the states and the Centre that spend substantial sums on premium subsidies.
3. Due to high actuarial rates in several clusters, the states found that a **substantial part of their agriculture budget was going towards paying premium subsidies.**

## REVIEW OF PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING (PSL) GUIDELINES

1. Changes-**Broadening the scope of PSL to include start-ups**; Increasing the borrowing limits for renewable energy, including solar power and compressed bio gas plants;
2. Increasing the targets for lending to ‘Small and Marginal Farmers’ and ‘Weaker sections’.
3. Revision is being done to-Align the guidelines with **emerging national priorities** and bringing sharper focus on inclusive development.
4. Priority sector lending norms-RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion their funds to specified sectors- **agriculture, MSMEs, export credit, Social infrastructure** etc.

## TO BOOST DIGITAL PAYMENTS

1. RBI proposed a pilot scheme for offline payments using mobile devices and cards **to address challenge of internet connectivity and low speed of internet.**
2. Positive pay mechanism to prevent frauds with high value cheques. The mechanism will be for all cheques of values of Rs.50,000 and above.

## AADHAR AUTHENTICATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE(SOCIAL WELFARE, INNOVATION, KNOWLEDGE) RULES, 2020 NOTIFIED

1. As per Rules, Central government may allow aadhar authentication by requesting entities for the following purposes-
2. Usage of digital platforms to ensure good governance; **prevention of dissipation of social welfare benefits**; Enablement of innovation and spread of knowledge.
3. Till now, the government has allowed seeding of Aadhar number for delivery of social welfare benefits. However, new rules would **expand the scope of Aadhar for agriculture, education and health schemes etc.**

## BRUS DISPLACED FROM MIZORAM REJECT RESETTLEMENT SITES

1. Sites were proposed by Joint Movement Committee, **an umbrella group of non-Brus in Tripura.**
2. Bru community, also **referred to as Reangs, resides in Mizoram, Tripura, and parts of southern Assam.**
3. Brus are living in the refugee camps in Tripura after they fled Mizoram following **ethnic clashes with the Mizo tribes in 1997.**

- **BEEG (BIO-COMPOST ENRICHED ECO-FRIENDLY GLOBULE)**

1. IIT Kanpur has developed indigenous seed balls named BEEG (Bio - compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule) which will help people and farmers in plantation with safety in Corona times and will also provide employment to people.
2. The Seed Balls are comprised of indigenous variety of seeds, compost, and clay. There is no need for digging pits for planting saplings . These seed balls are to be thrown at aimed places and they will germinate when come into contact with water.

3. BEEG is enriched with the right ingredients and seeds to germinate early, and are the best way to utilise Monsoon and plant as many trees as possible without risking lives by social gathering during Covid 19.



- **KAVKAZ**

1. India will take part in the Russian Kavkaz 2020 strategic command-post exercise next month. A small tri-service contingent will take part in the exercise to be held in Astrakhan.
2. The Kavkaz 2020 - also referred to as Caucasus-2020 - is an exercise aimed at assessing the ability of the armed forces to ensure military security in Russia's southwest.



- **SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION (SMAM)**

1. The Centre has released ₹553 crore to States under a scheme to promote mechanisation in the agriculture sector.
2. The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) was introduced in April 2014 with an aim to have inclusive growth of farm mechanisation to boost productivity.