

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

10TH AUGUST, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- The threat from China is pushing India into closer ties with the U.S. but is unlikely to yield a military 'alliance' at present, 'LAC complicates India's options'. America is not going to get involved in a continental war here: Defence experts.
- 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**.