

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

25TH DECEMBER, 2020

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS

- There is now more evidence to show that the Indian economy “is pulling out of COVID19’ s deep abyss and is reflatng” at a pace that beats most predictions:RBI officials, including Deputy Governor Michael Patra, said in an article in the central bank’s monthly bulletin.
- Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s visit to Manipur on December 27, the State’s Zomi ethnic group has renewed its demand for a self-administered zone on the lines of the Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam.
- An NGO involved in consumer rights advocacy is planning to approach higher authorities with an appeal to regulate the awareness messages on COVID-19 on phone. Consumer Voice, the NGO, says that the man-hours lost daily while listening to such messages is staggering. Such messages no longer served the purpose of educating the public.
- The majority of the Central trade unions boycotted the Labour and Employment Ministry’s consultation on the draft rules for the four labour codes enacted by the government in 2019 and 2020, terming the exercise a “farce”.
- A parliamentary panel has recommended putting athletes, coaches and support staff going to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics in the priority group for COVID19 vaccination.
- A year that began in China with the country’s leadership facing searching questions about its handling of a new pandemic that struck the city of Wuhan ends with President Xi Jinping firming up his political control. Tackling of virus, muscular approach, economic recovery have helped mute critics.
- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹4,109 crore in connection with a ponzi scam involving ₹6,380 crore collected from over 32 lakh investors in six States.

ELECTORAL BONDS AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION

- 1.The Central Information Commission (CIC), the lead body for implementing the Right to Information Act 2005, has ruled that the **disclosure of identity of electoral bond scheme donors will not serve any larger public interest and will violate provisions of the Act itself.**
- 2.The electoral bond scheme allows citizens and corporates to buy monetary instruments from the State Bank of India (SBI) and donate them to political parties, who can redeem them for money.
- 3.According to the Association for Democratic Reforms, **political parties have received a total of 12,452 electoral bonds worth Rs. 6210.39 crore till January 2020.**

UPDATING CENSUS REGISTERS

- 1.Recently, the Registrar General of India (RGI) has written to all State coordinators to update the census register. The Order: RGI has written to all State coordinators to update names of an area, locality, colony or a building in the “charge register”
- 2.Charge register: **The charge register shows the distribution of work among enumerators and marks the House Listing Blocks (HLB) to be visited by each official.**
- 3.HLB is a primary unit of collection of data.

CHANGES IN PMS-SC

- 1.Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved changes in the Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC).
- 2.Government is committed to give **a big push and further impetus to this effort so that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education of SCs would reach up to the national standards within the 5 year period.**
- 3.GER is the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education.

CATCH THE RAIN:NATIONAL WATER MISSION

- 1.National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have launched the ‘Catch the Rain’ Awareness Generation Campaign.Tag line: **Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls.**
- 2.To nudge all stake-holders to create **Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS)** suitable for the climatic conditions and subsoil strata to store rainwater.
- 3.To engage people at the grassroots through effective campaigning and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for implementation of the campaign.

AQUIFER MAPPING & MANAGEMENT

- 1.A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been recently signed between Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Jal Shakti and Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research–National Geophysical Research Institute, **for use of advanced heliborne geophysical survey (through helicopter) and other scientific studies under the Aquifer Mapping Programme.**
- 2.High resolution aquifer mapping using heliborne geophysical studies, including **identification of sites for artificial recharge.**