

“The power to change your life lies in the simplest of steps.” Steve Maraboli

INTERNATIONAL & BILATERAL**INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINTLY UNVEIL E-PLAQUES FOR TWO PROJECTS**

PM Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, have jointly unveiled e-plaques for two projects, via video conference.

The projects include: (a) India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (b) Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur Railway Project

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline:

The 129 km pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.

The Rs 346 crore project will be completed in 30 months and the capacity of the pipeline will be one million metric tonnes per annum.

The oil pipeline will supply high speed diesel to Bangladesh which is currently transported through cross-border train from Numaligarh refinery.

Of the total length, 124 km will be constructed in Bangladesh and 5 km in India.

The cross-border connectivity projects through Bangladesh complement India's Act East Policy and aim to smoothen connectivity with landlocked NE India.

Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur Railway Project:

80 km of the two new dual gauge rail lines would be constructed on the Dhaka-Tongi route while a 12.28 km new dual gauge railway double line on the Tongi-Joydebpur route.

The railway project will bring relief to road traffic in Bangladesh.

With these ports the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram will have another mode of transport, making the region more accessible. These accesses are granted as per GATT rules.

The agreement, effective for five years initially, will be renewed automatically for another five years. While the pact will be signed between Bangladesh and India, later Nepal and Bhutan can join.

NATIONAL**NEW OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)**

The Government has decided to incorporate the provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the PMFBY.

The farmers will be paid 12% interest by insurance companies for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.

State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the delay in release of State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance companies.

The guidelines also detail a Standard Operating Procedure for evaluation of insurance companies and remove them from the scheme if found ineffective in providing services.

The Government has also decided to include perennial horticultural crops under the ambit of PMFBY on a pilot basis.

The scheme as per the new guidelines provides add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals, which will be implemented on a pilot basis.

Aadhaar number will be mandatorily captured to avoid duplication of beneficiaries.

The insurance companies are given a target of enrolling 10% more non-loanee farmers than the previous corresponding season.

They will have to mandatorily spend 0.5% of gross premium per company per season for publicity and awareness of the scheme.

The much demanded rationalization of premium release process has been incorporated in the new guidelines.

As per this, the insurance companies need not provide any projections for the advance subsidy.

Release of upfront premium subsidy will be made at the beginning of the season based on 50% of 80% of total share of subsidy of corresponding season of previous year as GOI/State subsidy.

Balance premium will be paid as a second installment based on the specific approved business statistics on the portal for settlement of claims.

Final installment will be paid after reconciliation of entire coverage data on portal based on final business statistics. This will reduce the delay in settling the claims of farmers.

'E-SAHAJ' PORTAL FOR GRANT OF SECURITY CLEARANCE

The Union Home Secretary has launched an online 'e-Sahaj' portal for grant of Security Clearance.

MHA is the nodal Ministry for security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before issue of license/permit, permission, contract etc, to companies/ bidders/individuals by the administrative Ministry.

The objective of national security clearance is to evaluate potential security threats, including economic threats, and provide risk assessment before clearing investment and project proposals in key sectors.

The aim is to strike a healthy balance between meeting the imperatives of national security and facilitating ease of doing business and promoting investment in the country.

E-Sahaj Portal:

The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.

The clearance has become standardized, resulting in a process which will be faster, transparent and easy to monitor.

Various functionaries can access the application and documents online and take timely decisions.

MHA has cleared about 1,100 cases of security clearance in the past one year.

Although the given timeline is 90 days, MHA strives to decide Security Clearance cases in 60 days (average time per case in 2018 is 53 days), which is being reduced further.

MEDICAL CYCLOTRON FACILITY CYCLONE-30

Cyclone-30 equipment used for generating radio-isotopes became operational at a VECC,

Kolkata, a Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) unit.

Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.

Radiations from these isotopes are used to destroy cancer cells.

Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational this month when 30 MeV beam reached the Faraday Cup for the first time last week.

Subsequently, beam from this facility was used to produce ¹⁸F (Fluorine-18 isotope) for the preparation of [¹⁸F]Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG), a radio-pharmaceutical.

Presently it produces liquid target (for FDG production) and solid targets (production of Germanium-68, Palladium-103 and other isotopes).

Later on installation of Iodine isotope [¹²³I] production target, material study target and Accelerator Driven System target will also be taken up.

This facility will provide for affordable radio isotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals for the entire country especially, for Eastern India. It will also have export potential for Germanium-68/Gallium-68 generator for in-situ production of Gallium-68 and Palladium-103 isotopes, used for breast cancer diagnosis and prostate cancer treatment, respectively.

C-DAC INFORMATION MEDIA SERVER (CIMS)

MEITY launches C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS) for enhancing Good Governance.

It is a dedicated computer appliance having specialized application software to provide audio and video on demand.

This low-cost affordable system is built with single board computer having powerful and energy efficient multi-core processor.

It does not require any special purpose internet service provider or data connectivity.

The common feature includes displaying text, images for viewing, video streaming, e-brochure; for viewing or downloading for offline reference.
