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State level children's scientific exhibition of Eklavya Model Residential Schools will be organized

Why in News?

> As per the information provided by the Chhattisgarh Public Relations Department on 6th December, 2023, a Children's Science Exhibition will be organised at School, District, Division & State level to promote scientific temper among students of Eklavya Model Residential School and to expand scientific knowledge & experience.

Key Points:

- According to the information, the Children's Science Exhibition will be organised from Eklavya Adarsh Residential Schools on 11th December at the school level, 13th December at the district level, 15th December at the divisional level and 22nd December at the state level.
- Commissioner & ex-officio Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Level Tribal Welfare, Residential & Ashram Educational Institute Committee, Shammi Abidi has issued necessary guidelines to all the district collectors regarding the organisation of National Children's Scientific Exhibition.
- The theme of the Children's Science Exhibition is 'Science and Technology for Society'. The topics of the sub-theme have been kept as Health, Lifestyle for Environment, Agriculture, Communication and Transport, Computational Thinking.
- Three models from each sub-plot will be selected and sent to the National Children's Scientific Exhibition. For this, after selection at the divisional level, a maximum of 15 models will be selected from 08 schools of Bastar division and 15-15 models will be selected from 5-5 schools of Surguja & Bilaspur divisions at the state level.
- Similarly, 2 models will be selected from each theme, 10 models will be selected from 04 schools of Raipur division and 10 models will be selected from 3 schools of Durg division.

- For selection of children's scientific exhibition, 20 percent marks for creativity & imagination, 15 percent marks for originality in model, scientific & mathematical innovation, 15 percent marks for scientific thought, theory & approach, 15 percent marks for technical skills, crafts & craftsmanship and 15 percent marks for societal utility.
- 10 percent marks have been assigned to economic (low cost) portability and 10 percent marks have been assigned to the performance & presentation of the model. Apart from this, 5 percent additional marks will be given to students from rural and backward areas & 3 percent additional marks will be given to students from semi-urban areas.
- The students of Eklavya Adarsh Residential School come from tribal areas and they must have seen and understood various types of rural level inconveniences in their society & workplace. They must be curious that the tasks of life in rural areas can be solved through some technology and their work can be made easier. There are many types of questions and their solutions in the minds of students, which they are not able to display anywhere.
- By organising a Children's Science Exhibition, if students have any idea or model in their mind to ease the problems of such people's life, they can display it and through this they can make a place at the national level through their fundamental technical knowledge.

SECL will use 'Miyawaki' plantation method to increase green cover

Why in News?

As per information provided by Press Information Bureau, Government of India on December 6, 2023, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) will plant saplings for the 1st time in its operational areas using Japan's popular 'Miyawaki' method to promote forest cover in the coal belt area of Chhattisgarh.

Key Points:

> SECL, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, will use the popular Japanese technology to develop Miyawaki forest in a two hectare area in Gevra area as a pilot project.



- The project will be implemented in partnership with Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation (CGRVVN) at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 4 crore.
- ➤ The tree planting using Miyawaki technology will be carried out over a period of two years, with approximately 20,000 saplings planted. In plantation, big plants like banyan, peepal, mango, jamun etc.; Medium plants like Karanj, Amla, Ashoka etc. and small plants like Kaner, Hibiscus, Trichoma, Ber, Fig, Lemon etc. will be included.
- ➢ It may be noted that the Miyawaki method of tree plantation was started in the 70s by Japanese botanist and plant ecology expert Akira Miyawaki. This tree planting technique involves planting native trees, shrubs and groundcover plants within every square metre. This is an ideal method to grow a dense forest rapidly in a small space.
- The species selected for Miyawaki plantations are usually plants that do not require much maintenance and can survive harsh weather and water scarcity conditions & grow rapidly under the existing conditions. This helps in developing a dense forest in a short period of time.
- > The pilot project of Miyawaki plantation at SECL will help in increasing the green cover around Gevra mine, the country's largest coal mine, in a short period of time. The forest composed of indigenous species of fruit, avenue and ornamental trees will also prove beneficial for local communities and wildlife. The forests developed under the project will also play an important role in absorbing dust particles and controlling the surface temperature.
- It is worth mentioning that apart from being one of the leading coal companies of India, SECL is continuously working towards promoting green cover around its mines and preserving the environment and reducing the impacts of coal mining.
- ➤ Since its inception, SECL has planted more than 3 crore saplings. In the financial year 2023-24, the company has developed green cover in 475 hectare area and planted 10.77 lakh saplings, which is the highest among all the subsidiaries of Coal India.
- The company has recently tied up with Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation (CGRVVN) and

Madhya Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation (MPRVVN) for plantation and maintenance of 4 years for a five years period from 2023-24 to 2027-28.



Vishnu Deo Sai will be the 4th CM of Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

On December 10, 2023, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) elected state tribal leader and Kunkuri MLA Vishnu Deo Sai as the Chief Minister of the state. He will be the 4th Chief Minister of the state and the 1st tribal Chief Minister.

Key Points:

- Vishnu Deo Sai was elected the leader of the legislative party in the legislative party meeting held at the BJP state office in Raipur. Along with this, he reached Raj Bhavan and presented his claim to form the government before the Governor. He will take oath as Chief Minister on December 13.
- Vishnu Deo Sai is elected from Kunkuri assembly of Chhattisgarh. The tribal community has the highest population in the state. He comes from this community. He will be the 1st tribal Chief Minister of the state. He will be the 1st tribal Chief Minister even from BJP. However, the 1st Chief Minister of the state, Ajit Jogi, is also considered to be the 1st Chief Minister of the state to come from the tribal community, but the case related to his caste is currently pending in the court.
- It is worth mentioning that Vishnu Deo Sai has been MP four times, MLA twice, Union Minister of State and BJP State President twice.
- ➤ He started his political journey in 1989. At first he served as a village Panch. Bharatiya Janata Party gave



him MLA ticket from Tapkara assembly constituency in the year 1990, in which he won. After this, he was elected MP from Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency for three consecutive times from 1999 to 2014.



Vishnu Dev Sai took the Oath of Office & Secrecy of the CM of Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Governor Vishwa Bhushan Harichandan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Dev Sai, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the swearing-in ceremony held at the Science College grounds in the capital Raipur on December 13, 2023.

Key Points:

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha were present at the swearing-in ceremony.
- On this occasion, Governor Vishwa Bhushan Harichandan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma as Deputy Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh.
- Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao became MP for the 1st time in the year 2019 by winning the Lok Sabha elections. This time he had won from Lormi assembly. Till now he was holding the responsibility of BJP state president.

2nd Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vijay Sharma has won from Kabirdham Assembly seat in the Assembly Elections 2023.





First cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of CM Vishnu Deo Sai

Why in News?

In the first meeting of the cabinet held at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on December 14, 2023, an important decision was taken for the homeless in the rural areas of the state. Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma were present in the meeting.

Key Points:

> It was decided in the cabinet meeting that 18,12,743 needy families in the state will be given immediate approval for housing and necessary funds will be provided.



- ➤ It was decided in the meeting that the remaining families (6,99,439) eligible for the permanent waiting list under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin and the families eligible for the Awas Plus list (8,19,999) would be approved.
- ➤ Under the scheme, 2,46,215 houses under construction will also be completed soon.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana in the state, a total of 17,65,653 houses and 47,090 other houses to a total of 18,12,743 needy eligible families will be promptly approved & the necessary funds will be made available.



Information given by 'Bihaan' in the national workshop on improving food, nutrition, health and hygiene

Why in News?

On December 14, 2023, Padmini Bhoi Sahu, Director of the State Rural Livelihood Mission, gave information in the national workshop organised in New Delhi regarding the improvement in the level of food, nutrition, health and hygiene in rural areas by the State Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan) in Chhattisgarh.

Key Points:

It may be noted that in Chhattisgarh, State Rural Livelihood Mission (BIHAN), UNICEF and PCI. The work being done in partnership with FNHW is improving the level of Food, Nutrition, Health and Wash in rural areas. Padmini Bhoi Sahu, Director of the State Rural Livelihood Mission, informed the World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Vedanta, Tata Trust, Jindal and S.W. The Foundation was invited to visit Chhattisgarh to witness the FNHW work and participate in the development of the community by partnering with the National Rural Livelihood Mission.



- Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission (BIHAN), with the participation of women from self-help groups of the state, is working with UNICEF and PWD to improve the food, nutrition, health and hygiene of pregnant women, children up to two years of age and their mothers, adolescent girls, lactating mothers C.I. Work is being done with the organisation on behaviour change and gender integration under the Food, Nutrition, Health and WASH (FNHW) strategy.
- These strategies, run under the name of 'Swabhiman Yojana' in Bastar district, are being expanded in 31 districts under the name of Samriddh Bihaan.

Ramvichar Netam took oath as Protem Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly

Why in News?

On December 17, 2023, Chhattisgarh Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan administered the oath of office to former minister and senior BJP MLA Ramvichar Netam as Protem Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly in a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.



Key Points:

- It is worth mentioning that the Protem Speaker will administer the oath to the newly elected MLAs for the Chhattisgarh Assembly. BJP has already nominated senior MLA and former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh as the Assembly Speaker.
- It is worth mentioning that the oath of membership of the Legislative Assembly is administered to the newly elected MLAs only by the Protem Speaker. After the oath of the members, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly are elected. The work and tenure of the Protem Speaker automatically comes to an end with the assumption of office by the permanent Speaker of the Assembly.
- Protem Speaker: Pro-Tem is a Latin phrase meaning 'for the time being'. The Protem speaker is a temporary speaker who is appointed for a limited period.
- Requirement of Protem Speaker: The Speaker of the Lok Sabha/Assembly vacates his office immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected House.
 - The President/Governor appoints the Protem Speaker to preside over the meetings of the newly elected House (Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha). Usually the most senior member of the House is made the Protem Speaker.

Duties of Protem Speaker:

 The Protem Speaker presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, administers the oath of office to newly elected MPs.



- O To conduct voting for Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- The post of Protem Speaker ceases to exist upon the election of a new Speaker.
- He also conducts the floor test.

Dr. Raman Singh becomes Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on December 19, 2023, former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Raman Singh has been elected Speaker of the Chhattisgarh Assembly.

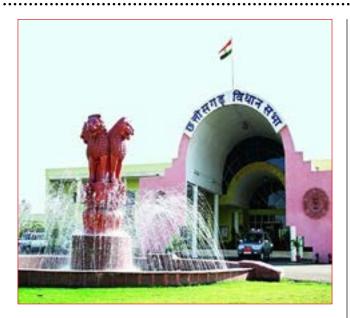
Key Points:

- Protem Speaker Ramvichar Netam announced the election of Dr. Raman Singh unopposed in the House.
- Dr. Raman Singh has been the Chief Minister, MP, MLA and Union Minister of Chhattisgarh thrice.
- ➤ In the assembly elections held in November 2023, Dr. Raman Singh defeated Congress candidate Girish Dewangan by a margin of 45,084 votes.
- > Dr. Raman Singh, a seven-time MLA, has been representing Rajnandgaon assembly seat since 2008.
- Dr. Raman Singh was also elected as Lok Sabha MP in the year 1999.



It may be noted that Dr. Raman Singh has discharged his responsibilities as Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.





Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai released the book 'Shri Krishna Janmasthan Newspaper'

Why In News?

On December 21, 2023, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai released a book titled 'Shri Krishna Janmasthan Samachar Patra' re-edited and compiled by senior historian Acharya Ramendranath Mishra on the occasion of the birth anniversary of freedom fighter & senior litterateur Pandit Sunderlal Sharma.

Key Points:

- It is worth mentioning that Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, the pioneer of social change, had published the handwritten newspaper Shri Krishna Janmasthan from jail in 1922-23 during the freedom struggle.
- Senior historian of Chhattisgarh, Acharya Ramendranath Mishra, has compiled and compiled Shri Krishna Janmasthan newspaper in the form of a book.
- Chief Minister VishnuDeo Sai congratulated Acharya Mishra for saving and re-editing the Shri Krishna Janmasthan newspaper handwritten by Pandit Sunderlal Lal Sharma.

The Chief Minister said that the compilation of this important and historical work will give the young generation an opportunity to know & to understand the struggle of their ancestors & their contribution.



On the request of
Chief Minister Vishnu Dev
Sai, Government of India
gave immediate permission:
FCI will take 15 lakh Metric
Tons of Parboiled Rice from
Chhattisgarh in the Central
Pool.

Why In News?

On December 21, 2023, the Government of India immediately accepted the request of Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai and gave permission to take 15 lakh metric tons of parboiled rice from Chhattisgarh to the Central Pool.

Key Points:

- It may be noted that permission to procure parboiled rice from Chhattisgarh was pending for a long time. Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai had written a letter on December 21, drawing the attention of Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal towards the situation of paddy procurement at support price and custom milling in the state.
- Accepting the request of the Chief Minister, on the instructions of the Union Food Minister, the Food



Department of the Government of India has issued a letter of approval for the procurement of 15 lakh metric tonnes of parboiled rice from Chhattisgarh.

- In his letter, the Chief Minister has requested to increase the quota of rice procurement in the Central Pool from 61 lakh metric tonnes to 74 lakh metric tonnes and also to procure 59 lakh metric tonnes of Arwa and 15 lakh metric tonnes of Unna rice from the state.
- ➤ The Chief Minister said that in the Kharif marketing year 2023-24 in Chhattisgarh, as of December 20, 39.63 lakh metric tons of paddy has been procured from 8.68 lakh farmers at support price and more than 3 lakh metric tons of paddy is arriving every day.
- This year, about 130 lakh metric tonnes of paddy is expected to be procured from farmers at support price, custom milling of which will produce 88 lakh metric tonnes of rice. Out of this, about 74 lakh metric tonnes of rice will be procured in the central pool (58 lakh metric tonnes in the Food Corporation of India and 16 lakh tonnes in the Civil Supplies Corporation) and 14 lakh tonnes in the state pool.
- The Chief Minister has also mentioned in the letter that a target has been set to procure 61 lakh tonnes of rice in the central pool for Chhattisgarh state. In the state, due to excessive breakage of some varieties of paddy in milling, Arwa rice is not produced of the prescribed quality and there are difficulties in Arwa milling. Custom milling of such paddy will speed up custom milling.

Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Chhattisgarh Public Relations Department on December 24, 2023, under the 'PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana' launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the eligible persons working in 18 areas in the state will get benefit.

Key Points:

- ➤ Under the 'PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana', a loan of Rs 3 lakh will be made available to the eligible people at 5 percent concessional interest rate. In the first phase, a loan of one lakh rupees will be given to the eligible persons, while in the second phase a loan of up to Rs 2 lakh can be taken.
- The beneficiaries will be given 5 -day basic training and 15 days or more advanced training after skill verification. There is a provision to provide daily allowance of Rs 500 in training. There is a facility to give a grant of Rs 15,000 as toolkit incentive. As an incentive for digital transactions, a maximum transaction of Rs 100 per month is fixed at Rs 1 per transaction.
- According to the information received from the District Trade and Industry Center, people working in 18 areas can avail it under this scheme. Among them, masons, barber, malacar, washerman, tailor, lock-making, carpenter, blacksmith, goldsmith, stone carrier, stone -breaking, cobbler/shoe maker, boat manufacturer, basket/mat/broom, Dolls and toy makers, hammer & toolkit manufacturer, include fishing net manufacturer.
- To avail this scheme, the eligible person can register on the PM Vishwakarma Yojana portal through the Choice Center. This will require Aadhaar, mobile number, bank details and ration cards.
- > To take advantage of this scheme, age 18 years should be completed. Under the self-employment/ business development schemes, the beneficiary has not taken loans under any government scheme in the last 5 years. Only one member of the family will be eligible under the scheme. The person working in government service and their family members will not be eligible for the plan.



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