



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION CHHATTISGARH



**JULY
2025**



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Chhattisgarh Launches One-Click Single Window System 2.0

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister launched the “**One-Click Single Window System 2.0**” in Raipur, positioning it as a key step to make the state a hub for emerging industries like **semiconductors**, **AI**, **pharma**, **defence**, and **green hydrogen**.

Key Points

- 💡 **One-Click Single Window System 2.0:**
 - ✦ It integrates **online applications, departmental clearances, and subsidy processing**.
 - ✦ The system ensures transparent and real-time approvals for setting up industries.
- 💡 **New Industrial Policy:**
 - ✦ Chhattisgarh's new industrial policy prioritizes **employment** generation and economic prosperity.
 - ✦ Over 20,000 youth will benefit from Rs 1.23 lakh crore worth of investment proposals submitted by 11 companies.
 - ✦ According to a government statement, Chhattisgarh **received investment proposals worth Rs 5.5 lakh crore**.
 - 📎 The **state contributed 3.71%** of India's total **investment inflows in FY 2025**, reflecting its growing industrial appeal.
- 💡 **Chhattisgarh State Logistics Policy 2025:**
 - ✦ The CM also announced the approval of the **Chhattisgarh State Logistics Policy 2025**, aiming to make the state a national logistics hub.
 - ✦ The policy will attract global and domestic logistics players, improve **export infrastructure**, and ensure **affordable warehousing for industries and farmers**.
- 💡 **Significance:**
 - ✦ **Enhanced Industrial Growth:** The One-Click Single Window System 2.0 will continue to

attract investors and expedite the industrial setup process, reinforcing Chhattisgarh's position as a key industrial hub.

- ✦ **Investment in Emerging Sectors:** Focused efforts on attracting investments in key sectors will help the state transition to a future-oriented economy.
- ✦ **Logistics and Infrastructure Development:** The logistics policy will significantly enhance the state's export capabilities, making Chhattisgarh a critical player in India's logistics ecosystem.
- ✦ **Job Creation and Economic Prosperity:** With large investments and a growing industrial base, the state will create thousands of employment opportunities, driving economic prosperity for its residents.

Green Hydrogen

- 💡 Hydrogen is a **key industrial fuel that has a variety of applications** including the production of ammonia (a key fertilizer), steel, refineries and electricity.
- 💡 However, all of the hydrogen **manufactured now is the so-called 'black or brown' hydrogen** because they are produced from coal.
- 💡 Hydrogen is the **most abundant element in the universe**. But pure, or the elemental hydrogen, is very scarce.
 - ✦ It almost always exists in compounds such as with oxygen to form water.
- 💡 But when electric current is passed through water, **it splits it into elemental oxygen and hydrogen through electrolysis**.
 - ✦ And if the electricity used for this process comes **from a renewable source like wind or solar** then the hydrogen thus produced is **referred to as green hydrogen**.
- 💡 Colors attached to hydrogen indicate the source of electricity used to derive the hydrogen molecule.
 - ✦ For instance, if coal is used, it is referred to as **brown hydrogen**.

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SEMICONDUCTORS

Semiconductors are materials having conductivity between conductors and insulators

EXAMPLES

- **Pure Elements:** Silicon and Germanium
- **Compounds:** Gallium Arsenide and Cadmium selenide

SIGNIFICANCE

- Essential to almost all sectors of the economy – **aerospace, automobiles, communications, clean energy, information technology** and **medical devices** etc.

SEMICONDUCTORS AND INDIA

- **India Imports from:** China, Taiwan, USA and Japan
- **Indian Semiconductor Market:** Expected to reach **USD 55 bn** by 2026

SCHEMES

- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**
- Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs)

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country.
- Nurture >20 domestic companies in semiconductor design
Achieve a turnover of > Rs.1500 crore in next 5 years
- Manufacture electronics components and semiconductors

INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION (ISM)

VISION

- Build a **vibrant semiconductor and display design and innovation ecosystem**

LAUNCHED

- 2021

NODAL MINISTRY

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

TOTAL FINANCIAL OUTLAY

- Rs 76,000 crore

COMPONENTS

- Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs
- Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs
- Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors (including MEMS) Fabs/ Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor ATMP/OSAT
- DLI Scheme



Chhattisgarh Recorded the Highest GST Growth Rate

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh topped the country in **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection growth, posting an **18% increase** over the previous fiscal year 2024-25.

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Key Points

Factors Behind Chhattisgarh's GST Growth:

✦ Growth in GST Collections:

- Chhattisgarh's total GST and **VAT (Value Added Tax)** revenue for FY 2024–25 reached Rs 23,448 crore, accounting for nearly 38% of the state's own tax collections.

VAT: Tax on goods sold, applied at each stage of the supply chain. It is **imposed on goods that are excluded from the GST regime** like alcoholic beverages, petroleum products etc.

- This sharp increase in tax revenues **highlights the effectiveness of its policy measures** and enforcement strategies.

✦ Streamlined GST Registration Process:

- One of the key reforms that contributed to this success is the reduction of GST registration time from **13 days to just 2 days**, significantly improving the ease of doing business in Chhattisgarh

✦ Technology-Led Monitoring and Enforcement:

- The state has employed advanced technology to monitor and recover evaded taxes.
- Targeted drives and enhanced enforcement actions, such as the establishment of **GST offices across all 33 districts**, have ensured transparency and better taxpayer services.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

💡 About:

- ✦ GST is a value-added tax system that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
- ✦ It is a comprehensive indirect tax that was introduced in India on **1st July 2017**, through the **101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016**, with the slogan of '**One Nation One Tax**'.

💡 GST Council:

- ✦ **About:** The GST Council, a **constitutional body** under **Article 279-A (101st Amendment, 2016)**, makes recommendations on GST implementation.

- ✦ GST is a **value-added (Ad Valorem)** and **indirect tax system** that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India.

- ✦ **Members:** The Council includes the **Union Finance Minister (Chairperson)**, Union Minister of State (Finance), and a finance or any other minister from each state.

- ✦ **Nature of Decisions:** In the **Mohit Minerals case, 2022**, the Supreme Court ruled GST Council recommendations are not binding, as Parliament and states have **simultaneous legislative powers** on GST.

Impact of GST

🏠 Economy

- Dual monitoring by the Centre and states to reduce tax evasion
- Better compliance through real time matching of supplier and purchaser
- Reduction in the approx Rs 1.8 lakh crore annual loss due to excise duty exemptions
- Cut in Rs 1.5 lakh crore estimated loss to states due to tax exemptions

🏢 Companies

- Tax credits to **lower their tax burden, improve profit margin**
- **No distinction** between product and service for tax purposes
- Uniform tax across the country to **ease doing business**
- **Smooth movement** of products across states
- One-time increase in compliance cost likely

👤 Consumer

- Most products are likely to be less expensive over time
- Most services (eg. restaurants, travels, mobile bills, insurance premium) likely to cost more
- Mobiles, Jewellery, some ready made wear in some states may cost more

What is not part of GST

Alcohol

Industry keen, states block move to include alcohol for human consumption. They want total freedom to tax the sin good

Petroleum

States don't want to give up power to tax, given this is an easy revenue

source. Petrol, diesel, aviation fuel, natural gas and crude stay out for two years

Real Estate

Stamp duty to remain on sale of property but service tax, where applicable, to be part of GST

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Chhattisgarh Forest Department Withdraws Community Forest Rights Directive

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh forest department has **recently withdrawn its directive**, which had **barred government departments, NGOs, and private entities from undertaking any work related to Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR)**.

Key Points

Withdrawal of Advisory:

- ✦ The forest department **initially claimed control over CFRR lands granted under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006**, pending the release of model management plans by the central government.
- ✦ The advisory designated the **forest department as the nodal agency for CFRR implementation**, which led to protests from tribal communities who viewed this as a violation of their rights to manage forest resources.
 - ✎ To address the concerns, **the forest department has requested the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Environment to urgently release detailed CFRR plans, implementation guidelines, and training modules for all stakeholders.**

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- ✦ **About:** It was enacted to **officially recognize and grant forest rights and tenure to forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** who have lived in these forests for generations without formal documentation of their rights.
- ✦ **Aim:** It seeks to correct **historical injustices** faced by these communities due to **colonial and post-colonial** forest management policies that overlooked their deep, **sympiotic relationship** with the land.
 - ✎ To empower these communities by enabling sustainable access to land and

utilization of forest resources, **promoting biodiversity and ecological balance**, and protecting them from illegal evictions and displacement.

✦ Provision:

- ✎ **Ownership Rights:** Grants ownership over **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**. Allows collection, use, and disposal of forest produce.
 - ✎ **MFP** refers to **all non-timber forest products** of plant origin, including bamboo, brushwood, stumps, and canes.
- ✎ **Community Rights:** Includes traditional usage rights such as **Nistar** (a type of Community Forest Resource).
- ✎ **Habitat Rights:** Protects the rights of **primitive tribal groups** and pre-agricultural communities to their traditional habitats.
- ✎ **Community Forest Resource (CFR):** Enables communities to protect, regenerate, and sustainably manage forest resources they have traditionally conserved.
 - ✎ The Act facilitates the **diversion of forest land** for public welfare projects managed by the government, subject to **Gram Sabha approval**.

✦ Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR)

- ✦ The Community Forest Resource rights under Section 3(1)(i) of the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act) provides for **recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage”** the community forest resource.
 - ✎ These rights allow the **community to formulate rules for forest** use by itself and others and thereby discharge its responsibilities under **Section 5 of the FRA**.

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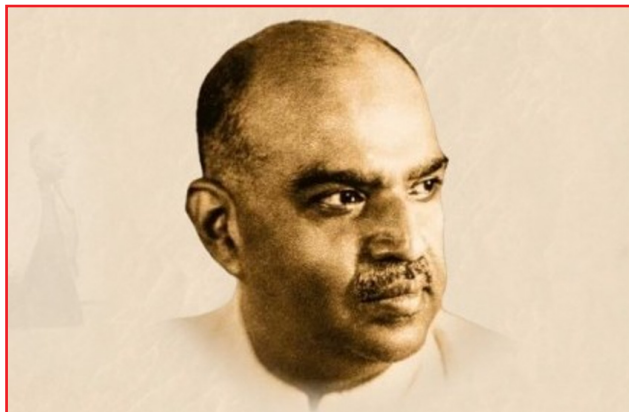
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Birth Anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid tribute to **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary.**



Key Points

💡 **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:**

★ Early Life and Achievements:

- ✍ Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was **born on 6th July 1901** into a prominent Bengali family in Calcutta.
- ✍ At age 33, he became the **youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University (1934–1938)**.
- ✍ Introduced progressive reforms and actively contributed to academic bodies like the **Asiatic Society of Calcutta**, the **Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore)**, and the Inter-University Board.
- ✍ He started **“Bang Wani”**, a Bengali journal, in 1922 and **The Nationalist** in the 1940s.

★ Political Career:

- ✍ He was **elected to the Bengal Legislative Council as a Congress candidate** representing Calcutta University.
- ✍ He resigned from the Council when the Congress Party decided to boycott the

legislature, and later won the seat again as an independent candidate.

- ✍ During the **Krishak Praja Party–Muslim League coalition government (1937–1941)**, he served as the Leader of the Opposition, voicing strong nationalist concerns.

★ Post Independence:

✍ Ministerial Role:

- 👤 He joined the Progressive Coalition Ministry headed by Fazlul Haq as the Finance Minister, but he resigned within a year due to ideological and political differences.
- 👤 He later emerged as a prominent Hindu voice in Bengal politics, joined the **Hindu Mahasabha**, and was elected its President in 1944, marking a significant shift in his political journey.
- 👤 After the **assassination of Mahatma Gandhi**, Dr. Mookerjee advocated for the Hindu Mahasabha to expand its role beyond religious boundaries and engage in broader national service.
- 👤 He opposed the organisation’s decision to remain apolitical and, as a result, **resigned from the Hindu Mahasabha** on 23rd November 1948.

✍ Stance on the Partition of Bengal:

- 👤 He **supported the partition of Bengal, 1946** and advocated to create a separate **Hindu-majority state, West Bengal, within India**, ensuring the safety and rights of Bengali Hindus.

✍ Role in Central Governance:

- 👤 He joined Pandit **Nehru’s Interim Cabinet** as the Minister for Industry and Supply, contributing to early **post-Independence industrial policy**.
- 👤 He resigned from the Cabinet on 6th April 1950, in protest against the **Delhi Pact with Liaquat Ali Khan**, expressing strong concerns over the treatment of minorities in East Pakistan.

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Founding of Bharatiya Jana Sangh:

After consulting **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** chief Guru Golwalkar, he founded the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh**, modern day Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on 21st October 1951 in Delhi.

He became its first President. The party won three **Lok Sabha** seats in 1952, including his own.

Formed the **National Democratic Party** in Parliament, though it lacked official recognition.

Stand on Kashmir and Article 370:

He strongly opposed **Article 370**, describing it as a move that could lead to the Balkanisation of India and threaten national unity.

He criticised Shaikh Abdullah's three-nation theory and led a **Satyagraha movement** in collaboration with the Hindu Mahasabha and Ram Rajya Parishad to demand the removal of Article 370.

On 11th May 1953, he was arrested while attempting to enter Jammu and Kashmir without a permit, and he died

in custody on 23rd June 1953, under controversial circumstances.

Chhattisgarh Celebrates Water Conservation Week

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh Government celebrated **Water Conservation Week** under the 'More Villages, More Water' campaign.

Key Points

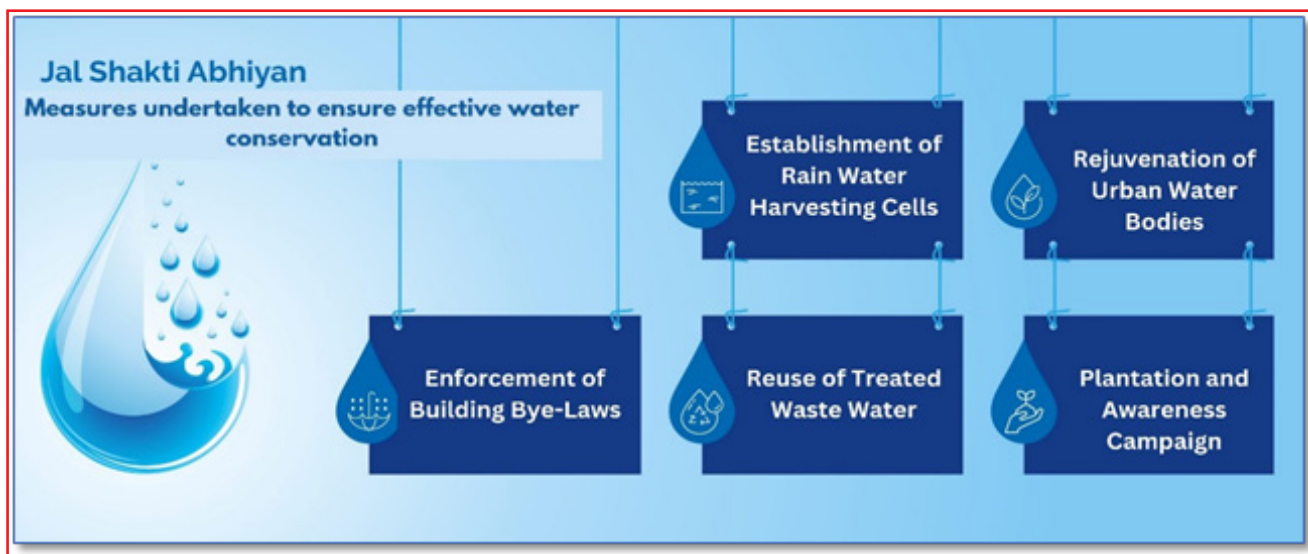
‘More Villages, More Water’ Campaign:

- It aims to promote **water conservation practices at the village level**, emphasizing community participation and sustainable water management.
- The campaign is linked to the broader **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** and encourages activities like **rainwater harvesting**, **groundwater recharge**, and efficient **irrigation methods**.

Other Water Conservation Initiatives:

Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA):

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in **2019**, covering 1,592 out of 2,836 blocks in 256 water-stressed districts across India.



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★ “Catch the Rain” Campaign:

- ✎ In 2021, the government launched **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR)** with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls.”
- ✎ This phase expanded the campaign to all blocks in both rural and urban areas across the country.

★ Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025

- ✎ On **World Water Day** (22nd March 2025), Jal Shakti Ministry launched JSA: Catch the Rain 2025.
- ✎ **Theme: “Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari – Jan Jagrukta Ki Or”** (Water Conservation through People’s Participation and Public Awareness).
- ✎ The campaign will be implemented from 22nd March to 30th November 2025, with a focused emphasis on the pre-monsoon and **monsoon** seasons.
 - 🏠 The campaign targets 148 districts identified by the **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** as critical for water conservation.
- ✎ The 2025 edition emphasises deeper grassroots participation, inter-sectoral convergence and innovative financing mechanisms.
 - 🏠 **Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh** has emerged as the model district for the initiative.
- ✎ **Key focus areas:**
 - 🏠 Water Conservation & Rainwater Harvesting
 - 🏠 **Geo-tagging** & Inventory of Water Bodies; Scientific Planning
 - 🏠 Establishing Jal Shakti Kendras in All Districts
 - 🏠 Intensive **Afforestation**
 - 🏠 Public Awareness & Outreach Campaigns

World Water Day

- 💡 It aims to raise awareness about water conservation and its sustainable management.
- 💡 It was conceptualized at the **1992 Rio Summit** and officially designated to be observed annually by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 1993.
- 💡 The day aligns with **UN SDG-6: Ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030.**
- 💡 **Theme (2025): ‘Glacier Preservation’**

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

- 💡 **About:** The **CGWB**, established under the **Ministry of Water Resource (now Ministry of Jal Shakti)**, is the apex body for **managing, exploring, monitoring, assessing, and regulating** groundwater resources in India.
 - ★ Established in **1970**, CGWB was initially formed by renaming the **Exploratory Tube Wells Organization** and was later merged with the **Ground Water Wing of the Geological Survey of India** in 1972.
 - ★ The **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)**, constituted under the **Environmental Protection Act, 1986**, regulates groundwater development to ensure its sustainability.
- 💡 **Key Functions and Responsibilities:** CGWB provides scientific expertise for groundwater management, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments.
 - ★ It also implements schemes for **artificial recharge** and **rainwater harvesting** to augment groundwater levels.
- 💡 **Scientific Reports:** CGWB releases State and District hydrogeological reports, groundwater year books and Atlases.

Niyad Nella Nar Initiative

Why in News?

Irkabhatti, located in Narayanpur district in Bastar division, was previously a village where basic needs, especially **education, were unattainable due to the Maoist insurgency.**

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- However, through the **state government's 'Niyad Nella Nar' scheme**, focused efforts have been made to improve education, connectivity, and infrastructure.

Key Points

‘Niyad Nella Nar’ Scheme:

- The Niyad Nellanar scheme is a **Chhattisgarh government initiative** focused on **providing basic amenities and welfare benefits** to Naxal-affected villages in the state.
 - Niyad Nellanar, meaning *“aapka achcha gaon”* or *“your good village”* is the local **Dandami dialect** (spoken in south Bastar).
- The scheme aims to improve living standards by offering services for **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- It focuses on delivering essential facilities like **housing, healthcare, water, electricity, roads, and education** within a kilometer radius of security camps.
 - Families in these villages will receive free gas cylinders under the **Ujjwala scheme**, ration cards, irrigation pumps, free electricity, **Anganwadi**, and certificates of **forest rights**.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a **flagship initiative** aimed at providing **clean cooking fuel (LPG)** to rural and economically disadvantaged households.
 - It was launched on **1st May 2016** in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The scheme targets families that previously relied on traditional fuels such as **firewood, coal, and cow-dung cakes for cooking**.
- Health and Environmental Impact:**
 - The use of traditional fuels posed serious health risks, especially for rural women exposed to indoor air pollution.
 - It also contributed to environmental degradation due to deforestation and carbon emissions.
- Ujjwala 2.0** was launched in **August 2021** as the second phase of the scheme.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

About:

- A **PVTG is a sub-classification of a Scheduled Tribe** or section of a Scheduled Tribe that is considered more vulnerable than a regular Scheduled Tribe. The Indian Government created the PVTG list to improve their living.

State-wise Distribution:

- There are **75 PVTGs in India**, with the **highest number—13—in Odisha**, followed by 12 in Andhra Pradesh.
- There are **7 PVTGs in Chhattisgarh**, who live in **17 of the state's 33 districts**.
 - These are **Kamar, Baiga, Pahadi Korba, Abujmadiya, Birhor, Pando and Bhujia**.
 - While the **first five tribes have been declared PVTG by the central government**, the remaining two, **Pando and Bhujia, have been given the tag by the state government**.

- Article 342(1):** The President with respect to any State/UT (after consultation with the Governor in case of state) may specify the tribes/tribal communities/part of or groups within tribes/tribal communities as a Scheduled Tribe in that State/UT.

- Parliament may by **law include in or exclude from the list of STs** specified in a notification issued under article 342(1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

Charan Paduka Scheme

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has revived the **Charan Paduka scheme**, a footwear scheme aimed at **benefiting tendu leaf collectors** across the state.

- The scheme **will benefit over 1.24 million tendu leaf collectors**, and the state government has

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approved a budget of Rs 40 crore for its implementation.

Key Points

About the Scheme:

- ✦ The Charan Paduka scheme was **originally launched in November 2005** by the state government.
- ✦ The scheme **provides one pair of footwear per year** to up to two family members, aged 18 years or above, involved in **tendu leaf collection**.
- ✦ Initially, only one male member per family qualified. However, in 2008, the government extended eligibility to female members as well.
- ✦ The scheme **applies exclusively to native residents of Chhattisgarh**.

Significance of the Relaunch of the Scheme:

- ✦ The relaunch reflects the government's firm commitment to **uplifting tribal and forest-dependent communities**.
- ✦ Tendu leaf collectors' families play a vital role in preserving forest-based livelihoods and sustaining Chhattisgarh's traditional economy.
 - ✍ Reaffirming support for forest livelihoods, CM announced a **hike in the tendu leaf collection rate from Rs 4,500 to Rs 5,500 per standard sack**.

Tendu Leaves

About:

- ✦ Tendu (Kendu) leaf, also called the **green gold**, is a **Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)**.
- ✦ The botanical name of the **Tendu leaf is *Diospyros Melanoxylon***.
- ✦ The leaves are **used to wrap bidis, a popular smoke among the locals**.

States Producing Tendu Leaves:

- ✦ The states producing bidi leaves in India comprise mainly **Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Maharashtra**.

Significance:

✦ Medicament:

- ✍ Traditional medical practitioners use these tiny fruits of Kendu to **treat malaria, diarrhoea and dysentery**.
- ✍ Due to their antimicrobial properties, the leaves are applied on cuts and bruises as well.

✦ Source of Livelihood:

- ✍ Tendu leaves are the major source for tribal villages, since it is the most prominent **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** of the state.
- 👤 MFP includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, lac, tusser etc.
- 👤 They form a major portion of their food, fruits, medicines and other consumption items and also provide cash income through sales.

Solar-Powered Model Tourism Village in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Dhudmaras village in Chhattisgarh is emerging as a **solar-powered model**, boosting infrastructure and enriching rural tourism.

- 💡 It was recognized as one of the **world's top tourism villages among 20 global villages** by the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** in 2023.

Key Points

💡 About the Dhudmaras:

- ✦ It is situated in **Kanger Valley National Park**, Bastar district, approx. 350 km from Raipur.
- ✦ The village is known for its lush greenery, rich biodiversity, the picturesque **Kanger River**, and the vibrant tribal culture of the **Bastaria community**.

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- ✦ It is popular for adventure activities like trekking, kayaking, and bamboo rafting.
- ✦ **Awarded** as one of the “**Best Tourism Villages**” in Bastar by the Union Ministry of Tourism on **World Tourism Day 2023**.

💡 Solar Power Initiatives:

- ✦ The **Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA)** has installed solar pumps, high-mast and street lights, and powered local schools in Dhudmaras.

Kanger Valley National Park

- 💡 **Location:** Situated 27 km from Jagdalpur in Bastar district, Chhattisgarh.
- 💡 **Ecological Significance:** Lies in a transitional forest zone, where the southern limit of sal forests and northern limit of teak forests overlap.
 - ✦ Features both **moist peninsular sal forests** and **South Indian tropical moist deciduous forests**.
- 💡 **Biodiversity:** Hosts a wide variety of wildlife including panthers, wild cats, cheetal (spotted deer), sambhar, barking deer, wild pigs, jackals, langurs, rhesus macaques, sloth bears, flying squirrels, hyenas, and civets.
 - ✦ Reptiles such as pythons, snakes, and lizards are commonly found.
 - ✦ Rich in birdlife, including birds of prey, scavengers, water birds, and the **Bastar Hill Myna** — the **state bird of Chhattisgarh**.
 - ✦ Insects like butterflies, moths, and dragonflies, along with bryophytes and pteridophytes, are also prevalent.
- 💡 **Natural Attractions:**
 - ✦ Includes major attractions such as **Tirathgarh Waterfall, Kutumsar Caves, Kailash Gupha, and Bhisadarha**.
 - ✦ The **Kanger River**, flowing west to east, bisects the park and lends the valley its name.
- 💡 **Conservation Status:** Declared a **National Park in July 1982** to protect its rich flora and fauna.

Chhattisgarh Waives VAT Dues and Approved GST (Amendment) Bill Drafts

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has announced major relief for small traders by **waiving Value Added Tax (VAT) dues up to Rs 25,000** in cases pending for over 10 years.

- 💡 State government has also approved the drafts of the **Chhattisgarh GST (Amendment) Bill, 2025** and the **Chhattisgarh Settlement of Outstanding Dues (Amendment) Bill, 2025**.

Note:

- 💡 **Value Added Tax (VAT):** Tax on goods sold, applied at each stage of the supply chain. It is **imposed on goods that are excluded from the GST regime** like alcoholic beverages, petroleum products etc.

Key Points

💡 Old VAT Dues Waived:

- ✦ By writing off old VAT dues, a move that will benefit over 40,000 small traders and help resolve more than 62,000 pending cases, thereby significantly reducing the compliance burden and litigation backlog.

💡 Drafts of GST-Related Amendment Bills Approved:

- ✦ The government approved the drafts of two key bills:
 - 📎 Chhattisgarh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025
 - 📎 Chhattisgarh Settlement of Outstanding Tax, Interest, and Penalty (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- ✦ Both bills will be introduced during the Monsoon Session of the State Assembly starting 14 July 2025.

💡 Key Features of the Draft:

- ✦ These legislative amendments are part of the government's broader strategy to enhance the ease of doing business in the state.

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- ✍ The proposed changes align with decisions made during the **55th GST Council meeting**.
- ✦ The draft bill **proposes a reduction in the mandatory pre-deposit** for penalty-only cases (with no tax demand) from 20% to 10% for filing appeals before the appellate authority.
- ✦ To eliminate confusion caused by conflicting Advance Ruling Authority decisions, the government has proposed to delete the '**Time of Supply**' provision related to the taxability of vouchers, ensuring greater clarity and uniformity.
- ✦ A key amendment also proposes to **exclude warehousing transactions** within **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** from the GST framework.
- ✍ This will **apply to goods stored in SEZ warehouses** that are traded multiple times without physical movement, and is aimed at boosting trade efficiency within SEZs.

GST Council

- 💡 **About:** The GST Council, a **constitutional body** under **Article 279-A (101st Amendment, 2016)**, makes recommendations on GST implementation.
- ✦ GST is a **value-added (Ad Valorem)** and **indirect tax system** that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
- 💡 **Members:** The Council includes the **Union Finance Minister (Chairperson)**, Union Minister of State (Finance), and a finance or any other minister from each state.
- 💡 **Nature of Decisions:** In the **Mohit Minerals case, 2022**, the Supreme Court ruled GST Council recommendations are **not binding**, as Parliament and states have **simultaneous legislative powers** on GST.

Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

- 💡 A SEZ is a **duty-free enclave** treated as **foreign territory** for the purpose of **trade, tariffs, and operations**. Any **private/public/joint sector or State Government** or its agencies can set up SEZ.

- ✦ SEZs were first introduced in **India in 2000** under the **Foreign Trade Policy**, replacing the earlier **Export Processing Zones (EPZs)**. They are governed by the **SEZ Act, 2005** and **SEZ Rules, 2006**.
- 💡 The **Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) Bill, 2022** aims to replace the **SEZ Act, 2005** and **transform SEZs** into more flexible and inclusive **Development Hubs**.
- ✦ These hubs will be **exempt from many existing regulatory restrictions** and will support **both export-oriented and domestic investments**, functioning as **integrated zones** for international and domestic trade.

Chhattisgarh's EMRS to Receive ₹10 Crore Boost from CIL

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has partnered with **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** to support 68 **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** in Chhattisgarh, aiming to improve education for tribal students.

Key Points

About the Partnership

- 💡 **About:**
 - ✦ CIL will support 68 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Chhattisgarh, benefiting over 28,000 tribal students.
 - ✦ A total of Rs 10 crores has been sanctioned under CIL's **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives.
 - ✦ This initiative aligns with the Government's efforts under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which focuses on equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for all sections of society.
 - ✦ **This comprehensive intervention seeks to:**
 - ✍ Bridge educational gaps.
 - ✍ Foster career readiness and an entrepreneurial mindset.

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- ✎ Empower tribal youth with the necessary tools to succeed in today's **digital economy**.
- ✎ Create a **modern and innovative** learning environment in EMRS.

Key Interventions:

- ✎ **Promotion of Digital Education:** Establishment of computer labs and purchase of around 3200 computers and 300 tablets for students.
- ✎ **Health and Hygiene for Girl Students:** Installation of approximately 1200 **sanitary napkin vending machines** and 1200 incinerators in schools and hostels.
- ✎ **Comprehensive Mentorship for Students:** Structured **mentorship programs** to guide students academically and personally.
- ✎ **Residential Entrepreneurial Boot Camps:** Organizing **boot camps** at prestigious institutes like IITs, IIMs, and NITs to develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

- ✎ **Implementation:** The project will be carried out through the **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)**, a section 8 company under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

About Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- ✎ **About:** EMRS is a **flagship initiative** launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in 1998 to provide **free, quality residential education to Scheduled Tribe (ST)** students from Class VI to XII in remote and tribal-dominated areas.
- ✎ **Objective:** To bridge the educational gap between tribal and non-tribal populations by offering **CBSE-based instruction integrated** with holistic development, including sports, culture, and skill training.
- ✎ **Revamp & Expansion:** The scheme was **revamped in 2018–19** to expand coverage.
 - ✎ EMRSs are now to be established in blocks with more than 50% ST population and with at least 20,000 tribal persons with a **target of 728 schools by 2026**.
- ✎ **Governance:** EMRSs are implemented and managed by the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)**, an autonomous body under MoTA.

Key Features:

- ✎ Co-educational, **fully residential schools** modeled on Navodaya Vidyalayas with a tribal focus.
- ✎ Follow the CBSE curriculum and provide free education along with all basic amenities.
- ✎ Infrastructure includes classrooms, labs, hostels, staff quarters, playgrounds, and cultural activity spaces.
- ✎ Each school has a capacity of 480 students with gender parity.
- ✎ Up to 10% seats may be allotted to non-ST students.
- ✎ **20% reservation** under sports quota for meritorious ST students in athletics and games.

Other Initiatives for Tribal Education

- ✎ **Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)**
- ✎ **Vocational Training Centres**
- ✎ **National Overseas Scholarship Scheme**
- ✎ **Post-Matric Scholarships**

Coal India Limited

- ✎ Coal India Limited (CIL), a state-owned coal mining corporation established in November 1975, is a **Maharatna company**.
- ✎ It is the **world's largest coal producer**, contributing 80% to India's total domestic coal production.
- ✎ It operates **Asia's largest opencast coal mine** at **Gevra** in South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

Corporate Social Responsibility

- ✎ **About:** **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** refers to a company's responsibility towards society and the environment.
 - ✎ It is a **self-regulating model** that ensures **businesses remain accountable** for their impact on economic, social, and environmental well-being.
- ✎ **Legal Framework:** India is the **first country** to make CSR spending mandatory under **Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013**, providing a structured framework for eligible activities.

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💡 **Applicability:** CSR rules apply to companies that, in the preceding financial year, have a **net worth exceeding Rs 500 crore**, or a turnover of over Rs 1,000 crore, or a net profit above Rs 5 crore.

✦ Such companies must **spend at least 2% of their average net profit** of the last 3 financial years (or available years if newly incorporated) on CSR activities.

Raipur-Durg Metro Rail Project

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has approved the **Raipur-Durg Metro Rail Project** to boost the **socio-economic development** of the state capital, Raipur.

Key Points

💡 **About:** This initiative is a part of the broader vision to establish a **State Capital Region (SCR)**, modeled after Delhi's **National Capital Region (NCR)**.

✦ The SCR aims to integrate key urban areas such as Raipur, **Nava Raipur Atal Nagar**, and the **Durg-Bhilai corridor** into a unified, well-coordinated urban framework.

Objectives:

✦ **Efficient Transportation:** The metro rail system is designed to enhance the movement of people, **reduce road congestion**, and streamline transportation within the SCR.

✦ **Regional Infrastructure Development:** It will contribute to **shared infrastructure development** across the region, ensuring more coordinated growth.

✦ **Population Growth:** With an anticipated **population of over 50 lakh by 2031**, the metro system is being developed to cater to the growing demand for reliable and accessible **public transportation**.

💡 **Funding and Initial Steps:** In the **2024-25 state budget**, the Chhattisgarh government has allocated an initial sum of **₹5 crore** for conducting a comprehensive feasibility survey. This marks the first step toward assessing the project's **technical, financial, and operational feasibility**.

✦ Additionally, **Raipur Municipal Corporation** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Ministry of Transport of the **Russian Federation** in August 2024 to explore the potential implementation of a **light metro system** in Raipur.

💡 **Establishment of Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA):** To ensure the successful planning and execution of the **Raipur-Durg Metro Rail Project**, the **Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)** is being set up. The CRDA will oversee the development of the **State Capital Region (SCR)** and ensure that the project is carried out in a coordinated manner.

Key Functions of the CRDA:

📎 **Urban Planning:** The CRDA will be responsible for **regulating land use**, developing infrastructure, and facilitating investments within the SCR.

📎 **Environmental Management:** Ensuring **sustainable development** will be a core responsibility, with the authority managing environmental concerns across the region.

📎 **Coordination and Implementation:** It will play a central role in integrating regional planning with actual implementation, promoting cohesive urban growth.

✦ **Governance Structure:** The CRDA will be chaired by the **Chief Minister** and will include **cabinet ministers, senior bureaucrats, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)**, and **representatives from urban local bodies**.

📎 The authority will guide and monitor the progress of the metro project, ensuring alignment with regional development goals.

✦ **Funding and Budgeting:** The CRDA will have the authority to impose a **dedicated infrastructure cess** to support capital-intensive projects like the metro rail.

📎 It will also be responsible for preparing **annual budgets** and submitting regular progress reports to the state government.



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