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CHHAITIS GARH



JUNE 2025



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



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



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Education Programs for Tribal Youth in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer, has announced two significant <u>Corporate Social Responsibility</u> (<u>CSR</u>) <u>initiatives</u> aimed at empowering tribal youth in Chhattisgarh through fully sponsored education programs.

• These programs, 'Balika Shiksha Yojana' and the 'Medical Technology Program', focus on providing educational opportunities to tribal youth and underprivileged students from the region.

Key Points

- Balika Shiksha Yojana:
 - NMDC is offering fully funded nursing education to tribal girls from Bastar, Dantewada, Sukma, Kondagaon, Bijapur, and Narayanpur districts.
 - ★ It aims to fully sponsor nursing education at prestigious institutions, investing approximately Rs 12–15 lakh per student.
 - ★ Applicants must belong to the **Scheduled Tribe (ST) community**.
- About Medical Technology Program:
 - ★ In partnership with Apollo University, Chittoor, NMDC is offering a fully sponsored B.Sc. programs in **Allied**Health Sciences for ST students from Dantewada and Bastar.
 - ★ The program includes 90 seats (60% reserved for girls, 40% for boys) in the specialised courses.
 - ★ Each selected student will receive sponsorship worth Rs 12–15 lakh, covering all academic and living expenses.

Educational Schemes for Tribals

- Scheme for the Establishment of Ashram Schools:
 - ★ The centrally sponsored scheme supports the **construction of Ashram Schools** for tribal boys and girls, particularly **in extremism-affected tribal sub-plan areas.**
- Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):
 - ★ Provides quality education for tribal children in remote areas, with 740 schools sanctioned.
- Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN):
 - ★ Focuses on health, education, and livelihoods for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Tribes in Chhattisgarh

- There are a total of 42 tribes in Chhattisgarh, principal among them being the Gond tribe.
- Besides, a large population of Kanwar, Brinjhwar, Bhaina, Bhatra, Uraon, Munda, Kamar, Halba, Baiga, Sanwra, Korwa, Bharia, Nageshia, Manghwar, Kharia and Dhanwar tribe are also found in the State.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- About: 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.
 - ★ By adopting CSR, companies become more aware of their broader role in sustainable development.

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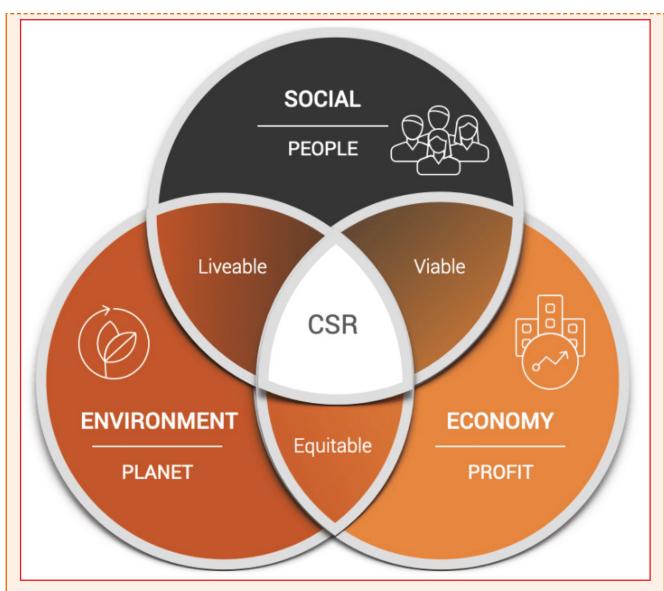


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- Legal Framework: India is the first country to make CSR spending mandatory under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, providing a structured framework for eligible activities.
- Applicability: CSR rules apply to companies that, in the preceding financial year, have a **net worth exceeding**Rs 500 crore, or a turnover 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.

Chhattisgarh's First Government-Led Cold Chain and Irradiation Facility

Why in News?

Dantewada in **Chhattisgarh** will have the state's first government-led integrated <u>cold chain</u> and <u>irradiation facility</u> to increase tribal incomes and minimize post-harvest losses.

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Key Points

About the Facility:

- ★ Location: To be established at Patarras village in Dantewada district, southern Chhattisgarh.
- Integrated Infrastructure: Includes cold storage, gamma irradiation, processing, and logistics components.
 - Designed to extend shelf life, reduce spoilage, and improve the marketability of forest and horticultural produce.
- ★ First-of-its-Kind: First government-led cold chain and multi-product irradiation facility in India under the <u>Pradhan Mantri Kisan</u> <u>SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)</u>.

Implementation and Funding:

- Agreement signed with the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology for irradiation technology.
- ★ The entire project is being funded by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) of Dantewada.

Impacts:

- ★ Rural Employment: Will generate local employment across the supply chain.
- ★ Economic Empowerment: Ensures value addition within the region so that more income stays with local tribal communities.
- Strategic Alignment: Supports regional development plans. Aims to counter <u>left-wing</u> <u>extremism</u> by expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities in Bastar.
- ★ Focus on Minor Forest Produce (MFP): The region's key MFP, such as tamarind, mahua, wild mango, millets, and local spices, often suffer 10–20% annual losses due to inadequate storage and preservation facilities.
 - The facility will improve storage and add value to local produce, helping reduce wastage and fetch better market prices. It is expected to directly raise the incomes of forest produce collectors and local farmers.
- Market Linkages: Raipur, Visakhapatnam, and other key urban centres have been identified as potential markets.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

About:

- ★ The Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA) was approved in May 2017 and later renamed Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).
- ★ It is a <u>central sector scheme</u> aimed at developing modern infrastructure and efficient supply chains from the farm gate to retail.
- → PMKSY promotes growth in the food processing sector, ensures better prices for farmers, generates rural jobs, reduces agricultural wastage, increases food processing levels, and boosts exports of processed foods.
- **Objective:** To support agriculture, modernize food processing, and reduce agri-waste.

• Key Components:

- ★ Mega Food Parks
- ★ Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
- ★ Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters
- Creation and Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Abujhmad Region

Why in News?

Amid efforts to eliminate Maoist influence by 2026, the development of Abujhmad in Chhattisgarh raises concerns on sustainable growth, tribal rights, and Maoist influence in the region.

Key Points

About the Abujhmad Region:

- ★ The name Abujhmad means 'incomprehensible plateau' in Hindi and is understood as 'sal forest' in the Gondi language.
- Abujhmadiya tribes: As per the 2011 Census, Abujhmad is inhabited by about 40,000 Abujhmadiya tribals, who are a subgroup of the Gond tribe.
 - They are recognised as one of the seven Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Chhattisgarh.

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Historical Context:

- Under British rule, it was categorised as an 'excluded area' under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- ★ After independence, its remoteness and lack of development allowed Maoists to use it as an unofficial headquarters, calling it a 'liberated zone'.
- Government's Plan to Reclaim Abujhmad: Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Maoist elimination by March 2026, with plans to boost connectivity through new roads, facilities, and expanded iron ore mining into core forest areas.
- Concerns Over Rights and Law:
 - ★ Forest and Habitat Rights:
 - The Forest Rights Act, 2006, grants special rights to forest-dwelling communities, including habitat rights.
 - In 2019, when Abujhmadiyas attempted to claim these rights, they faced Maoist threats and lack of state support.
 - ★ Cultural and Religious Importance:
 - Verwakot hill inside Abujhmad holds great significance in Gondi religious beliefs as the starting point of human life.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)

- About the PVTGs: They are the most vulnerable among India's tribal communities.
 - ★ Because more developed tribes often secure a larger share of development resources, PVTGs require special attention and targeted support.
 - ✓ In 1973, the <u>Dhebar Commission</u> identified *Primitive Tribal Groups* (PTGs) as the least developed tribes; this category was renamed *PVTGs* in 2006.
 - ★ The Government of India identified 52 such groups in 1975 and added 23 more in 1993, totaling 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
 - → PVTGs are typically small, homogenous, geographically isolated, with simple technology, unwritten languages, and slow socio-economic progress.
 - Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs in the country.

Government Support:

- ★ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs runs the Development of PVTGs scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% central funding for 18 states and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
 - The scheme aims for the holistic socioeconomic development of PVTGs while preserving their unique culture and traditions.
 - It supports projects in education, health, and livelihoods, tailored to their specific needs.

Chhattisgarh Shines at 6th UMAI National Muaythai Championship

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh excelled at the 6th United Muaythai Association India (UMAI) National Muaythai Championship, winning 35 medals.

Key Points

- About Muaythai: It is a traditional Thai (Thailand) combat sport known as the "art of eight limbs" for its use of fists, elbows, knees, and shins. It combines striking and clinching techniques with strong physical and mental discipline.
 - ★ Muay Thai has been an integral part of Thai culture and history for centuries, serving as the primary self-defence technique of Thai warriors and soldiers in numerous historical conflicts.



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- 6th UMAI National Muaythai Championship: The 6th UMAI National Muaythai Championship took place in Rohtak, Haryana. The Haryana Sports Muaythai Association (HSMA) organised the event under the aegis of the **United Muaythai Association** India (UMAI).
 - ★ The United Muaythai Association India (UMAI), headquartered in Jaipur, Rajasthan serves as the official governing body for both professional and amateur Muaythai in India and internationally.

PEKB Becomes First Solar-Powered Coal Mine in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) has become Chhattisgarh's first coal mine to run entirely on solar power, achieving full energy self-reliance.

Key Points

- About PEKB Mine: The Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal mine plays a vital role in supplying coal for electricity generation to nearly 80 million consumers.
 - ★ The solar plant in PEKB is expected to reduce nearly 400,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over 25 years—equivalent to planting 2.5 million trees.
 - ★ Environmentalists see this initiative as a major step toward energy security and environmental protection, combining coal mining with clean energy solutions.
- Coal Reserves in Chhattisgarh: The state holds 16% of India's total coal reserves, making it one of the richest in coal resources.
 - ★ The state ranks second in the country in coal production, contributing over 18% of India's total output. The majority of these reserves consist of power-grade coal, suitable for electricity generation.
 - ★ An estimated 44,483 million tonnes of coal have been identified across 12 coalfields, mainly located in the districts of Raigarh, Surguja, Koriya, and Korba.

- Chhattisgarh-based Coal India subsidiary South Eastern Coalfields Limited's (SECL) Gevra and Kusmunda coal mines ranked 2nd and 4th globally among the largest coal mines.
 - ★ Located in **Korba district**, they jointly produce over 100 million tons annually, about 10% of India's coal output.
 - Both mines use advanced, eco-friendly technologies like surface miners for blast-free operations.

Indravati National Park

Why in News?

During ongoing anti-Naxal operations, security forces encountered Maoists in Indravati National Park, located in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- **Indravati National Park:**
 - ★ It is situated in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.
 - ★ It attained the status of a national park in 1981 and was declared a tiger reserve in 1983 under India's Project Tiger.
 - It is named after the Indravati River, which flows from east to west and forms the reserve's northern boundary with Maharashtra.
 - Vegetation:
 - Comprises three major forest types:
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest with Teak.
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest without Teak.
 - Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest.

★ Flora:

Common tree species include teak, achar, karra, kullu, shisham, semal, haldu, arjun, bel, and jamun.

🖈 Fauna:

- Hosts one of the last populations of rare wild buffalo.
- Other species include Nilgai, Black Buck, Sambar, Gaur, Tiger, Leopard, Chital, **Sloth Bears,** and more.

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Anti-Naxal Operations:

- ★ Large-scale operations like Operation Green Hunt, Operation Kagar, Operation Black Forest, etc., deploy paramilitary forces to eliminate the Naxalite presence.
- ★ Increased deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and state police, along with specialized forces such as Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) and Greyhounds (Andhra Pradesh), strengthens counter-insurgency efforts in the Red Corridor for long-term security.

Maoist Casualties:

- ★ In 2025, 209 Maoists were killed in Chhattisgarh, with 192 deaths reported in Bastar region alone.
- ★ In 2024, a total of 219 Maoists were killed in the state, including 217 in the Bastar region.



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Contempt of Court

Why in News?

The Supreme Court of India ruled in May 2025, that a law enacted by **Parliament** or a **State Legislature** after a court's order cannot be considered an act of **contempt** of court.

The verdict came while dismissing a 2012 contempt plea over **Chhattisgarh's** formation of an auxiliary force despite an earlier SC order against Salwa Judum.

Key Points

- Background of the Case:
 - ★ 2011 SC Judgment: Directed the Chhattisgarh government to cease support for Salwa Judum and to disband Special Police Officers (SPOs) armed to fight Maoists.
 - ★ Alleged Contempt: The state passed the Chhattisgarh Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011 after the judgment, legalizing and restructuring the SPOs.
- **Supreme Court's Ruling:**
 - ★ Legislative Powers and Contempt: The Court held that enacting a law after a court order is not contempt unless declared unconstitutional by a Constitutional Court.

Contempt of Court

- Contempt of court is a legal mechanism used to protect the authority, dignity, and independence of the judiciary from motivated attacks or unwarranted criticism.
- It ensures that judicial institutions are respected and their orders are followed.
- Statutory Basis:
 - ★ Article 19(2): Allows reasonable restrictions on free speech, including contempt of court.
 - ★ Article 129: Grants the Supreme Court the power to punish for contempt of itself.
 - Article 215: Grants the same power to High Courts.
 - ★ The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 provides the statutory framework for contempt proceedings.

Kinds of Contempt:

- ★ Civil Contempt: Wilful disobedience to any judgment, order, or direction of a court. It also includes breach of undertakings given to the court.
- Criminal Contempt: Scandalizing the court, lowering its authority, or interfering with judicial proceedings.
 - It also includes any act that obstructs the administration of justice.
- Note: Fair and accurate reporting of court proceedings and fair criticism of judgments after disposal are not considered contempt.
- Punishment: Under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, punishment may include imprisonment up to 6 months, fine up to ₹2,000, or both.
 - ★ The 2006 Amendment allows the defence of truth and good faith.
 - → Punishment is to be applied only if there is substantial interference with justice.

Chhattisgarh Homestay Policy 2025-30

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government approved the 'Chhattisgarh Homestay Policy 2025-30' to promote tourism in rural and tribal-dominated areas, including the Maoism-affected Bastar division.

Key Points

- About the Policy:
 - ★ The policy was approved amid ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the Bastar region, a tribaldominated and Maoism-affected area.
 - ★ The policy focuses on Bastar and Sarguja, the two major tribal-dominated regions of Chhattisgarh known for their natural landscapes and biodiversity.
 - The tribal communities of Bastar are mainly **Gond**, **Maria**, **Muria**, **Bhadra**, Halba and **Dhurua**.

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Sarguja is home to tribes like Gond, Bhumij, Oraon, Panika, Korwa, Bhuiya, Kharwar, Munda, Chero, and others.

Purpose and Cultural Promotion:

- ★ Homestays will offer visitors an immersive rural life experience, showcasing tribal culture, local art and handicrafts, and unique regional features.
- Socio-Economic Benefits for Locals:
 - ★ The policy aims to generate income opportunities for local residents by enabling them to run homestays.
 - ★ It supports the 'Vocal for Local' initiative and is expected to strengthen rural tourism and local entrepreneurship.

Maoism

- About: Maoism is a form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung. It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.
 - ★ Mao called this process, the 'Protracted People's War', where the emphasis is on 'military line' to capture power.
- Maoist Ideology: The central theme of Maoist ideology is the use of violence and armed **insurrection** as a means to capture State power.
 - * 'Bearing of arms is non-negotiable' as per the Maoist insurgency doctrine.
- Indian Maoists: The largest and the most violent Maoist formation in India is the Communist Party of India (Maoist) formed in 2004.

- ★ The CPI (Maoist) and its front organizations were banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
 - Front Organizations are the off-shoots of the parent Maoist party, which professes a separate existence to escape legal liability.

Vocal for Local Initiative

- NITI Aayog launched the 'Vocal for Local' initiative under its Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).
- The initiative aims to foster self-reliance among citizens and promote sustainable development and inclusive prosperity.
- As part of this initiative, local products from 500 aspirational blocks have been identified and consolidated under a unified brand called Aakanksha.
 - ★ Aakanksha serves as an **umbrella brand, which** can be expanded into multiple sub-brands with the potential to tap into global markets.
- To promote these local products, the government has launched a dedicated window for the Aspirational Blocks Programme under the Aakanksha brand on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- Support from Partner Organisation:
 - Partner organisations will offer technical and operational assistance for:
 - E-commerce onboarding
 - Market linkage development
 - Financial and digital literacy
 - Documentation and certification
 - Skill development and capacity enhancement





















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