

February 2022

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3 Students of Bokaro Selected for Project Inspire Award

Why in News

On January 31, 2022, three students of DPS Bokaro, Utkarsh Raj and Abhitit Sharan of class IX and Anjali Kumari of class VIII were selected for INSPIRE Award-Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK).

Key Points

- These three students will represent their school DPS Bokaro in the district level exhibition and project competition to be organized by the District Education Authority.
- Significantly, the INSPIRE Award MANAK is executed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF).
- The objective of the award is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and social applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among students studying in classes 6 to 10.
- In this, each selected student will get 10,000 rupees and they will also participate in the district level competition. Further students will be shortlisted to participate in the state level competition, finally one thousand students will get an opportunity to showcase their innovations at the national level.
- Sixty innovative projects will be fully incubated (patent filing, value addition in technology and product development, etc.) by NIF and will be showcased at the Annual Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE).

58 Roads and 26 Bridges in the Insurgency Affected Area of Jharkhand got Approval from the Center

Why in News

On January 31, 2022, the Union Ministry of Rural Development approved 361 km road plans and 26 bridge plans for the extreme insurgency affected areas of Jharkhand. Under this, a total of 58 roads will be constructed in the state.

Key Points

- An official who attended the meeting said that these roads are to be built under the second phase of the Centre's project RCPLWE scheme for extreme insurgency affected areas. The DPR (Detailed Project Report) of the schemes was presented by the Jharkhand government, which was approved.
- For the construction of a total of 58 rural roads and 26 bridges, the central government will allocate an amount of Rs 188 crore, while the Jharkhand government will give Rs 127 crore.
- Apart from this, the central government has given an additional 71 km. Road plans have also been approved. For this, a meeting will be held at the central level now. After the consensus is reached in the meeting of two-three phases, it will be finally agreed.
- Nine roads will be constructed from RCPLWEA at Badgad and Ramkanda in insurgency affected Garhwa district. The total cost of construction of these 78 km long roads will be around Rs 72 crore.
- It is noteworthy that in October 2021, a plan for the construction of 125 roads and 71 bridges was approved under the first phase of this scheme in the Naxal affected area of the state. An amount of Rs 765 crore has been sanctioned on these schemes.

Tata Steel to Acquire Nilanchal Ispat Nigam

Why in News

Recently, the central government has approved the proposal to sell Odisha-based public sector company Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) to Tata Steel Long Products Limited (TSPL) for Rs 12,100 crore.

Key Points

The committee headed by Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, empowered by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which also included Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, recommended handing over the ownership of Nilanchal Ispat to TSPL after bidding for Rs 12,100 crore Approved.



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- Three companies had bid for Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Limited which included Jindal Steel Power Limited, Nalwa Steel Power Limited and JSW Skil apart from Tata Steel Long Products. But due to the highest bidder, this company was handed over to Tata Steel Long Products.
- NINL is a joint venture of two Odisha government companies OMC and IPICOL, including four public sector companies MMTC Limited, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), BHEL (BHEL) and MECON Limited. All these companies hold 93.71 percent stake in Nilanchal Ispat Limited.
- Nilanchal Ispat's Integrated Steel Plant is located at Kalinganagar in Odisha with an annual production capacity of 11 lakh tonnes. The company is incurring huge losses and is closed since March 30, 2020.
- NINL had a debt of over Rs 6,600 crore as on March 31 last year. This includes Rs 4,116 crore dues to promoters, Rs 1,741 crore to banks and other creditors and employees. The company's net worth as on March 31, 2021 is Rs 3,487 crore and accumulated losses are around Rs 4,228 crore.
- It is noteworthy that the privatization of NINL is the second successful privatization in the present central government. The first company in this list is Air India, which was recently bought by the Tata Group. Tata made a bid of Rs 18,000 crore for the purchase of Air India and won.

Pradeep Srivastava to be the Judge of Jharkhand High Court

Why in News

On February 1, 2022, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, a judicial officer of the Jharkhand Superior Judicial Service, as a judge of the Jharkhand High Court.

Key Points

- It may be noted that the Supreme Court Collegium has reiterated the above recommendation. The Collegium, in its meeting held on September 1, 2021, last year, had proposed the name of the above judicial officer as a judge of the Jharkhand High Court.
- It may be noted that recently four officers of the Jharkhand Judicial Service were promoted and made judges of the Jharkhand High Court.

- Presently Pradeep Srivastava is posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge of Bokaro.
- A total of 25 posts of judges are sanctioned in Jharkhand High Court, whereas at present 20 judges including Chief Justice Dr. Ravi Ranjan are working in Jharkhand High Court.

Department of Mines and Geology signed MoU with International Forum for Environment Sustainability and Technology

Why in News

On February 3, 2022, the Department of Mines and Geology, Jharkhand signed an MoU with the International Forum for Environment Sustainability and Technology (IFOREST) to improve the functioning of the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

Key Points

- Under the MoU, IFOREST will provide information and training for the betterment of the District Mineral Foundation.
- It is worth mentioning that the state cabinet had given its consent for the MoU only on January 19 this year. The MoU is for two years, but it can be extended further with mutual understanding.
- The MoU was signed on behalf of the state government by Amit Kumar, Director of Mines and Chandra Bhushan, CEO, IFOREST, in the presence of Mines and Geology Secretary Pooja Singhal.
- As per the MoU, IFOREST will provide policy, planning and technical assistance to the DMFs for achieving qualitative and fruitful results in the work of DMFs.
- IFOREST will also support the Mines Department in socio-economic and environmental rehabilitation of the mining sector. This will benefit the local people there.

14th Meeting of Jharkhand State Wildlife Board

Why in News



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On February 3, 2022, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, presiding over the 14th meeting of the Jharkhand State Wildlife Board, discussed a total of nine agendas including the management plan of wildlife shelters, formulation of Jharkhand Wildlife Policy.

Key Points

- In the meeting, the management plan of wildlife shelters, formulation of Jharkhand Wildlife Policy, diagnosis of health problems of villagers of villages located inside wildlife sanctuaries of the state, extensive plantation along the banks of Ranchi-Jamshedpur NH, construction of Fossil Park in Sahibganj including work Other topics were discussed.
- The Chief Minister ordered widening of the roads passing through the forest land including Palamu Tiger Reserve, Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary, Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary, removing the obstacles in the construction of the bridge at the earliest.
- He directed to constitute a committee for the widening of the National Highway passing through Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Chief Minister said that in compliance with the provisions of the Forest (Protection) Act, 1980 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, a provision has been made under the tourism policy to set up camps at various eco-friendly places. For this, public private partnership will be encouraged.
- The tourism department will work with the forest and environment department to develop and improve wildlife parks/zoos, bird watch towers and other useful services for tourists. Wildlife sanctuaries and national parks will be integrated as an integral part of tourism.
- The Chief Minister gave special instructions to the Forest Department regarding the construction of Fossil Park in Sahibganj. It is noteworthy that Fossil Park is under construction in Sahibganj. After its construction, tourists will be able to see fossils from hundreds of years ago. Along with this, the Forest Department is exploring the possibilities of Fossil Park at other places including the hills of Rajmahal.
- Directing to pay special attention to wildlife, especially elephant corridors, the Chief Minister said that better underpasses should be constructed for them, so that wildlife can cross the road.

Documentary 'Postcards from Jharkhand'

Why in News

On February 4, 2022, National Geographic presented a documentary titled 'PostCards from Jharkhand' in front of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

Key Points

- There will be four different films in this documentary. First film Betla-McCluskieganj-Netarhat and surrounding areas, second film Giridih-Deoghar-Maluti and surrounding areas, third film Jamshedpur-Khunti and Seraikela and surrounding areas and fourth film Ranchi-Hazaribagh and It will be based on tourist places located in the surrounding areas.
- The Chief Minister also gave some of his suggestions to the representatives of National Geographic. Like preparing a coffee table book on Jharkhand tourism, so that through this information related to Jharkhand tourism can be shared with the people.
- In addition to Jharkhand mines and minerals, the people of Jharkhand especially tribals and their tradition, customs, art-culture, food and living with natural beauty, ancient historical heritage, archeological remains, heritage, megaliths, spirituality and adventure sports etc. The area is very rich. For example, a rock painting found in Isco village of Hazaribagh is said to be from two to five thousand BC, while a thousandyear-old rock painting has been found from the forest of Kozenga in Gumla district.

Amendment Bill to Change the List of SC-ST

Why in News

On February 7, 2022, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda introduced an amendment bill to change the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand in the Rajya Sabha.

Key Points

 According to the bill, along with the Bhogta community of Jharkhand, Tamaria/Tamdia, Purana, Deshwari, Ganjhu, Daulatbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut,



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Majhiya, Khairi (Kheri) will also be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST).

- Coming from SC to ST, including Bhogta, they will get the benefit of being included in the purview of larger reservations. There is currently 10% reservation for SC and 26% for ST in the state. Due to this, they will be able to benefit from additional reservation.
- The Tribal Research Institute (TRI) had recommended in the year 2002 to list Tamaria/Tamad in the category of Munda. At the same time, the recommendation to include Puran in ST was made by the Tribal Research Institute in 1993.
- It is noteworthy that during the tenure of the UPA government, in the year 2014, the then Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Dr. Rameshwar Oraon had recommended the inclusion of Bhogta caste in the Scheduled Tribes by removing it from the category of Scheduled Castes.

Excellent Performance of 16 Districts of Jharkhand in Atal Pension Yojana

Why in News

On February 8, 2022, LDMs of 16 districts of Jharkhand, who have performed better under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) of the Central Government, were felicitated in an outreach program organized through video conferencing in association with Pension Fund Regulatory, Development Authority and SLBC.

Key Points

- Jharkhand State was given a target of 1,95,220 enrollment for the financial year 2021-22 by PFRDA, against which the achievement was 2,18,516, which is 112 percent of the target.
- Apart from this, six banks SBI (198 percent), BOI (147 percent), Jharkhand Rajya Gramin Bank (121 percent), Bank of Baroda (108 percent), Central Bank of India (104 percent) and South Indian Bank (140 percent) was also awarded for his exemplary performance in nominations under APY.
- It is noteworthy that the Atal Pension Yojana was launched in May 2015 with an aim to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, underprivileged and workers in the unorganized sector.

Any citizen of India in the age group of 18-40 years can join this. The scheme provides a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining the age of 60 years.

Thermocol Ban

Why in News

On February 9, 2022, Jharkhand Pollution Control Board Chairman AK Rastogi said that from July 1, 2022, thermocol and plastic-related items will be banned in the state.

Key Points

- Rastogi said that the board has already given instructions for this, so action will be taken for violating these rules.
- The scientific name of thermocol is Polystyrene, Polystyrene is a synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymer made from styrene monomer.
- It is a type of plastic, which is used in the manufacture of food packaging, foam plates, glasses, etc.
- As a thermoplastic polymer, polystyrene is in the solid state at room temperature, but converts to a liquid when heated above about 100°C.
- According to the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 notified by the Central Government, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastics including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene will be prohibited with effect from July 1, 2022.

Important Decisions of the Council of Ministers for Tribal Welfare

Why in News?

Important decisions related to tribal welfare were taken in the meeting of Jharkhand Council of Ministers held on February 10, 2022.

Key Points

Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in the State of Jharkhand, the nomination of



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Bharti Institute of Public - Indian School of Business (BIPP-ISB) and tripartite MoU was approved.

- Under the ongoing 'Sona Sobran Dhoti-Sari Distribution Scheme' for distribution of clothes among the beneficiary families, the dealer commission was approved at the rate of Rs. 1/- per garment to the public distribution system shopkeepers.
- Apart from this, post-facto approval of Jharkhand Tourism Policy, 2021 and Jharkhand Municipal Park Maintenance Policy, 2021 was given.

Asian Water Birds Census 2022

Why in News

Census of Asian water birds under Asian Waterbird Census 2022 was carried out by Jharkhand Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Wetland International at Latratu Dam in Karra, Khunti by Jharkhand Forest Department on 12 February 2022 at Lalmatia Dam of Latehar district.

Key Points

- Species such as Common Kingfisher, Red-naped Ibis, Open Bill Stork, Common Comorant etc. were found during the census.
- It is noteworthy that during the winter season, various species of migratory birds make their shelter in the water bodies of Latehar district.
- On this occasion, discussions were held to build a bird watching tower in Lalmatia Dam and to develop ecotourism. Along with this, inspection of beautification work of Lalmatia Dam and site for construction of cafeteria in Lalmatia Dam was done.
- Latehar district is famous for its natural beauty like Kanti Waterfall, Indra Water Waterfall etc.

Financial Literacy Week 2022

Why in News?

The Financial Literacy Week was formally inaugurated on February 14, 2022 by Sanjeev Sinha, General Manager, RBI, Ranchi Headquarters in Jharkhand.

Key Points

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been organizing Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a specific topic across the country.

- This year's Financial Literacy Week theme is 'Go Digital, Go Secure', which will be observed from February 14 to February 18.
- During the Financial Literacy Week, RBI will broadcast three messages – Facilitation of Digital Transactions, Security of Digital Transactions and Safety of Customers.
- Some other measures have also been taken by RBI for financial literacy, such as-
 - The Reserve Bank of India has released the third edition of the FAME (Financial Awareness Message) booklet, which aims to provide basic financial literacy messages to the public.
 - Audio visuals on topics related to financial literacy have been prepared for the benefit of the general public. These audio visuals are on 'Basic Financial Literacy', 'Unified Payments Interface' and 'Going Digital'.

District and State level Competition for Sports Training

Why in News

On February 17, 2022, the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Jharkhand directed all the district sports officers of the state to organize district and state level selection competitions for worm training.

Key Points

- Talent selection competition 2021-22 will be organized for the selection of trainees in residential (except hockey and archery) and day-boarding sports training centers operating in different districts of the state. This event will be organized from district to state level.
- Under the selection competition, the district level competition will be held in the district headquarters from 21 to 24 February 2022 and the state level competition will be held in Ranchi from 1 to 4 March 2022.
- To participate in this competition, the age limit of the participating boy/girl is mandatory between 10 to 12 years. At the district level, 20 boys and 20 girls will be selected. They will participate in state level competition.



Note:

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- The selected children who have excelled in the state level competition will have to undergo a medical examination. After that the trainees will be selected according to the vacancy in the residential training centers.
- The selection of trainees in the Talent Selection Competition will be based on Battery Test (NSTC), Norms. Through this test, it will be mandatory for the trainees to have a maximum body weight of 35 kg, height maximum 124 to 153 cm. Trainees will participate in 30m Flying Start, 6'10m Shuttle Run, Ball Throw, Vertical Jump and 800m Run.

New List of Tribal and Regional Languages

Why in News

Recently, the Jharkhand State government has released a new list of tribal and regional languages for appointment to district level posts.

Key Points

- A notification in this regard has been issued by the Personnel Department. Along with this, the notification issued on December 24 related to the list of tribal and regional languages for district level appointments has been deleted. Earlier Urdu was included in the list of regional languages.
- In the new list of regional languages Bhojpuri from Bokaro and Magahi & Bhojpuri from Dhanbad have been removed.
- This list has been released by JSSC marking the languages district wise for district level posts in the matriculation and inter level competitive examination.
- It is noteworthy that various organizations opposed the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi languages in the list of regional languages in Bokaro and Dhanbad. Several JMM leaders and several organizations, including Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto, had demanded the government to remove Bhojpuri and Magahi from the list of regional languages.

Livestock in Integrated Farming System

Why in News

At the conclusion of the 21-day National Refresher Course organized by Birsa Agricultural University (BAU) College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Ranchi, experts stressed on integrating cow, buffalo, goat, pig, poultry, fish and duck farming activities into integrated farming.

Key Points

- Incorporating the latest technologies of livestock management into the farming system is a better option for doubling farmers' income, which will lead to better livelihood and nutritional security of small and marginal farmers in the country.
- It is worth noting that about 60 integrated farming systems have been identified and developed according to irrigated and non-irrigated conditions for different climatic zones across the country.
- In research, scientists have found the integrated farming system to be the most suitable means of increasing the income of the farmers of the country.
- Integrated farming system is a complete agricultural management system, which aims to provide more sustainable agriculture. It integrates livestock and crop production into agricultural systems.
- Integrated farming systems have revolutionized the traditional farming of livestock, aquaculture, horticulture, agro-industry and allied activities. The system includes an interrelated set of other industries with crop activity as the basis, wherein 'waste' from one component becomes an input to another part of the system, thereby reducing costs and improving soil health. Along with this there is an increase in production and income.

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News

On February 24, 2022, approval was given to relax Rule 245 and Rule 235 of the Finance Rules for the construction of Zonal Master Plan of Eco-sensitive Zone related to Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary on the basis of nomination from M/s XLRI, Jamshedpur.

Key Points

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary (Shelter) located in Jamshedpur is famous for elephants. Apart from this, barking deer, sloth bear and various reptile species are notable among other fauna found here.



- > This wildlife sanctuary with an area of 193.22 sq km is located in the catchment area of the Subarnarekha river.
- It consists mainly of dry mixed deciduous forests with some dry peninsular sals. The main tree species here include Terminalia, Jamun, Dhaura, Kendu, Karam etc.
- Eco-sensitive areas are the areas within 10 km around protected areas, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which are notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

First Organic Product Marketing Center

Why in News

On February 25, 2022, Jharkhand's Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Cooperation Minister Badal Patralekh inaugurated the state's first organic produce marketing center at Krishi Bhawan.

Key Points

- To promote organic farming in the state, along with attestation centers in all the districts of the state, a lab will also be set up for certification of organic products.
- 58 lakh Birsa farmers of the state will be linked with organic farming. Soon these farmers will also be given a unique card.
- There are many such organic products, which if certified, will get a good price in the market and the income of the farmers will also increase.
- There is a great demand for agricultural products grown in pure method without toxic chemicals in the state. In order to promote the organic products of the state, the Organic Product Marketing Center will prove to be a milestone, from where certified vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and spices grown by organic method can be sold.

Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana in the state, organic FPO Neem Flower Farmer Producer Company Limited has been formed in Anagada block in collaboration with OFAZ and SFAC of Government of India.

Guni Village: 3rd National Water Award Winner

Why in News

Recently, in the third National Water Award announced by the Ministry of Jalshakti, Guni village has got the third position in the Best Village Panchayat Category East Zone.

Key Points

- Guni village is 30 km. from Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand state. Far is located in Ghunsuli Panchayath in Karra Block of Khunti District.
- The credit of this achievement of Guni village is due to several schemes run by the Jharkhand government under MGNREGA with the aim of strengthening the rural economy, such as 'Nilamber-Pitamber Jal Samridhi Yojana', 'Birsa Harit Gram Yojana' etc. whose purpose is to increase the water level of the land by storing water, to reduce soil erosion, to store water suitable for irrigation of crops, etc.
- It is worth mentioning that in 2018, the Ministry of Jalshakti launched the first 'National Water Awards' with the objective of motivating individuals/ organizations doing commendable work in the field of water resource conservation and management and to create awareness among the people about the importance of water and to encourage them to adopt best water use practices.



Summary

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