



drishti

# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

CHHATTISGARH

**JANUARY  
2024**

Drishti, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee  
Nagar, Delhi-110009

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: [www.drishtias.com](http://www.drishtias.com)

Email: [help@groupdrishti.in](mailto:help@groupdrishti.in)

# Content

● Free Rice to Ration Card Holders.....	3
● General Consent Principle for CBI .....	3
● Aromatic Rice for Ram Temple.....	3
● Lithium-Deal with Argentina .....	4
● Chhatisgarh Bachao Andolan.....	4
● Chhatisgarh Launches Shri Ram Lala Darshan Scheme .....	5
● Annual Free Train Scheme to Ayodhya Ram Mandir.....	5
● Concerns over Hit-and-Run Law .....	6
● Prafull Bharat: New Advocate General of Chhatisgarh .....	6
● Chhatisgarh CM Flags Off 'Ram Rath' to Ayodhya Ahead of Temple Consecration .....	7
● Chhatisgarh Republic Day Tableau.....	7
● Maoists Encounter in Chhatisgarh .....	8

## Free Rice to Ration Card Holders

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government has announced free rice through **fair price shops** to 67.92 lakh eligible ration card holders eligible under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana** from January 2024.

- Antyodaya Anna Yojana is the sponsored scheme of the Government to provide highly subsidized food to millions of the poorest families.

### Key Points

- This scheme will be implemented for the next five years from January 2024 to December 2028, under the Chhattisgarh **Food and Nutrition Security Act, 2013**.
  - Free rice will be distributed to beneficiaries from priority, differently abled and extremely poor people's categories.
- As per the food department there were over 14.92 lakh ration card holders in Antyodaya category:
  - 52.46 lakh were from priority category,
  - 37,708 from single-destitute category and
  - 15,351 from disabled category.

- **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA):** It ensures access to affordable and good-quality food by subsidizing food grains to those below the poverty line.
- **Fair price shops (FPS):** It is a government-run or government-regulated retail outlet or store in India.
  - It is to distribute essential commodities like food grains, edible oils, sugar, and other basic necessities to the public at subsidized or fair prices.

## General Consent Principle for CBI

### Why in News?

According to the sources, Chhattisgarh government will restore **General Consent for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** to probe cases in the state.

- The States give their general consent to CBI under **Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**.

### Key Points

- As of March 2023, Mizoram, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Jharkhand, Punjab

and Meghalaya had **withdrawn their general consent given to CBI**.

### ➤ General Consent Principle for CBI:

- The consent of the state government to CBI can be either case-specific or "general".
- General consent is normally given by states to help the CBI in the seamless investigation of cases of corruption against central government employees in their states.
- This is essentially consent by default, which means CBI may begin investigations taking consent as having been already given.
- In the absence of general consent, CBI would have to apply to the state government for its consent in every individual case, and before taking even small actions.

## Aromatic Rice for Ram Temple

### Why in News?

Recently, Chhattisgarh dispatched aromatic rice to Ayodhya for the **consecration ceremony in the Ram temple** scheduled to be held on **January 22**.

### Key Points

- 11 trucks carrying the rice consignment were flagged off by Chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai for the "**Ramji Bhog and Bhandara**" in Ayodhya Ram temple for the occasion.
- A function was organized at Sri Ram Mandir by the '**the rice millers association of Chhattisgarh**' to dispatch the rice consignment to Ayodhya Ram temple.
- The best variety of aromatic rice, **RB Gold**, produced in Chhattisgarh is offered for the consecration ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- Chhattisgarh has a mythological link to Lord Ram. **Chandkhuri** on the outskirts of Raipur is believed to be the **birthplace of Kaushalya Devi, mother of Lord Ram**. There is a temple dedicated to Kaushalya Devi, the only such shrine in the world, in Chandkhuri.
- It is believed that Lord Ram have spent some days in Chhattisgarh during his 14-year-exile period, being developed by the state government as "**Ram Gaman Path**".
  - Under the 'Ram Gaman Path' project the Chhattisgarh government has identified and will develop **248 places** in the state, where Lord Ram, his wife Devi Sita and brother Laxman lived during their exile period.

Note:

## Lithium-Deal with Argentina

### Why in News?

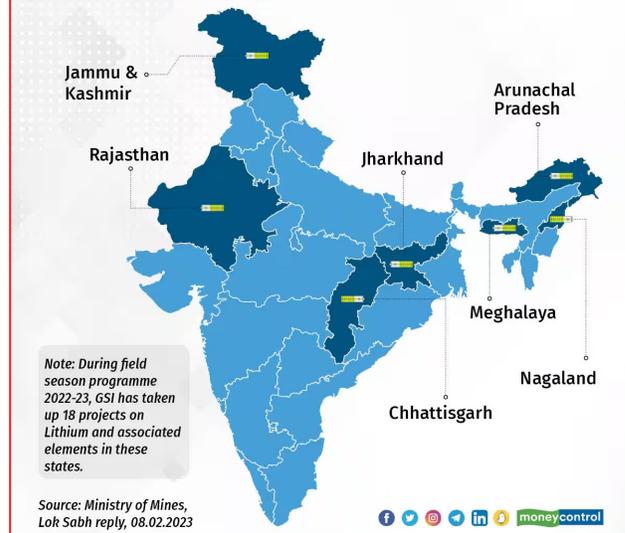
The **Ministry of Mines**, Government of India through the **state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)**, has entered into a draft exploration and development agreement with **Argentinian miner CAMYEN** for possible acquisition and development of **five-odd lithium blocks**.

- The company has also entered into a **non-disclosure agreement with Chilean miner ENAMI** for “possible exploration, extraction, processing and commercialisation” of the mineral.

### Key Points

- Lithium is an alkali mineral, also called ‘**white gold**’. It is soft, silvery-white metal, the lightest metal of the periodic table.
- **Major Properties of lithium include** high reactivity, Low Density and Excellent Electrochemical Properties
- Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including **spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite** and is extracted from these minerals and refined into lithium metal or its compounds.
  - The top producers of lithium are **Australia, Chile, China, and Argentina**.
- It is a crucial component of **rechargeable batteries** used in smartphones, laptops, electric vehicles, and other electronics.
  - Lithium compounds are used to **strengthen glass and ceramics**, making them more durable and heat-resistant.
  - It is used as a **mood stabilizer** in the treatment of **bipolar disorder**.
  - Lithium greases are used in **high-pressure and high-temperature** applications.
- **2023 saw a surge in lithium discoveries:**
  - Massive reserves unearthed in **Jammu and Kashmir** (estimated 5.9 million tonnes).
  - **Deposits found in Rajasthan** (potentially meeting 80% of India’s demand).
  - Additional reserves identified in **Jharkhand**.
- However, India has put up lithium blocks for auction: **one in J&K and another in Chhattisgarh**, with most of its domestic requirements, across categories like **EVs**, lithium-ion battery making, and other energy storage solutions, being met completely through imports.

## IN LITHIUM SEARCH



## Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan

### Why in News?

The **Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM)** in Chhattisgarh has extended its support to the proposed citizens’ protest march in Hasdeo Arand against the large-scale cutting of trees for **coal mining**.

- **Hasdeo Arand forests** are considered **bio-diversity rich**, with the catchment area of Hasdeo River providing **crucial help for drinking water** in underdeveloped areas.

### Key Points

- The **deforestation** of **137 hectares of biodiverse forest** in Hasdeo for the Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal blocks in Chhattisgarh will have detrimental effects. This includes **impacting the river Hasdeo, escalating human-elephant conflicts**, and causing negative consequences for the local biodiversity.
- A total of **five billion tonnes** of coal is estimated to be **sitting under the dense forest area**.
  - The latest deforestation marks the second stage of clearances for PEBK; the first stage included **sanctioning of the open mine for coal extraction to supply electricity in Rajasthan and neighbouring state**.
- The ongoing **deforestation** will displace and **impact the livelihoods of 700 indigenous families** from neighbouring villages in **Surguja district of northern Chhattisgarh** such as **Sahli, Tara, Janardhanpur, Ghatbarra, Fatehpur and Hariharpur**.

Note:

- Tribal rights activists from Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, Save Hasdeo Forest Committee as well as Gram Sabha leaders have been actively protesting the relentless tree felling.
- **Mining Activity in Hasdeo Arand Coal Field (HACF) Region:**
  - The HACF is spread over nearly 1,880 sq km and **comprises 23 coal blocks.**
  - The area was **declared as a 'No-Go Zone' for mining by the Centre in 2009.**
  - The **demand for mining picked up around 2010**, when the Chhattisgarh government recommended forest clearance for diverting forest land for PEKB coal fields.
  - **In 2012, Forest Clearance was granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) for mining in phase I of PEKB coal mines.**
  - Though cases are pending in various courts, **in March 2022 the Chhattisgarh government approved the second phase of mining in the PEKB coal block.**

### Hasdeo Arand Forest

- Hasdeo Arand, a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh** is known for its **biodiversity and its coal deposits.**
- The forest falls under **Korba, Surgapur and Surguja districts** with significant tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi**, flows through it.
- Hasdeo Arand is the **largest un-fragmented forest in Central India** consisting of **pristine Sal (Shorea robusta) and teak forests.**
- It is a **noted migratory corridor** and has a significant presence of **elephants.**



Note:

## Chhattisgarh Launches Shri Ram Lala Darshan Scheme

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government has decided to launch the 'Shri Ramlala Darshan scheme,' a pilgrimage to the newly built Ram temple in Ayodhya.

- Approximately **20,000 pilgrims** will be taken for the Shri Ram lala Darshan annually.

### Key Points

- The **Chhattisgarh Tourism Board** and the **Budget Tourism Department** will facilitate the implementation of this scheme.
- The **eligibility** for the pilgrimage will be for **Chhattisgarh natives aged 18 to 75** who are **found fit in the health examination conducted by the district medical board.**
  - The pilgrimage distance is approximately 900 kilometers, and **transportation will be facilitated in collaboration with the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).**
  - **Beneficiaries** will be **brought to and taken back from the railway station to their residences** by the respective district administration.
- A **committee, under the chairmanship of the collector in each district**, will be formed for the **implementation of this scheme.**
- The **cabinet also decided** to appoint prominent lawyer **Praful Bharat** as the new **advocate general of the state.**

## Annual Free Train Scheme to Ayodhya Ram Mandir

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government sanctioned an **annual free train travel scheme** for devotees who want to visit the **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple** in **Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya.**

- It will be **implemented by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the state tourism department** would allocate a necessary budget for the same.

### Key Points

- **Not everyone can avail this scheme as of now** as a committee would be set up under the collectors to select pilgrims.



- As per a state government release, those **eligible to avail this scheme** should be fit individuals **aged between 18 and 75 years** and those **above 55 years will be given priority in the initial phase.**
- **Around 20,000 people** would be taken to Ayodhya on yearly pilgrimage by train.
- Stations for boarding are **Raipur, Durg, Raigarh, and Ambikapur**, with the 900-km journey culminating in Ayodhya.
- There is also a **stopover at Varanasi** for devotees to visit the Kashi Vishwanath temple and attend the Ganga Aarti.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** will also be signed with the **Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to implement the scheme.
- A **weekly special train** will also be arranged for pilgrims wanting to visit Ayodhya.

**Note:**

- The state government had declared **January 22 as a dry day in the entire state**, given the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.
- **Chhattisgarh** is the 'nanihal' (the place of his maternal grandparents) of Lord Ram.
  - **Chandkhuri**, a village located 27 km from Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, is **considered as the birthplace of Mata Kaushalya**, mother of Lord Ram.
  - The ancient **Mata Kaushalya temple** situated in the village was given a magnificent look during the previous government in the state.

## Concerns over Hit-and-Run Law

### Why in News?

The recent protests by **transporters and commercial drivers** in states like Maharashtra, **Chhattisgarh**, West Bengal, and Punjab shed light on the contentious **Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS)**.

### Key Points

- This section, which stipulates **severe penalties for hit-and-run incidents**, has become a focal point of discontent among the driving community.
- The countrywide truckers' strike has been called off after the government assured that it would consult stakeholders before implementing a contentious law against hit-and-run.

- Transporters and commercial drivers are **demanding the withdrawal or amendment** of Section 106 (2) of the BNS, 2023.
  - They argue that the **prescribed penalties**, including a 10-year imprisonment and Rs. 7 lakh fine, are **excessively severe**.

### Provisions of Hit-and-run Law

- The hit-and-run provision is part of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which is **set to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, 1860**.
  - **Section 106 (2) of the BNS, 2023 stipulates a penalty of up to 10 years in jail and a fine** for fleeing an accident spot and failing to report the incident to a police officer or a magistrate.
  - However, **if the driver reports the incident immediately after the accident, they will be charged under Section 106(1) instead of Section 106(2)**. Section 106(1) provides for a punishment of up to five years for causing death by any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide.

## Prafull Bharat: New Advocate General of Chhattisgarh

### Why in News?

According to the sources, the Chhattisgarh government has appointed **Prafull Bharat** as the new **Advocate General (AG) of Chhattisgarh**.

### Key Points

- He served as the **Additional Advocate General of Chhattisgarh from 2014 to 2018**.
- With an extensive legal career, Bharat has been practicing at the **High Court of Chhattisgarh since November 2000, specializing in Civil, Constitutional, Arbitration, and Criminal matters**.
- His legal expertise also extends to his **tenure at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh from 1995 to 2000 and the District Court in Jagdalpur, Bastar from 1992 to 1995**.
- **Bharat succeeds Satish Chandra Verma**, who quit as AG after the new government assumed office after the recent assembly elections.

### Advocate General of State

- The Advocate General of state is **responsible for advising the State Government on legal matters referred to him by the Governor**.

Note:

- This is a **Constitutional post** and authority duly **appointed under Article 165** of the Constitution of India. **He/She acts as the highest law officer in the State.**
  - Under Article 165 of the Constitution of India **the Governor of each State shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court to be Advocate General for the State.**

## Chhattisgarh CM Flags Off 'Ram Rath' to Ayodhya Ahead of Temple Consecration

### Why in News?

Ahead of the **Ram Temple inauguration**, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma flagged off a 'Ram Rath' to **Ayodhya**.

### Key Points

- They also sent handwritten '**Jai Shri Ram**' messages and placed them in the rath destined for Ayodhya.
- **Students from Raipur Convent School** also contributed by **placing their messages** in the drop box.
- The rath will go **across the state** and collect **messages and wishes from the residents.**



### About Ram Temple

- **Layout of Ayodhya Ram Mandir:**
  - The Temple is built over three 20-foot high floors each with a total of 392 pillars and 44 doors.
  - Makrana Marble and Pink sandstone, granite stone, and colored Marble are used in the construction.

- The foundation of the temple is built of a 14-meter-thick layer of roller-compacted concrete. And a 21-foot-high granite plinth has been placed to protect against ground moisture.
- Iron has not been used anywhere in the construction.
- The Architectural style of the temple is Nagara style with Sanctum Sanctorum (garbhagriha), Mandaps (halls), and Mandirs.
- At each corner of the compound will be dedicated to Surya, Bhagwati, Ganesh, Shiv. On the northern and southern arms, temples to Annapurna and Hanuman will be built respectively.
- Temples of Maharshi Valmiki, Vashishtha, Vishwamitra, Agastya, Nishad Raj, Shabri etc have also been proposed.

## Chhattisgarh Republic Day Tableau

### Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's '**Bastar Ki Adim Jan Sansad: Muria Darbar**' tableau was **displayed at the National Theatre** in New Delhi on 22 January, ahead of the **Republic Day parade on 26 January.**

### Key Points

- The tableau was praised for showcasing the **tribal society's democratic consciousness since primitive times.**
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister praised the team responsible for creating the tableau, stating that the **theme was important for tribal society and will acquaint the world with their democratic traditions.**
- The '**Bastar Ki Adim Jan Sansad: Muria Darbar**' tableau that will be a part of the **Republic Day parade** at New Delhi's **Kartavya Path**, features **Muria-Darbar and Limau-Raja, part of the Bastar-Dussehra tradition from Jagdalpur.**
  - It features **terracotta crafts**, symbolising people's power, and showcases the **cultural development in Bastar.**
  - It also showcases the **600-year-old tribal tradition of community decision-making** in Bastar, a district in Chhattisgarh.

Note:



#### Muria-Darbar

- The **Muria Darbar in Bastar** was started on **March 8, 1876**, in which the Deputy Commissioner of Sironcha, Make George, **addressed the Manjhi-Chalkis**.
- Later, according to the convenience of the people, it was **made an integral part of Bastar Dussehra, which continued for 145 years as per tradition**.

#### Limau Raja

- It is the **natural stone throne symbolizing Bastar's democratic roots** and is situated within Bade Dongar, Gadirao Dongri.
- In ancient times, when the region lacked a ruling monarch, the community would gather around this stone "throne" to deliberate on important matters.
- A **ritual unfolded** where a lemon, placed atop the symbolic throne, became the focal point of decision-making.

## Maoists Encounter in Chhattisgarh

### Why in News?

Recently, 3 security personnel were killed and 14 others were injured in an encounter with **Maoists** along the **Sukma-Bijapur border in Chhattisgarh**.

### Key Points

- According to the official statement, the incident took place near **Tekalgudem village during a search operation** by a joint team of security personnel.
- A new camp of security personnel was set up in Tekalgudem, a Maoist stronghold.
- After setting up the camp, the personnel belonging to the Special Task Force, District Reserve Guard and Commando Battalion for Resolute Action [**CoBRA- a jungle warfare unit of CRPF (Central Armed Police Forces)**] were searching nearby **Jonaguda-Aliguda villages** when Maoists opened fire.
- **Sukma District:**
  - It is located in the southern tip of the state of Chhattisgarh, the district was **carved out of Dantewada in the year 2012**.
  - It is **covered with the semi-tropical forest** and is a **mainland of tribal community Gond**.
  - One major river that flows through the district is **Sabari (a tributary of Godavari river)**.
  - Over a few decades, this region has become a **fostering ground for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) activities**.

Note:

- Uneven terrains and the tricky geographic locations made this region a safer hideout for the LWE activists.

#### Left Wing Extremism in India

- Left-wing extremists, popularly known as **Maoists worldwide** and as **Naxalites in India**.
- The term **Naxalism** derives its name from the **village Naxalbari of West Bengal**. It originated as a rebellion against local landlords who bashed a peasant over a land dispute.
  - The **rebellion was initiated in 1967**, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants **under the leadership of Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal**.
- The movement has spread across Eastern India in less developed areas of states such as **Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is considered that Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology.

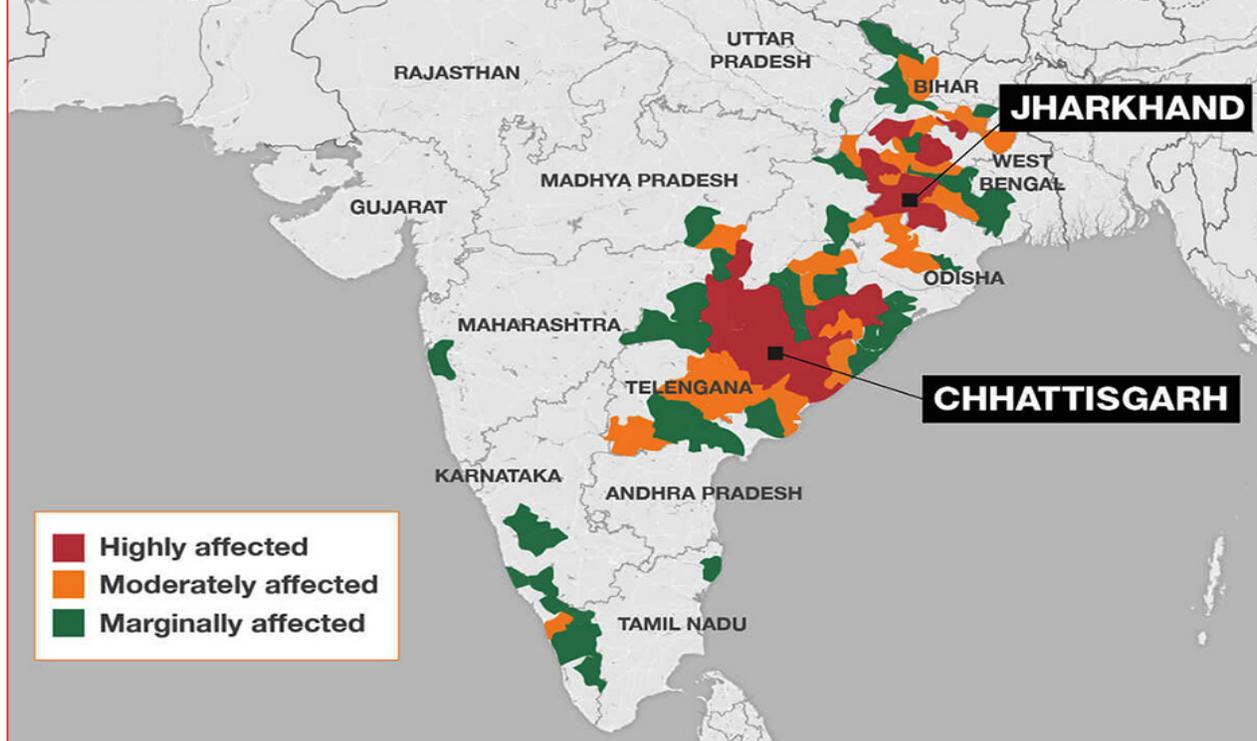
- **Maoism** is a form of communism **developed by Mao Tse Tung**. It is a doctrine to **capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances**.

#### The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- It is one of the premier **Central Armed Police Forces of India (under the Ministry of Home Affairs)** for internal security.
- **Originally** constituted as the **Crown Representative Police in 1939**, it is one of the **oldest Central paramilitary forces**. After Independence, the force was **renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force by an Act of Parliament on December 28, 1949**.
- Its Mission is to enable the government to **maintain Rule of Law, Public Order and Internal Security effectively and efficiently**, to **Preserve National Integrity and Promote Social Harmony and Development by upholding supremacy of the Constitution**.

## A map of India's Maoist conflict

A crackdown on Maoist rebels has led to a rise in the number of casualties in the country's tribal areas. Here are the regions that are most affected.



Note:



