



drishti

STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

CHHATTISGARH

**FEBRUARY
2024**

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

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: www.drishtias.com

Email: help@groupdrishti.in

Content

- Chhattisgarh Implements Pay Raise and Women Empowerment Scheme 3
- Maoist Tunnel Found in Chhattisgarh's Bastar 3
- Expansion of Central Schools in the State 3
- Coal Mines Expansion in Chhattisgarh..... 4
- Chhattisgarh Presented Budget in Assembly..... 5
- Chhattisgarh Inaugurates Country's Biggest Solar Energy Plant 5
- Chhattisgarh to Launch 'Niyad Nellanar' 6
- Chhattisgarh to Bring in Law to Stop 'Illegal Conversions' 6
- PM SHRI Scheme Launched in Chhattisgarh..... 7
- Chhattisgarh to Revive Aluminium Park Project in Korba 8
- PM Lays Foundation Stone for Redevelopment of Train Stations..... 8

Chhattisgarh Implements Pay Raise and Women Empowerment Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government decided to increase the remuneration of tendu patta collectors from Rs 4000 per standard bag to Rs 5500 and implement the Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

Key Points

- The Cabinet has approved the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, under which **married women will receive financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month, totaling Rs 12,000 annually**, directly credited to their bank accounts through **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)**.
 - The **objective of this scheme** is to **eliminate gender discrimination, inequality, and lack of awareness among women in the state**, and to improve their health and nutrition levels.
 - The benefits will be available to **married women who are residents of Chhattisgarh and are aged 21 or above as of 1st January, 2024**. Widowed, divorced, and abandoned women are also eligible for the scheme.
- To ensure **the social security of tendu patta collectors**, a new scheme will be implemented, with **75% of the financial assistance provided by the government and the remaining 25% by the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce (Trading and Development) Co-operative Federation**.
- The Cabinet has also decided to implement the **Bharat (BH) series vehicle registration** in the state of Chhattisgarh.
 - Under the BH series implemented by the Government of India, **two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles will have to pay tax for two years at one go**.
- The draft of the **Chhattisgarh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill-2024** was also approved.

Maoist Tunnel Found in Chhattisgarh's Bastar

Why in News?

Recently, troops returning from an operation in **Maoist-hit Bijapur** discovered a **130 ft-long Viet Cong-style tunnel dug by the insurgents**.

Key Points

- It's the **first such discovery in Bastar** since the insurgency began nearly two decades ago and **adds a layer of complexity to counter-insurgency operations**.
- District Reserve Guard jawans **found the tunnel near Tadopot village** on the **banks of Indravati**, around 330 km south of Raipur.
- The discovery of such a tunnel indicates that Maoists are changing tactics to tackle the intensification of **security operations and aerial surveillance**.

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**.

Expansion of Central Schools in the State

Why in News?

During a meeting with the **Union cabinet minister for education, skill development and entrepreneurship**, **Chhattisgarh School Education Minister** has urged to increase **the centre's contribution** to various **government-sponsored schemes** related to the school education department.

Key Points

- Out of **Chhattisgarh's 33 districts**, **Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas**, operated by the centre, have been **approved in only 16 districts**.

Note:

- The centre and the state share the financial burden of union government-run schemes such as **Samagra Shiksha, PM SHRI Yojana and Mid-Day Meal**, with a split of **40% and 60%** respectively,
 - State requested an **increase in the centre's contribution** to these programmes.
- The state specifically requested the centre to **allocate Rs 2,606 lakh for the Laika Sanwar Yojana under the Samagra Shiksha scheme**, which covers education from preschool to grade 12 and Rs 110.86 lakh under the **Right to Education Act**.
- The state urged the centre to reopen the portal of **Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM USHA)** for Chhattisgarh, aimed at providing **funding to eligible state higher educational institutions**.
- The **need for increased funding in central government schemes** for higher education and the implementation of provisions outlined in **the National Education Policy 2020** is also stressed.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- It is an **integrated scheme for school education** covering the entire gamut from pre-school to class XII. It was **launched in 2018**.
- It aims to deliver **inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education**.
- It **subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE)**.

PM-SHRI Yojana

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme for the **upgradation and development of more than 14500 Schools** across the country.
- It aims at strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.

The Midday Meal Scheme

- It comes under the **Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy**.
- It was **launched in the year 1995** as a centrally sponsored scheme. The scheme has been renamed as PM Poshan.
- It provides that every child within the **age group of six to fourteen years** studying in **classes I to VIII** who enrolls and attends the school, shall be provided **hot cooked meal having nutritional standards of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary (I- V class) and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary (VI-VIII class), free of charge every day** except on school holidays.

Coal Mines Expansion in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

The **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)** of the environment ministry has accorded an **"in-principle" approval for expansion and opening** of a number of mines in **Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Meghalaya** and exploratory drilling in **Assam's wildlife rich Doyang reserved forest**.

Key Points

- Three of the mines are in Chhattisgarh's **Korba district**. These are Gevra mine, Kusmunda mine, and Dipka Opencast coal mine.
- In Chhattisgarh, FAC recommended "in-principle" approval:
 - for the additional diversion of 94.293 hectares of forest for expansion of **Gevra mine**.
 - to expansion of **Kusmunda mine** for diversion of an additional 43.942 ha of forest land.
 - Kusmunda opencast mine flows adjacent to a **Hasdeo tributary** which makes it a particularly **vulnerable area**.
 - to **South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL) Dipka Opencast coal mine** for diversion of additional 0.093 ha of forest land in Korba's Katghora forest.
- FAC has recommended that **Chhattisgarh government ensure treatment of the catchment area** and directed SECL to follow the rules imposed by the Water resource department for conservation of the Hasdeo river.

Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)

- It is a **statutory body** which was **constituted by the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980**.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- It considers questions on the diversion of forest land for non-forest uses such as mining, industrial projects, townships and advises the government on the issue of granting forest clearances. However, its **role is advisory**.

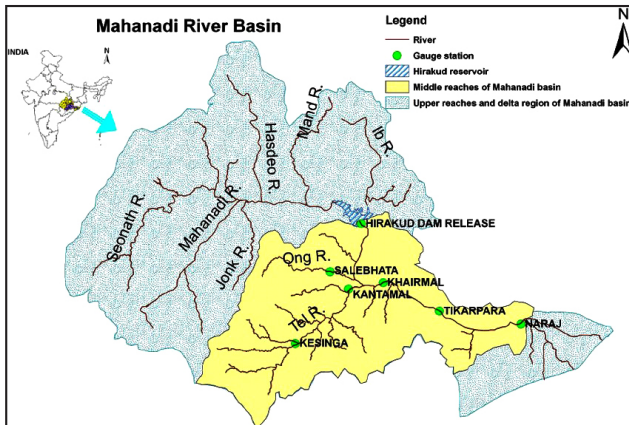
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)

- SECL is the **highest coal producing company of India**. The coal mines of SECL are spread across two states namely Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
- It operates **65 coal mines**, of which **39 coal mines lie in Chhattisgarh State**, while the rest **26 coal mines are situated in Madhya Pradesh**. Out of these 65 coal mines, 46 mines are worked by underground method of mining while rest 19 mines are Opencast mines.

Note:

Hasdeo River

- The Hasdeo river is a **tributary of the Mahanadi river** which originates in Chhattisgarh and flows through Odisha into the Bay of Bengal.
- The Hasdeo forests are also the catchment area for the **Hasdeo Bango Dam** built across the Hasdeo river which irrigates six lakh acres of land, crucial to a State with paddy as its main crop.
- Besides, the forests are ecologically sensitive due to the **rich biodiversity** they offer and due to the presence of a **large migratory corridor for elephants**.



Chhattisgarh Presented Budget in Assembly

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh Finance Minister OP Choudhary presented a budget of Rs 1,47,446 crore for 2024-25 in the state Assembly.

Key Points

- The budget is **focused on the economic development of GYAN- Gareeb (poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers) and Naari (woman)**, stimulating infrastructure growth by increasing capital expenditure, as well as employment and livelihood promotion for youth.
- A document titled '**Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @2047**' will be dedicated to the people on November 1, 2024 with the **aim to transform the state from a developing to a developed one**.
 - The first mid-term goal for achieving the vision under it shall be doubling the **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** in the next five years from Rs 5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2028.

Chhattisgarh Inaugurates Country's Biggest Solar Energy Plant

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh has inaugurated the **country's biggest solar energy plant** with a battery energy storage system located near the Dhaba village in the **Rajnandgaon district**.

- It is established by the **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** and **Chhattisgarh Power Distribution Company** provides a **capacity of 100 megawatts**.

Key Points

- This solar plant ensures that there will be **electricity even during the night** generating over **five lakh units per day**.
 - This will **reduce 4.5 lakh metric tons of carbon emission** and **boost green energy**.
- The on-grid solar power plant set-up by the **Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA)** is a significant step towards sustainable energy.
- The plant was established on 1st February, 2024. It features a **100-megawatt solar plant** equipped with **2,39,000 bifacial solar panels** which is producing electricity from both the sides.
- The plant is expected to **generate power for the next seven years using solar energy**.
- The decision to establish the **first solar park in the Bairam hill area** of the Rajnandgaon district was taken by the Chhattisgarh government to maximize the use of these hilly terrains for solar power.
 - The **project began in 2016**, with the first phase covering five villages and 181.206 hectares and the second phase including four villages and 196-217 hectares.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)

- It was set up in 2011 to facilitate the **implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM)** and to achieve the targets set forth by it.
- SECI was initially incorporated as a **section 25 company (Not-for-profit)** under the **Companies Act, 1956**. In the year 2015, it was converted into a Section-3 company.

Note:

- SECI is a Schedule- A Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU). It is the **only CPSU dedicated to the development of the Renewable Energy (RE) sector in India** and its scope of activities covers all RE sources.

Chhattisgarh to Launch 'Niyad Nellanar'

Why in News?

According to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, the state government is soon going to launch the **'Niyad Nellanar' scheme** to ensure **basic amenities and benefits of welfare projects** reach **Naxal-affected villages**.

- These villages will receive amenities similar to those offered by the **Center's PM-JANMAN program**, which is designed to promote the socio-economic welfare of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.

Key Points

- Niyad Nellanar, meaning **"aapka achha gaon" or "your good village"** is the local Dandami dialect (spoken in south Bastar).
- Under this scheme, **amenities and benefits** will be **provided in villages located within 5 kilometers** of security camps in Bastar region.
 - 14 new security camps have been set up in Bastar. These camps will also help to facilitate the implementation of the new scheme. Around 25 basic amenities will be provided in such villages under Niyad Nellanar.
- **Families in these villages will receive** free gas cylinders under the **Ujjwala scheme**, four free rice, gram-salt, jaggery, and sugar, ration cards, irrigation pumps, free electricity, community halls, Anganwadi, and certificates of forest rights.
- In addition to all-weather roads, a sub health center, elementary school, sports field, bank, ATM, mobile tower, helipad, etc., will be constructed.

Ujjwala Scheme

- **About:**
 - It is the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) or Ujjwala 2.0 Scheme, launched in 2021.

Objectives:

- Empowering women and protecting their health.
- Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
- Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.

Chhattisgarh to Bring in Law to Stop 'Illegal Conversions'

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government plans to bring in legislation to stop **"illegal religious conversion"** in the state.

Key Points

- In order to prevent these activities, an anti-conversion bill, titled **'Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill'**, will be introduced.
- According to CM Vishnu Deo Sai, **Christian missionaries** were carrying out conversion under the garb of healthcare and education.
- The government declared that it will put an end to conversion by force or allurement.

Freedom of Religion

- Every citizen is entitled with this right and liberty to preach, practice and propagate the religion of his choice.
 - An opportunity is also provided by this right to spread it among everyone without any fear of government intervention.
 - But also, it is expected by the state to practice it amicably within the jurisdiction of the country.
- Constitutional Provisions Related to Freedom of Religion:
 - **Article 25:** It imparts freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
 - **Article 26:** It gives freedom to manage religious affairs.
 - **Article 27:** It sets freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.
 - **Article 28:** It gives freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

Note:

Major Judicial Pronouncements on Freedom of Religion

- **Bijoe Emmanuel and Ors. v. State of Kerala (1986):**
 - In this case, three children of Jehovah's Witnesses sect were suspended from the school as they refused to sing the national anthem claiming that it is against the tenets of their faith. The court held that expulsion is violative of fundamental rights and the right to freedom of religion.
- **Acharya Jagdishwaranand v. Commissioner of Police, Calcutta (1983):**
 - The Court held that Ananda Marga is not a separate religion but a religious denomination. And the performance of Tandava on public streets is not an essential practice of Ananda Marga.
- **M. Ismail Faruqui v. Union of India (1994):**
 - The apex court held that the mosque is not an essential practice of Islam, and a Muslim can offer namaz (prayer) anywhere even in the open.
- **Raja Birakishore v. State of Orissa (1964):**
- The validity of the Jagannath Temple Act, 1954 was challenged as it enacted provisions to manage the affairs of Puri temple on the grounds that it is violating Article 26. The court held that the Act only regulated the secular aspect of seva puja, therefore, it is not violative of Article 26.

PM SHRI Scheme Launched in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the **PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) scheme** at the **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay auditorium** in Raipur.

Key Points

- In the first phase of the **PM SHRI scheme, 211 schools (193 elementary level and 18 secondary ones)** will be upgraded in Chhattisgarh on a **'hub and spoke' model** by spending Rs 2 crore on each.
- Under the model, the **mentor institution, called the 'hub' will be centralized** and have the responsibility of **guiding the mentee institution** through the secondary branches the **'spoke' via services provided to the mentee for self-improvement.**

- According to the CM, the Centre plan's under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, that from 2025-26 academic session, students will get an **opportunity to appear for 10th and 12th class board exams twice.**
 - According to the **New Curriculum Framework (NCF)** announced by the Ministry of Education in August 2023, board examinations will be held at least twice a year to ensure that students have enough time and opportunity to perform well. They will also get the option to retain the best score.

PM SHRI

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for upgradation and development of more than 14500 Schools across the country.
- It aims at **strengthening the selected existing schools** from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- The aim of these schools will not only be qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development, **but also creating holistic and well-rounded individuals** equipped with key 21st century skills.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- The NEP 2020 aims at making **"India a global knowledge superpower"**. It is only the 3rd major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence.
 - The two earlier education policies were brought in **1968 and 1986.**
- **Salient Features:**
 - Ensuring **Universal Access at All Levels of schooling** from pre-primary school to **Grade 12.**
 - Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between **3-6 years.**
 - New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure **(5+3+3+4)** corresponds to the age groups of **3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.**
 - It covers four stages of schooling: Foundational Stage (5 years), Preparatory Stage (3 years), Middle Stage (3 years), and Secondary Stage (4 years).
 - **No hard separations between arts and sciences,** between curricular and extracurricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;

Note:



- Emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages
- Setting up of a new **National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)**.
- A separate **Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones** for disadvantaged regions and groups.

Chhattisgarh to Revive Aluminium Park Project in Korba

Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has decided to **revive** an **aluminum park** proposal originally mooted in 2021 to **promote small-scale industries in Korba**.

Key Points

- The State government had entered an agreement with **Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO)**, a subsidiary of **Vedanta Limited** to supply **raw aluminum** to small-scale industries at a subsidised rate.
- The district administration identifies **Rukhbahari village** land for the project near BALCO township and even held a gram sabha to take the consent of villagers for the project.
- An initial provision of **Rs 5 crore** has been made in **the budget proposal** of the industry department for the financial year 2024-25 to meet the demand of Aluminum Park in Korba district.

Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO)

- BALCO was incorporated in **1965** as the **first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** in India and since then it has been closely associated with the Indian Industrial Growth, in a pivotal role.
- In **2001**, Government of India **disinvested 51% shares of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)** to Sterlite Industries Limited a subsidiary of **Vedanta Limited**.
- BALCO is playing a crucial role in introducing **Aluminium as a potential alternative to other metals** like Steel in construction, and Copper in the power transmission industry.

- Major operations of BALCO are in the **town of Korba (Chhattisgarh)**, whereas its mines supplying high grade Bauxite are situated at Kawardha and Mainpat.

PM Lays Foundation Stone for Redevelopment of Train Stations

Why in News?

Under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several railway projects, including the redevelopment of 21 stations and 83 road over/under bridges in Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- According to the **South East Central Railway (SECR)**, the PM inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of a total of 2,000 railway infrastructure projects worth Rs 41,000 crore across the country via video conferencing.
- Of these stations, **21 fall in Chhattisgarh-** Korba, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon, Saron, Bhatapara, Dongargarh, Bhilai, Hathbandh, Bilha, Baikunthpur Road, Ambikapur, Uslapur, Pendra Road, Janjgir Naila, Champa, Baradwar, Dalli Rajhara, Bhanupratappur, Nipania, Mandir Hasaud and Bhilai.
 - Belpahar and Brajrannagar in **Odisha**, Shahdol, Umaria, Anuppur, Bijuri, Mandla Fort, Balaghat, Nainpur, Chhindwara and Seoni in **Madhya Pradesh** and Itwari, Kamptee, Amgaon, Bhandara Road and Tumsar Road in **Maharashtra**.

Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme

- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme aims to **redevelop 1309 stations nationwide**.
- The redevelopment will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and signage for the guidance of passengers.
- The Scheme was launched in **February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways**.

South East Central Railway (SECR)

- The zone came into existence on **1 April 2003**, following the bifurcation of the South Eastern Railway.
- It is **headquartered in Bilaspur**, Chhattisgarh, and comprises three divisions: Bilaspur, Raipur, and Nagpur.

Note:

Key Points**Details**

Summary