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## CHHATTISGARH

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## New Governor of Chhattisgarh

### Why in News?

Recently, **President Droupadi Murmu** appointed new **Governors** for ten states, including Chhattisgarh.

- **Ramen Deka**, former Lok Sabha member from Assam has been appointed as the new Governor of Chhattisgarh.

### Key Points

- He succeeds incumbent governor **Bishwabhusan Harichandan**, who was appointed in February 2023.
- **Governor:**
  - The appointment and powers of government can be derived from **Part VI of the Indian constitution**.
  - **Article 153** says that **there shall be a Governor for each State**. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
  - The governor acts in 'Dual Capacity' as the **Constitutional head of the state and as the representative**.
  - He is **part of the federal system of Indian polity** and acts as a **bridge between union and state governments**.
  - **Article 157 and Article 158** of the Constitution of India specify **eligibility requirements** for the post of governor.

## Deforestation for Mining in Chhattisgarh

### Why in News?

According to the Centre **approximately 273,000 additional trees are expected to be cut down for mining activities in the Hasdeo Arand forests**, as the **wildlife and biodiversity institutions have not recommended a total prohibition** on mining in the area.

### Key Points

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** provided information on two of the most contentious environmental issues in the country. The diversion of forests from **Hasdeo Arand in Chhattisgarh** and the **Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island in Andaman & Nicobar Islands** project of **Niti Aayog**.

- The Government of Chhattisgarh commissioned the **Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education, Dehradun**, in collaboration with the **Wildlife Institute of India** to carry out a **Biodiversity Assessment Study of the entire Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields region**.
  - The study was conducted, and the report was subsequently submitted to the **ministry of environment, forest & climate change**.
  - According to the report, **94,460 trees have been felled in Parsa East Kete Basen Mine**, while over **5.3 million trees were planted as compensatory afforestation, mine reclamation and translocation**.
  - As informed by the Chhattisgarh government, **273,757 trees are required to be felled in the coming years for mining in Hasdeo Arand**.
- Hasdeo Arand is one of the **largest contiguous stretches of very dense forest** in central India spanning 170,000 hectares and has **23 coal blocks**.
  - In 2009, the **environment ministry categorised Hasdeo Arand to be a "No-Go" zone for mining** because of its rich forest cover but **allowed it again because there was no policy finalised**.

### 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, Sujapur 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:



## Naxalites Surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

### Why in News?

Recently, Five **Naxalites**, collectively carrying a **cash reward of Rs 19 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Sukma district** of Chhattisgarh.

### Key Points

- They surrendered themselves to senior police officials here, citing that they were disillusioned with the atrocities committed by senior Naxalites and the **inhuman and hollow Maoist ideology**.
- According to the state government's **Naxal elimination policy and welfare schemes**, all the **surrendered Naxalites were provided an assistance of Rs 25,000 each and will be further rehabilitated**.

### Government Initiatives to Control Naxalites

- **SAMADHAN doctrine** is the one-stop solution for the Naxalites problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from **short-term policy** to long-term policy formulated at different levels. **SAMADHAN stands for:**
  - **S**- Smart Leadership
  - **A**- Aggressive Strategy
  - **M**- Motivation and Training
  - **A**- Actionable Intelligence
  - **D**- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas)
  - **H**- Harnessing Technology
  - **A**- Action plan for each Theatre
  - **N**- No access to Financing
- **National Policy and Action Plan in 2015:** It consists of a **multi-pronged approach** comprising **security measures, development initiatives and ensuring rights & entitlements** of local communities.
  - The **MHA** is supporting the **State Governments** extensively by way of deployment of **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) Battalions**, provision of **helicopters and UAVs** and sanction of **India Reserve Battalions (IRBs)/ Special India Reserve Battalions (SIRBs)** etc.
  - Funds are provided under **Modernization of Police Force (MPF)**, **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme** and **Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)** for modernization and training of State Police.

- Funds for development are also provided to most **LWE affected districts** under the **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** scheme.
- **Aspirational Districts Programme: Aspirational Districts Programme** launched in **2018**, aims to rapidly transform the districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.
- **Greyhounds: Greyhounds** was raised in **1989** as an elite anti-naxal force.
- **Operation Green Hunt: Operation Green Hunt** was started in **2009-10** and massive deployment of security forces was done in the **naxal-affected areas**.
- **Bastariya Battalion:** In Chhattisgarh, the CRPF raised a **Bastariya Battalion** the recruits for which were taken from the **local population**, who knew the **language and terrain**, and could **generate intelligence**.
  - This unit now has **400 recruits** and regularly **conducts operations in Chhattisgarh**.

## Chhattisgarh Government and Operation Prahar

### Why in News?

Since the **first tribal Chief Minister** took office in Chhattisgarh, there has been a **fivefold increase** in the killings, arrests, and surrenders of Naxalites.

- This has been accompanied by serious allegations of **arbitrary state power** and **staged encounters** as part of "Operation Prahar".

### Key Points

- **Operation Prahar:** This is an ongoing **counter-insurgency operation** targeting **Maoists** in Chhattisgarh.
- **Objective and Strategy:** The main goal of **Operation Prahar** is to target and neutralize key **Maoist leaders** who are believed to be brainwashing and recruiting local youth.
  - The operation has been intensified recently and will continue to expand across Chhattisgarh.
- **Impact on Local Population:** While the operation targets Maoist insurgents, there have been concerns about its impact on local Adivasi communities, with reports of non-Maoist Adivasis being affected during the operations.

Note:

## Viksit Bharat Budget Blueprint

### Why in News?

Chhattisgarh chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that a clear glimpse of 'Amritkal Vision - 2047' is visible in the Union Budget, 2024.

### Key Points:

- **Chhattisgarh's Provision:** The budget allocates **Rs.1.52 lakh crore** for agriculture, promising a new revolution in employment and prosperity for farmers.
- **Mudra Loan and Internships:** The plan includes increasing **Mudra loans from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh** and providing internships to **5 crore** youth in top companies.
- **Women and Girls:** **Rs. 3 lakh crore** is allocated for schemes benefiting women and girls, promoting **economic independence** and **social security**.
- This budget aims to make **Chhattisgarh 'Aatmnirbhar' and prosperous**, aligning with the vision of a developed India.

## Mining in Kete Extension Coal Block

### Why in News?

The **Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB)** has issued a circular to organize a public consultation for the **Parsa East-Kente Basan (PEKB)**, Parsa and Kete Extension coal block projects in the **Hasdeo Arand region**.

### Key Points

- While some villagers support the project, citing potential development benefits, others have raised concerns.
  - The **Lemru elephant reserve**, established in 2021, has a mining project area within a 10-kilometre radius of the reserve. With mining, the region will witness increased **human-elephant conflict**.
- According to the sources, the **public hearing will proceed on 2nd August 2024**, as it is a **mandatory process for securing environmental clearance**.

#### Lemru Elephant Reserve

- The reserve is located in the **Korba district of Chhattisgarh**.

- The reserve is aiming at reducing **human-animal conflict** and destruction of property in addition to providing a permanent habitat to the elephants.
- Earlier, the state government notified the reserve (Conservation Reserve) in October 2020 under **Section 36A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA)**.
  - Section 36A has a special provision that gives the Union government a say in the process of notification in case the land to be notified as **conservation reserve** has areas belonging to the Centre.
  - Elephant reserves are not recognised under the WLPA.

## Chhattisgarh's Initiatives to Combat Malaria

### Why in News?

Recently, **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister has directed the health department to take **proactive measures for preventing seasonal diseases** during the **monsoon season**.

- As a result, the number of **malaria cases** across the state, including Bastar, has **significantly reduced**.

### Key Points

- Preventing diseases like malaria in the **dense forests and inaccessible areas of Bastar Division** has always been a **major challenge**.
- Under the **malaria eradication campaign**, The malaria positivity rate decreased from 4.60% to 0.51% during nine phases of the malaria eradication campaign from 2020 to 2023.
  - The tenth phase ended on 5th July, 2024, and **16.97 lakh insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed in 22 districts** as part of the campaign.
- The health department's malaria case report for the first half of 2024 revealed the following number of cases: 1,660 in Bastar, 4,441 in Bijapur, 1,640 in Dantewada, 259 in Kanker, 701 in Kondagaon, 1,509 in Narayanpur, and 1,144 in Sukma.
- Consequently, the health department has enhanced case monitoring and strengthened the treatment facilities in all the districts.

Note:

### Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by **plasmodium parasites**.
  - There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – **P. falciparum and P. vivax** – pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria is predominantly found in **the tropical and subtropical areas** of Africa, South America as well as Asia.
- Malaria is spread by the bite of an **infected female Anopheles mosquito**.
  - The **mosquito becomes infected** after biting an infected person. The malaria parasites then enter the bloodstream of the next person the mosquito bites. The parasites travel to the liver, mature, and then infect **red blood cells**.
- Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Notably, **malaria is both preventable and curable**.

## Chhattisgarh's First Digital Planetarium

### Why in News?

According to the sources, **Chhattisgarh's first digital planetarium** being established in the insurgency-affected **Dantewada district**, with support from the Government of India.

### Key Points

- The initiative has been taken by the **district administration of Dantewada** with the help of the **Ministry of Culture and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)**.
  - The plan to establish a digital planetarium in Karli, Dantewada, will soon begin under the **Ministry of Culture's Science and Culture Promotion Scheme, 2021**.
  - The district administration requested support for the planetarium, and the proposal for full **financial assistance under Category III (population less than 5 lakh) has been approved**.

- The initiative encompasses various elements such as **educational advancement, scientific consciousness, cultural and societal progress**, as well as engaging **audiovisual experiments**.
- A **budget of Rs 7.95 crore has been approved** for the construction of the planetarium.
  - Nestled amidst dense forests, this digital planetarium will be a **major tourism initiative**.
  - It will play a vital role in shaping the future of local children, **inspiring future generations to pursue careers in space science**.

### National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)

- **In 1978, the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) was established** as a **central coordinating agency** for national science museums.
- It is an autonomous Science & Technology institution **under the Ministry of Culture jointly with the Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.
- NCSM is the **world's largest network of science centres** and museums that functions under a single administrative umbrella.

## Maoist Insurgency on Decline

### Why in News?

In 2024, India has observed **162 Maoist-related fatalities**, with **Chhattisgarh accounting for 141 of these deaths**.

- This marks one of the **highest casualty figures for extremists** in the predominantly tribal state since the establishment of the **Communist Party of India (Maoist) (CPI-M)** in 2004.

### Key Points

- **"Operation Green Hunt,"** started in 2009 by involving the **Central Reserve Police Force's CoBRA force** and Chhattisgarh police **"search and comb" operations** led to decline in Maoist activities in India.
- While Maoist casualties have increased, the deaths of security force personnel have come down.
  - In **2024, 14 security force personnel died** in the insurgency, compared to the highest of **198 in 2007**.
  - The number of civilian deaths has also been at its **lowest since 2014**, with 23 people killed in Maoist attacks.

Note:

- Bijapur and neighboring Sukma have 20 **Border Security Force (BSF)** camps due to intense operations.
- In Kanker, a joint BSF and District Reserve Guard operation killed 29 Maoists, including a top commander. In Dantewada, declared 'Maoist-free' in 2021, only 15 Maoists were killed in 2024.

### The Greyhounds

- It is an **elite anti-Maoist force raised in 1989 by IPS officer K.S. Vyas** to combat the growing Maoist threat in Andhra Pradesh.
- The members are **well-trained in guerilla and jungle warfare.**

### Operation Green Hunt

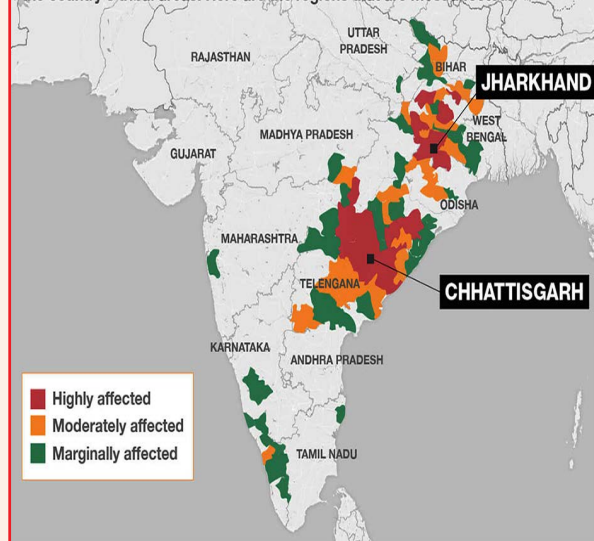
- **Operation Green Hunt** was a **military operation by paramilitary forces** and the states forces against the Naxalites.
- The **operation began in November 2009 along 5 states** in the "Red Corridor."

### Red Corridor

- The **Red Corridor** is the region in the central, eastern and southern parts of India that experience severe **Naxalism–Maoist insurgency.**
- It includes the states of **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.**

## 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.



## Special Grants for Chhattisgarh from Finance Commission

### Why in News?

Recently, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai requested **special central grants highlighting the state's large tribal population, challenging geographical conditions, and Naxal activities in certain areas.**

- This appeal was made during a meeting with a delegation from the **16th Finance Commission.**

### Key Points

- The CM informed the commission about **rapid development** works being carried out in **Naxal-affected areas** and effective **measures being taken to curb Maoist activities.**
  - Under the '**Niyad Nellanar Yojana**' basic facilities such as education, health, roads, electricity, and water are being provided in these regions.
  - However, **challenging geographical conditions** in these areas **lead to additional expenditure** on infrastructure development.
- The additional expenses incurred to **address concerns on environmental damage and health impacts caused by mining activities** in the mineral-rich state.
  - Due to the **GST (Goods and Services Tax)** as a **consumption-based destination tax system**, the **actual benefits of mining activities are accruing to states** where mineral value addition and consumption occur **rather than to Chhattisgarh.**

### Niyad Nellanar Yojana

- Niyad Nellanar, meaning "**aapka achcha 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.

### Finance Commission

- The Finance Commission in India is a constitutional body established under **Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.**

Note:

- Its primary function is to **recommend the distribution of financial resources** between the central government and the state governments.
- The **Fifteenth Finance Commission** was constituted on **27th November, 2017**. It made recommendations covering the period of six years commencing on **1st April, 2020** through its Interim and Final Reports.
  - The recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission are valid up to the financial year **2025-26**.

## Chhattisgarh Development Schemes Reviewed

### Why in News?

Recently, The **Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs**, Manohar Lal **reviewed** ongoing schemes and proposals in the **power and urban development sector** for Chhattisgarh in Raipur.

### Key Points

- At the meeting, the Union Minister emphasized that **improved coordination between the state and central governments** will accelerate Chhattisgarh's development.
- The schemes that were reviewed are **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PM SVANidhi, AMRUT Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, PM e-Bus Sewa, Smart City Mission, and National Urban Development Mission under Housing and Urban Affairs**.

#### PM-SVANidhi

- It was **launched on 1st June, 2020**.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** i.e., **fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** with the following objectives:
  - To facilitate working capital loan;
  - To incentivize regular repayment;
  - To reward digital transactions
- Introduction of 3rd term loan of **up to Rs 50,000 in addition to 1st & 2nd loans of Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000** respectively.
- The loans would be without collateral.

#### AMRUT Scheme

- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** was launched on 25th

June 2015 in 500 selected cities across the country, covering around **60% of the urban population**.

- The mission targets enhancing **basic infrastructure** and implementing urban reforms **for selected cities**, encompassing **water supply, sewerage, drainage, green spaces, non-motorised transport, and capacity building**.

#### Smart Cities Mission (SCM)

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, launched in June 2015 to transform **100 cities** to provide the necessary **core infrastructure** and clean and **sustainable environment** to enable a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of **"Smart Solutions"**.
- It aimed to improve the quality of life for citizens through **sustainable and inclusive development**.

## Department of Good Governance and Convergence

### Why in News?

Recently, The Chhattisgarh government decided to form a separate **"Good Governance and Convergence Department"** for the effective implementation of state government welfare policies, good governance, and addressing public issues.

### Key Points

- In a cabinet meeting it was decided that the department will now incorporate **e-Review, e-Public Service Guarantee, and Digital Secretariat**, which are currently part of the General Administration department.
- It has also approved the amendment of **Chhattisgarh Government Work (Allocation) Rules** and implementation of the **National Education Policy 2020**.
- Under **Mukhyamantri Aawas Yojana**, the registration date to provide housing to homeless, economically weaker, and lower-class families in Naya Raipur is also extended.

#### National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- **About:**
  - 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.

Note:





- 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;
- 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 Promote Local Languages in Schools

### Why in News?

Recently, The Chhattisgarh government has decided to **include local language and dialects in the primary education curriculum** in order to ensure inclusive and quality education.

### Key Points

- It is a big decision towards implementing **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** in tribal areas.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had directed the education department to **develop and distribute bilingual books in 18 local languages and dialects**, with focus on providing high-quality educational resources.
  - A special emphasis has also been placed on **vocational education**, with plans to **enhance skill development programmes in these areas**.

- **Local dialects include the Sadi language**, which could be introduced for **primary education in tribal-predominated Jashpur district**.

- The **three-language formula in NEP 2020** mandates that **every student in India should learn three languages** - two of which must be native Indian languages, including one regional language, and the third being English.
  - It **aims to strengthen national integration** by exposing students to different cultures and languages while fostering respect for linguistic diversity.
- **Shala Praveshotsav is celebrated in Raipur at the beginning of the new academic session** to encourage children to enroll in schools.
  - The state-level **Shala Praveshotsav 2024** was **inaugurated in Bagiya village of Jashpur**, a remote tribal district of Chhattisgarh.

### National Education Policy 2020

- The **National Education Policy 2020** seeks to tackle the evolving development needs of India.
- It calls for a **comprehensive overhaul of the education system**, including its **regulations and management**, to establish a modern system that aligns with 21st-century educational goals, including **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)**, while respecting **India's cultural heritage and values**.
- It replaces the thirty-four year old **National Policy on Education, 1986**, modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92).

## Single Window System 2.0

### Why in News?

Recently, **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the second edition of the **'Single Window System' (SWS)** to facilitate speedy approvals of various clearances required for setting up industries.

### Key Points

- The government will prioritize **quick clearances and approvals to facilitate investors and new industrialists**. **Good governance and a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption** are top priorities.
  - The online facility helps **simplify the process by reducing administrative physical interference** in the grant of clearances and approvals.

Note:

- **Single Window System (SWS) 2.0** offers over **100 facilities from 16 departments** on its portal.
  - The **applicant only needs to log in once** and will not need to reapply. If any department needs information during the process, the applicant can find out by logging in.
  - No need to contact any office offline. Payment can be made through **e-challan**. Departmental officers have been given IDs and passwords to address applications.

## State-wise Talks by Union Minister of Agriculture

### Why in News?

Recently, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan started **consultations with states on the farm sector**, holding meetings with agriculture ministers of two states- **Chhattisgarh and Assam**.

### Key Points

- During the discussion various **topics related to agriculture and farmers' welfare were discussed**, including the **promotion of pulses, oilseeds, horticulture, etc.**
- The **Centre will continue to provide all possible assistance to Chhattisgarh**.
- There will be adequate availability of inputs like **fertilizers, seeds in the Kharif season**.

#### Kharif Season

- Crops are **sown from June to July** and **Harvesting is done in between September- October**.
- **Crops are:** Rice, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut, soyabean etc.
- **States are:** Assam, West Bengal, Coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

## Free Coaching for EWS Students

### Why in News?

Recently, Labor Minister Lakhan Lal Devangan announced the launch of the **Mukhyamantri Nirman Shramikon Ke Bachon Hetu Nihshulk Coaching Sahaayata**

**Yojana**, targeting **registered beneficiaries of the Chhattisgarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board**.

- It will provide for **free-of-cost coachings for the children from economically weaker sections in 10 districts** across the state.

### Key Points

- Under this scheme, **registered workers and their children can avail free coaching** for a period of **4 to 10 months**, as per their educational qualifications.
  - The coaching covers various exams including the **Public Service Commission (PSC), Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board, Staff Selection Commission, and Banking, Railways, and Police recruitment**.
- Children of registered workers (who have passed away before 9th June, 2020) are eligible for this scheme as per previous notifications.
  - While those who are associated with **Nirman Shramik Mrtyu Evam Divyaang Sahaayata Yojana** can also apply to benefit from this initiative.
- The **coaching will be made available in hybrid mode**, which will be easier for the students who wish to have the online class if they live at a distant or offline class if they wish to have the traditional face-to-face learning.
- The ten districts include, Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Dhamtari, Rajanandgaon, Korba, Raigarh, Janjgir-Champa, Mahasamund.

#### Nirman Shramik Mrtyu Evam Divyaang Sahaayata Yojana

- It was **started in 2020 by the Chhattisgarh State Government**. With this scheme, **families will be able to get the financial benefits after the death or disability of the construction worker**.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Construction workers between **18 to 60 years of age will be eligible**.
  - The construction worker should be registered as a beneficiary under **Section 12 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Service Conditions) Act, 1996**.
- **Benefits:**
  - **On Normal Death-** ₹ 1,00,000
  - **Death on work location-** ₹ 5,00,000
  - **Permanent disability on work location-** ₹ 2,50,000



Note:



