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CHHATTISGARH

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Content

- Lightning Killed Many 3
- Chhattisgarh Ranks 5th in Low Unemployment..... 4
- Mukhyamantri School Jatan Yojana 4
- Mahtari Vandan Scheme 5
- Lakapati Didi - Transforming Lives in Chhattisgarh 5
- Centre Approved 8 Lakh PMAY Houses..... 6
- 18 Langurs Shot Dead in Chhattisgarh..... 7



Lightning Killed Many

Why in News?

Recently, a devastating lightning strike in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon claimed the lives of several people, including children, during heavy rainfall.

Key Points

➤ Lightening in India:

- Lightning is a powerful and visible electrical phenomenon that takes place when there is a buildup of electrical charges within clouds and between clouds and the ground.
 - The discharge of this electrical energy results in a brilliant flash of light and a rapid expansion of air, creating the characteristic thunder that accompanies lightning.
 - Cloud-to-ground (CG) lightning is dangerous because it can electrocute people due to its high electric voltage and current.
- India ranks among the five countries worldwide with an early warning system for lightning.
 - The system provides forecasts ranging from five days to as close as three hours before the occurrence of lightning.

➤ Lightning Fatalities: Statistics and Trends

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Data:** In 2021, lightning accounted for 2,880 deaths, comprising 40% of all accidental deaths caused by "forces of nature."
 - The trend indicates an increase in lightning-related fatalities compared to other natural events.

➤ Geographical Distribution in India:

- Lightning frequency is highest in northeastern states and **West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Bihar**.
 - However, the number of lightning-related deaths is higher in central Indian states like **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha**.
- Bihar is one of the most vulnerable states to lightning strikes, with a significant number of deaths reported annually.

- In 2023, till July 6, Bihar recorded **107 deaths** due to lightning.

➤ Union Government's View About Lightning:

- The Union government opposes declaring lightning a **natural disaster**. The government believes that education and awareness can help prevent lightning-related deaths effectively.

Possible Factors Behind the Increasing Trend of Lightning Strikes

- **Climate Change:** **Global warming** and **climate change** could potentially influence atmospheric conditions, leading to an increase in thunderstorms and lightning activity.
 - As the planet's temperature rises, there may be changes in the distribution of moisture, instability, and convective processes that could favor more frequent lightning occurrences.
 - Kalbaisakhi is a localised thunderstorm occurrence that is accompanied by lightning, typically observed during the pre-monsoon season in the Indian subcontinent.
- **Urbanization:** The expansion of urban areas can create what is known as the "**urban heat island effect**."
 - Cities tend to be warmer than surrounding rural areas due to increased human activity, energy consumption, and impervious surfaces.
 - These localized heat islands may lead to the formation of more thunderstorms and, consequently, an increase in lightning strikes.
- **Land Use Changes:** **Deforestation**, changes in agricultural practices, and alterations of natural landscapes may disrupt local atmospheric conditions.
 - Such changes might contribute to the development of thunderstorms and, consequently, more lightning.
- **Pollution and Aerosols:** Air pollution, including aerosols and particulate matter, can affect cloud formation and electrical activity within storms.
 - **Anthropogenic emissions** might influence the frequency and intensity of thunderstorms, potentially leading to more lightning strikes.

Note:



Chhattisgarh Ranks 5th in Low Unemployment

Why in News?

Recently, Chhattisgarh has been recognized for achieving a **low unemployment rate, ranking fifth** among Indian states according to a recent central government survey.

Key Points

- **Survey Details:**
 - The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** conducted its **seventh annual report** through the **Periodic Labour Force Survey** from **July 2023 to June 2024**.
 - The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed individuals among the labor force.
- **Government's Role:**
 - Chhattisgarh Chief Minister attributed the low unemployment rate to the government's efforts in **generating employment**.
 - Initiatives have been implemented to create jobs and **self-employment opportunities**, particularly in **rural and tribal areas**.
- **Investment in Skill Development:**
 - The state government plans to establish **160 industrial training institutes (ITI)** aimed at providing **employment-oriented skills** to the youth.
 - ITIs will be modernized over the next **three years** with an investment of **Rs 484 crore**.
- **Innovative Educational Initiatives:**
 - The government plans to start **five institutes** modeled after **Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)**.
 - Emphasis is placed on **skill development** in the industry to address technology and employment needs.
 - The state is teaching **robotics** and **artificial intelligence** to youth in tribal regions, reflecting a commitment to modern education and skills training.

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

- The **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** is a government agency that conducts surveys on a wide range of topics, including demographics, socioeconomic conditions, agriculture, and industry.
- The NSSO was **established in 1950** and has been under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** since **1999**.
- The **NSSO's headquarters are located in New Delhi**, and there is also a zonal office in Bangalore.
- **Here are some of the things the NSSO does:**
 - **Household surveys:** The NSSO conducts surveys on household consumer expenditures and other topics.
 - **Employment and unemployment:** The NSSO conducts quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment, which are a primary source of data on the labor force.
 - **Housing conditions:** The NSSO has conducted surveys on various aspects of housing conditions.
 - **Informal enterprises:** The NSSO has conducted surveys on informal non-agricultural enterprises and other topics.

Mukhyamantri School Jatan Yojana

Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has highlighted concerns about irregularities in the implementation of the **School Jatan Yojana** by the previous government.

Key Points

- **Mukhyamantri School Jatan Yojana:** Chief Minister's School Care Scheme is an initiative by the Government of Chhattisgarh aimed at **improving the infrastructure and facilities** of government schools in the state.
 - The Yojana focuses on constructing **new classrooms**, **renovating existing facilities**, and improving essential amenities like **libraries and restrooms**.

Note:



- The Yojana aims to **enhance the learning environment** by providing better **seating arrangements and upgraded facilities**, which can lead to increased student enrollment and satisfaction among students and teachers.

Challenges:

- **Substandard Work:** Allegations of poor construction quality and financial mismanagement have emerged.
- **Oversight Deficiencies:** Concerns about inadequate oversight and accountability in the scheme's implementation process.
- **Impact on Schools:**
 - Irregularities may compromise the quality of infrastructure improvements intended for schools.
 - Issues with the scheme could negatively affect the learning environment and overall satisfaction of students and teachers.

Way Forward:

- **Investigation:** The state government is investigating the allegations and assessing the scheme's implementation.
- **Reforms:** Potential reforms and corrective measures may be introduced to address identified issues and enhance the scheme's effectiveness.
- **Strengthened Accountability:** Implementing improved oversight mechanisms to ensure better accountability and prevent future irregularities.
- **Enhanced Monitoring:** Increasing monitoring efforts to ensure the quality and proper execution of infrastructure projects under the scheme.

Mahtari Vandan Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, **Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sahay** announced that during the **Tija-Pora (September 2nd) Mahtari Vandan festival**, he will release the **7th installment of the Mahtari Vandan Scheme**, providing Rs. 1,000 each to 7 million women beneficiaries.

Key Points:

- **Eligibility:** Must be a resident of Chhattisgarh, 21 years old as of January 1, 2024, and include **married women, widows, divorcees, and abandoned women**.

- **Exclusions:** Income taxpayers and government employees are not eligible.

- **Launch:** Prime Minister of India launched the Mahatari Vandan Scheme on March 10, 2024, and released the first installment.
- **Assistance:** Provides Rs. 1,000 per month to women aged 21+ (married, widowed, divorced, or abandoned).
- **Beneficiaries:** Over **7 million** women selected; 6 installments have been transferred.
- **Payment:** Rs. 39.23 billion paid from March to August by the **Women and Child Development Department**.
- **Teeja-Pora:** Teeja-Pora is celebrated to honor and appreciate the bulls and buffaloes for their essential role in the farming process.
 - It marks the end of the agricultural season and involves rituals to show respect and gratitude towards these animals.

Lakhpati Didi - Transforming Lives in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, the **Lakhpati Didi Yojana** has significantly impacted women's lives in Chhattisgarh by supporting them through various **self-help group (SHG)** initiatives, helping them become self-reliant and financially empowered.

Key Points

- **Lakhpati Didi Yojana:** The scheme, launched by the **Central Government**, aims to make 35,000 women in the district lakhpatis.
 - A "**Lakhpati Didi**" is a member of a SHG who has successfully achieved an annual household income of **Rupees One Lakh or more**.
 - This income is sustained across at least four agricultural seasons or business cycles, ensuring that the average monthly income exceeds Rupees Ten Thousand (Rs. 10,000).
 - It was initiated by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, wherein each SHG household is encouraged to take up multiple livelihood

Note:



activities coupled with value chain interventions, resulting in a sustainable income of Rs. 1,00,000 or more per year.

- **Purpose:** The initiative aims to empower women not only by improving their income but by transforming their lives through sustainable livelihood practices.
 - These women serve as role models in their communities, demonstrating the power of effective resource management and entrepreneurship.
- **Achievements:** Since the inception of the **Lakhpati Didi Yojana in 2023**, one crore women have already been made Lakhpati Didis and the government announced the enhancement of the target for Lakhpati Didi from 2 crore to 3 crore, recognising the success of 83 lakh SHGs with 9 crore women transforming the rural socio-economic landscape.
 - Positive changes reported in **Lundra development block** (Chhattisgarh).
 - **Personal Experience of Shobha Lakra:**
 - **Group:** Champa Mahila Swayam Sahayata Samuh
 - **Activities:** Goats and sheep rearing
 - **Benefits:** Knowledge of government schemes, mutual support, loans, and earning over ₹1 lakh annually

Centre Approved 8 Lakh PMAY Houses

Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has sanctioned the construction of over 8 lakh houses under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** for rural areas in Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- The Centre sanctioned **8,46,931 houses** for construction under **PMAY** in Chhattisgarh.
- **'Niyad Nellanar'** scheme: launched earlier **this year to ensure basic amenities** and benefits of welfare projects reach **Naxal-affected** villages.
 - Under this scheme development work is being carried out in interior villages falling within a **5-km radius** of security camps.

- **PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan:** aimed at improving the quality of life for **PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)**, 24,064 houses were sanctioned in the state and most of them have been completed.

PMAY-G

- **Launch:** April 1, 2016, restructured from **Indira Awas Yojana** to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to rural families.
- **Selection of Beneficiaries:** Based on **Socio Economic Caste Census 2011**, Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging.

PMAY-U

- **Launch:** June 25, 2015, to provide housing for all urban poor by **2022**.
- **Features:** Includes basic amenities like toilets, water supply, electricity, and promotes women empowerment by providing house ownership in the name of female members or joint names.

PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

- **Objective:** Protect and nurture tribal groups, especially those on the verge of extinction, by providing necessary support, development, and connectivity to mainstream services and opportunities.
- **Coverage:** Includes **75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** across 18 states and union territories, in **22,544 villages and 220 districts**.
- **Population:** Approximately 28 lakh people belong to these identified tribal groups.
- **Significance:** Highlights the government's commitment to uplifting and safeguarding tribal communities, preserving cultural heritage, and integrating them into mainstream development while bridging gaps in essential services and socio-economic empowerment.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- **Tribal Population:** Constitutes 8.6% of India's total population.
- **Vulnerability:** PVTGs are more vulnerable compared to other tribal groups and require more directed funds for their development.

Note:

- **Historical Context:**
 - **1973:** Dhebar Commission categorized Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as less developed.
 - **2006:** Renamed PTGs to PVTGs by the Government of India.
 - **1975:** Government identified and declared 52 PVTGs.
 - **1993:** An additional 23 PVTGs were added, totaling 75 out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
- **Characteristics of PVTGs:**
 - Mostly homogenous with small populations.
 - Relatively isolated geographically.
 - Absence of written language.
 - Use of simple technology and slower rate of change.
- **Geographic Distribution:** Highest number of PVTGs are found in Odisha.

18 Langurs Shot Dead in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, about 18 Langurs were shot dead in **Belgaon village of Chhattisgarh** for crop damage, leading the forest department to launch an investigation.

Key Points

- **Cultural Context:** The incident was unusual because villagers typically avoid killing monkeys, **fearing it**

could bring drought, highlighting the **cultural and traditional significance of wildlife**.

- **Legal Action:** A case has been filed against unidentified persons under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.
 - **Schedule I:** Protects endangered species with strict penalties; prohibits hunting except in extreme cases (e.g., Black Buck, Snow Leopard).
 - **Schedule II:** High protection and trade prohibition for certain species (e.g., Assamese Macaque, Indian Cobra).
 - **Schedules III & IV:** Protects non-endangered species with lesser penalties for violations (e.g., Chital, Flamingo).
 - **Schedule V:** Lists vermin species that can be hunted (e.g., Common Crows, Rats).
 - **Schedule VI:** Regulates cultivation and trade of specified plants, requiring prior permission (e.g., Blue Vanda, Kuth).

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

- The Wild Life (Protection) Act, of 1972 **provides a legal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals and plants**, management of their habitats, regulation, and control of trade in wild animals, plants, and products made from them
- The act also lists schedules of plants and animals that are afforded varying degrees of protection and monitoring by the government.

Note:



Key Points

Details



Summary

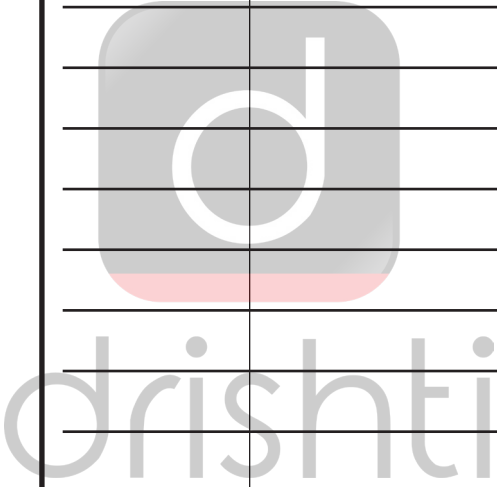
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Note:



Key Points

Details



Summary

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