

STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION JHARKHAND



MAY 2025



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Rescue & Support of Children Under Project SAATHI

Why in News?

The **Dhanbad District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)** rescued 10 orphaned children from the Naxal-affected area of Jharkhand under *Project SAATHI*.

Key Points

- About the Rescue Operation:
 - ★ Location: The children were rescued from the East Tundi block in Dhanbad district, a region known for Naxal insurgency.
 - Authority Involved: The operation was led by the Dhanbad District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).
 - The initiative is part of Project SAATHI, launched by the <u>National Legal Services</u> Authority (NALSA).
- Rehabilitation and Welfare Measures:
 - Scholarship Support:
 - Each rescued child will receive a monthly government scholarship of ₹4,000 until they reach adulthood.
 - The financial aid aims to ensure continuity in education and basic living support.
 - ★ Verification, and Monitoring: On-the-spot Aadhaar and ration card registration is done for welfare integration.
 - Identity verification and coordination with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and government departments are done for tracking and follow-up.

Survey for Aadhaar and Access to Tracking & Holistic Inclusion (SAATHI)

- It was launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)
- Key Objectives:
 - Ensure legal identity for children through Aadhaar registration.
 - Provide access to education, healthcare, protection, and social welfare.
 - ★ Enable long-term rehabilitation and inclusion.

Postitute Children:

- ★ Children under 18 without family, guardianship, or stable care, including:
 - Children living in streets and slums, orphans, rescued trafficking and child labour victims, those in unregistered shelters, and missing children not reunited with families.
- Core Components of the Campaign:
 - Survey & Identification: Mapping destitute children through coordination with local workers and NGOs.
 - ★ Aadhaar Registration: Organizing biometric enrolment camps in collaboration with <u>UIDAI</u>.
 - ★ Legal Aid & Scheme Linkage: Connecting children to child protection laws and government welfare schemes.
 - ★ Monitoring & Rehabilitation: Tracking enrolled children, providing documentation support, and coordinating access to education, health, and social services.

Collegium Recommends Jharkhand HC Chief Justice

Why in News?

The <u>Supreme Court Collegium</u> has recommended the elevation of <u>Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan</u>, the seniormost judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, as the next <u>Chief Justice</u> of the <u>Jharkhand High Court</u>.

Key Points

- Constitutional Provisions Related to Appointment of Judges:
 - Article 124(2): SC judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the <u>Chief</u> <u>Justice of India (CJI)</u> and other judges.
 - ★ Article 217: HC judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the CJI, the Governor of the concerned state, and the Chief Justice of the respective HC.
- Collegium System: The Collegium System refers to the method of <u>appointment and transfer of judges</u> in the SC and HCs.
 - ★ It is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution but has evolved through various SC judgments.

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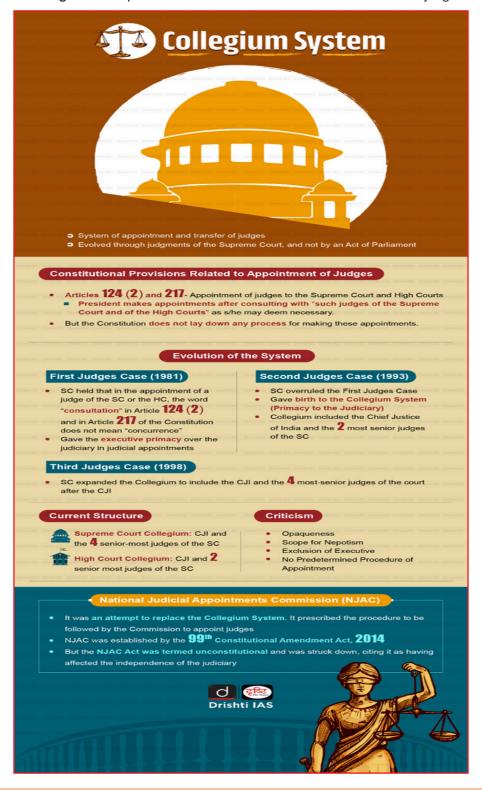
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Composition:

- ★ Supreme Court Collegium: Includes the CJI and the four senior-most SC judges.
- ★ High Court Collegium: Led by the Chief Justice of the HC and its two senior-most judges.



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- Evolution of the Collegium System: The system developed through four landmark Supreme Court cases, referred to as the Judges Cases:
 - ★ First Judges Case (1981) S.P. Gupta v. Union of India
 - The SC ruled that the term "consultation" does not mean "concurrence".
 - The ruling gave primacy to the executive in judicial appointments.
 - ★ Second Judges Case (1993) Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India
 - The Court overruled the First Judges Case and held that consultation means concurrence.
 - Introduced the concept of a Collegium, requiring the CJI to consult two seniormost judges.
 - Third Judges Case (1998)
 - The SC expanded the collegium to five members—the CJI and four senior-most judges.
 - ★ National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)
 - The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act. 2014 introduced the NJAC to replace the collegium system.
 - However, the SC struck it down, citing judicial independence concerns.
 - The verdict reaffirmed the collegium system as the only mechanism for judicial appointments.

Birsa Munda

Why in News?

The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla visited the Jail Museum in Ranchi, Jharkhand, on 25th May 2025 and paid tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The visit aimed to honor Munda's contribution to tribal rights and cultural heritage.

Key Points

• About: Birsa Munda was a tribal freedom fighter, religious reformer, and folk hero, who played a key role in tribal resistance against British rule in India.

Early Life:

- Birth: Born in Ulihatu on 15th November 1875, now in Jharkhand's Khunti district, to a poor sharecropper (sajhadar) family.
- Community: Belonged to the Munda tribe, a major Adivasi community of the Chotanagpur plateau.
- Early Name: Daud Munda, after his father briefly converted to Christianity.

★ Education and Early Influences:

- Attended local schools under the guidance of Jaipal Nag.
- Studied at a missionary school and later at **BEL school in Chaibasa** for four years.
- Was influenced by Christianity but later rejected it due to cultural and religious differences.
- Influenced by Vaishnavism and Anand Panre (a munshi), leading him to form his own spiritual sect.
- Became known as Bhagwan (God) by his followers and founded the Birsait sect.
- He is lovingly called "Dharti Aaba" (Father of the Earth) by his followers.

Beliefs and Teachings:

- Promoted monotheism through the worship of Singhbonga, a tribal deity.
- He campaigned against alcoholism, belief in black magic and superstitions, and forced labour (beth begari).
- Encouraged clean living, hygiene, and spiritual unity.
- Taught pride in tribal culture and community land ownership.

Resistance Against Colonial Injustice:

British land policies destroyed the Khuntkatti land system, where land was communally owned.













- Zamindars and thikadars (middlemen) began exploiting tribals, turning many into bonded labourers.
- Birsa educated his people about these injustices and urged them to reclaim their rights.
- The Ulgulan (Great Rebellion):
 - Causes of the Uprising:
 - Loss of land, economic hardship, forest alienation, and cultural erosion pushed Birsa to act.
 - Gave the call for Ulgulan (rebellion) and urged tribals to stop paying rent.
 - Slogan of Resistance: "Abua raj ete jana, maharani raj tundu jana" (Let the queen's rule end, and our rule begin).

Course of Revolt:

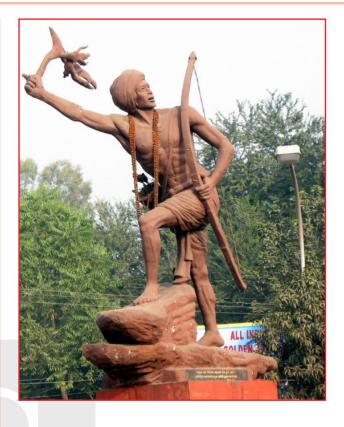
- The revolt began in 1895 as a response to land encroachment and forced labour policies imposed by the British Raj.
- In 1895, Birsa Munda was arrested on charges of rioting and jailed for two years.
- After his release in 1897, he resumed his efforts, moving village to village to gather support and promote the vision of a triballed kingdom.
- Birsa Munda died of cholera in 1900, marking the end of the active phase of the revolt.

Aftermath and Legacy:

- In 1908, the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was passed:
 - Banned land transfers from tribals to non-tribals.
 - Recognized Khuntkatti rights.
 - Banned beth begari (forced labour).

★ Honouring Birsa Munda:

- Since 2021, 15 November is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day).
- He is remembered as a brave leader, spiritual guide, and visionary.
- Despite dying young, he showed great strategy, courage, and leadership.



Revival of Mandal Dam Project

Why in News?

The Jharkhand government has approved the relocation of seven villages situated in the submergence zone of the Mandal Dam in the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR).

Key Points

- About the Mandal Dam Project: The Mandal Dam is located in the PTR covering parts of Garhwa, Latehar, and Palamu districts in Jharkhand on the North Koel River, a tributary of the **Sone River**.
 - ★ The project was originally conceived decades ago but has remained non-functional due to local opposition and lack of consensus on rehabilitation and environmental concerns.
 - A task force was also set up in 2015 to speed up the clearances.















- ★ The project gained momentum when the Prime Minister laid its foundation stone in January 2019.
- → PTR will benefit from the project as the vacated land will be submerged, forming a large water body that can help reduce the persistent problem of human-animal conflict in the districts.
- Relocation of Villages: Seven villages, including Kutku, Bhajna, Khura, Khaira, Saneya, Chemo, and Meral, will be relocated.
 - ★ Each household will get one acre of land and Rs 15 lakh as compensation.
 - ★ The relocated area will be developed as a **model cluster** to provide better living conditions for the villagers.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Date of inception | 1972

- Govt acquires 2,200 hectares of land during undivided Bihar | 1984-85
- > Project halts due to lack of environmental clearance 1993
- Union cabinet approves proposal to revive the project 2017
- Centre grants stage-I clearance 2018
- > Money already spent (till date) | ₹769.09 crore
- Dam's proposed irrigation



The North Koel Reservoir Project, popularly known as Mandal dam, is spread across Latehar and Palamu districts

capacity | 1,11,521 hectares; in Bihar: 91.917 hectares and Jharkhand: 19,604 hectares

Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR)

- PTR is located on the **Chhotanagpur plateau** in western Latehar district, Jharkhand.
 - ★ <u>'Betla National Park'</u> is situated within 226.32 sq km of the Palamu Tiger Reserve, which is spread over a total area of 1,129.93 sq km.
- The project area is **constituted mainly of Sal forests**, mixed deciduous forests and bamboo groves.
- The reserve zone is the watershed area for 3 important rivers Koel, Burha and Auranga.
- It was constituted in 1974 under Project Tiger and is one of the first nine tiger reserves established in the country at the inception of the project.
 - ★ It was the first sanctuary in the world to conduct a tiger census using pugmark counts, done in 1932.
- The keystone species include <u>Tigers</u>, <u>Elephants</u>, <u>Leopards</u>, <u>Grey Wolf</u>, <u>Gaur</u>, <u>Sloth Bear</u>, Four-horned Antelope, Indian Ratel, Indian Otter and Indian Pangolin.









Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) Meet in Jharkhand

Why in News?

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren chaired the **Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) meeting.**

The aim is to implement Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) rules, ease land sale norms, improve tribal welfare, and preserve tribal culture and traditions in the state.

Key Points

Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs)

- Constitutional Provision: As per Article 244(1) of the **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution:
 - * TACs must be established in each state with **Scheduled Areas.**
 - ★ The President may direct the formation of TACs in states with Scheduled Tribes but no Scheduled Areas.
- Objective: TAC is responsible for advising on issues related to the welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes in the State whenever referred to it by the **Governor**.
- Council Composition:
 - ★ TAC shall consist of not more than 20 members.
 - ★ Around three-fourths must be Scheduled Tribe (ST) representatives from the State Legislative Assembly.
- States with TACs in Scheduled Areas: TACs have been formed in the following 10 states with Scheduled Areas — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- States with TACs but No Scheduled Areas: West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996

About:

- ★ The PESA Act was enacted on 24th December **1996** to ensure self-governance for people living in tribal areas, called Scheduled Areas, through traditional village assemblies known as Gram Sabhas.
- ★ The Act extended the provisions of Panchayats by providing self-tribal rule to the tribal areas of Fifth Schedule states.

• Legislation:

★ The Act defines Scheduled Areas as those mentioned in Article 244(1), which states that the Fifth Schedule applies to Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Significant Provisions:

- ★ The PESA Act establishes the Gram Sabha as a forum for community participation in the development process. It is responsible for identifying development projects, preparing development plans, and implementing these plans.
- ★ The Act mandates the establishment of village-level institutions, including the Gram Panchayat, the Gram Sabha, and the Panchayat Samiti, to carry out development activities and provide basic services to the community.
- ★ Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat are granted significant powers and functions related to managing natural resources and regulating economic activities.
- ★ The Act provides for the protection of land rights of tribal communities in the Scheduled Areas, requiring their consent before any land is acquired or transferred.
- ★ The Act safeguards the cultural and social practices of tribal communities in the Scheduled Areas, prohibiting interference in these practices.











Note:

- Jharkhand has the 12th largest tribal population in India, comprising 8.3% of the country's Scheduled Tribes.
- Major Tribes of Jharkhand:
 - ★ Gondi (one of the largest groups in India)
 - Munda (one of India's largest scheduled tribes)
 - ★ Santal (largest tribe in the Jharkhand state of India in terms of population)

HC Allows Third Party Claims Without Policy Details

Why in News?

In the *Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd. vs. Hemlata Sinha* case (2025), the Jharkhand High Court highlighted that after the death of a family's breadwinner, dependents often lack policy details, but this alone cannot be grounds for denying a <u>third-party insurance</u> claim.

• The ruling aligns with the <u>Insurance Regulatory</u> and <u>Development Authority of India (IRDAI)'s</u> consumer protection framework and its aim to achieve <u>'Insurance for All' by 2047</u>.

Key Points

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- IRDAI was **established in 1999** under the IRDA Act 1999.
- It is a regulatory body and created with the aim of protecting the interests of insurance customers.
- It comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
- It regulates and sees to the development of the insurance industry while monitoring insurancerelated activities.
- The powers and functions of the Authority are laid down in the IRDAI Act, 1999 and <u>Insurance</u> Act, 1938.

Insurance for All by 2047

- About: IRDAI aims to achieve 'Insurance for All' by 2047, ensuring that every citizen has comprehensive life, health, and property insurance coverage, and enterprises are supported with appropriate insurance solutions.
- 9 3 Pillars: Insurance customers (Policyholders), Insurance providers (insurers) and Insurance distributors (intermediaries)

Third-Party Insurance

- Third-party insurance is a type of liability coverage where the insured (first party) buys protection from an insurer (second party) against claims made by another individual (third party).
- It covers the legal liability of the first party for damages or losses caused to the third party, even if the first party is at fault.
 - ★ It covers compensation to accident victims or their families.
- It is mandatory for all motor vehicles in India under the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019.

Worship Rights on Parasnath Hill

Why in News?

After the Jharkhand High Court ordered a ban on non-veg food, animal harm, and tourism at Parasnath Hill, the Santhal group Marang Buru Sanvta Susaar Baisi (MBSSB) announced to continue its traditional hunting ritual, citing the hill's religious importance to Adivasis.

Key Points

- About the Ritual:
 - ★ The symbolic hunt takes place in the forests of Marang Buru, where Santhals spend a night symbolically hunting (without killing animals), followed by a two-day tribal assembly in a nearby village.
 - ★ The event is used to address community-level matters and has long-standing religious value for the Adivasi community.

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• The Court Order:

- ★ The state High Court directed the State government to enforce a Union Environment Ministry ban on certain activities at Parasnath Hill.
- The hill was declared an eco-sensitive zone in 2019, and the Ministry's order prohibits nonvegetarian food, animal harm, and excessive tourism.
- ★ The Ministry's memorandum also halted the State government's plans to promote religious eco-tourism in the area—an initiative strongly opposed by the Jain community.

• A Century-Old Dispute:

- ★ The conflict over worship rights on Parasnath Hill (Marang Buru) between the Jain and Adivasi communities has persisted for over a century.
- ★ The <u>1911 Census</u> documented a legal case by a <u>Swetambar Jain sect</u>, which reached the Privy Council, where the customary rights of Adivasis were upheld.

Parasnath Hills

- Parasnath Hills are a range of hills located in Giridih district of Jharkhand.
- The highest peak is 1350 metres. It is one of the most important pilgrimage centre for Jains. They call it Sammed Sikhar.
- The hill is named after Parasnath, the 23rd Tirthankara.
- Twenty of Jain Tirthankaras attained salvation on this hill. For each of them there is a shrine (gumti or tuk) on the hill.
- Some of the temples on the hill are believed to be more than 2,000 years old.
- The Santhals call it Marang Buru, the hill of the deity. They celebrate a hunting festival on the full moon day in Baisakh (mid-April).
- Every year, thousands of Jains from across the world undertake the 27 km long trek of climbing the hills to reach the summit.

Santhal Tribe

- It is the third largest scheduled tribe in India after the Gonds and Bhils, known for their calm and peaceful nature. They originally led a nomadic life but settled in Chota Nagpur plateau and migrated to Santhal Parganas in Bihar and Odisha.
 - ★ They are located in Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, and are involved in cultivation, industrial labour, mining, and quarrying.
- They follow an autonomous tribal religion and worship nature at sacred groves. Their language is Santhali and they have their own script called 'OL chiki' is recognised as one of the scheduled languages in the <u>Eighth Schedule</u>.
- Their artforms like the Phuta Katcha pattern saree and dress are popular. They celebrate various festivals and rituals related to agriculture and worship. Santhal houses, known as 'Olah', are easily recognizable due to their large, neat, and attractive appearance, adorned with multi-coloured paintings on the exterior walls.

Palamu Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Authorities have successfully relocated Jaigir, the first village inside the <u>Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR)</u>, entirely outside its core area. This relocation <u>reduces biotic</u> <u>pressure on the wild habitat</u> and creates a <u>human-free space for wild animals</u> to thrive.

Key Points

First Fully Relocated Village in PTR:

- ★ Jaigir village has been relocated to a 75-acre site near Polpol, just outside the reserve's core area, with improved infrastructure and transport access.
- ★ The original site of Jaigir will be developed into a grassland to attract herbivores, which

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- in turn could support tiger conservation by enriching the prey base.
- ★ Authorities have identified eight more villages within the core area for future relocation.

Compensation Strategy:

- ★ As families had multiple claimants, authorities gave land to one member per household and compensated others with Rs 15 lakh.
- ★ While permanent homes are being built, the forest department has provided temporary housing.

Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR)

- Palamu Tiger Reserve was established in 1974 under **Project Tiger.**
- It is the **first such sanctuary** in the world, where tiger census was done on the basis of footprint count.
- 'Betla National Park' is situated in 226.32 sq km within the Palamu Tiger Reserve, spread over a total area of 1130 sq km in Latehar district of Jharkhand.























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