



Revised Jharia Master Plan (JMP)

Why in News?

The [Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs \(CCEA\)](#) approved the **Revised Jharia Master Plan (JMP)** for addressing issues related to fire, land subsidence, and rehabilitation of affected families at the [Jharia coalfield in Jharkhand](#).

Key Points

About Revised Jharia Master Plan (JMP)

- **Total Financial Outlay:** The total financial outlay for the implementation of the revised plan is ₹5,940.47 crore.
 - The **phase-wise approach** will prioritize **handling fire, subsidence**, and the rehabilitation of families from the most vulnerable sites.
- **Livelihood Grant and Support:** The revised plan provides a livelihood grant of ₹1 lakh to **both legal title holders (LTH) and non-legal title holders (non-LTH) families**.
 - In addition, **credit support of up to ₹3 lakh** will be available through an institutional credit pipeline for both LTH and non-LTH families.
 - The plan focuses on **generating sustainable livelihoods** through [targeted skill development programs](#) and income-generating opportunities to ensure economic self-reliance for the rehabilitated families.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The resettlement sites will be developed with essential infrastructure and amenities, including **roads, electricity, water supply, sewerage**, schools, hospitals, skill development centers, community halls, and other common facilities.
- **Implementation and Support:** The implementation of these provisions will be carried out in accordance with the **recommendations of the Committee for Implementation of the Revised Jharia Master Plan**.
 - **To support livelihood initiatives, the Jharia Alternative Livelihoods Rehabilitation Fund will be established, promoting livelihood-related activities.**
 - **Skill development programs will also be conducted in collaboration with Multi-Skill Development Institutes operating in the region.**



About Jharia Coalfield

- **Historical Background:** The Jharia Coalfield, located in Jharkhand, India, has been operational since 1916, with coal mining dating back to this period.
 - It has faced persistent issues with [coal mine fires](#), particularly due to [unscientific mining methods](#) used before nationalization.
- **Fires in Jharia:** Since the first fire was reported in 1916, Jharia has been plagued by underground coal fires, mainly caused by the unsystematic mining practices of earlier private operators.
 - These fires have **severely impacted the environment** and the local population, causing health hazards, [land degradation](#), and subsidence.
- **Nationalization and Government Intervention:** After the **nationalization of coal mines** in India, experts, including a Polish team and Indian specialists, studied the fires in 1978.
 - The Government of India constituted a **High-Power Committee in 1996** to address fire and subsidence issues in the region.
- **Jharia Master Plan (2009):** The **Jharia Master Plan** was approved by the Government of India in 2009 with an estimated investment of Rs. 7112.11 crores.
 - The plan aimed to manage coal fires, rehabilitate affected communities, and ensure safe coal extraction, spanning a **ten-year period with a two-year pre-implementation phase**.
 - Post expiration of the Master Plan in 2021, the Ministry of Coal continued to monitor and fund fire management and rehabilitation projects.
 - A committee in 2022 recommended further actions to extinguish fires, offer compensation,

and provide essential infrastructure for resettled families.

- **Progress in Fire Management:** Through scientific measures and technology, the number of fire sites in Jharia was reduced from 77 to 27.
 - The fire-affected area shrunk from 17.32 sq. km to 1.80 sq. km by implementing techniques such as **surface sealing, trenching, and inert gas infusion.**
- **Rehabilitation and Resettlement:** The plan focused on **relocating families affected by fire and subsidence**, with BCCL (Bharat Coking Coal Limited) constructing houses for the displaced population.
 - **Rehabilitation faced resistance from landowners**, and difficulties arose due to the lack of a **legal framework for land rights transfer**, complicating resettlement efforts.
 - Technological challenges in assessing underground fires and public skepticism about land acquisition for coal extraction added to the complexity.
- **Coal Extraction:**
 - The **region holds substantial coal reserves, with approximately 43 million tons of coal extracted as of June 2023.**
 - Coal extraction remains a priority, with ongoing efforts to **balance environmental and safety concerns** with production goals.

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