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# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

CHHATTISGARH

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## Cabinet Doubles OBC Reservation in Local Bodies

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government increased **OBC reservations**, aimed at boosting representation across the state.

### Key Points

- **Increased OBC Reservation:**
  - The government has doubled OBC reservations in panchayat and urban bodies from **25% to 50%**, covering roles like district **panchayat** chairpersons and **municipal mayors**, while ensuring reservation aligns with population ratios.
- **Exclusion Criteria:**
  - This reservation does not apply to bodies with **50% or more SC/ST reservations**.

### Constitutional Provisions Governing Reservation in India

- Part XVI deals with reservation of **SC and ST** in Central and State legislatures.
- **Article 15(4) and 16(4)** of the Constitution enabled the State and Central Governments to reserve seats in government services for the members of the SC and ST.
- The Constitution was amended by the **Constitution (77th Amendment) Act, 1995** and a new clause **(4A) was inserted in Article 16** to enable the government to provide reservation in promotion.
- Later, **clause (4A) was modified by the Constitution (85th Amendment) Act, 2001** to provide consequential seniority to **SC and ST** candidates promoted by giving reservation.
- Constitutional **81st Amendment Act, 2000 inserted Article 16 (4 B)** which enables the state to fill the unfilled vacancies of a year which are reserved for SCs/STs in the succeeding year, thereby nullifying the ceiling of fifty percent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year.
- **Article 330 and 332** provides for specific representation through reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies respectively.
- **Article 243D** provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Panchayat.
- **Article 233T** provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Municipality.
- **Article 335** of the constitution says that the claims of STs and SCs shall be taken into consideration constitutively with the maintenance of efficacy of the administration.

## PM Inaugurates Airports Under the UDAN Scheme

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister **virtually inaugurated three new airports** which are situated in Surguja (Chhattisgarh), Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh).

- The development of these airports has been **carried out under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)**, which aims to enhance air connectivity in remote and underserved regions across India.

### Key Points

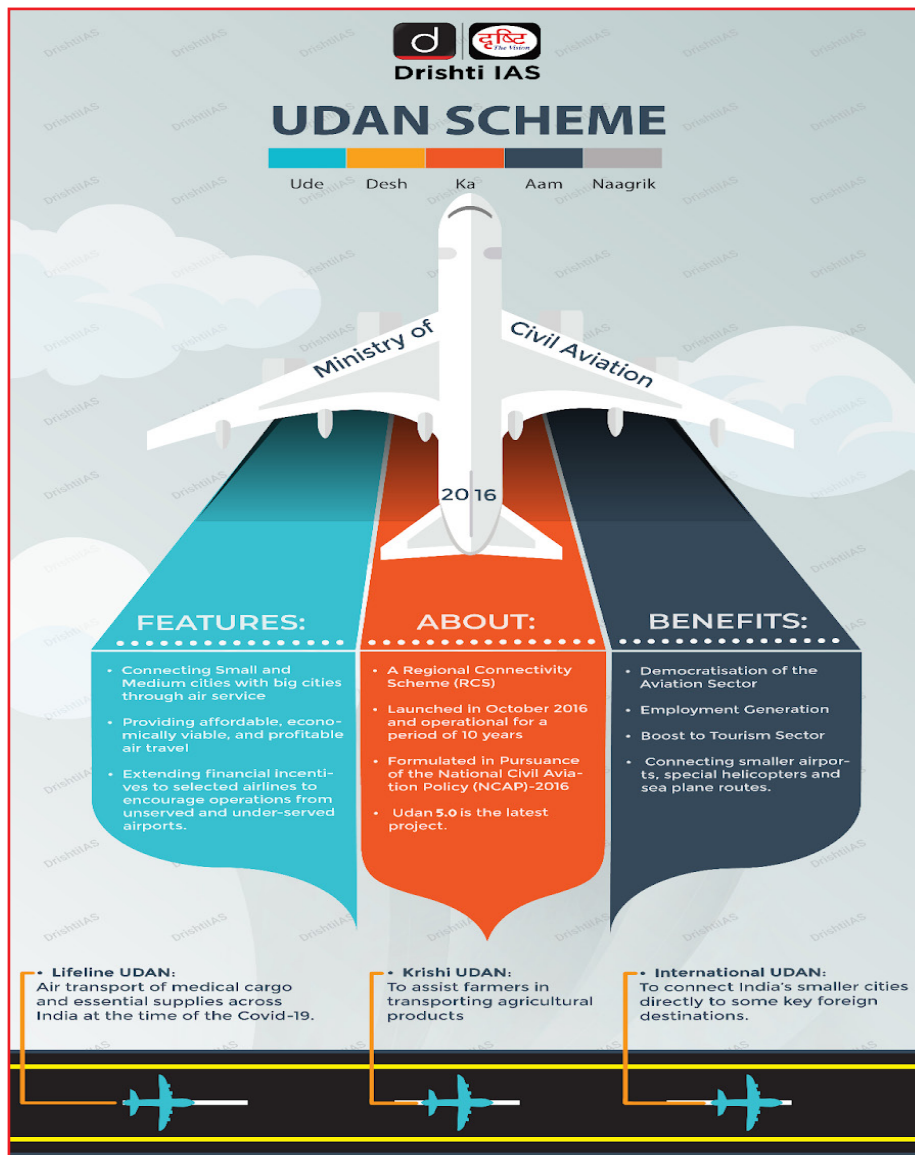
- The inauguration took place virtually from Varanasi, marking the **8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)**, which was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016.
- **Ambikapur Airport (Surguja, Chhattisgarh):**
  - Flights from this airport will connect to key destinations like Raipur, Jagdalpur, Jabalpur, Kolkata, and Delhi, promoting regional connectivity and development.
  - The inauguration is a **critical step toward integrating tribal communities** and remote areas of the state into the mainstream development framework.
- **Rewa Airport (Madhya Pradesh):**
  - The new Rewa airport is the sixth **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**-a licensed airport in Madhya Pradesh, developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
  - This airport will improve connectivity in the state's **Vindhya region**.
- **Saharanpur Airport (Uttar Pradesh):**
  - Saharanpur's civil airport lacks its own runway but is now ready for operations.
  - The local administration is working on finalising the flight operation schedule, which is expected to start soon, **facilitating economic growth and travel convenience in the region**.
- **RCS-UDAN:**
  - It was **launched as part of the NCAP in 2016 with a 10-year vision** to improve air travel infrastructure, especially in remote and underserved areas of India.
    - Since the scheme's inception, the **first UDAN flight took off on April 27, 2017**, connecting Shimla to Delhi.

Note:

- Several iterations of the UDAN scheme (**UDAN 1.0 to 5.4**) have been implemented over the years, each focusing on different aspects like including more airports, connecting helipads, integrating tourism routes, and targeting regional challenges such as hilly terrains and remote locations.
- **Key Versions of the UDAN Scheme:**
  - **UDAN 1.0:** Awarded 128 routes to 70 airports, operationalizing 36 new airports.
  - **UDAN 2.0:** Introduced 73 new airports and included helipad connectivity.
  - **UDAN 3.0:** Incorporated tourism routes and seaplane connectivity, with an emphasis on the **North-East region**.
  - **UDAN 4.0:** Focused on improving connectivity in the North-East, hilly states, and islands. Added helicopter and seaplane operations.
  - **UDAN 5.0 to 5.4:** Enhanced routes for larger aircraft, removed distance restrictions, and prioritized quick operationalization.
    - The latest iterations emphasize helicopter connectivity, operational flexibility for small aircraft, and reopening discontinued routes.

**Note:**

- **NCAP:** It includes a goal of **developing a sustainable aviation framework** that promotes the use of alternative fuels, energy-efficient aircraft, and infrastructure, among others.



Note:

## Chhattisgarh Govt Announces DA Hike for State Employees

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government announced a 4% hike in **Dearness Allowance (DA)** for its employees ahead of **Diwali**.

### Key Points

- **DA Hike Details:**
  - The Chhattisgarh government increased **DA by 4%**, benefiting state employees and pensioners.
  - This brings the total **DA to 42% of the basic salary**, aligning with the **Seventh Pay Commission's** recommendations.
- **Dearness Allowance (DA):**
  - It is the cost-of-living adjustment to offset inflation, provided to government employees and pensioners. It is calculated as a percentage of the basic salary.
- **Impact on Economy:**
  - **Increased Consumer Spending:** The hike boosts disposable income, especially around festive periods, spurring consumer demand.
  - **Inflation Control:** DA helps employees manage inflation, but an increase in demand could potentially raise inflation if supply doesn't keep pace.
  - **Fiscal Pressure:** For the government, DA hikes increase expenditure, which may strain the fiscal budget but stimulate economic growth through consumption.

### Pay Commission

- The Pay Commission is a body set up by the **Central Government** that reviews and recommends changes to the **salary structure of employees**.
- The composition of the Pay Commission comes under the **Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance)**.
- Pay commissions are usually constituted every 10 years and the first pay commission was set up in 1946. Since Independence, a total of **seven pay commissions** have been formed.
- The **latest pay commission was set up in 2014** and its recommendations came into effect in 2016. Currently, central government employees and pensioners get salaries based on the recommendations of the **7th pay commission**.
- It is **not mandatory** for the government to accept the recommendations of the pay commission. The government may choose to accept or reject the recommendations.

## Chhattisgarh DMF Scam

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** has arrested a Chhattisgarh government official in relation to the **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** scam.

### Key Points

- **DMF Scam Investigation:**
  - The ED is focusing on widespread misuse of the **DMF**, which is meant to benefit communities affected by mining activities.
- **District Mineral Foundation (DMF):**
  - DMF is a non-profit trust established to work for the interest and benefit of people affected by mining operations.
  - Funded by a percentage of the royalty from mining companies, DMF aims to develop infrastructure and provide healthcare, education, and livelihood support in mining-affected areas.
- **Enforcement Directorate (ED):**
  - The **ED** is a law enforcement agency responsible for investigating and enforcing laws related to economic offenses, particularly money laundering under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**.
  - It plays a key role in probing financial crimes and corruption, such as the current investigation into the DMF scam.

### DMF Scheme

- **About:**
  - As per the **Mine and Minerals Development Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2015**, in every district affected by mining-related operations, the state government shall, by notification, establish a trust as a non-profit body to be called the District Mineral Foundation.
- **DMF Funds:**
  - Every mining lease holder is required to contribute a fraction of the royalty up to one-third towards the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), as per the rates set by the Central Government.
  - This fund will be used for welfare of the people affected in the mining affected areas.
- **Objective:**
  - The idea behind the contribution is that local mining-affected communities, mostly tribal and among the poorest in the country, also have the right to benefit from natural resources extracted from where they live.

Note:

### ➤ **Functioning:**

- The functioning of the DMF trusts and the fund use governed by states' DMF Rules incorporate the mandates of a central guideline, **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)**.

## Mukhyamantri Ucch Shiksha Rin Byaj Anudan Yojana

### Why in News?

The **Mukhyamantri Ucch Shiksha Rin Byaj Anudan Yojana, 2024** is a newly launched scheme by the Chhattisgarh government aimed at providing loans to students pursuing higher education in technical courses.

### Key Points

- **Objective:** To support students from financially weaker sections, particularly those from Maoist-affected districts, by providing education loans at an interest rate of **1%**, up to **Rs. 4 lakh**.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Over **2 lakh students** in Chhattisgarh, particularly those affected by financial instability and residing in areas impacted by **Naxal activities**.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - **Residency:** Applicants must be permanent residents of Chhattisgarh.
  - **Income Limit:** The annual family income should not exceed **Rs. 2 lakh**.
  - **Course Requirements:** Students must be enrolled in diploma, graduate, or postgraduate programs in technical fields recognized by relevant authorities like **AICTE** or **UGC**.

### All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** is a statutory body, and a national-level council for technical education, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- It was set up in November 1945 as a national-level apex advisory body.

### University Grants Commission (UGC)

- It came into existence on 28th December, 1953 and became a statutory body by an Act of Parliament in 1956, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in **university education**.

- It also regulates the recognition of fake universities, autonomous colleges, deemed to be universities, and distance education institutions.
- The head office of the UGC is located in New Delhi.

## Centre Allocates Rs. 11,000 Crore for Chhattisgarh Roads

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways**, approved **Rs.11,000 crore** for the development of road infrastructure in Chhattisgarh.

### Key Points

- **Project Details:**
  - The funding supports the construction and development of **four major national highways**.
  - The total length of the approved projects is **236.1 km**.
  - **Major Projects Cleared:**
    - Uрга-Katghora bypass (NH-149B)
    - Basna to Sarangarh feeder route
    - Sarangarh to Raigarh feeder route
    - Raipur-Lakhanadon economic corridor
- **Additional Approvals:**
  - **Eight projects worth Rs. 908 crore** sanctioned under the **Central Road Fund (CRF)**.
  - Approval for the **four-lane widening of Keshkal Ghat and Dhamtari-Jagdarpur road**.
  - Instructions were given to ensure the completion of **Raipur-Visakhapatnam road** and **Bilaspur-Urga-Pathalgaon road** under the **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)** within a set timeframe.

### Central Road Fund

- The **Central Road Fund (CRF)** is a non-lapsable fund created under **Central Road Fund Act, 2000**.
- It is procured out of **cess/tax imposed by the Union Government on the consumption of Petrol and Diesel**.
- CRF should be used to develop and maintain **National Highways, State roads (that have economic importance with inter-state connectivity), rural roads, railway under/over bridges etc, and national waterways (waterways from 2017 onwards only)**.
- The CRF was replaced with a **Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)** through amendments introduced in the **Union Budget for 2018-19**.

Note:



**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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