

OCTOBER 2024

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State's Financial Landscape

Why in News?

Recently, the <u>assembly election</u> in Jharkhand has intensified, with both the ruling and opposition alliances launching economic initiatives aimed at garnering voter support.

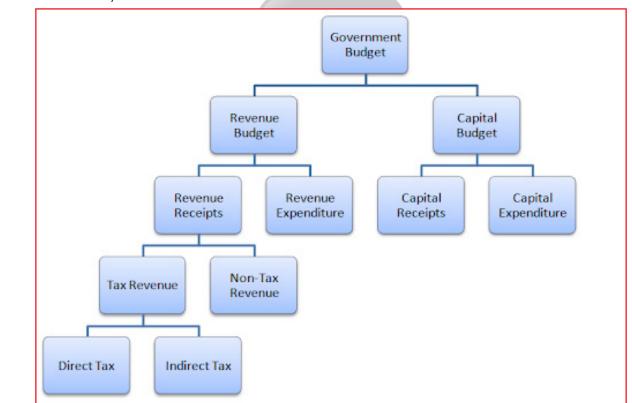
Key Points

- Revenue Generation:
 - Jharkhand generates only about 30.8% of its <u>revenue</u> <u>receipts</u> through its own <u>tax collection</u>, creating dependency on <u>central government allocations</u>.

Pension Schemes:

 The state has expanded a <u>universal pension</u> <u>scheme</u>, reducing the age of eligibility from 60 to 50 for <u>marginalized groups</u> (Dalits, Adivasis, and women).

- The government supplements central pension funds, adding Rs. 240.4 crore to ensure that each recipient gets a **monthly Rs. 1,000.**
- > Committed Expenditures:
 - Salaries, pensions, and interest payments absorbed over one-third of Jharkhand's <u>revenue receipts</u> in FY24, limiting fiscal flexibility for development projects.
- Capital Expenditure Focus:
 - Jharkhand has prioritized <u>capital expenditure</u>, aiming to reach **7.89% of its <u>GSDP</u>** in FY25, a substantial rise from **2.91% in FY15**.
 - The state's **capex-GSDP ratio** is higher than many states, with a recent **7.57% in FY24**, well above the national average of approximately 4.9%.
 - Higher capex helps in creating assets that may boost long-term growth, despite current fiscal constraints.



> Fiscal Surplus and Debt Challenges

- Jharkhand has remained revenue-surplus for most years, except in FY15 and during the COVID-19 pandemic in FY21, maintaining a fiscal deficit of 2% (down from a high of 5.2% in FY21).
- > Debt-to-GSDP Ratio:
 - Jharkhand's debt-to-GSDP ratio peaked at 36% in FY21 and remains high, projected at around 27% for FY25, though previous estimates have been revised upwards.

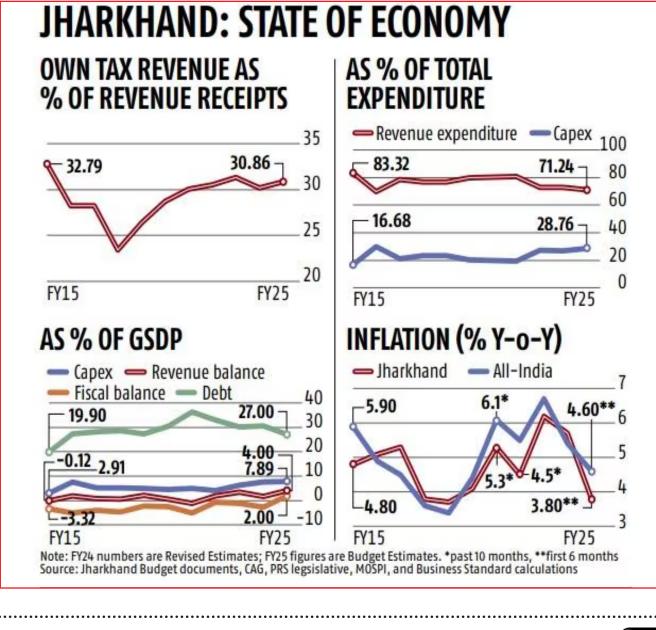


Note:

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- The <u>Reserve Bank of India</u> ranked Jharkhand among the top 10 states with the highest debt-to-GSDP ratios, highlighting concerns over long-term debt sustainability.
- Economic Indicators and Social Challenges
 - **Unemployment**: Jharkhand has a relatively low <u>unemployment rate</u> of 1.3% (2023-24), significantly below the national average of 3.2%.
 - Poverty Levels: Jharkhand faces high multidimensional poverty, with 28% of residents experiencing deprivation, second only to Bihar (33.7%).

- Inflation:
 - **Overall Inflation**: Declined to 3.8% in the first half of the financial year, below the national rate of 4.6%.
 - Food Inflation: Rose to 8.9% in September, higher than the national 8.4%, while the average food <u>inflation</u> rate from April to September was 6.7%, still below the national trend.
- Conclusion: With the Jharkhand Assembly elections approaching, both the ruling coalition and opposition alliance are engaging in competitive social welfare and economic proposals to sway the electorate, amidst a backdrop of fiscal challenges, poverty, and inflationary pressures.





Cyclone Dana's Impact on Jharkhand

Why in News?

Recently, <u>Cyclone Dana</u> is anticipated to cause significant disruptions across **eastern India, particularly in Jharkhand**, with multiple emergency measures being implemented.

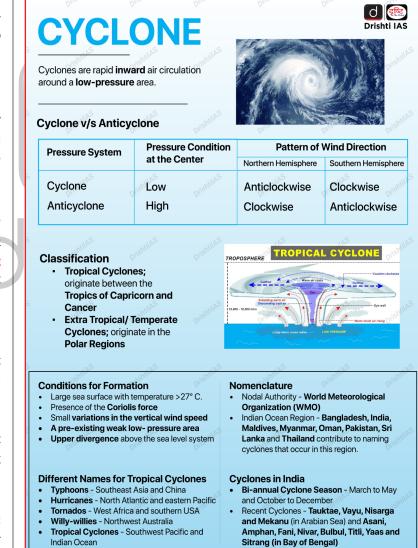
Key Points

- Heavy Rainfall and Flood Risks: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts heavy rains in Jharkhand, raising concerns for flooding, especially in vulnerable low-lying areas, from 24th to 25th October, 2024.
- Disruption to Transportation: Rail services across parts of eastern India, including Jharkhand, are heavily impacted, with over 150 trains cancelled as a precautionary measure to ensure commuter safety during the expected adverse weather conditions.
- NDRF and SDRF Preparedness: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams are on high alert and prepared for rapid deployment in case of emergencies.
- Advisory for Fishermen and Coastal Activities: The IMD has issued a strict warning for fishermen and advised against venturing into the Bay of Bengal. High wind speeds, expected to reach 100-110 km/h, are likely to impact coastal and adjacent regions, affecting local economies reliant on fishing and maritime activities.
- Evacuations and Public Safety Warnings: Authorities are making preparations for potential evacuations, particularly in

regions where the cyclone's impact may be severe. Public advisories are issued to ensure residents are aware of safety protocols during the cyclone's passage.

Cyclone Dana

- Emergence: It is the third cyclone to form in the North Indian Ocean region and the second to make landfall along the Indian coast in 2024 after Cyclone Remal.
 - $\circ~$ It is the first cyclone in the post $\underline{\text{monsoon}}$ cyclone season.
- Naming of Dana: The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) states that Cyclone Dana was named by Qatar. In Arabic, "Dana" signifies 'generosity' and also refers to 'the most perfectly sized, valuable, and beautiful pearl.'





Jharkhand Assembly Elections, 2024

Why in News?

The <u>Election Commission of India</u> recently announced the poll schedule for the 2024 Jharkhand Assembly elections, which will be held in two phases in November, with results to be declared on **23**rd **November**.

Key Points

- > Constituencies Voting in Phase 1 (13th November):
 - Major constituencies include Kodarma, Hazaribagh, Jamshedpur East, Ranchi, Khunti (ST), and Daltonganj.
 - o 43 constituencies will vote, with a significant number of ST and SC seats.
- Constituencies Voting in Phase 2 (20th November):
 - Includes Rajmahal, Dumka (ST), Deoghar (SC), Dhanbad, Bokaro, and Ramgarh.
 - 38 constituencies will vote, covering diverse regions and social compositions.

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The elections will cover all 81 constituencies, including
44 General, 9 SC, and 28 ST seats, setting the stage
for a new government formation by early 2025.

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Election Commission of India

- The <u>Election Commission of India (ECI)</u> is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
 - It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as <u>National Voters' Day</u>). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the <u>Lok Sabha</u>, <u>Rajya Sabha</u>, and <u>State Legislative Assemblies</u> in India, and the offices of the <u>President and Vice President</u> in the country.
 - It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate <u>State</u> <u>Election Commission</u>.



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