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JHARKHAND

**FEBRUARY
2025**

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Communal Violence in Jharkhand

Why in News?

Hindu and Muslim communities clashed in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district 26th February 2025 over decorations for Maha Shivaratri and the installation of loudspeakers.

- During the violent confrontation, both sides pelted stones, set several shops on fire, and torched multiple vehicles.

Key Points

- **Communal Clash in Hazaribagh:**
 - The clash occurred in Dumroan village. Several people sustained injuries and were taken to Hazaribagh Sadar Hospital for treatment.
 - According to the police, **Muslims protested against fixing Maha Shivaratri flags and installing sound systems** at Hindustan Chowk.
 - **Arguments between both communities escalated**, leading to stone pelting from a nearby madrasa.
 - In retaliation, Hindus also threw stones at the opposing side.
- **Official Statements:**
 - The officials **urged people to maintain peace** and celebrate Maha Shivaratri with brotherhood.
 - They assured that police are stationed at the site, the situation is under control, and **legal action will be taken against those responsible**.

Communal Violence

- The Indian Penal Code (IPC) defines **communal violence** as any act that promotes enmity between different groups on grounds of **religion, race, place of birth, residence, language**, etc., and does acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony.
- BNS Provisions on Communal Violence:
 - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 196** aims to **prevent and punish actions that promote enmity and hatred** between different groups based on various grounds.
 - It seeks to maintain social harmony by penalizing such acts with imprisonment and fines, especially when these actions occur in places of worship or during religious gatherings.

Review of Mega Infrastructure Projects

Why in News?

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary led a high-level meeting to **review key issues affecting mega infrastructure projects** in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Delhi, and Jharkhand.

Key Points

- **Review of Key Infrastructure Projects:**
 - The meeting **reviewed 21 issues across 17 significant projects**, including 9 projects under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 - The total cost of all projects exceeded Rs 13,501 crore.
 - **The Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway project**, valued at Rs 9,623.72 crore, was a major focus. This project involved seven issues across six packages.
- **Focus on New NITs in Strategic Locations:**
 - The meeting emphasized the government's plan to establish new National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in strategic locations.
 - These NITs aim to **bridge regional disparities in technical education** and meet the rising demand for skilled engineers and technical professionals.
 - Beyond academics, these institutions will drive regional economic growth by fostering innovation, research, and industry collaboration.
- **Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata Expressway Project:**
 - This expressway is a key project under the Bharat Mala Yojana, enhancing regional connectivity across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
 - It is expected to boost trade and freight movement, benefiting industries that rely on the Kolkata and Haldia ports for maritime trade.
- **Commitment to Efficient Project Monitoring:**
 - The Secretary reaffirmed the government's commitment to **strengthening the institutional framework for project monitoring**.
 - He directed authorities to adopt a proactive approach in resolving pending project issues.

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Note:

- He urged private proponents to utilize the **Project Monitoring Group (PMG) mechanism (PMG Portal)** for expedited project implementation.
- The PMG mechanism ensures efficient and timely resolution of concerns through collaboration among the Central Government, State Authorities, and Private Stakeholders.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

- **About:**
 - It was **established in 1995** and was **reconstituted in 2000** with the merger of the Department of Industrial Development.
 - It was earlier called Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion; and was **renamed DPIIT in 2019**.
 - In 2018, the matters related to e-Commerce were transferred to the Department and in 2019, the Department was given charge for matters related to internal trade, welfare of traders and their employees and startups.
- **Objective:**
 - Reduce the **compliance burden**, simplify further the **citizen-government interface** whether online or offline, and **remove antiquated and obsolete acts** which don't add value.
 - To **boost manufacturing and make Indian industry competitive**, there are issues of quality and manufacturing of scale but the **compliance burden is a major cost**.

Palamu Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Officials in Jharkhand are bringing back the tiger of **Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR)** that wandered into **the Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary** in Jharkhand and West Bengal's Purulia.

Key Points

- **Proposal for Relocation:**
 - PTR officials have prepared a proposal for relocating the tiger and sent it to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
 - Upon receiving approval, the tiger will be tranquilized and brought back to the PTR area.

- A team from the **Wildlife Institute in Delhi** will be present to oversee the relocation process.

➤ Threat to Villages:

- Since leaving PTR, the tiger has **terrorized villagers in Jamshedpur and Purulia** by preying on cattle.
- The presence of the tiger has caused fear among residents of 86 villages surrounding Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary.

➤ Challenges and Concerns:

- The tiger, currently trapped in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, is **starving and struggling to navigate the unfamiliar forest**.
- The region's hilly terrain and dense human population make the situation more complex.
- Experts fear that prolonged isolation and lack of food may lead the tiger into depression, prompting the forest department to take measures for its well-being.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- NTCA is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- It was established in **2005** following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of **the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it.

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary (Shelter)** located in **Jamshedpur** is famous for **elephants**. Apart from this, **barking deer, sloth bear** and **various reptile species** are notable among other fauna found here.
- This wildlife sanctuary with an area of 193.22 sq km is located in the catchment area of **the Subarnarekha river**.
- It consists mainly of dry mixed deciduous forests with some dry peninsular sals. The main tree species here include **Terminalia, Jamun, Dhaura, Kendu, Karam etc.**
- **Eco-sensitive areas** are the areas within 10 km around protected areas, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which are notified under **the Environment Protection Act, 1986**.

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Note:

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**.

Avian Flu Outbreak at Ranchi Farm

Why in News?

Recently, **authorities culled a total of 325 birds** after detecting an **avian flu** case at a **poultry farm of Birsra Agriculture University (BAU) in Ranchi**. They also **sanitized the entire affected zone**.

Key Points

- **Containment Measures:**
 - Officials assured that there is no need for panic as it was a **localized incident affecting guinea fowls** that were kept for research purposes in the farm.
 - Authorities will **map and notify areas within a one-kilometer radius** of the outbreak.
 - Places within a 10-kilometer radius will remain under surveillance.
- **H5N1 Detection:**
 - Around 150 guinea fowls died over the past 20 days at the farm, located in a veterinary college.
 - The **ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD)**, Bhopal, confirmed the presence of the H5N1 avian influenza A virus in the samples.
- **Union Government's Directives:**
 - The **Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying** instructed the state to implement containment measures, including:
 - Declaring infected and surveillance areas
 - Restricting access to affected premises
 - Culling birds to prevent further spread
- **State Government's Response:**
 - The state animal husbandry department issued an advisory and **standard operating procedure (SOP)**:

- **Prohibiting the sale and purchase of birds** in the affected area.
- Establishing a **control room**, which will be operational soon.

Avian Influenza

- **About:**
 - Avian influenza, **often referred to as bird flu**, is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects **birds**, particularly **wild birds and domestic poultry**.
 - In 1996, highly **pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus** was first identified in domestic waterfowl in Southern China. The virus is named **A/goose/Guangdong/1/1996**.
- **Transmission to Humans and Related Symptoms:**
 - Human cases of **H5N1** avian influenza occur occasionally, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person. As per **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, when people do become infected, the **mortality rate is about 60%**.
 - It can range from **mild flu-like symptoms**, including **fever, cough, and muscle aches**, to severe respiratory issues like **pneumonia, difficulty breathing, and even cognitive problems** such as altered mental status and seizures.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- It was **established on 16 July 1929** as a registered society under **the Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi**.

Status of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jharkhand

Why in News?

The **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** in Jharkhand has been disrupted in **eight districts**, affecting thousands of households.

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Key Points

- The '**Har Ghar Nal Jal**' scheme, under the **JJM** aims to provide clean drinking water to every home, has been halted in Pakur, Sahibganj, Dhanbad, Dumka, Garhwa, Gumla, Latehar, and Simdega for the past two months.
- The primary reason behind this suspension is the **non-release of funds by the central government**, leading to contractors stopping work due to unpaid dues.
 - The Jharkhand government has requested a sum of **₹6,324 crore** from the central government to revive and expedite the mission's activities.
- **Launched in 2019**, the Jal Jeevan Mission set an ambitious target of providing tap water connections to **62,55,717 households** in Jharkhand by December 2024.
 - However, as of now, only **34,19,100 households** have received connections, covering just **54.66%** of the target.
- This figure is significantly below the **national average of 79.79%**, leaving around **45%** of households without access to **clean drinking water**.
- The Jharkhand government is now **urging the central authorities to release the pending funds** promptly to reinvigorate the mission.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- **About:**
 - Launched in **2019**, it envisages supply of **55 litres of water per person per day** to every rural household through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC)** by 2024 which has been extended till 2028 in **Budget 2025-26**.
 - JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
 - It comes under Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Aim:**
 - The mission ensures functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
 - It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water; drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supply system, **grey water** treatment and its reuse.

Features:

- JJM focuses on **integrated demand and supply-side management of water** at the local level.
- Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, like **rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse**, is undertaken in convergence with other government programmes/schemes.
- The Mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission.

Implementation:

- **Paani Samitis plan**, implement, manage, operate and maintain village water supply systems.
 - These consist of **10-15 members**, with at least **50% women members** and other members from **Self-Help Groups, Accredited Social and Health Workers, Anganwadi teachers**, etc.
- The committees prepare a **one-time village action plan**, merging all available village resources. The plan is approved in a **Gram Sabha** before implementation.

Funding Pattern:

- The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is **90:10** for Himalayan and **North-Eastern States**, **50:50** for other states, and **100%** for Union Territories.

Udhwa Lake

Why in News?

The Ramsar Convention has recognized four new **wetlands** in India, increasing the **total number** of such designated sites **in the country to 89**.

Key points

New Additions to the Ramsar List:

- Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim)
- Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)

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Note:

- **State-Wise Distribution:**
 - **Tamil Nadu holds the highest number of Ramsar sites in India**, with 20 wetlands.
 - **Sikkim and Jharkhand have joined the Ramsar list for the first time** with their new designations.
- **India's Global Ranking:**
 - India has the **highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia** and ranks **third globally**:
 - **United Kingdom** (176 sites)
 - **Mexico** (144 sites)
 - Over the last decade, India's Ramsar sites increased from 26 to 89, with 47 sites added in just three years.
- **Significance of Wetlands:**
 - Wetlands are areas covered by water temporarily, seasonally, or permanently.
 - They provide crucial ecosystem services, including:
 - **Flood control**
 - Water supply
 - **Biodiversity** support
 - Food, fibre, and raw material sources
- **The Udhwa Lake:**
 - **Location:**
 - It is located in **Sahebganj district of Jharkhand**.
 - It is situated in a **small village called Udhwa**, which is named after **Saint Uddhava, a friend of Lord Krishna in the Mahabharatha**.
 - It is the **first Ramsar designated wetland from Jharkhand**.
 - **Establishment:**
 - In **1991**, the sanctuary was established to **safeguard and conserve the diverse bird species found in the region**.
 - Designated as the **sole bird sanctuary in Jharkhand**, it plays a crucial role in **preserving the natural heritage and biodiversity of the area**.
 - **Rivers:**
 - The Sanctuary has **two water bodies Patauran and Berhale**, interconnected by a water channel. Patauran is a comparatively clean water body.

The Ramsar Convention

- The **Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of **UNESCO**, aimed at conserving wetlands of international importance.
 - In India, it **came into force on 1st February 1982**, under which wetlands of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Montreux Record** is a register of **wetland sites of International Importance** where **changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur** as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
 - It is maintained as part of the **Ramsar List**.

Sarna Code

Why in News?

The Rashtriya Adivasi Samnvy Samiti, based in Jharkhand, has urged **Scheduled Tribe associations** across the country to join a protest demanding a separate **Sarna religion code** in the upcoming **Census**.

Key Points

- **Protest at Jantar Mantar:**
 - The Rashtriya Adivasi Samnvy Samiti will lead a **mass demonstration at Jantar Mantar**, New Delhi, on 28th February 2025 to **demand a separate religion column for Scheduled Tribe communities** in the Census.
 - The protest call has been circulated among other **Adivasi groups**, including the **Kendriya Sarna Samiti**, which have also pushed for a separate Sarna religion code.
 - Adivasi organizations, primarily from **Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal**, have demanded a separate religion column in the Census for decades.
- **Impact of the Movement in 2011 Census:**
 - In the **2011 Census**, the movement led to 4.9 lakh people marking their **religion** as Sarna in the 'Others' column.

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Note:

- Over 80% of these respondents were from Jharkhand, highlighting the strong regional support for this demand.
- Since 2011, the demand for a separate Sarna religion code has gained momentum, particularly in eastern and central India, with increasing mobilization from tribal communities.

Sarna Religion

➤ About:

- Sarna religion is a **nature-worshipping faith** practiced by many tribal communities in India. It is also known as **Sarna Dharma** or **the Religion of the Holy Woods**.
- They are concentrated mainly in the tribal belt states of **Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam**.

➤ Features of the Sarna religion:

- They worship **nature, including water, forests, and land**.
- They believe in protecting forests and pray to trees and hills. They **do not worship idols**.
- They do not adhere to the **Varna system**.
- They celebrate **the Sarhul festival**, which is the **New Year festival**.

4 Lakh People to Get Homes under the PMAY

Why in News?

Under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**, the people of **Jharkhand** are now going to get their own homes.

- Initially, the central government had announced housing for **1.13 lakh homeless people in the state**, but this number has now been increased to **4,19,947**.

Key Points

➤ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY):

○ About:

- It is a major scheme launched by the Government of India with the aim of providing housing to the **poor and low-income groups** in the country.

- This scheme was initiated in **2015**, with the main goal of providing a **roof over everyone's head by 2022**.

- However, the government missed this target and in August 2022 **extended the deadline to ensure "housing for all" to December 2024**.

- Under the **PMAY**, the government has planned to build millions of new houses across the country.

- This scheme has been particularly important for the rural and urban poor, as many people did not have their own homes.

- It is especially beneficial for those living in temporary shelters or slums.

○ Benefits of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana:

- **Affordable Loans:** Under PMAY, affordable loans are provided to the poor and lower-middle-class people to buy houses. This is known as the **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)**.

- Under this, a subsidy of up to **₹2.5 lakh** is given, which provides a reduction in the interest rate on loans for buying a house.

- **Women, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC)** are given priority.

- **Subsidy:** This scheme also provides cash subsidies, which are useful for the **construction, repair, or renovation of houses**.

- There are different schemes for rural and urban areas under PMAY.

- In rural areas, a subsidy of up to **₹1.2 lakh** is provided for building or improving houses, while in urban areas, a subsidy of up to **₹2.67 lakh** is given.

- **Quality and Design of Houses:** Special attention is given to the quality of houses built under PMAY.

- Efforts are made to make these houses durable and safe. Additionally, the design of the houses is made in such a way that they are suitable for all weather conditions and comfortable for all family members.

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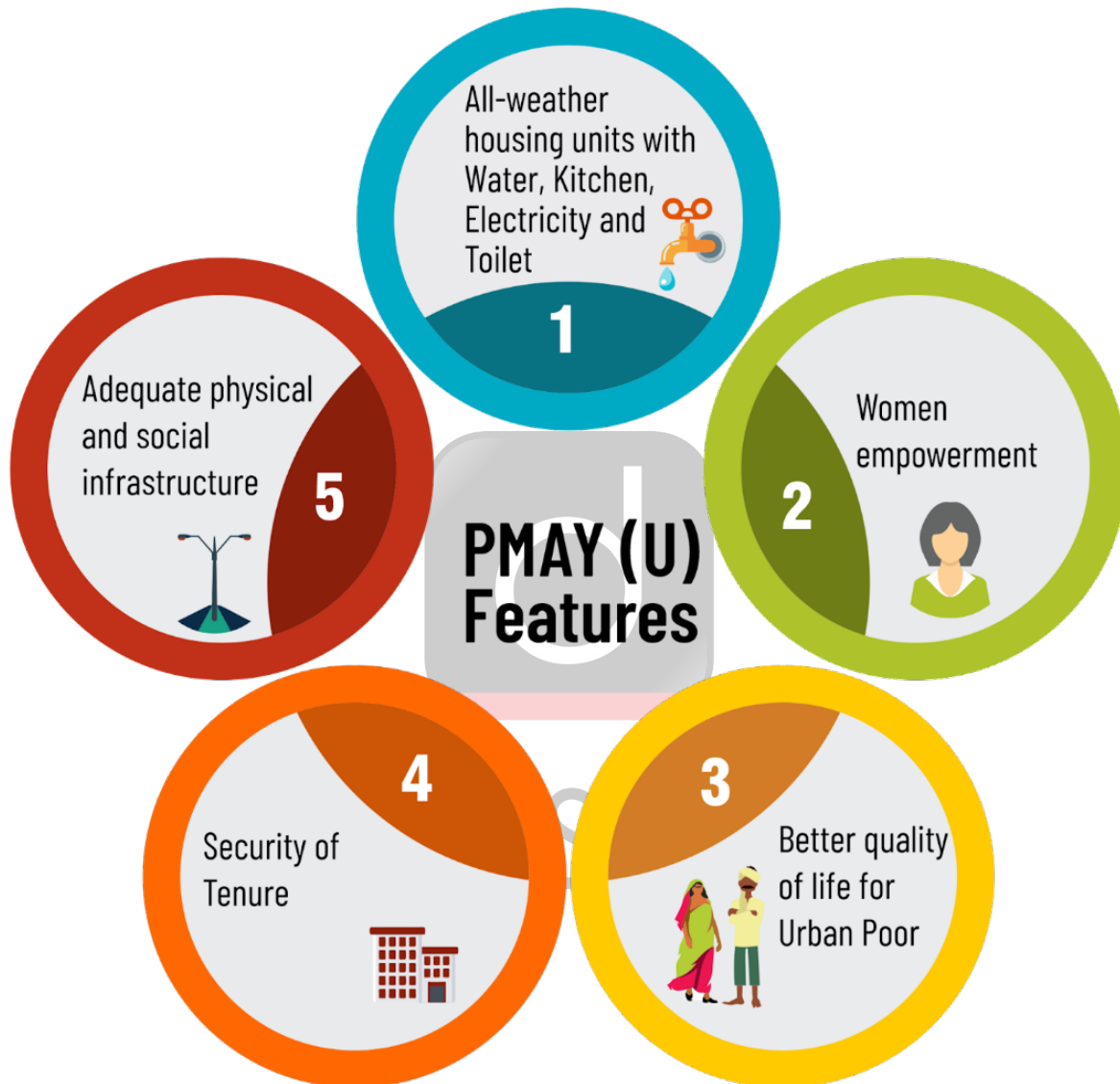
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Note:

Credit Linked Subsidy:

- People from **Economically Weaker Section (EWS)**, **Low Income Group (LIG)**, and **Middle Income Groups (MIG-I and MIG-II)** can get interest subsidies of **6.5%**, **4%**, and **3%** on housing loans up to Rs. 6 lakh, Rs. 9 lakh, and Rs. 12 lakh respectively for buying or building houses.



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Note:

Key Points

Details

Summary

