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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Drishti, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar, Delhi-110009

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: www.drishtias.com

Email: help@groupdrishti.in

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Naxal Issue Confined

Why in News?

According to the **Director General of Police (DGP)**, the joint attacks on **Naxalites** in Jharkhand have contained their operations to just 5 out of the total 24 districts, with **Chaibasa facing the most impact**.

Key Points

- **Naxalism originated as rebellion against local landlords** who bashed a peasant over a land dispute.
 - The rebellion was **initiated in 1967**, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of **Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal**.
- **Started in West Bengal**, the movement has spread across Eastern India; in less developed areas of states such as **Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is considered that Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology.
 - **Maoism** is a form of communism developed by **Mao Tse Tung**.
 - It is a **doctrine to capture State power** through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.
- Efforts are currently in place to combat **drug trafficking**, leading to the apprehension of drug peddlers and significant seizures of opium under the the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.

Drug Trafficking

- Drug trafficking refers to the **illegal trade involving the cultivation**, manufacture, distribution, and sale of illicit drugs.
- It encompasses a **wide range of activities associated with the illegal drug trade**, including the production of drugs such as **cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and synthetic drugs**, as well as the transportation and distribution of these substances.
- Drug trafficking **operates within a complex network of criminal organisations** that span across borders, regions, and even continents.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985

- It prohibits a person from **producing, possessing, selling, purchasing, transporting**, storing, and/or consuming any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
- **The National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse** was also created under a provision of the NDPS Act, 1985, to meet the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the Act.

Land Rights of Tribals and SC/ST Act

Why in News?

Recently, Jharkhand's Chief Minister **directed officials to safeguard the land rights of tribals** and take quick action to ensure their possession over plots where court rulings are in their favor following disputes.

- Emphasising that **Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been the most marginalised and deprived population**, it was also directed to officials that **all cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** be disposed of on a priority basis.

Key Points

- The **Constitution of India** does not endeavor to define the term 'tribe', however, the term **Scheduled Tribe'** was inserted in the Constitution through Article 342 (i).
 - It lays down that 'the **President** may, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within the tribes or tribal communities or parts which shall, **for the purposes of this Constitution, be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes**.
 - The **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution provides for the setting up a **Tribes' Advisory Council** in each of the States having Scheduled Areas.
- One of the **most significant issues faced by tribal communities is the lack of secure land rights**. Many tribes live in forest areas or remote regions where their traditional rights to land and resources are often not recognized, leading to displacement and land alienation.

Note:

- **SC/ST Act 1989** is an Act of Parliament enacted to prohibit discrimination against SC & ST communities members and prevent atrocities against them.
 - The Act was passed in Parliament of India on 11th September 1989 and notified on 30 January 1990.

Abua Awas Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Jharkhand Chief Minister directed for speeding up the process of construction of 2 lakh houses in the first phase of the '**Abua Awas**' scheme, and emphasized that action will be taken against officers who commit irregularities and negligence in this scheme.

Key Points

- The scheme was launched by former CM Hemant Soren in November 2023 to provide houses to those who were deprived of benefits under the PM Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- Under Abua Awas' scheme (launched in 2023), the state government will provide housing to the needy people from its own fund by spending more than Rs 15,000 crore in the next two years.
 - Three room houses will be provided to the poor, deprived, labourers, farmers, tribals, backward and Dalits.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)

- It is a government initiative that aims to provide affordable houses to the urban poor keeping a target of building 2 crore (20 million) houses by 2024.
- The two basic components of the scheme are:
 - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U)** looks into the housing requisites of poor urban people. The urban poor has been categorised into three sectors, which depend upon the annual household income:
 - (i) Economically Weaker Section (EWS), (ii) Low-income Group (LIG) (iii) Middle Income Group (MIG). Additionally, the slum dwellers within the urban population can also apply to the scheme.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Rural (PMAY-R)** has been brought in to help economically weak families living in rural India become property owners. The residences in such rural areas will have all the required basic facilities such as electricity, clean water, a well-developed sewage system, a sanitation facility, etc.

Pension Benefit to Sickle Cell Anemia Patients

Why in News?

According to the officials, People suffering from **sickle cell anemia** will get a **monthly pension of Rs 1,000** in Jharkhand's **Khunti district**.

Key Points

- The Khunti district administration has approved pension benefits for persons suffering from sickle cell anemia under **Swami Vivekananda Nishakt Swavlamban Protsahan Scheme**.
 - In the **first phase, nine beneficiaries have been identified from different blocks** - three each from Khunti and Karra, two from Murhu and one from Torpa block.
- In case any sickle cell case coming to light or identified later on it will be covered under this scheme.
- Sickle cell screening of 99,165 people has been conducted so far in the district.
 - Out of which 114 were found to be carriers of sickle cell and a total of 46 persons were found to be suffering from **sickle cell anemia-thalassemia disease**.
 - Among them, nine people who have been suffering from **40% or more sickle cell anemia-thalassemia disease are being given pension under the scheme** on the basis of disability certificate.

Swami Vivekananda Nishakta Swavlamban Protsahan Yojana

- It is a scheme launched by the **Department of Women, Child Development & Social Security, Government of Jharkhand**.
- It aims to provide **social security to differently abled people** aged five years and above who are in need of **financial assistance**.
- The scheme operates as a **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** where the pension amount is directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary.

Sickle Cell Disease

- Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterized by an abnormality in hemoglobin, the **protein responsible for carrying oxygen in red blood cells**.

Note:

- It causes **red blood cells to adopt a sickle or crescent shape**, hindering their movement through vessels, leading to potential complications like **severe pain, infections, anaemia, and strokes**.
- In India alone, an estimated **30,000-40,000 children** are born with sickle cell disease annually.

Thalassaemia

- Similar to **sickle cell disease**, individuals with **thalassaemia experience severe anaemia due to low haemoglobin levels**, necessitating lifelong blood transfusions and **chelation therapy** to manage iron accumulation.
- Major symptoms include **fatigue, paleness or jaundice, shortness of breath, delayed growth, facial bone deformities (in severe cases)** among others.

Tigresses Relocation to Palamu Reserve

Why in News?

According to the sources, to keep the four tigers that have moved to **Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR)** efforts are being made to bring in two tigresses and one tiger from another reserve.

Key Points

- The approval of the **National Zoo Authority** is awaited for shifting 350 animals to the **Soft Release Centers (SRC)** set up in the reserve.
 - Permission from **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** for shifting the cheetals, sambhars and deer has already been obtained.
- The forest officials have set up four SRCs to ensure enough food for tigers, which will help them breed in the reserve.
 - In these centres, animals are placed in pre-release cages placed close to the location where they will be released.
- Soft releases at Baresadh, Lukaiya, Mundu, and Dhardharia cover 10 hectares each, creating a suitable environment for **cheetal** breeding, which will serve as prey for the tigers.
- Cheetals and sambhar will be shifted from **Betla National Park** and **Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park (Birsa Zoo)** to different SRCs.

- According to the report on the **status of tigers in India**, released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, **there were no tigers in PTR**.
 - PTR is **spread over** an area of about **1,230 sq km**. It was made a **tiger reserve in 1973**.

National Zoo Authority

- It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It was constituted in 1992 under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- It is **chaired by the Union Minister of Environment** and has 10 members and a member-secretary.
- The main objective of the authority is **to complement and strengthen the national effort in conservation of rich biodiversity**.
- The authority provides **recognition to zoos** and is also tasked with **regulating the zoos** across the country.
 - It **lays down guidelines** and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
 - It **coordinates and implements programmes** on capacity building of zoo personnel, planned breeding programmes and ex-situ research.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- It is a **statutory body** under **section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- It was established in **2005** following the recommendations of the **Tiger Task Force**.

Burudih Dam as Tourist Destination

Why in News?

Jharkhand CM Champai Soren directed officials to develop **Burudih dam** into a **national-level tourism destination** during his visit to the scenic dam in **Ghatsila sub-division of East Singhbhum**.

Key Points

- The CM emphasized Jharkhand's natural beauty while **planting saplings and tying rakhi around a tree** to emphasize **environmental conservation**.
 - He affirmed the government's commitment to **promoting various tourist spots across the state**, including religious sites, forests, dams, and waterfalls.

Note:

- The government is working to ensure that **local farmers benefit from the dam's water resources** and is focusing on **holistic development across all sectors** for the state's rapid progress.
- The **CM inaugurated 2,141 development projects** worth over Rs 45 crore and distributed assets under welfare schemes worth over Rs 71 crore among 20,484 beneficiaries.
- He highlighted recent government initiatives including providing **200 units of free electricity, waiving farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh**, and offering **financial assistance to youth** for livelihood support.
- He reaffirmed his government's dedication to **constructing 2 million houses under the Abua Awas Yojana** for underprivileged families, ensuring that welfare schemes reach every section of society through the '**Aapki Yojana, Aapki Sarkar, Aapke Dwar**' program.

Abua Awas Yojana (AAY)

- Under this scheme, the state government will **provide housing to the needy people** from its own funds by spending more than Rs 15 thousand crore in the next two years.
- Under the scheme, **3 room houses will be provided to the poor, deprived, labourers, farmers, tribals, backward and Dalits.**

Aapki Yojana, Aapki Sarkar, Aapke Dwar Program

- Under this program, **camps will be organized in 4,351 panchayats and 50 wards of the state.**
- In these camps, the **needy people who were till now deprived of the schemes will be covered with public welfare schemes.**

India's First Pilot Project for Underground Coal Gasification

Why in News?

The Ministry of Coal, **Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)** is conducting a pilot project for **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** at the **Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.**

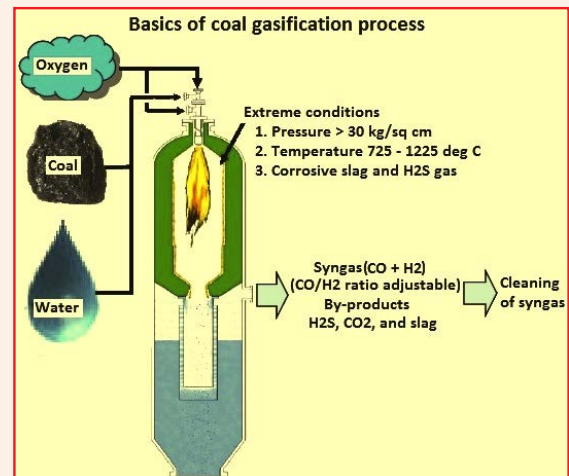
Key Points

- It aims to revolutionise the coal industry by using **in-situ coal gasification to convert it into valuable**

gases such as **methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.**

- These gases can be utilised to produce **synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks for fuels, fertilizers, explosives**, and other industrial applications.
- The **Ministry of Coal** is fully committed to promoting coal gasification projects, recognizing their potential to transform coal into various **high-value chemical products.**
- The **first phase** involves creating a **Technical Feasibility Report** through borehole drilling and core testing. The **next phase** will **focus on coal gasification** at a pilot scale.
- The successful execution of this pilot project is expected to **create transformative opportunities for India's energy sector**, highlighting the sustainable and efficient use of the country's coal resources.

Coal Gasification



- **Process:** Coal gasification is a process in which coal is **partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas.**
 - This gas is then used instead of piped natural gas, methane and others for deriving energy.
 - In-situ gasification of coal – or **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** – is the technique of converting coal into gas while it is still in the seam and then extracting it through wells.
- **Production of Syngas:** It produces Syngas which is a mixture consisting primarily of methane (CH₄), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapour (H₂O).
 - **Syngas** can be used to produce a wide range of **fertilizers, fuels, solvent and synthetic materials.**

Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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