



Rajasthan to Start Prerana Schools | Rajasthan | 03 Feb 2024

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** is planning to **develop Prerana schools**, learning from the experience of Mehsana district of Gujarat.

Key Points

- The **objective is to give students** exposure by interaction with different students, learning about **technological advancements, life skills among other skills.**
 - The initiative started by the **Ministry of Education, Prerana: An Experiential Learning programme**, aims to offer a **meaningful, unique and inspiring experience** to all participants, empowering them with leadership qualities.
 - The Prerana programme **currently running in a vernacular school in Gujarat is a week-long residential programme** for **selected students of Class IX to XII.**
 - It is an experiential and inspirational learning programme for students with the **best-in-class technology** where heritage meets innovation.
 - For this initiative, **20 selected students** which include **10 boys, and 10 girls** attend the program there, **every week from various parts of the country.** For this school, the **curriculum has been prepared by IIT.**
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Jharkhand CM Arrested in a Corruption Case | Jharkhand | 03 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Hemant Soren, of the **Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) party**, has been accused of corruption and **was arrested by the [Enforcement Directorate \(ED\)](#)** after seven hours of questioning.

Key Points

- JMM party has named transport minister **Champai Soren as the next chief minister of the eastern state.**
 - The case against him relates to a piece of land he allegedly owns in Ranchi city.
 - According to the ED, the property was **bought through "proceeds of crime" by illegally selling land owned by the Indian army.**
 - Hemant Soren **denies the charge** and claims the property was "wrongfully alleged to be owned" by him.
 - The JMM has called the investigation against him a **politically motivated "witch-hunt".**
- Several other chief ministers and opposition leaders are also facing **[corruption](#)** allegations.

Chhattisgarh Implements Pay Raise and Women Empowerment Scheme | Chhattisgarh | 03 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government decided to increase the **remuneration of tendu patta collectors from Rs 4000 per standard bag to Rs 5500** and implement the **Mahtari Vandan Yojana**.

Key Points

- The Cabinet has approved the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, under which **married women will receive financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month, totaling Rs 12,000** annually, directly credited to their bank accounts through [Direct Benefit Transfers \(DBT\)](#).
 - The **objective of this scheme** is to **eliminate gender discrimination, inequality, and lack of awareness among women in the state**, and to improve their health and nutrition levels.
 - The benefits will be available to **married women who are residents of Chhattisgarh and are aged 21 or above as of 1st January, 2024**. Widowed, divorced, and abandoned women are also eligible for the scheme.
- To ensure **the social security of tendu patta collectors**, a new scheme will be implemented, with **75% of the financial assistance provided by the government** and the remaining **25% by the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce (Trading and Development) Co-operative Federation**.
- The Cabinet has also decided to implement **the Bharat (BH) series vehicle registration** in the state of Chhattisgarh.
 - Under the BH series implemented by the Government of India, **two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles will have to pay tax for two years at one go**.
- The draft of the [Chhattisgarh Goods and Services Tax \(Amendment\) Bill-2024](#) was also approved.

Subsidy to Farmers on Solar Energy Pumps | Haryana | 03 Feb 2024

Why in News?

Online applications for [solar water pumping systems](#) at 75% subsidy under the [PM-KUSUM \(Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan\) Scheme](#) on behalf of Haryana Government can be made from 19th January to 29th January, 2024.

Key Points

- The state government, through the PM-Kusum scheme, **aims to provide farmers with the opportunity for irrigation using solar energy**.
- Applications are invited for solar pumps **ranging from 3hp to 10hp** under this scheme. The **selection of beneficiaries** for the current year **will be based on the family's annual**

income and land ownership.

- As per the survey by the **Haryana Water Resources Authority**, in villages where the **groundwater level has dropped below 100 feet**, the installation of [micro-irrigation systems](#) **is mandatory**.
- Other farmers must install underground pipe lines or micro-irrigation systems. Farmers engaged in **rice cultivation whose fields have a groundwater level below 40 meters are not eligible** for this scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)

- The PM-KUSUM is a flagship scheme initiated by the Indian government in 2019 with the primary objective of transforming the **agricultural sector by promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions**.
- It operates on a demand-driven approach. Capacities are allocated based on the **demands received from various states and union territories (UTs)**.
- Through various components and financial support, PM-KUSUM envisions achieving a significant **solar power capacity addition of 30.8 GW by March 31, 2026**.

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