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## Chhattisgarh to Revive Aluminium Park Project in Korba | Chhattisgarh | 24 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has decided to **revive** an [aluminum park](#) proposal originally mooted in 2021 **to promote small-scale industries in Korba**.

### Key Points

- The State government had entered an agreement with **Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO)**, a subsidiary of **Vedanta Limited** to supply **raw aluminum** to small-scale industries at a subsidised rate.
- The district administration identifies **Rukhbahari village** land for the project near BALCO township and even held a gram sabha to take the consent of villagers for the project.
- An initial provision of **Rs 5 crore** has been made **in the budget proposal** of the industry department for the financial year 2024-25 to meet the demand of Aluminum Park in Korba district.

### Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO)

- BALCO was incorporated in **1965** as the **first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** in India and since then it has been closely associated with the Indian Industrial Growth, in a pivotal role.
  - In **2001**, Government of India **disinvested 51% shares of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO)** to Sterlite Industries Limited a subsidiary of **Vedanta Limited**.
  - BALCO is playing a crucial role in introducing **Aluminium as a potential alternative to other metals** like Steel in construction, and Copper in the power transmission industry.
  - Major operations of BALCO are in the **town of Korba (Chhattisgarh)**, whereas its mines supplying high grade Bauxite are situated at Kawardha and Mainpat.
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## Uttar Pradesh Forms Committee to Look into Farmer Demands | Uttar Pradesh | 24 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister formed a **three-member committee** to look into the grievances of the **state's farmers whose land was acquired in the Noida, Greater Noida and the Yamuna Expressway areas** for development purposes.

### Key Points

- The **farmers from Noida and the Greater Noida villages** have been **protesting** for the past two months **demanding a 64.7% hiked land compensation, better rehabilitation facilities for their families**, permission to **use residential plots for commercial purposes, jobs** for their children and **better healthcare** facilities, among other benefits.
- The committee will hold discussions with farmers and also with other stakeholders to take the necessary steps.
  - The Noida and the Greater Noida CEOs will support this committee in addressing farmer issues and the **committee will submit its report in three months** before the state government.

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## Uttar Pradesh to Tap into CSR Funds for Development Projects | Uttar Pradesh | 24 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government will turn towards corporates to enlarge the state's [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) reserves for socioeconomic development.

### Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh is among the top five states who corner most of the CSR funds from companies. Others include **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.
- **Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013** mandates certain companies to allocate 2% of their average profits from the preceding three financial years towards CSR activities.
- The state has also acknowledged the contribution of leading private sector companies on a large scale through CSR funds.
  - In 2014-15, UP garnered only about Rs 148 crore that grew to Rs 435 crore in 2017-18. In 2021-22, UP saw a CSR spending of Rs 1,321 crore that surged to around Rs 1,500 crore in 2022-23.

### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- The concept of CSR is the **idea that companies should assess and take responsibility** for their effects on the environment and on social welfare, and to **promote positive social and environmental change**.
- The four main types of corporate social responsibility are:
  - Environmental Responsibility
  - Ethical Responsibility
  - Philanthropic Responsibility
  - Economic Responsibility
- The CSR provisions within **Companies Act, 2013 is applicable to companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore** and more, or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more, or a net profit of Rs. 5 crore and more.
  - The Act requires companies to set up a **CSR committee** which shall recommend a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy to the Board of Directors and also monitor the same from time to time.

### Companies Act, 2013

- It is an **Act of the Parliament which was enacted in 1956**. It enables the companies to be formed by registration, sets out the responsibilities of companies, their executive director and

secretaries.

- In 2013, the Government amended the **Indian Companies Act, 1956** and added a new Act called as **Indian Companies Act, 2013**.
  - The Companies Act, 1956 was replaced partially by the Indian Companies Act 2013.
  - It became an act and finally it came into force in September 2013.
- In 2020, the Parliament of India passed the **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020** to further amend the **Companies Act and decriminalise various compoundable offences as well as promote ease of doing business** in the country.
- Reduction in penalties for certain offences as well as in timeline for rights issues, relaxation in CSR compliance requirements and creation of separate benches at the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** are among the proposed changes too.

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## First Edition of Gurugram Marathon | Haryana | 24 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

More than 27,000 people have registered so far for the **first edition of the Gurugram Marathon**.

### Key Points

- A marathon expo will be organized at **Leisure Valley Park** in which participants will be given **marathon kits**.
- The administration held a series of meetings with several runners' groups, universities, colleges, school associations, all corporates in the city, and citizen groups to ensure maximum participation.
- **Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan is the event's brand ambassador**. The marathon has been divided into four categories. Three of them are competitive, in which winners will get cash rewards.

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## National Workshop on Urban Livelihoods | Jharkhand | 24 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a two-day national workshop convened in Ranchi, under the [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission \(DAY-NULM\)](#), the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, in collaboration with the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#).

### Key Points

- The workshop served as a platform for high-level deliberations on emerging trends and opportunities in **urban livelihoods**, with a primary focus on **bolstering resilience and empowerment for women across urban India**.
  - Participants included **State Mission Directors of the State Urban Livelihoods Mission**, senior **officials from MoHUA** and **Jharkhand state government**, senior **officials from UNDP India**, leading sector experts, and representatives from research

institutions, start-ups, philanthropies, and donor organizations.

- The event featured discussions focusing on enabling strategies to foster women-led urban livelihoods and emerging sectors and types of enterprises in climate, services, retail, and manufacturing.
- It also explored other themes like the [Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\)](#) and the role of philanthropies in addressing issues of urban poverty through identifying priority areas and innovative financial investments.

## National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- The **National Multidimensional Poverty** measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of Health, Education, and Standard of Living that are represented by **12 Sustainable Development Goals-aligned indicators**.
  - These include Nutrition, Child and Adolescent mortality, Maternal Health, Years of schooling, School Attendance, Cooking fuel, Sanitation, Drinking water, Electricity, Housing, Assets, and Bank Accounts.
- MPI's global methodology is based on the robust **Alkire and Foster (AF)** method that identifies people as poor based on **universally acknowledged metrics** designed to assess acute poverty, providing a complementary perspective to conventional monetary poverty measures.

## Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

- The mission was **launched in 2014** and is being implemented by the **Urban Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation**.
- It aims to uplift urban poor by enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development.
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- Funding will be shared between the **Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. For North Eastern and Special Category - the ratio will be 90:10.**
- Its intended beneficiaries are **urban poor (street vendors, slum dwellers, homeless, rag pickers), unemployed and differently-abled.**

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- UNDP has been **working in India since 1951** in almost all areas of human development.
- Together with the Government of India and development partners, it works towards **eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, strengthening local governance, enhancing community resilience, protecting the environment, supporting policy initiatives and institutional reforms**, and accelerating sustainable development for all.