



Jharkhand Cabinet Waives Power Dues

Why in News?

Recently, The **Jharkhand government** has decided to **waive Rs 3,584 crore in power dues for around 39.44 lakh consumers** benefiting from the 200-unit free electricity scheme.

Key Points

- The decision aims to alleviate the financial pressures on domestic consumers registered under the **Mukhyamantri Urja Khushali Yojana**.
- Other decisions that were approved by the state government are:
 - **Ex gratia payment of Rs 10 lakh** and a government job for the families of **Agniveer soldiers** from Jharkhand who die during duty or military operations.
 - **Ex-gratia payment** is the money which is paid due to moral obligation and not due to legal obligation.
 - Extending the remuneration period for **anganwadi poshan sakhis** and cooks from 10 to 12 months.
 - The re-appointment of 10,388 poshan sakhis in six districts - Dhanbad, Dumka, Giridih, Chatra, Koderma, and Godda.

Agnipath Scheme

- The term "**Agniveer**" translates to "Fire-Warriors" and is a **new military rank**.
- It is a scheme of **recruiting army personnel below officer ranks** such as **soldiers, airmen, and sailors** who are not commissioned officers to the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- They are recruited for a period of **4 years**, after which, **upto 25%** of these recruits (called Agniveers), can join the services on a **permanent commission** (another 15 years), subject to merit and organisational requirements.
- At present, **all sailors, airmen, and soldiers**, except the technical cadre of the medical branch, are recruited to the services under this scheme.