



Jharkhand to Help Workers Stranded in Cameroon | Jharkhand | 16 Dec 2024

Why in News?

After an intervention by Jharkhand Chief Minister, a **group of 47 migrant workers from Jharkhand** who are **trapped in Cameroon** have **received partial payment of their wages**.

Key Points

- **Pending Salaries and Legal Non-compliance:**
 - Workers employed by M/s Transrail Lighting Limited in Cameroon alleged non-payment of salaries for three months.
 - The **Chief Minister of Jharkhand directed the Labour Commissioner to register** an **First Information Report (FIR)** against the employers and middlemen.
 - The FIR noted violations of **the Interstate Migrant Workers Act, 1979**, including sending workers abroad without registration or requisite licenses.
 - FIRs were filed in the Hazaribagh, Bokaro, and Giridih districts of Jharkhand.
- **Salary Payment Update:**
 - Transrail Lighting stated the **workers were paid US Dollar 100 per month**, promising to transfer the balance to their Indian accounts.
 - The Labour Department has requested the company to **provide contracts, salary records, and other relevant documents**.
 - A letter has been sent to **the Protector of Emigrants (POE)** and other authorities for necessary action.
- **Diplomatic Efforts:**
 - The Indian High Commission and the **Union Ministry of External Affairs** are actively facilitating discussions between the company and the stranded workers.
 - Control room teams are maintaining contact with workers and officials to ensure their safety.
 - Officials warned that failure to pay full salaries could result in the **cancellation of agreements with contractors**.
- **Previous Cases of Intervention:**
 - In **July 2024**, the Chief Minister intervened to **bring back 27 stranded workers** from Cameroon.
 - Efforts are ongoing to **repatriate 50 workers stranded in Malaysia**, who have reached Visakhapatnam and are expected to return home soon.

Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979

- The Act seeks to regulate the employment of inter-State migrants and their conditions of service.
- It is applicable to every establishment that employs **five or more migrant workmen from other States**; or if it had **employed five or more such workmen** on any day in the **preceding 12 months**.
- It is also **applicable to contractors** who employed a similar number of inter-State workmen.
- It envisages a system of **registration of such establishments**. The principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen **without a certificate of registration** from the relevant authority.
- The law also lays down that **every contractor who recruits workmen** from one State for

deployment in another State **should obtain a licence to do so.**

New Schemes Launched in MP | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister** launched '[Jan Kalyan Parv](#)' and '[Mukhya Mantri Jan Kalyan Abhiyan](#)' in the state. The two programmes are aimed at highlighting the works undertaken during his tenure and connecting more people to the government's welfare schemes.

Key Points

- **Public Welfare Initiatives:**
 - **Jan Kalyan Parv** is scheduled from **11th to 26th December 2024**, focusing on **inaugurating and laying the foundation for development projects.**
 - **Mukhya Mantri Jan Kalyan Abhiyan** runs from **11th December 2024 to 26th January 2025**, aimed at **connecting eligible beneficiaries to public welfare schemes** through door-to-door surveys.
 - These **initiatives coincide with [Gita Jayanti](#)**, commemorating the **recitation of the [Shreemad Bhagwat Gita](#)** by Lord Krishna.
- **Focus of the Campaigns:**
 - These **campaigns targets the poor, youth, farmers, and women**, linking them to:
 - 34 beneficiary-oriented schemes
 - 11 target-based schemes
 - 63 services
 - The objective is to **provide new opportunities and ensure accessibility of welfare schemes.**
- **Cultural Recognition and Achievements:**
 - At the **[Gita Mahotsav](#)**, over 7,000 people, including 3,721 Acharyas and Batuks, participated in the **mass recitation of Gita verses.**
 - The feat earned recognition in the **[Guinness Book of World Records](#)**, and the Chief Minister congratulated the participants.

Transgender Welfare Board in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 16 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand Cabinet cleared** a proposal for the formation of the **[State Transgender Persons Welfare Board](#).**

- The State will bring a **policy to provide equal opportunity in employment to transgender persons.**

Key Points

- **Survey and Issuance of Identity Cards:**
 - A **survey will be conducted** across Uttarakhand to **identify and ascertain the number of transgender persons in the State.**
 - Following the survey, transgender individuals will be **issued identity cards to formalize their recognition.**
- **Facilitating Welfare Access:**
 - The welfare board will **ensure the transgender community's access** to existing social, educational, and health schemes.
 - It will also **develop new schemes that are sensitive and non-discriminatory** towards the community.
 - An **effective monitoring system will be established** to address grievances, with a fixed time limit for complaint resolution.
- **Formation of Uttarakhand Transgender Persons Welfare Board:**
 - **The Social Welfare Department will serve as the administrative department**, with the **Chief Minister as the head for the Transgender Persons Welfare Board.**
 - Members will include **Secretaries of Departments such as Social Welfare, Home, Finance, Personnel, Urban Development, and Panchayati Raj**, along with:
 - Five experts from the transgender community.
 - A representative from **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)** working for transgender rights.
 - National Context and Legal Mandate.
- **18th State to Establish Welfare Board:**
 - **Uttarakhand will become the 18th State/Union Territory** to establish a welfare board for transgender persons under **[the Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Act, 2019, and Rules, 2020.](#)**
 - **Other states with Transgender Welfare Boards** are Rajasthan, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Maharashtra, Kerala, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar.

Transgender

- According to **[the Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Act, 2019](#)** transgender means a person **whose gender does not match with the gender assigned to that person at birth.**
- It includes trans-person with intersex variations, **[gender-queer](#)** and people having such socio-cultural identities as kinnar, hijra, aaravani and jogta.
- India's **[2011 Census](#)** was the **first census in its history to incorporate the number of 'trans' population** of the country. The report estimated that **4.8 million Indians identified as transgender.**

UNHCR team Meets Rohingya refugees in Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | 16 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a two-membered team of **[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)** visited **[Rohingya refugees](#)** staying in Jammu and surrounding areas.

Key Points

- The **visit followed controversy over the administration's order to disconnect water and power supplies** to slums housing illegal Rohingyas.
- Jammu's Jal Shakti Minister clarified that water and power supply to these areas would not be cut.
- **Government and Public Response:**
 - Local organisations and political groups have been calling for the deportation of Rohingya refugees.
 - The Chief Minister stated that while the **Centre must decide the fate of the Rohingyas**, they **cannot be left to suffer from starvation or cold**.
- **NGO and Aadhaar Linkages:**
 - Investigations revealed that four **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)** were **helping Rohingyas settle in Jammu**.
 - Reports indicate that **158 Rohingyas obtained Aadhaar cards unlawfully**, and several Rohingya women have married local youths in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - According to government data, **over 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals, reside in Jammu and other districts of J&K**.
- **Legal and Political Actions:**
 - **First Information Reports (FIR)** were recently registered against landlords **renting properties to Rohingyas without informing the police**, violating district magistrate orders.
- **National Security Concerns:**
 - **Political organisations have urged the Central Government to deport Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugees**, citing potential national security risks.

Rohingya Crisis

- The Rohingya people have suffered decades of **violence, discrimination and persecution in Myanmar**.
 - Rohingyas are not recognized as an official ethnic group and have been **denied citizenship since 1982**. They are one of the largest stateless populations in the world.
- Since the early 1990s, the **Rohingyas have fled successive waves of violence in Myanmar**.
 - Their **largest and fastest exodus began in August 2017** when violence broke out in **Myanmar's Rakhine State**, driving more than 742,000 people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, **the majority of whom were women and children**.



J&K to Host Khelo India Winter Games 2025 | Jammu & Kashmir | 16 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Jammu & Kashmir is set to host the [Khelo India Winter Games \(KIWG\) 2025](#) from **23rd to 27th January 2025**. Ladakh will host ice sports, including ice hockey and ice skating events.

Key Points

- **Khelo India Winter Games:**
 - For the **second consecutive year, the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh jointly hosted** the Khelo India Winter Games.
 - J&K previously hosted all events but Ladakh successfully organized ice events, such as skating and hockey.

- **Origins and Growth of Participation:**
 - The **Khelo India Winter Games began in 2020**, attracting nearly 1,000 athletes, including 306 women, in its inaugural year.
 - Participation steadily increased, with over 1,350 athletes in 2021 and more than 1,500 in 2022, reflecting the games' growing popularity in the region.
- **KIWG 2024:**
 - The 2024 Winter Games featured over 1,200 participants, including:
 - More than 700 athletes.
 - A total of 136 medals were contested during the event.
- **Increased Professional Management:**
 - For the first time, **the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, in collaboration with [the Sports Authority of India \(SAI\)](#), [National Sports Federations](#), and the [Indian Olympic Association](#), managed the technical conduct of the games.

Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)

- The KIWG is a **multidisciplinary, national-level winter sports competition** that **promotes winter sports** and encourages more athletes to take up skiing and skating.
- It includes events such as **skiing, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, snow rugby, ice stock sport, snow baseball, mountaineering, snowshoe running, ice hockey, figure skating, and speed skating.**
- It is organized by the [Sports Authority of India](#) and the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- The **2025 KIWG** will be held in the **Union Territory of Ladakh from 23 to 27 January for ice events**, and in **the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir from 22 to 25 February for snow events.**

Super Speciality Eye Hospital in Patna | Bihar | 16 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Bihar government** signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) with **Sankara Eye Foundation India, Coimbatore** to facilitate the construction and operation of a super-specialty eye hospital in Patna.

Key Points

- **Land Allocation Approval:**
 - The **Bihar Cabinet approved the allocation of 1.60 acres of land in Kankarbagh, Patna** on a conditional lease at a nominal cost of Rs 1 to Sankara Eye Foundation India.
 - This land will be utilized for the construction of the super-specialty eye hospital.
- **Hospital Details and Benefits:**
 - Sankara Eye Foundation India, an **internationally acclaimed eye treatment hospital**, will construct and operate the hospital at its own expense.
 - Advanced treatments such as **corneoplasty, retinal detachment surgeries, and eye cancer treatments** will be offered along with general eye care.
- **Free Treatment Provision:**
 - **75% of the patients will receive free treatment**, while the remaining **25% will pay for services.**
 - **Families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually** will qualify for **free treatment.**

▪ **Contrasting Health Infrastructure Report:**

◦ **CAG Audit Findings on Bihar Health Infrastructure:**

- **The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** report on Public Health Infrastructure (2016-2022) presented during the winter session criticized the state's performance.
- Out of the Rs 69,790.83 crore health budget allocated from FY 2016-17 to 2021-22, only Rs 48,047.79 crore (69%) was spent, leaving Rs 21,743.04 crore (31%) unutilized.

◦ **Low Health Expenditure:**

- Bihar's healthcare spending as a percentage of **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** ranged between 1.33% and 1.73%, and against the State Budget, it ranged between 3.31% and 4.41%.

◦ **Resource Shortages:**

- The report highlighted shortages in drugs, medical equipment, and consumables, pointing to critical gaps in public health infrastructure.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/16-12-2024/print>

