

23rd January 2025

'Deendayal Upadhyay Bhoomiheen Krishi Majdoor Kalyana Yojana'

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai launched the 'Deendayal Upadhyaya Landless Agricultural Labourers Welfare Scheme'.

Key Points:

- ❖ **Assistance Fund:** Under this scheme, **10 thousand rupees will be given every year** to those farmers of the state who do not have land.
 - Under this scheme, Rs 562 crore 11 lakh 20 thousand will be given to landless agricultural labourers.
- ❖ **Beneficiaries:** A total of 5 lakh 62 thousand 112 beneficiaries of the state will get the benefit of this scheme.
- ❖ **Objective:** The objective behind starting Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Kalyan Yojana is to provide financial support to landless agricultural labourer families by increasing their net income.
- ❖ **Persons eligible for the scheme:** Along with landless agricultural labourers, this scheme also includes landless families associated with the Pauni-Pasari system like landless families of forest produce collectors, shepherds, carpenters, blacksmiths, cobblers, barbers, washermen, etc.
 - Apart from these, priests, Baiga, Gunia, Manjhi families who worship in the tribal places of worship in the scheduled areas have also been included.
- ❖ **Importance of the Scheme:** This scheme will not only strengthen their financial condition but will also secure the education, health and future of their children.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme

On January 22, 2025, the 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme was celebrated in Baru, Kargil.

Key Points:

- ❖ **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **January 22, 2015** in Panipat, Haryana, which recently completed a decade.
- ❖ **Objective:** The scheme was launched with the aim of addressing the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and promoting the survival, protection and education of girl children.
- ❖ **Integrated with Mission Shakti:** From 2021, the BBBP scheme has been integrated with Mission Shakti, a comprehensive program focused on the safety and empowerment of women. It consists of two sub-schemes:
 - **Sambal**, which addresses safety and security through initiatives such as One Stop Centres and Women Helplines, and
 - **Samarthya**, which promotes empowerment by providing Shakti Sadan, rehabilitation homes and crèche facilities for working women.
- ❖ **Achievement of BBBP:** Over the past ten years, BBBP has made significant achievements in improving the lives of girls across the country.
 - The national sex ratio at birth (SRB) is set to increase from 918 in 2014-15 to 933 in 2022-23.
 - Enrolment in secondary education has also seen an increase, with the gross enrolment ratio (GER) for girls increasing from 75.51% in 2014-15 to 79.4% in 2021-22.

- Institutional deliveries have increased from 87% in 2014-15 to over 94% by 2019-20, ensuring safe delivery and reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.
- ❖ Community campaigns like “**Selfie with Daughters**” and “**Beti Janmotsav**” have played a vital role in creating social acceptance and celebrating the birth of girl children.
- ❖ **Funding:** It operates as a centrally sponsored scheme, with funding based on district SRB levels.



1,200-year-old Buddhist Monastery

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered a 1,200-year-old Buddhist monastery from the historic Ratnagiri Buddhist site in Odisha's Jajpur district.

Key Points:

- ❖ The excavation, which began in December 2024, is being **supervised by ASI Deputy Superintendent Prajnprati Pradhan**. And the expedition was led by Superintending Archaeologist D.B. Garnayak.
- ❖ **Objective:** The project aims to find more artefacts that reveal the rich history and cultural influence of Buddhism in Odisha.
- ❖ **Structures found:** The discoveries include a **Buddhist monastery complex, stone statues of Lord Buddha, votive stupas, engraved stones, pottery, beads, stone pillars and an ancient brick wall**, which is believed to be part of a larger structure.
 - The main excavated remains include a colossal Buddha head and fragments of sculpture of Buddhist deities, as well as a collection of monolithic and masonry votive stupas.

- ❖ **Historical background:** According to Dr. Sunil Patnaik, Secretary, Odisha Institute of Maritime and Southeast Asian Studies (OIMSEAS), the monastery found in the excavation dates back to the **8th century AD**.
 - Developed under the patronage of the **Bhum Kara dynasty**, the site developed as a major Buddhist centre from the 8th to the 11th centuries.

La Perouse Multilateral Exercise


The Indian Navy participated in the 4th edition of La Perouse multilateral exercise.

Key Points:

- ❖ Indigenously built and **guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai** participated in the 4th edition of the multinational exercise La Perouse.
- ❖ **Participants:** Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Royal Navy, United States Navy, Indonesian Navy, Royal Malaysian Navy, Singapore Navy and Royal Canadian Navy participated in this edition.
- ❖ **Objective:** The exercise is in line with India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** vision to enhance maritime cooperation and engagement for a secure and safe Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ The exercise will involve complex and advanced multi-dimensional exercises including surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air defence, cross deck landing and tactical manoeuvres along with constabulary missions like **VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) operations**.
- ❖ **Background:** The first edition of this joint exercise was initiated by France in 2019.



Person In News- Appointments

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He was officially sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. ❖ He replaced Justice Vibhu Bakhru. ❖ Devendra Kumar was appointed as a permanent judge of the Allahabad High Court in 2013. ❖ In July 2023, he was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court before being shifted to Delhi. 	
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Books In News

'The World After Gaza' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recently Pankaj Mishra released his latest book 'The World After Gaza'. ❖ The World After Gaza is a book on the ongoing war in the troubled Palestinian strip. ❖ The book has been condemned for destroying the idea of human rights and opening a window to the abyss of moral degradation in the world.
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Important News- Other States

Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Maharashtra signed 20 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 4.99 lakh crore with various companies on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos, Switzerland. ❖ The MoUs signed with various companies are expected to create 92,235 jobs in the state.
Haryana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Haryana government has notified the Vehicle Scrappage and Recycling Facility Promotion Policy 2024 for registered vehicles in the state. ❖ This will provide facilities for scrapping and recycling of old vehicles in the state. The parts of vehicles that have turned into junk at various places can be reused. The eco-environment in the state will also improve. ❖ After the NGT fixed the passing period of old diesel vehicles in the National Capital Region as 10 years and the passing period of petrol vehicles as 15 years, the number of unusable vehicles is continuously increasing, so this decision has been taken.
Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Ministry of Mines, in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, organised the 3rd National Mining Ministers Conference at Konark, Odisha.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The conference also witnessed the launch of the fifth phase of critical mineral block auctions, offering 15 blocks in eight states, covering essential minerals such as graphite, tungsten, rare earth elements (REE) and nickel.
Jharkhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Jharkhand forest department has launched a study to revive the dwindling population of bison, popularly known as gaur, in the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR). ❖ The bovine, which is a food source for the big cats, is extinct across Jharkhand, except in the PTR where only 50-70 bison are left. ❖ The Indian Bison (Gaur) is listed as having vulnerable conservation status in the IUCN Red List.

Important News- Worldwide

Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nigeria has officially become a partner country of the BRICS group. ❖ Malaysia and Thailand are also included in the partner countries of the BRICS group. ❖ Recently (January 2025) Indonesia has also become a member of this group. Due to which now 10 countries (Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia) have joined the BRICS group. ❖ BRICS is a group of emerging market powers.
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Miscellaneous

- ❖ The foundation day of the states of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura was celebrated on 21 January 2025. It has been five decades since the northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura became separate states, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura were given the status of separate states on 21 January 1972 under the North Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act 1971.
- ❖ Building on the success of DigiLocker, the Government has launched '**Entity Locker**',

a new digital platform aimed at **streamlining the management and verification of business and organisational documents**.

- Developed by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), this secure, cloud-based platform offers services to a wide range of entities including corporations, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), trusts, startups and societies.

