

JHARKHAND BECOMES THE 3RD STATE TO HAVE FOOD SECURITY ATLAS

Jharkhand has become the third state after Bihar and Odisha in eastern India to have Food Security Atlas for its rural areas. Odisha and Bihar had their Atlas launched in 2018. Food Security Atlas of Rural Jharkhand 2022' launched in Ranchi. Finance Minister of Jharkhand, Dr Rameshwar Oraon assured that the government would make efforts towards giving quota and green cards to the food insecure districts of Jharkhand.

KEY POINTS OF THE ATLAS:

- This Atlas is an effort toward mapping the food security situation in the state. It has been prepared by the Delhi-based Institute for Human Development (IHD) as part of the research initiative of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.
- This document will play an important role in informing policy. Given the poor monsoon this year there is a drought-like situation in many districts of the state. Hence, the availability of food is an issue due to the low extent of irrigation and ensuring food security is an even bigger issue wherein 75 per cent of the people need attention whose hunger needs to be eradicated.

SOME OF THE KEY SUGGESTIONS:

- The food atlas are that 14 out of 24 districts are priority districts and the entire belt of Santhal Pargana region has been marked as alarming in terms of food insecurity. The Atlas suggests that special emphasis needs to be given in terms of overall food security. The Food Atlas suggests that districts with high multidimensional poverty also are highly insecure districts in terms of overall food security and also have very poor food security outcomes.
- It also mentions that the state has high instability in food grain production. Also crop diversification is very less in Jharkhand and is mainly a single cropped area. Better irrigation facility is a needed policy to stabilise agricultural production through cropping intensity as well as overall food security
- It calls for steps to reduce the impact of rainfall variability and suggests rain harvesting for the priority districts. Construction of dam, renovation of ponds can be initiated on a large scale under MGNREGA and Integrated Watershed programmes.
- It also suggests diversification of crops, improve access to food: expanding employment opportunities in non-farm sector, increasing casual wage rate, higher involvement of rural population in processing non-timber forest product, expanding job under MGNREGA, promotion of Millets (distribution of millets through the Public Distribution System).

INDIA'S FIRST FOREST UNIVERSITY TO BE ESTABLISHED IN TELANGANA**The first Forest University in India**

- India is going to have its first Forest University. The Forestry Universities (UoF) Act 2022 was approved by the Telangana Assembly. The University of Forestry (UoF), will be the first of its kind in India. Globally, it will be the third University of Forestry after Russia and China. The Telangana government has decided to expand the Forestry College and Research Institute (FCRI) in Hyderabad. The FCRI will be turned into a full-fledged University.
- Bank Maha Pack includes Live Batches, Test Series, Video Lectures & eBooks
- When FCRI gets upgraded into a university, additional 18 programs including Ph.D., Diploma, and certificate courses in Urban Forestry, nursery management, agro-forestry, tribal livelihood

enhancement, forest entrepreneurship, climate-smart forestry, and forest park management are planned to be launched.

FIRST FOREST UNIVERSITY IN INDIA: AIMS

- The University will also network and partner with similar institutions to create synergies in learning.
- The University will promote action research by providing comprehensive training to farmers.
- The objectives of the University will be to produce quality forestry professionals for conservation and sustainable management of forest resources and to promote research and develop appropriate methods for propagation of plantation crops to meet the demand of industries.
- The University will also work to develop agro-forestry models suitable for various agroecological conditions in addition to traditional forestry operations to reduce pressure on natural forests, and economic upliftment of farming communities.
- Telangana Government has planted 268.83 crore saplings under the flagship program 'Telangana Ku Haritha Haram'.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER 2022: 16th SEPTEMBER

World Ozone Day or the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer is **observed on the 16th of September**. The day aims to create awareness about the importance and need of the Ozone layer which is the single protection on Earth against UV rays coming out from the sun. The UN Environment Programme also aims to bring awareness about the importance of getting rid of the substances that damage the ozone layer. It also calls for taking time-targeted actions to protect Earth's protective shield.

International Day For The Preservation Of The Ozone Layer: Theme

The theme announced by the UN Environment Programme for International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2022 is 'Global Cooperation Protecting Life on Earth'. The Montreal Protocol's impact is recognized with this theme and brings to notice the 'need to act in collaboration, forge partnerships and develop global cooperation to address climate challenges and protect life on earth for future generations.

International Day For The Preservation Of The Ozone Layer: History

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer in 1994. This was done to commemorate the date of the signing of the 'Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer' by the governments of 46 nations around the world in 1987. It was also known as the "Montreal Protocol".



WHAT IS OZONE LAYER?

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. The phaseout of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change; furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth.

RETIREMENT AGE OF JUDGES

Context: Advocates bodies, including the Bar Council of India (BCI), are demanding to raise the retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

INTRODUCTION:

- The Bar Council of India after holding joint meetings with the State Bar Councils and Office Bearers of the High Court Bar Associations came to the conclusion that the age superannuation of the judges should be increased.
- They demanded amendments to raise the age of High Court judges from 62 to 65 and that of Supreme Court judges from 65 to 67 years.
- They intend to communicate their resolution to the Prime Minister and the Union Law Minister.
- The Union Minister for Law and Justice told the Parliament that there is no proposal to increase the retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court judges.

BACKGROUND:

- The National Commission to review the working of the Constitution, 2002 recommended raising the retirement age of the Judges of both the Supreme Court and High Court.
- The Constitution (114th Amendment) Bill was introduced in 2010 to increase the retirement age of High Court judges to 65. However, it was not taken up for consideration in Parliament and lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.
- Several Supreme Court Judges have also recommended increasing the retirement age of judges in the higher judiciary to decrease the pendency of cases.
- Attorney General of India K. K. Venugopal has publicly voiced his support for it on various occasions.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS:

- The age of retirement for Supreme Court judges is 65 under Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution.
- As per Article 217(1) of the Constitution, High Court judges retire at 62.
- The retirement age of High Court judges was fixed at 60 by the Constituent Assembly, which was later increased to 62 by a constitutional amendment in 1963.

NEED FOR A RAISE IN THE RETIREMENT AGE:

- The judge-population ratio in India is among the lowest in the world at 19.66 judges per million people.
- India is also facing a very high number of pending cases. The total number of pending cases in the Supreme Court of India is 71,411 as on August 2, 2022.
- This will also make post-retirement assignments unattractive and strengthen the independence of the judiciary to sustain democracy.

GLOBAL PRACTICES:

- In the United States, a judge of the Supreme Court holds office till his/her death.
- In Norway, Australia, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Ireland, the prescribed retirement age is 70 years.
- In Germany, it is 68 years.
- The retirement age is 75 years in Canada.