



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

MADHYA PRADESH

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Rs 450 Gas Cylinders to Ladli Behna Beneficiaries

Why in News?

The **Madhya Pradesh government** announced that beneficiaries of the **Ladli Behna scheme** will receive **gas cylinders** at a subsidized rate of **Rs 450** throughout the year.

Key Points

- **Scheme Background:** The **Ladli Behna scheme** was initially launched by former **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- **Beneficiaries:** This subsidy is aimed at women beneficiaries, particularly those under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**.
 - Beneficiaries will receive **Rs 250** for the **Rakhi festival**.
 - In a written response to the Rajya Sabha, the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** stated that the central government is providing a targeted subsidy of **Rs 200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder** for beneficiaries of the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**, applicable for up to **12 refills per year**.
 - The Centre increased the **targeted subsidy to Rs. 300 per 14.2 Kg LPG cylinder** for all **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** beneficiaries.

What is Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)?

- **About:**
 - The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG)**, introduced the '**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**' (PMUY) as a flagship scheme with the objective of making **clean cooking fuel** such as **LPG** available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as **firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes** etc.
 - Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.
- **Objectives:**
 - Empowering women and protecting their health.
 - Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
 - Preventing young children from a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning fossil fuel.

Shah Jahan's Daughter-in-law's Tomb Not Waqf Property

Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh High Court** ruled that three ancient monuments in Burhanpur, including the **tomb of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's daughter-in-law, Begum Bilqis**, are not **Waqf property**.

Key Points

- **Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Argument:** The **ASI** argued that these sites - **Shah Shuja monument, Tomb of Nadir Shah, and Bibi Sahiba's Masjid** are ancient and protected monuments under the **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904**.
- **Court's Observation:**
 - Justice **GS Ahluwalia** noted that the properties are ancient and protected monuments, and the CEO of the M.P. Waqf Board committed material illegality by declaring them as Waqf property.
 - The ASI submitted that "as per **section 11 of Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904**, Commissioner would be a guardian of the monument and for the purposes of maintaining such monument shall have access to the monument at all reasonable times by himself and by his agents.
 - "Unless and until guardianship is relinquished under Section 14 of Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, the same cannot be declared as a waqf property."
- **Details of the Monuments:**
 - **Shah Shuja Monument:**
 - The Shah Shuja monument houses the **tomb of Begum Bilqis, wife of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's son, Shah Shuja**.
 - She was buried in **Burhanpur** after she died giving birth to her daughter.
 - The tomb also known as **Kharbuza Mahal** is "crowned with a dome." The site "stands on a raised **fluted circular plinth**" and "**built of stone and plastered with shell mortar and decorated with paintings.**"
 - **Tomb of Nadir Shah:**
 - The **tomb of Nadir Shah** is a "**massive tomb, built on a raised platform**" and "**supported on eight archways.**" The chamber is occupied by three graves.

Note:

- **Bibi Sahiba's Masjid:**
 - **Bibi Saheba's mosque** alias **Bibi ki Masjid** was completed by **queen Begum Rokeya**, daughter of **Gujarat Sultan Muẓaffar Shah II**, around **1529**.

Safety Inspection of Coaching Centres in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister directed officials to **inspect the coaching institutes in the State that have operations in basements**.

- This order came after **three UPSC aspirants died by drowning due to water-logging in the basement of a coaching centre in Delhi**.

Key Points

- Instructions have already been issued to the 16 municipal corporations of the State to conduct inspections of **coaching institutes, hostels or other**

accommodation facilities, and any such establishments in their area.

- The **State government has asked the civic bodies to submit a report** in this regard.
- Many cities in Madhya Pradesh like **Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur** have a number of **coaching institutes for various competitive exams**, including **UPSC, judicial services and JEE and NEET entrances**.
- The State has also been receiving heavy rainfall for more than a week with **several parts** such as **Vidisha, Raisin and Ujjain facing flood-like situations**.

Cheetahs in Gandhinagar Sanctuary

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh chief minister announced that **cheetahs would be released soon** in the **Gandhinagar Sanctuary in Mandsaur district**.



Note:

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:**
 - Notified in 1974, encompassing the districts of **Mandsaur and Neemuch** in western Madhya Pradesh, bordering Rajasthan.
 - The **Chambal River** bifurcates the sanctuary into two nearly equal parts, with the Gandhi Sagar Dam situated within the sanctuary.
- **Ecosystem:**
 - Its ecosystem is characterised by its **rocky terrain** and **shallow topsoil**, which supports a **savanna ecosystem**.
 - This comprises **open grasslands** interspersed with **dry deciduous trees** and shrubs. Additionally, the riverine valleys within the sanctuary are evergreen.
- **Ideal Habitat for Cheetahs:**
 - The sanctuary's resemblance to the **Maasai Mara**, a renowned national reserve in **Kenya** known for its savanna wilderness and abundant wildlife, highlights its suitability for cheetahs.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister made the announcement on the occasion of **World Tiger Day**.
- On January 26, 2022, the **Indian and South African governments** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to facilitate the relocation of cheetahs.
 - The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes the **restoration of the cheetah population as a priority** for India.
 - This initiative is expected to have **significant and wide-ranging conservation implications**.
 - The primary goals are to **re-establish the cheetah's functional role** within its historical habitat in India and enhance the livelihoods and economies of the local communities.

Red Alert in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued a **red alert**

for **extremely heavy rainfall** forecast in **Madhya Pradesh**. Additionally, an **orange alert warning** has been issued for **Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Maharashtra**.

AFRICAN CHEETAH	ASIATIC CHEETAH
<p>🐾 SCIENTIFIC NAME: Acinonyx Jubatus</p> <p>🐾 DISTRIBUTION: Across Africa from North-west Africa, East Africa, & Southern Africa</p> <p>🐾 SIZE: Slightly bigger build with sturdier legs and neck</p> <p>🐾 SKIN: Light brown to golden brown fur color, thicker than the Asiatic ones</p> <p>🐾 IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Vulnerable</p>	<p>🐾 SCIENTIFIC NAME: Acinonyx Jubatus Veneticus</p> <p>🐾 DISTRIBUTION: Only 12 Asiatic cheetahs, 9 males, and 3 females are left in Iran</p> <p>🐾 SIZE: Slightly smaller and slender than the African cheetah</p> <p>🐾 SKIN: Buff to light fawn color bordering pale yellow skin, has more fur underbelly and back of neck</p> <p>🐾 IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Critically Endangered</p>

Note:

Key Points

- The IMD issues **color-coded weather warnings** to alert people about severe or hazardous weather that could cause damage, disruption, or danger to life.
 - It uses **4 color-coded warnings** as: **Green, Yellow, Orange/Amber and Red** depending upon the severity of weather phenomena.

	NO SEVERE WEATHER EXPECTED Keep up to date with latest forecast
	BE AWARE Remain alert and keep up to date with latest forecast
	BE PREPARED Remain vigilant, keep up to date with latest forecast and take precautions where possible
	TAKE ACTION Remain extra vigilant, keep up to date with latest forecast. Follow orders and any advice given by authorities and be prepared for extraordinary measures

India Meteorological Department

- It was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
- It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization**.

Madhya Pradesh Refuses RTI Info on Project Cheetah

Why in News?

Recently, The **Madhya Pradesh forest department** has refused to provide information under **the Right to Information Act, 2005** on management of cheetahs brought from Africa and their cubs born in India.

Key Points

- The department cited **Section 8(1)(a)** of the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005** to withhold information in response to a wildlife activist request.
 - They stated that disclosure could prejudicially affect **India's sovereignty**, integrity, security, strategic, scientific, or economic interests, relations with a foreign State, or lead to the incitement of an offence.

- The state forest department was requested to provide "management correspondence records of the **Cheetah Project in Kuno and Mandsaur**".

Cheetah Reintroduction Project

- The Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India formally commenced on September 17, 2022, to restore **the population of cheetahs**, which were declared **extinct in the country in 1952**.
- The project involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh.
- The project is implemented by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in collaboration with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department**, **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, and cheetah experts from Namibia and South Africa.

Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)

Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
- Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable

African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered

Asiatic Cheetah



Note:

Ujjayini Meridian

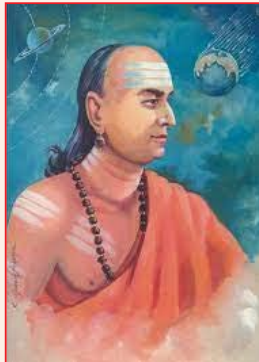
Why in News?

According to a new Class-6 NCERT textbook for social science, India had a **prime meridian of its own** much ahead of **the Greenwich meridian** and it was called “**madhya rekha**”, which **passed through** the city of **Ujjain** in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- Madhya rekhā (or ‘middle line’) passed through the city of Ujjayinī (today Ujjain), which was a **reputed centre for astronomy** over many centuries.
 - **Varāhamihira**, a **famous astronomer**, lived and worked there some 1,500 years ago.
- **Indian astronomers were aware of the concepts of latitude and longitude**, including the need for a **zero or prime meridian**.
- The **Ujjayinī meridian became a reference for calculations** in all Indian astronomical texts.

Varahamihira (505–587 CE)



- He was a renowned **astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer**.
- **Notable works:**
 - **Brihat Samhita** (comprehensive work on astronomy, astrology, architecture, gemology, agriculture, mathematics, and gemology).
 - He wrote about **chief aspects of Jyotisha (astrology)** like horoscopy.
 - He was the first to state **Panchasiddhantika** (book on mathematical astronomy) that the **ayanamsa** (precession of the equinoxes) lasted for 50.32 seconds.
 - He first described **gravity** as an attractive “Force”, which binds various things together.

Chandipura Virus

Why in News?

According to the **Madhya Pradesh Health Minister**, no case of **Chandipura virus** has been reported in the state.

- Earlier, the Union Health Ministry and experts reviewed cases of the viral infection and **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- According to the sources, Madhya Pradesh health department **possesses all the necessary equipment and facilities to identify the virus**, which is one of the causes of AES.
- **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** is a group of **clinically similar neurologic manifestations caused by several different viruses, bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals/ toxins, etc.**
 - The known viral causes of AES include **Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV)**, **Dengue**, Herpes simplex virus, and **West Nile** etc.

Chandipura Virus (CHPV)

- It is a member of the **Rhabdoviridae family** known to cause **sporadic cases and outbreaks** in western, central and southern parts of the country, especially during the monsoon season.
 - It is **transmitted by vectors such as sand flies and ticks**. It is to be noted that vector control, hygiene and awareness are the only measures available against the disease.
- The infection caused by the virus can then reach **the central nervous system** which can lead to **encephalitis** — inflammation of the active tissues of the brain.
- **Disease progression can be as rapid** as a patient reporting high fever in the morning, and their kidneys or liver being affected by the evening.
- This infection has largely remained **limited to children below 15 years**.
- **Symptoms:**
 - The CHPV infection presents initially with **flu-like symptoms** such as **acute onset of fever, body ache, and headache**.
 - It may then progress to **altered sensorium or seizures and encephalitis**.

Note:

- Respiratory distress, bleeding tendencies, or **anaemia**.
- The infection often progresses rapidly after encephalitis, which may then lead to mortality within 24-48 hours of hospitalization.
- **Treatment:**
 - The infection **can only be managed symptomatically**, as there is **currently no specific antiretroviral therapy or vaccine** available for treatment.

Jabalpur Investor Summit

Why in News?

According to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, the State had received **investment proposals worth Rs 17,000 crore** at the investor summit in Jabalpur, which was likely to **generate over 13,000 employment opportunities**.

Key Points

- A **modern skill development centre** would be established in **Jabalpur** to attract investment in the textiles and readymade clothing sectors.
 - In the Conclave, Ashok Leyland Limited and Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited signed a **Rs 600 crore Memorandum of Understanding** in the defence manufacturing sector.
 - The government has also **inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several industrial units** across the state, with a **total investment of Rs 1,500 crore**, creating around 4,500 jobs.
 - Further investment proposals include **Rs 1,500 crore from Volvo Eicher in the automobile sector** and a **Rs 1,500 crore cement unit by HeidelbergCement**.
- The Madhya Pradesh government will **host similar summits in Rewa, Sagar and Gwalior cities** and a **larger global investors' summit** in Bhopal in February 2025.
 - Earlier in **January 2024**, a similar summit was **organised in Ujjain**, in which the Adani Group announced investments of Rs 75,000 crore in the state.

CBI Need Written Consent to Investigate in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the **Madhya Pradesh government**, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** will need a **written permission** to initiate inquiries against its "public servants".

BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA (BNS), 2023

BNS 2023 replaced Indian Penal Code 1860, incorporating 358 sections (511 in IPC), maintaining most of the IPC provisions, introducing new offences, eliminating court-struck-down offences, and enhancing penalties for various offences.

New Offences

- **Promise to Marry:** Criminalising "deceitful" promises to marry
- **Mob Lynching:** Codify offences linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders
- Ordinary criminal law now covers **Organized Crime and Terrorism**, including a broader scope for terror financing in BNS compared to UAPA
- **Attempt to Suicide:** Criminalises attempts to commit suicide with intent to compel or restrain any public servant from discharging official duty
- **Community Service:** Added as possible form of punishment

Other Modifications

- **Fake News:** Criminalisation of publishing false and misleading information
- **Sedition:** Introduced under a new name 'deshdroh' with wider definition
- **Mandatory Minimum Sentence:** In several provisions, mandatory minimum sentences prescribed which may limit scope for judicial discretion
- **Damage to Public Property:** Carry a graded fine (i.e. fine corresponding to the amount of damage caused)
- **Death by Negligence:** Elevates punishment for causing death by negligence from two to five years (for doctors - 2 yrs imprisonment)

Deletions

- **Unnatural Sexual Offences:** Section 377 of the IPC, which criminalised homosexuality among other "unnatural" sexual activities repealed completely
- **Adultery:** Offence of adultery omitted in consonance of apex court judgement
- **Thugs:** Section 310 of IPC fully omitted
- **Gender Neutrality:** Some laws dealing with children modified to bring gender neutrality

Key Issues

- **Criminal Responsibility Age Discrepancy:** Criminal responsibility starts at seven, extendable to 12 based on maturity, potentially conflicting with global recommendations
- **Inconsistencies in Child Offense Definitions:** It sets child age below 18, but age criteria for offenses like rape differ, causing inconsistency
- **Retention of IPC Provisions on Rape and Sexual Harassment:** Maintains IPC provisions on rape and sexual harassment, omitting **Justice Verma Committee's 2013 suggestions** for gender-neutral rape and recognizing marital rape as an offense.



Key Points

- **No permission** will be required to probe **central government officials or private individuals**.
- This provision has been released after the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhitha** (new criminal laws) came into effect for smooth functioning.
 - States such as **West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Telangana and Kerala** have **withdrawn their general consent** for CBI investigations.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- The CBI was **established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs** and later transferred to the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**, currently functioning as an attached office.
- Its establishment was **recommended by the Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption.

Note:

- The CBI operates under the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**. It is **neither a constitutional nor a statutory body**.
- It investigates cases related to **bribery, governmental corruption, breaches of central laws, multi-state organized crime, and multi-agency or international cases**.

PM SVANidhi Scheme

Why in News?

According to the Union housing and urban affairs ministry, **Madhya Pradesh has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme.**

Key Points

- After Madhya Pradesh, **Assam has been ranked second in the 'Best Performing States- Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.**
 - In the **'Best Performing ULBs – Loan Performance with mega and million plus cities' category, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)** has received the first place, followed by the **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** and the **Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation**.
- The awards in the **National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM)** was also announced, with **Kerala securing the first place in the category of 'Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK)**, followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan**.

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- **Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** was announced as a part of the **Economic Stimulus-II** under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
 - It has been implemented since 1st June 2020, for providing affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to **Covid-19 lockdowns**, with a sanctioned budget of Rs. 700 crore.
- **Aims:**
 - To benefit over 50 lakh street vendors who had been vending on or before 24th March 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.

- To promote digital transactions through cash-back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 1,200 per annum.

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**.

Custodial Death in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the **Pardhi tribal community** in Madhya Pradesh's **Guna district** protested against the **alleged death, in police custody, of a tribal man**.

Key Points

- **Custodial death** is a death that occurs while a person is in the custody of law enforcement officials or in a correctional facility.
- It can occur due to **various causes such as use of excessive force, neglect, or abuse** by the authorities.
- According to the **Law commission of India**, the crime by a public servant against the arrested or the detained person who is in custody amounts to **custodial violence**.

Pardhi Tribe

- It is found mostly in **Maharashtra and parts of Madhya Pradesh**.
- The word Pardhi is derived from the **Marathi word 'Paradh'** meaning hunting and the **Sanskrit word 'papardhi'** meaning the game to be hunted.
- They speak **mixed dialects of Rajasthani and Gujarati**, mainly **Wagdi and Pardhi languages**.
 - These languages are grouped in the **Bhil languages** of the **western Indo-Aryan language group**.

Note:

Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence

Why in News?

Recently, the [Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence](#) was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister in all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to implement the [New Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).
 - These colleges are started by the state government, to offer courses aligned with the [New Education Policy 2020](#).
 - NEP was introduced to focus on **holistic development of youth rather than just awarding degrees**.
- It includes **teaching both academic subjects and life skills**. The emphasis is on encouraging out-of-the-box thinking instead of traditional thinking in students.

National Education Policy 2020

- The [National Education Policy 2020](#) seeks to tackle the evolving development needs of India.
 - It calls for a **comprehensive overhaul of the education system**, including its **regulations and management**, to establish a modern system that aligns with 21st-century educational goals, including [Sustainable Development Goal 4 \(SDG4\)](#), while respecting India's cultural heritage and values.
- It replaces the thirty-four year old [National Policy on Education, 1986](#), modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92).

Madhya Pradesh Pilgrimage Scheme

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has directed for the expansion of the **government's pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens** and inclusion of the state's religious places in it.

Key Points

- The [Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana](#), under which people visit various pilgrimage sites in the country, was started in 2012.

- The **geographical structure of Madhya Pradesh prevents many residents from visiting various pilgrimage sites**, leaving them unaware of the unique features within their own state.
 - The **scheme should be expanded to enable senior citizens to visit not only renowned pilgrimage sites across the country** but also notable religious locations within Madhya Pradesh.
- **The CM asked the officials to:**
 - Prepare a plan for **facilitating meritorious students to visit important tourist places** of historical importance.
 - Enable **visits of folk artists from tribal-dominated areas to the tourist places**, where they can **showcase their art**.

Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana

- It was **launched** by the Department of Religious Trusts and Endowments, Government of Madhya Pradesh in **June 2012**.
- Under the scheme, the state government provides **one-time assistance to senior citizens above 60 years of age (2 years relaxation in case of women) of the state to visit a prescribed pilgrimage outside the state**.
- In this scheme, **free travel** is made to senior citizens of the state.
 - The pilgrims travel by special train, breakfast, food, and pure drinking water, arrangements for stay at pilgrimage places, etc.

ASI Submits Bhojshala Survey Report

Why in News?

Recently, The [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) submitted its **scientific survey report** of the disputed [Bhojshala-Kamal-Maula mosque complex](#) to the Indore bench of the **Madhya Pradesh High Court**.

Key Points

- As per the sources, the report contains traces of medieval- era structure dating to the [Paramara dynasty/ period](#) (between 9th and 11th century). The site was **built and developed by Raja Bhoj in Dhar district**.

Note:

- The survey, which spanned nearly 98 days, uncovered approximately **1700 relics and other evidence**.
 - The carvings discovered encompassed a diverse array of images, including desecrated **idols of deities, artifacts, and other remnants (human and animal figures)**.
 - The report implies that the existing structure at **Bhojshala was originally a temple and also served as a hub of literary and educational activities**.
- The **Hindu community regards Bhojshala as a temple** dedicated to **Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati)**, whereas the **Muslim community refers to it as Kamal Maula Mosque**.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It administers more than **3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remains of national importance**.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments, etc.
- It was **founded in 1861** by **Alexander Cunningham**, the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the **"Father of Indian Archaeology"**.

Eradicating Invasive Aquatic Weeds

Why in News?

Recently, An **exotic beetle** named *Cyrtobagus salvinia* has **successfully eradicated** an **invasive weed species, *Salvinia molesta*** from **Sarani reservoir (Satpura dam)** built on the **Tawa river** in the **Betul district** of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- Scientists at Jabalpur-based **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Directorate of Weed Research (ICAR-DWR)** revealed that *Cyrtobagus salvinia*, a **Brazilian bioagent specifically targeting *Salvinia molesta***, was imported to India after thorough research and with the necessary governmental approvals.

Salvinia molesta

- It is an **aquatic fern** that is indigenous to **south-eastern Brazil**. It is also known as **gigantic Salvinia** or **Kariba weed** since it contaminated a sizable area of **Lake Kariba between Zimbabwe and Zambia**.
- **Salvinia's characteristics include Small, floaters with branching**, creeping stems that have hairs on the papillae of the leaf surfaces but **no true roots**.
- The **leaves are arranged in trimerous whorls**, with one leaf being finely divided, petiolate, rootlike, and pendant, while the other two are green, sessile or short-petioled, flat, **whole, and floating**.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- It is an autonomous organisation under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It was established on **16 July 1929** and was formerly known as the **Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**.
- It is headquartered at **New Delhi**.
- It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

National e-Vidhan Application

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh cabinet** has given approval to the implementation of the **centrally sponsored scheme 'National e-Vidhan Application' (NEVA)** in the state Legislative Assembly.

Key Points

- Under the **Digital India initiative**, the Government of India has launched the centrally sponsored '**National e-Vidhan Application**' scheme to **transition all Legislative Assemblies of the country to a paperless format** and unify them on a single platform.
 - The scheme implementation **costs will be shared with 60% funded by the Government of India and 40% by the state governments**.
- The rationalisation of students residing in hostels, ashrams, and community welfare centres operated under the **Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic**

Note:

Tribal Welfare Department as per the scholarship rates determined by the **Scheduled Caste Welfare/ Tribal Affairs Department**.

- The present monthly scholarship for boys will be increased from Rs 1230 to Rs 1550 and for girls from Rs 1270 to Rs 1590 a month.
- The council of ministers also gave its nod to invite tenders for seven **projects of Narmada Valley Development Department** worth Rs 9,271.96 crore.

Digital India Programme

- The Digital India program, **launched in 2015, aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society** and a knowledge-based economy.
- Its **key objectives include** strengthening digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally, and promoting digital financial inclusion.

De-Notified, Nomadic And Semi-Nomadic Tribes

- These are communities that are the **most vulnerable and deprived**.
- DNTs are communities that were **'notified' as being 'born criminals'** during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**.
 - These Acts were repealed by the **Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified"**.
- A few of these communities which were listed as **de-notified were also nomadic**.
 - **Nomadic** and semi-nomadic communities are defined as **those who move from one place to another rather than living in one place all the time**.
- Historically, Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes **never had access to private land or home ownership**.
- While most DNTs are spread across the **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories**, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.

Madhya Pradesh Launches Probe in New Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, The Madhya Pradesh government has initiated an inquiry into the alleged **poaching of tigers and irregularities** in the newly established **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**.

Key Points

- The forest department launched the probe following an allegation of **serious negligence in the conservation of tigers, tiger safari and management of forest property** in the reserve.
- There is also alleged large-scale **illegal tree cutting and transportation of wood** in the Bara Beat area of the **Nauradehi Sanctuary**.

Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

- It is the **seventh tiger reserve in the state** and the **54th in India**.
- It is spread across **Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh** and covers an area of 2,339 square kilometres.
- Parts of the reserve fall under **the Narmada and Yamuna River basins** and the **Singorgarh Fort** is located within the reserve.

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

- Nauradehi sanctuary is located in Madhya Pradesh's **Sagar district**.
- It was found to be the **most suitable area for the cheetahs** as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of the fastest land animal.
 - And the prey base for cheetahs is also in abundance at the sanctuary.
- This is the **largest wildlife sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh** in terms of area covered.
- It is located in the centre of the state covering parts of Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Raisin Districts.
- The protected area sits astride **two major river basins of India, namely the Narmada and Ganges**.

Hectares of Jungle Freed From Encroachers

Why in News?

Recently, The **Khandwa forest** department stated that they had reclaimed approximately 100 hectares of jungle that had been **encroached upon by individuals for agricultural purposes**.

- **To reclaim the forest, the department destroyed the crops cultivated by the encroachers** by felling a significant number of trees.

Note:

Key Points

- Earthmoving machines and tractors were used to destroy the illegal crops and level the fields.
- The official stated that the remaining areas are anticipated to be cleared in the upcoming days, which will then be followed by initiatives to **revive the forest through the planting of seed balls and the installation of wire fencing.**
 - These encroached forests were utilized for the **cultivation of soybean and corn crops**, which has resulted in **substantial harm to the forest ecosystem.**

Encroachment

- It is the **unauthorised use or occupation of someone else's property.** This can occur on abandoned or unused spaces if the legal owner is not actively involved in its upkeep. It is important for **property owners to be aware of the legal steps** to take and their rights in such cases.
- Urban encroachment refers to the **unauthorised occupation** or use of land or property within urban areas.
- This could include **illegal construction, squatting, or any other form of occupation** without proper permission or legal rights.

Soybean Crop

- Soybean is a **Kharif crop** in India.
- Soybean (Glycine max) is the world's most important seed legumes which contributes **25% to the global edible oil**, about two third of the world protein concentrate for livestock feeding and is a **valuable ingredient in formulated feeds for poultry and fish.**
- It is predominantly grown as a rainfed crop in Vertisols and associated soils with an average crop season rainfall of 900 mm.
- **Major Producing States in India:** Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Saplings Planting Drive in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign under which **5.5 crore saplings will be planted in the state.**

Key Points

- The CM **started the campaign by planting an 'amla' sapling** in the name of his late mother.

Tree Transplantation

- **Tree Transplanting or replanting** is the process of **relocating a plant** from one site to another in an **agricultural field or garden.**
- **Tree transplants** allow plants to have longer **growing seasons.**
 - Plants can be **cultivated indoors** at first, then **outside** if the weather conditions are suitable.
- **Tree spade machine** is a specialized kind of machine that mechanizes the transplanting of large plants.
 - Larger trees may require digging, wrapping or boxing of the root ball and then transporting by truck.
- **In October 2020, the Delhi government approved a tree transplantation policy** to prevent felling of trees due to development work in the city.
 - Under the policy, agencies concerned have been asked to transplant 80% trees affected by the projects to a new location.
 - Under this policy, 10 saplings are supposed to be planted in addition to the tree being dug up with the root intact and scientifically transplanted at another location instead of being felled.

Ladli Behna Yojna

Why in News?

According to the **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh** Dr. Mohan Yadav, **14th installment of Ladli Behna Yojana** is credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Key Points

- Under the scheme, the **government will provide Rs.1250 to women every month.**
- This scheme was **launched in 2023** by the Madhya Pradesh Government.
- It **aims at promoting financial independence for women, sustained enhancements in their health and nutrition.**
- Due to which the **effective role of women in taking decisions** at the family level **will also be encouraged.**

Note:



Madhya Pradesh Budget

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh finance minister Jagdish Deoda presented a **budget** of Rs 3.65 lakh crores in the state assembly.

Key Points

- Highlights of the Budget:
 - Provision of **Rs 26,560 crore** for **women and child development**. An 81% jump in the allocation of funds from the previous Budget.
 - In the **health sector**, the government has **allocated Rs 21,444 crore**.
 - Three **medical universities** to be set up in **Neemuch, Mandsoore and Siwani districts**.
 - For roadways, the government has allocated Rs 10,000 crore for the financial year 2024-25.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** target for construction of 1,000 km roads in the financial year 2024-2025.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** has provision of Rs 520 crore in the budget for financial year 2024-25.
 - Provision of Rs 50 crore for **Chief Minister Teerth Darshan Scheme**.
 - Provision of **Rs 4,725 crore for forest and environment**.
 - Estimated cost of **Ken-Betwa Link Project** is Rs 44,605 crore. This project will be a boon for the people in **Bundelkhand region**.
 - For **education**, the government has **allocated Rs 22,600 crore**.
 - For the **Sports and Youth Welfare Department** the government has **allocated Rs 586 crore**.
 - For **Gaushalas** in the state, a provision of **Rs 250 crore** has been made in the Budget 2024-25.
 - A budget provision **Rs 1,081 crore is proposed for the Culture Department** and **Rs 666 crore** is proposed for **tourist facilities**.
 - A provision of **Rs 13,596 crore** was proposed for the construction and maintenance of **irrigation projects**.
 - A budget provision of **Rs 27,870 crore** is proposed for **panchayat and rural development**.
 - Over 57 lakh beneficiaries have benefited in Fiscal year 2023-24 under the following schemes:

- **National Widow Pension Scheme, National Disabled Pension Scheme, National Family Assistance Scheme, Samagra Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana, Mukhyamantri Kanya Abhibhavak Pension Yojana, Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah and Nikah Yojana** etc.

Tiger Reserves to Remain Closed Till October

Why in News?

According to the sources, **six tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh have closed their core zones** to the public and tourists.

- The reserves affected by this seasonal closure include **Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Pench, Satpura, Panna, and Sanjay-Dubri**.

Key Points

- One of the primary reasons the **national parks** are closed is that the **monsoon season** is a critical time for **tigers and tigresses** as they mate and prefer solitude.
 - Any disturbance during this period can cause these majestic animals to become aggressive.
 - This undisturbed period is essential for maintaining healthy tiger populations and supporting **conservation efforts**.

Bandhavgarh National Park

- Known for its high density of **Bengal tigers**, Bandhavgarh National Park is one of the most popular **tiger reserves in India**. It also houses various other **wildlife species** such as **leopards, deer, and numerous bird species**.

Kanha National Park:

- Famous for its diverse wildlife and lush landscapes, Kanha National Park **inspired Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book**. It is renowned for its significant population of **Bengal tigers**, as well as **barasingha (swamp deer)** and other species of deer.

Pench National Park:

- Located on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, **Pench National Park is famous for its dense forests and diverse wildlife**. Visitors can spot tigers, leopards, sloth bears, and a variety of bird species.

Note:

Satpura National Park:

- It is characterised by its rugged terrain, **deep valleys, and dense forests**. It offers a unique experience of exploring the wilderness through jeep safaris, boat rides, and walking trails, allowing visitors to encounter wildlife like tigers, leopards, and sloth bears.

Panna National Park:

- It is renowned for its efforts in **tiger conservation** and is home to a significant population of these majestic cats. The park also boasts a rich biodiversity, including various species of **deer, antelope, and birds**.

Sanjay National Park:

- This national park, located in the **Chhattisgarh-Madhya Pradesh border region**, is known for its pristine forests and diverse flora and fauna. It is a **part of the Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve** and provides habitat for **tigers, leopards, and other wildlife**.

- It was declared a **National Park** by the Government of Maharashtra in 1975 and the identity of a **tiger reserve** was granted to it in the year 1992.
- However, PTR **Madhya Pradesh was granted the same status in 1992-1993**. It is one of the **major Protected Areas of Satpura-Maikal ranges of the Central Highlands**.
- It is among the sites notified as **Important Bird Areas (IBA) of India**.
 - The IBA is a programme of Birdlife International which aims to **identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for conservation** of the world's birds and associated diversity.

AI-Based Fire Detection System

Why in News?

Recently, The **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)** has launched an advanced **Artificial Intelligence-based system** for early detection of **forest fires**.

Key Points

- The new system features a **high-resolution camera** with a visual range of 15 km, effectively covering more than 350 sq km of the reserve.
- The AI-powered platform, known as **Pantera**, leverages both the **camera feed and satellite-based data** to provide **real-time alerts of forest fires within three minutes**.
 - The system also receives **weather data related to temperature, precipitation, wind, etc**, and analysing data with past fires, the system forecasts the probable future fires in the short term, which **helps in planning fire control**.

Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)

- PTR is the **joint pride of both Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
- The Reserve is located in the **southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh**, and continues in **Nagpur district in Maharashtra** as a separate Sanctuary.

River Linking Project

Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan** Chief Ministers signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the implementation of the Rs 72,000 crore **Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project in Bhopal**.

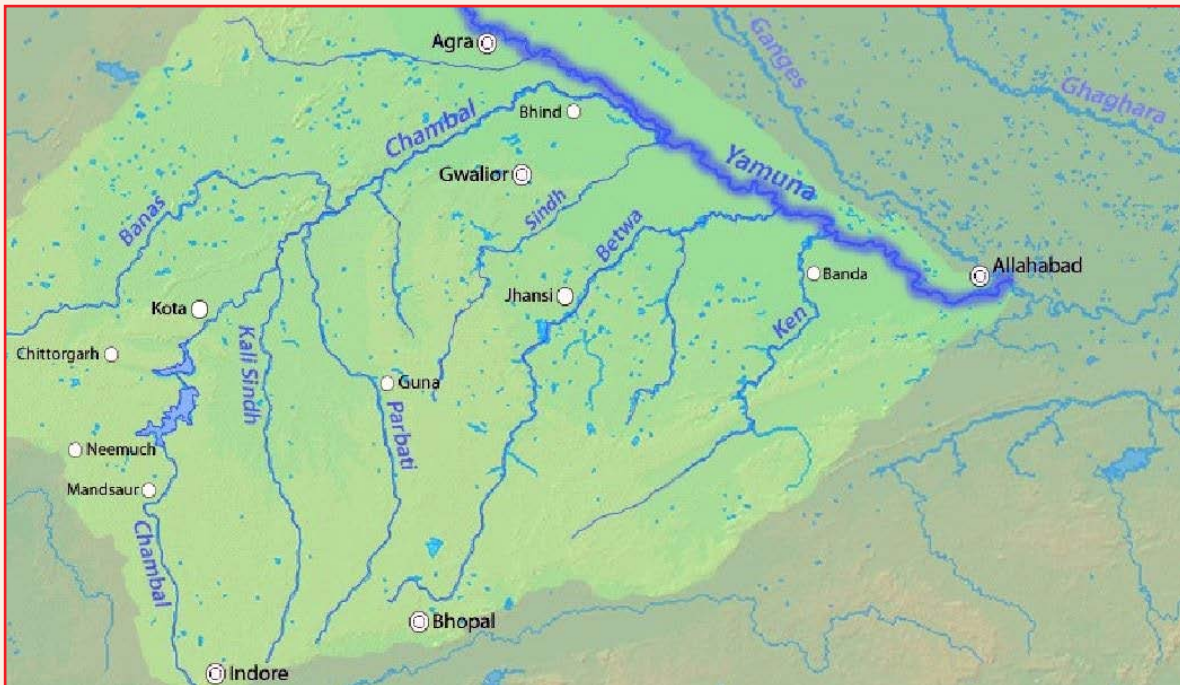
- This project aims to harvest surplus water available during the rainy season in **rivers in Southern Rajasthan** such as **Chambal** and its tributaries, including **Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh**, and use this water in south-eastern districts of the state, where there is scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation.

Key Points

- The project would **provide water to 13 districts in Rajasthan**, and **Malwa and Chambal regions in Madhya Pradesh**.
 - It would also **aid in irrigating at least 2.8 lakh hectares in both states**, including supplementing rural tanks.
- Both the states would benefit from the river linking project, which would also strengthen the relations between the states.
- Efforts will also be made to **build a corridor from Khatu Shyam temple in Rajasthan to Mahakal Shiv temple in Ujjain** in Madhya Pradesh.

Note:

Chambal River



- It **originates at the Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya mountains** (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the North direction in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and **then follows a north-easterly direction for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.**
- It **enters Uttar Pradesh** and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.
- It is a rainfed river and its **basin is bounded by the Vindhyan mountain ranges and the Aravallis.** The Chambal and its tributaries drain the Malwa region of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
- The **Hadauti plateau in Rajasthan** occurs in the upper catchment of the Chambal River to the southeast of the **Mewar Plains.**
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, **Sipra, Parbati,** etc.
- **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** **Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam,** and **Kota Barrage.**
- The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is known for critically endangered **gharial,** the **red-crowned roof turtle,** and the endangered **Ganges river dolphin.**



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Lined area for details.

Summary

Blank area for summary.

