



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

MADHYA PRADESH

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2024**

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Red Alert in Parts of Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

The **Indian Meteorological Department** issued a red alert for severe **heatwave** conditions prevailing over **some parts of Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

- The meteorologist at **IMD Bhopal** has warned for a **severe heatwave** in **Gwalior, Bhind, Datia, Morena, and Niwari districts**.
- A red alert has been issued in these areas and the temperature will be around 46-47°C.
 - Similarly, heatwave will prevail in Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Rajgarh, Bhopal, Khandwa, Khargone, Shajapur, Agar Malwa, Guna, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Singrauli, Sidhi, Rewa, Mauganj, Satna, Maihar, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Katni, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh.

Heat Waves

- **About:**
 - Heatwaves are **prolonged periods of excessively hot weather** that can cause adverse impacts on **human health, the environment, and the economy**.
 - India, being a tropical country, is **particularly vulnerable to heatwaves**, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years.
- **Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:**
 - **Plains and Hilly Regions:**
 - Heat wave is considered if the **maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for Plains** and at least 30°C or more for Hilly regions.
 - **Normal Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is **4.50°C to 6.40°C**.
 - **Severe Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is **>6.40°C**.
 - **Based on Actual Maximum Temperature Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature $\geq 45^\circ\text{C}$.
 - **Severe Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature $\geq 47^\circ\text{C}$.

- If the above criteria are met in at least 2 stations in a Meteorological subdivision for at least two consecutive days, it is declared so on the second day.
- **Coastal Areas:**
 - When the maximum temperature departure is **4.50°C or more from normal**, a heat wave may be described provided the actual **maximum temperature is 37°C or more**.

Encroachments to be Removed from Madhya Pradesh Rivers

Why in News?

According to the sources, a campaign will begin to remove **encroachment** from rivers and ponds located in rural and urban areas of the district which includes Saraswati and Kanh rivers of the city.

Key Points

- Under the drive, there should be **no encroachment within 30 metres of rivers**. Action will be taken to remove encroachment from **20 identified ponds of the city and master plan area**. Similarly, encroachments are also being removed from **56 ponds in rural areas**.
- The sewerage should not be allowed to enter these ponds. Concrete arrangements should be made for this. A **mega campaign of tree plantation will also be conducted** in the entire district including the city.

Saraswati river

- It is a **river flowing through Indore**. It doesn't contain freshwater but instead has become **polluted mainly due to the pollution of the Kanh river**.
- The river flows into a larger body through **Kshipra river**.
 - The Shipra (Kshipra), a **tributary of the Chambal River** in Madhya Pradesh, **flows across the Malwa Plateau**.
 - It **originates in the Vindhya Range** from a hill called **Kakri-Tekdi**, which is in the north of Dhar and situated near Ujjain.
 - **Khan and Gambhir** are its major tributaries.

Note:



Kanh river

- Kanh is a **river flowing through Indore**. The river started carrying sewage in the early 1990s. Several attempts have been made to clean the river, yet it **remains polluted**.
- The river, along with the Saraswati River, is a part of the **Smart City Indore project**, and a riverfront spanning 3.9 kilometres has already been developed along the river. Both the rivers are being rejuvenated under the **Smart Cities Mission**.
- **In 2023 the Union government sanctioned Rs. 511.15 Crore for the cleaning of the Kanh and Saraswati rivers, under the 'Namami Gange Programme'.**

Madhya Pradesh STSF Seizes Exotics

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh State Tiger Strike Force (STSF)** seized an **iguana and an emperor scorpion** during a raid in Dewas district. This action marks the first enforcement of **Rule 49 M** of the amended **Wildlife Protection Act (1972)**.

- **Section 49 M** provides for the registration of possession, transfer, and reporting of birth and death of living scheduled animal species listed in the Appendices of **CITES and Schedule IV** of the Act.

Key Points

- Both species are categorized in **Appendix II of Schedule IV of the WPA 1972** and **CITES regulations**, necessitating particular permits for trading and keeping in captivity.
 - The saved animals are presently being kept safe at the **Kamala Nehru Zoological Museum in Indore**.
- This incident coincides with the recent introduction of the **Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules 2024** requires **online registration of ownership, birth, and death of CITES-listed animals on the PARIVESH portal by August 31, 2024**.
 - Failure to comply will lead to **legal consequences**.

Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024

- **Key Provisions:**
 - It states that **all persons possessing a living specimen** of any of the **listed animal species** are **required to apply for registrations** of such possession within a period of six months from the date of commencement of these rules and thereafter within 30 of coming into possession of such animal species to the concerned State Chief Wildlife Warden, through the **PARIVESH 2.0 portal**.
 - These species are listed under the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**.
 - This registration requirement also applies to any transfer of the animals or birth of offspring from them, with the Rule prescribing the process for such registration.

PARIVESH Portal

- **PARIVESH** is a web-based application which has been developed for **online submission and monitoring** of the proposals submitted by the proponents for seeking **Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ)** Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities.

Prehistoric Artifacts Found in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, a discovery was made in **National Fossil Park at Ghugwa**, Madhya Pradesh, where a team of **archaeologists** from **Ashoka University in Sonapat**, conducting research in **Bandhavgarh National Park and Tiger Reserve**, found **prehistoric artifacts** made from **fossil wood**.

Key Points

- This finding indicates that **prehistoric nomadic people utilized the petrified tree logs as resources** for crafting their tools and objects.

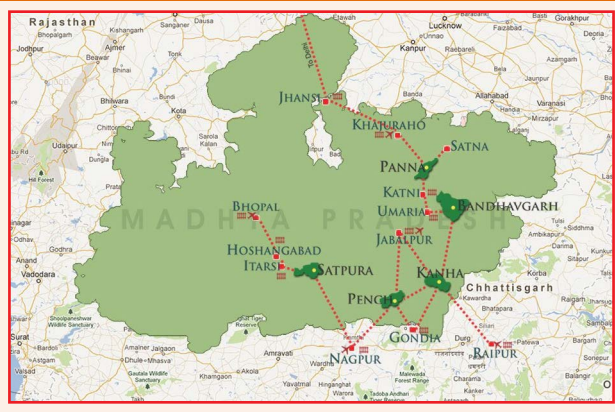
Note:

- **Tools crafted from fossil wood are not common in India** and are a rarity, with only a few instances found in **Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Tripura.**
 - While the age of the artifacts discovered at Ghugwa remains uncertain, researchers estimate they are at least 10,000 years old.
 - These artifacts consisted of mid-sized flakes measuring about five cm in length.
 - Additionally, some **microliths**, approximately two cm long, were also unearthed in the vicinity.
- Madhya Pradesh has many ancient locations, such as **Bhimbetka, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site, Hathnora, where the skull fragment known as the Narmada woman was discovered,** in addition to sites like **Neemtone, Pilikarar, and Mahadeo Piparia.**
 - These areas mainly showcase **tools made from materials such as quartzite, chert, and sandstone.**
- However, a recent finding in the fossil park indicates that **our predecessors also made use of fossil wood,** indicating that they did not rely solely on stone resources.

Ghugwa National Fossils Park

- It is situated 70 km from **Dindori in village Ghugwa.**
- It is nestled in an area of 75 acres of land where attractive and rare fossils of leaves and trees are waiting to be explored.
- This **National Park has plants in fossil form that existed in India anywhere between 40 million and 150 million years ago.**

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve



- **About:** In 1968, it was notified as a national park and in **1993 was declared a tiger reserve- under the Project Tiger** Network at the neighbouring Panpatha Sanctuary.
- **Geographical Aspect:** It resides on the extreme **north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura** mountain ranges.
- **Climate:** Tropical monsoon climatic zone.
- **Biodiversity:** There is a large number of tigers in the core zone. There are more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds.
 - **Species Found:** Asiatic Jackal, Bengal Fox, Sloth Bear, Striped Hyena, Leopard and Tiger, Wild Pigs, Nilgai, Chinkara and Gaur (a herbivore and the only coarse feeder).

Green Hydrogen Plant Inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

GAIL (India) Ltd has successfully launched its first green hydrogen plant at **Vijaipur** in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh.


Key Points

- The **10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser** for the green-hydrogen producing unit at the Vijaipur complex has been **imported from Canada.**
- The plant will produce about **4.3 tonnes of green hydrogen per day,** with a **purity of about 99.999% by volume.**
 - It uses electricity produced from **renewable sources** such as the sun's **solar energy,** to split water to produce green hydrogen.
 - The plant is in line with the **National Green Hydrogen mission** that has set out a goal of 5 million tons of annual green hydrogen production capacity for the country by 2030.
 - India is putting increased focus on hydrogen as an alternative fuel source to lower its carbon emissions, while also meeting its growing energy needs.

Note:

- Initially the hydrogen produced from this unit shall be used as a fuel along with natural gas for captive purpose in the various processes and equipment running in the existing plant at Vijaiapur.
 - Further, this hydrogen is planned to be dispensed to retail customers in the nearby geographies, transported through high pressure cascades.
- **GAIL is also setting up around 20 MW Solar power plants at Vijaiapur** (both ground mounted and floating) to meet the requirement of green power for the 10 MW PEM Electrolyzer.
- **GAIL is currently experimenting in Indore by mixing hydrogen with natural gas in its CGD (city gas distribution) network to evaluate its effectiveness.**
 - If successful, the plan is to increase the blending ratios with the required approvals as per the test outcomes.
 - **Present rules permit blending up to 5% hydrogen with natural gas.** Collaborative research is being conducted by GAIL along with **Engineers India Limited** and **IIT Kanpur** to explore higher blending levels of hydrogen with natural gas.

NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION



NODAL MINISTRY

- ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

OBJECTIVE

- ▶ Decarbonise energy/industrial/mobility sector
- ▶ Develop indigenous manufacturing capacities
- ▶ Create export opportunities for GH₂ and its derivative

COMPONENTS OF NGHM

- ▶ Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT)
- ▶ Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP) (PPP for R&D)

GH₂ is not commercially viable at present; current cost in India is around ₹350-400/kg. The National Hydrogen Energy Mission aims to bring it down under ₹100/kg.

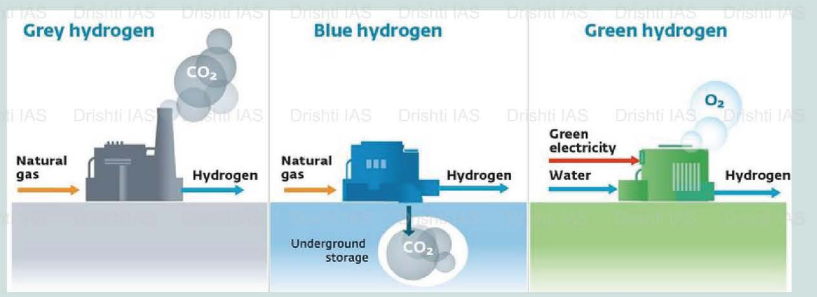
Expected Outcomes by 2030

- ◆ Atleast 5MMT GH₂ annual production
- ◆ Rs 1 lakh crore fossil fuel import savings
- ◆ 6 lakh jobs
- ◆ 50MMT CO₂ annual emissions averted
- ◆ ₹ 8 lakh crore investment

HYDROGEN AND GREEN HYDROGEN

Hydrogen is the most common element in nature but exists only in combination with other elements. It has to be extracted from naturally occurring compounds (like water).

Green Hydrogen (GH₂) is made by splitting water through an electrical process called electrolysis, using an electrolyser powered by renewable energy (RE).



Fire at Union Carbide Factory

Why in News?

Recently, a **massive fire** broke out at the **Union Carbide factory in Bhopal**. The factory is where **methyl isocyanate** gas leaked in 1984, killing thousands of people and disabling millions.

Key Points

- The fire was brought under control after about an hour. Its cause is yet to be ascertained.

Note:

- The locals expressed their fear about the potential effects of toxic smoke on their bodies.
- The factory was shut down after the **1984 gas tragedy**.

Bhopal gas tragedy

- **About:**
 - The **Bhopal gas tragedy** was one of the **worst industrial accidents in history that occurred on the night of 2-3 December 1984** at the **Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, MP**.
 - It exposed people and animals to the highly toxic gas **methyl isocyanate (MIC)**, causing immediate and long-term health effects and deaths.
- **Causes of Gas Leak:**
 - The exact cause of the gas leak is still disputed between corporate negligence or employee sabotage. However, some of the factors that contributed to the disaster are:
 - The **UCIL plant was storing large quantities of MIC, a highly reactive and volatile chemical**, in poorly maintained tanks.
 - The plant was operating with **reduced staff and safety standards** due to financial losses and market competition.
 - The **plant was located in a densely populated area with no proper emergency plans** or warning systems for the nearby residents.
 - On the night of the disaster, **a large amount of water entered one of the MIC storage tanks (E610)**, either due to a faulty valve or a deliberate act of sabotage by a disgruntled worker.
- This triggered an **exothermic reaction that increased the temperature and pressure inside the tank**, causing it to rupture and release a large cloud of MIC gas into the atmosphere.

Heatstroke Kills Hundreds of Bats in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Heatstroke** has killed hundreds of **bats** in **Jhabua district** of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- According to the deputy director (veterinary), approximately 250 bats died due to the heatstroke.
- He explained that **bats are nocturnal creatures** and typically **seek refuge** in their designated trees **early in the morning**.

Bats

- India is home to 135 bat species. Bats are **nocturnal animals**.
- Bats normally **feed on fruits**, helping in **pollination by seed dispersal but also cause agricultural losses and hence are regarded as vermin**.
- The **population of bats** has declined worldwide due to **poaching, meat consumption, use in traditional medicines, climate change, environmental pollution, and biological invasions**.

Madhya Pradesh's Buddhist Circuit

Why in News?

The **Buddhist circuit at Sanchi** in Madhya Pradesh attracted many pilgrims from around the globe for **Buddha Purnima**, a significant festival celebrated by Buddhist every year on 23rd May 2024.

Key Points

- The **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)** is developing a **Buddhist circuit** that will **connect Sanchi and other destinations** in the state with **Bodhgaya and Sarnath**, two major centers of Buddhism of the country.
 - The aim is to educate Buddhist pilgrims visiting these places about the **Buddhist heritage destinations in MP**.
- Under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**, the MPTB has spent Rs 70 crore to develop destinations like Sachi, Mandsaur, Dhar, Satna, Rewa, Satdhara, Sonari, Murel Khurd and Gyaraspur.
 - The project includes the **enhancement of Marshall House, the foothill, approach roads**, the hilltop, light and sound show, tourist facilitation center in Sanchi, landscaping around **Chaitanya Giri**

Note:

Vihar, the development and beautification of Kanak Sagar Lake located at the base of Sanchi, a Buddhist theme park, beautification of Square Road Junction, improvement of the path from the railway station to the Stupa foothill, and the construction of meditation kiosk and complex in Satdhara, Sonari, Murel Khurda, and Gyaraspur near Sanchi.

Buddha Purnima

GAUTAM BUDDHA

Believed to be 8th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH

- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - Lumbini (Nepal) near Kapilavastu

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilavastu; headed Shakyas republican clan
- Mother - princess from Koshala dynasty

IMPORTANT EVENTS

The Great Departure (Mahabhinishkramana) | First Sermon (Dhammachakrapavartana)

Buddha's Birth | Enlightenment (Nirvana) | Death (Mahaparinirvana)

*Buddha referred to himself as **Tathagata** (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as **Bhagavat** (in Buddhist texts)*

CONTEMPORARIES

- Vardhaman Mahavira
- Bimbisara
- Ajatsatru

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA

- Bodhi Gaya (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- Sarnath (first sermon)
- Vaishali (last sermon)
- Kushinagara (death place (487 BC))

- Buddha Purnima also known as **Vesak**, commemorates the birth of **Prince Siddhartha Gautama**, who later became known as **Gautama Buddha** and founded **Buddhism**.
 - Celebrated primarily in South, Southeast, and East Asia, it falls on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Vaisakha, typically in April or May.
- It is considered a **'triple-blessed day'** as it marks **Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and Maha Parnirvana**. It has been recognised by the **United Nations** as the 'UN Day of Vesak' since 1999.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- It was **launched in 2014-15 for integrated development** of theme-based tourist circuits — Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Northeast Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Wildlife Circuit and Tribal Circuit.

- It is **100% centrally funded and efforts** are made to achieve convergence with other schemes of Central and State Governments and also to leverage the voluntary funding available for **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and Corporate Sector.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Sets New Record

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Madhya Pradesh** greeted over **110 million tourists in 2023**, achieving a **historic milestone for the state's tourism**.

Key Points

- The year 2023 witnessed a significant increase in the number of tourists, with a remarkable 112.1 million visitors, compared to 34.1 million in 2022.
 - **Ujjain**, known as one of **India's most sacred cities**, emerged as the **most popular destination**, drawing over 52.8 million pilgrims and travelers.
- **Five of the state's top ten most visited places** were revered religious sites, including **Ujjain, Maihar, Chitrakoot, Omkareshwar, and Salkanpur**, highlighting the growing appeal of **spiritual tourism**.
 - Key initiatives such as **Mahakal Lok in Ujjain** and **Ektma Dham in Omkareshwar** played a **pivotal role in bolstering visitor numbers**.
- The 24th of May, commemorating the foundation day of the **Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MPSTDC)**, doubles up as **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Day**, symbolizing the state's commitment to nurturing its tourism sector.

Shri Mahakal Lok

- The temple is believed to be governed by **Mahakaleshwar**, which means the **'Lord of time'** i.e., **Lord Shiva**. As per Hindu mythology, the temple was **constructed by Lord Brahma** and is presently located alongside the **holy river Kshipra**.
- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain is **one of the 12 jyotirlingas** considered the most sacred abodes of Shiva. The shrine is revered as **one of the 18 Maha Shaktia Peeth** in India.

Note:

- It is the **only jyotirlinga facing the south**, while all the others face east. This is because the direction of death is believed to be the south.
- In fact, people worship Mahakaleshwar to prevent an untimely death.
- According to the Puranas, **Lord Shiva pierced the world as an endless pillar of light, called the jyotirlinga.**
- Besides Mahakal, these include **Somnath and Nageshwar** in Gujarat, **Mallikarjuna** in Andhra Pradesh, **Omkareshwar** in Madhya Pradesh, **Kedarnath** in Uttarakhand, **Bhimashankar, Triyambakeshwar and Grishneshwar** in Maharashtra, **Viswanath** at Varanasi, **Baidyanath** in Jharkhand, and **Rameswaram** in Tamil Nadu.

Justice Sheel Nagu: New Acting Chief Justice

Why in News?

Recently, the Central government has notified the appointment of **Justice Sheel Nagu** as **Acting Chief Justice** of the **Madhya Pradesh High Court**.

Key Points

- He will perform the duties of incumbent **Chief Justice Ravi Malimath**, who will demit office on 24th May 2024.
- He was appointed as an additional judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on 27th May 2011, and became a permanent judge on 23rd May 2013.

Appointment of Acting Chief Justice

- **Article 223 of the Constitution** of India deals with the **appointment of an acting Chief Justice.**
- According to this, when the office of the Chief Justice of a High Court is vacant or when such a Chief Justice, on account of absence or otherwise, is unable to perform the duties of his office, the duties of the office shall be performed by such person. Other judges of the Court may be appointed by the President for this purpose.



JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU

Gail to Invest in Petrochemical Unit in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the sources, state-run gas supplier **Gail (India)** plans to invest up to Rs 50,000 crore to establish a **1.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) ethane** cracking unit at **Sehore, Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

- The new **facility aims to meet** the huge **domestic demand for petrochemicals**, which is projected to nearly triple to USD 1 trillion by 2040.
 - **Ethane**, a natural gas component, is cracked into **ethylene**, a **crucial input for producing plastics, adhesives, synthetic rubber, and other petrochemicals.**
- Currently, **Reliance Industries** is the **only Indian entity importing 1.5 MTPA of ethane** for its crackers in Dahej, Hazira (Gujarat), and Nagothane (Maharashtra).
- **Gail's new ethane cracker** will almost **double its existing 810 thousand tonnes per annum (KTA)** petrochemical facility at **Pata near Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
 - **Global engineering consultant Engineers India Ltd** is preparing the detailed feasibility report for the project, which is expected to be operational in the next 5-6 years.
- Initially, Gail considered setting up the new facility in Maharashtra's Aurangabad or Dabhol, near its 5 MTPA liquefied natural gas plant, but later decided on Madhya Pradesh.

Note:

GAIL (India) Limited

- It is an **Indian state-owned energy corporation** with primary interests in the trade, **transmission and production distribution of natural gas**.
- It was founded as the Gas Authority of India Ltd. in August **1984** under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to build, operate and maintain the HVJ Gas Pipeline.
- On 1 February 2013, the Indian government conferred GAIL with **Maharatna status** along with 11 other **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**.

First-Ever City Museum in Bhopal

Why in News?

Recently, the Government has approved the establishment of the **first-ever city museum in Bhopal**. The **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** is setting up the **Bhopal City Museum** in the **left wing of Moti Mahal**.

- **Moti Mahal** is an **important heritage site** in the city and a building of high significance.

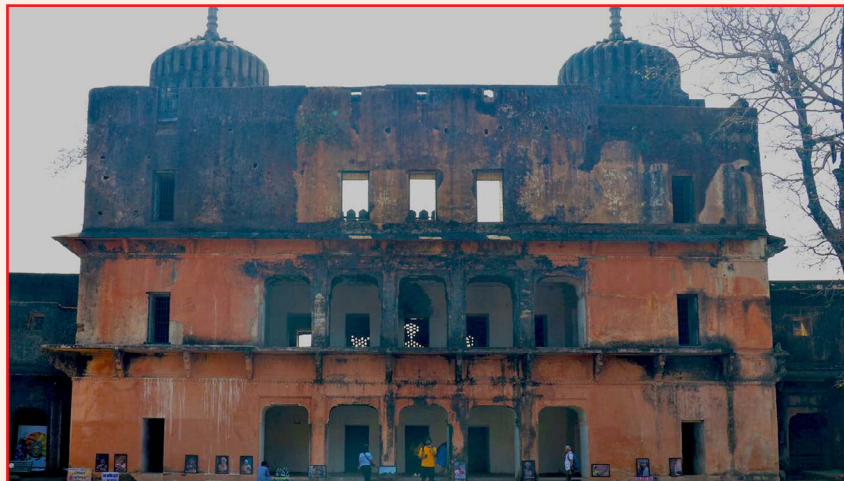
Key Points

- The proposed museum, with **11 galleries**, will focus on the **rich history of Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh**,

covering the **historical and geographical context** of Madhya Pradesh and the formation of Bhopal in particular.

- Collection of **prehistoric rock paintings**, stone tools, archaeological finds, stamps, **attire of kings and queens from Bhopal and surrounding areas**, **ancient sculptures, temple remains, and exquisite art** from the Bhopal Nawab period **will be showcased**.
 - Modern technology will be utilised to create an engaging and informative experience for all age groups.
- The **Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Government of Madhya Pradesh**, is planning to establish a dedicated and comprehensive museum on the **great Parmar King Raja Bhoj**, his life, and works at the right wing of Moti Mahal, Bhopal.
- Seven houses of the **seven major tribes** of the state, namely **Gond, Bhil, Baiga, Korku, Bharia, Sahariya, and Kol**, have been built in the Tribal Museum, Bhopal, to understand and see the lifestyle of the tribal community closely.
 - The vision of this initiative is to **end the myths and beliefs regarding the tribal society**.
- Madhya Pradesh is planning to establish various **theme-based museums** at relevant heritage and cultural destinations to enhance the tourism experience.

Moti Mahal



- Moti Mahal was built by **Gond King Hriday Shah king** of Garh Mandala between **1651 to 1667**.
- The palace is full of **mazes, secret tunnels, and underground passages**.
- Architecture- **Mughal architecture**.

Note:



drishti

Raja Bhoj



- Raja Bhoj was greatest in the **Parmar dynasty (1018-1060)**.
- He tried to **regenerate Hindu society**. He also fought against muslims.
- Apart from a great warrior, he was an **accomplished scholar**.
- He constructed a **Sanskrit college called Bhojshala** at his capital.
- His **famous books** were:
 - Ayurveda Sangraha
 - Yukti Kalpataru
 - Samranga Suthradhara (deals with architecture).
- He was also a **great builder** and is believed to **have built 104 temples** and also a beautiful lake known as **Bhojpur lake**.
- The power of the **Paramara dynasty came to an end with the death of Raja Bhoja**.

Datia- Third Hottest Place in India

Why in News?

According to the **India Meteorological Department**, the temperature in **Datia district of Madhya Pradesh**

reached **47.5 degrees Celsius**, making it the third hottest place.

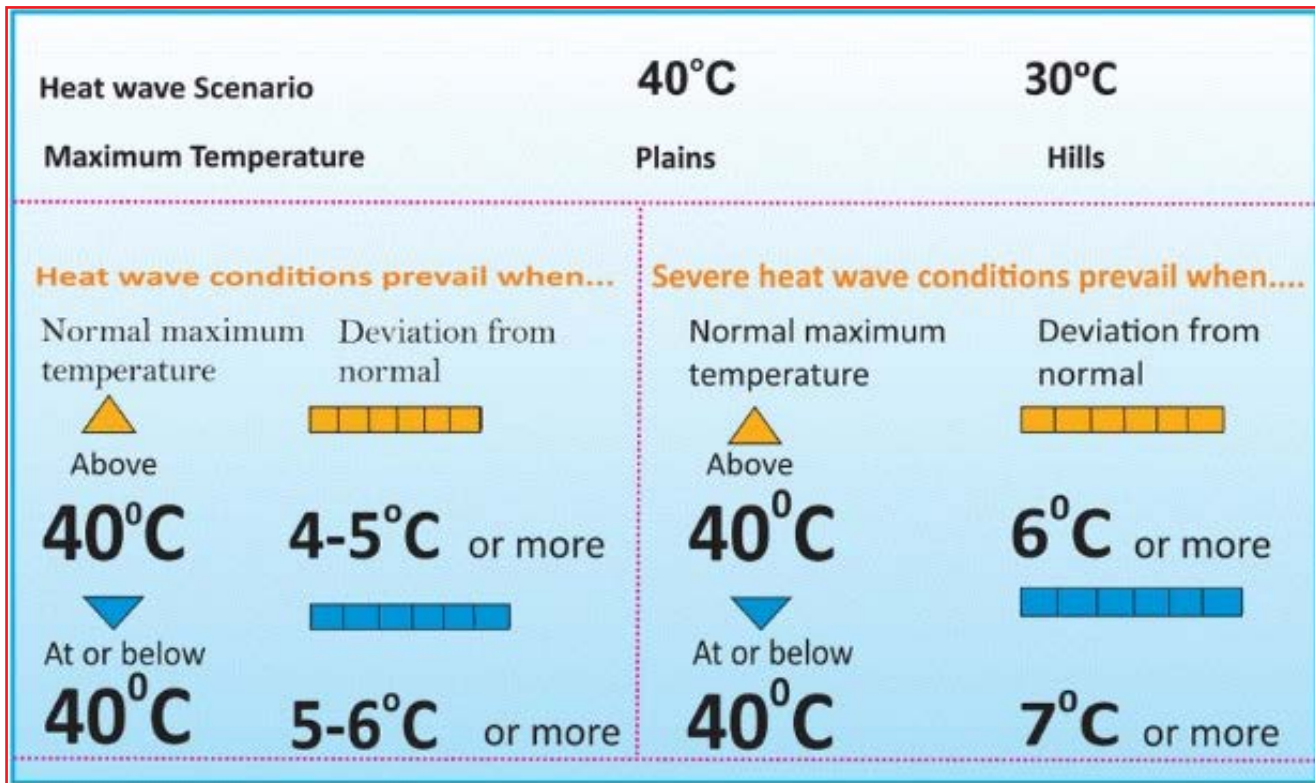
Key Points

- **Najafgarh** in Delhi recorded the **highest temperature in the country at 47.8 degrees Celsius**, with **Agra** closely behind at **47.7 degrees**.
- According to the sources, **Rain or thunderstorms** may occur in certain areas of the eastern Madhya Pradesh districts.
- **Heatwave conditions** could be experienced in isolated regions in western and eastern Madhya Pradesh.

Heat Waves

- **About:**
 - Heatwaves are **prolonged periods of excessively hot weather that can cause adverse impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy**.
 - India, being a tropical country, is **particularly vulnerable to heatwaves**, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years.
- **IMD Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:**
 - Heat waves **need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions**.
 - If the **normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C**, then an **increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition.
 - Further, an **increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature** is considered a severe heat wave condition.
 - If the **normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C**, then an **increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, an **increase of 6°C or more** is considered a **severe heat wave condition**.
 - Additionally, if the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more** irrespective of **normal maximum temperature**, a heat wave is declared.

Note:



Committee to Implement Biodiversity Act

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh high court** ordered the state government to **set up a committee** to implement **the Biodiversity Act, 2002**.

Key Points

- The high court started hearing the case as a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** after taking **suo motu** cognisance of a report published on **protests by tribals** against the translocation of **Baobab trees** by a Hyderabad businessman.
 - The report highlighted the heritage and historical value of the trees, native to Africa, but likely **brought to this corner of Madhya Pradesh by African soldiers** hired by the local Islamic Kingdoms **between the 10th and 17th century**.
- The state government subsequently stripped the forest department of power to permit translocation of Dhar's famed Baobab trees, and decided that this can be done only by the **State Biodiversity Board**.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- The act was enacted in 2002, it **aims at the conservation of biological resources**, managing its **sustainable use** and **enabling fair and equitable sharing benefits** arising out of the use and knowledge of biological resources with the local communities.

Baobab Trees



- **Type of Trees:** Baobabs are **deciduous trees** ranging in **height from 5 to 20 meters**.
 - Deciduous forest is a vegetation composed primarily of broad-leaved trees that **shed all their leaves during one season**.

Note:

- **Found in:** The African baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) is one of the **nine species of baobab** and is **native to mainland Africa**. They are also found in **African Savannah**.
 - The African savanna ecosystem is a **tropical grassland** with **warm temperatures year-round** and with its highest seasonal rainfall in the summer.
- **Tree of Life:** As African baobab is a succulent, which means that during the rainy season it absorbs and stores water in its vast trunk, enabling it to produce a nutrient-dense fruit in the dry season when all around is dry and arid.

Illegal Mining in Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

Recently, the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** formed a committee to look into the complaint of the illegal operation of stone crushers and mining quarries in an **Eco-Sensitive Zone** of **Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Key Points

- According to the NGT, **immediate action is required** for the **disposal of 337 tonnes of chemical waste**, addressing **groundwater contamination**, shortage of piped water, and monitoring **iron, manganese and nitrate concentrations** exceeding the permissible limit.
- **Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary** was established in **1994** and is located within a large forest area.
 - It is **situated near the Betwa River** (a tributary of the Yamuna), in the **border region between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**, contributing to its unique ecosystem and biodiversity.

Eco Sensitive Zones

- The **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** stipulated that state governments should declare land falling **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** as eco-fragile zones or **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** under the **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986**.

- While the **10-km rule** is implemented as a general principle, the extent of its application can vary. Areas beyond 10 km can also be **notified by the Union government as ESZs**, if they hold larger ecologically important **"sensitive corridors"**.

Madhya Pradesh to Implement CAA as Centre Approves

Why in News?

According to the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, **the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019** will be implemented in the state as and when the Centre signals.

Key Points

- The CM, also said that the policies of both the Central and Madhya Pradesh governments align completely. He emphasized their full readiness to implement the CAA as soon as directed by the Centre.
- The **Phase 4 voting for eight seats in Madhya Pradesh Lok Sabha Election 2024** will take place on 13th May 2024.
 - Madhya Pradesh will see voting for **Dewas, Ujjain, Mandsour, Ratlam, Dhar, Indore, Khargone, Khandwa**.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019

- The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (**Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians**) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the **Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920**.
 - The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.

Note:



Repolling in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, **The Election Commission of India** ordered repolling at four booths in Madhya Pradesh's **Betul Lok Sabha seat** after a few **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** were damaged.

Key Points

- Repolling would be held from 7 am to 6 pm on 10th May 2024. A dry day and holiday have been announced in the areas where repolling will be held.
- An estimated **72.65% polling** was recorded in the **Betul Lok Sabha seat**.
- **Betul was among nine seats** in Madhya Pradesh which voted in the **third phase of Lok Sabha elections**.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

- EVM is a device used to record votes electronically. They were first used in the **Paravur Assembly Constituency of Kerala** in the year 1982.
 - Since 1998, the Election Commission has increasingly used EMVs instead of ballot boxes.
 - In 2003, all state elections and by-elections were held using EVMs.
 - Encouraged by this, in **2004**, the Commission took a historic decision to **use only EVMs for the Lok Sabha elections**.

Election Commission of India (ECI)



About

- **Autonomous Constitutional Authority** - Administers Union/state election
 - LS, RS, State LA, the offices of the President and VP
- Estd - **25th Jan 1950** (National Voters' Day)



Constitutional Provisions

Part XV - Article 324 to 329

Structure

- 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners **appointed by President**
- **Tenure- 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier
- Retiring ECs – **eligible for further appointment by the govt.**
- **Removal of CEC-** Resolution on the ground of **proven misbehaviour or incapacity**, with majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house



Major Roles and Responsibilities



- Determining Electoral Constituencies
- Preparing/Revising electoral rolls
- Notifying the schedules and dates of elections
- **Registering political parties and granting them the status of national or state parties**
- Issuing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for political parties
- Advising the President on **matters concerning the disqualification of MPs**

Challenges

- Truncated Tenure of CEC
- Executive Influence in Appointments
- Dependence on Centre for Finance
- Lack of Independent Staff



Note:

Polling for Nine Seats in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

The nine seats in Madhya Pradesh- Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Guna, Rajgarh, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal and Betul that voted in the third phase of the [Lok Sabha election](#) recorded an approximate turnout of 66.5%.

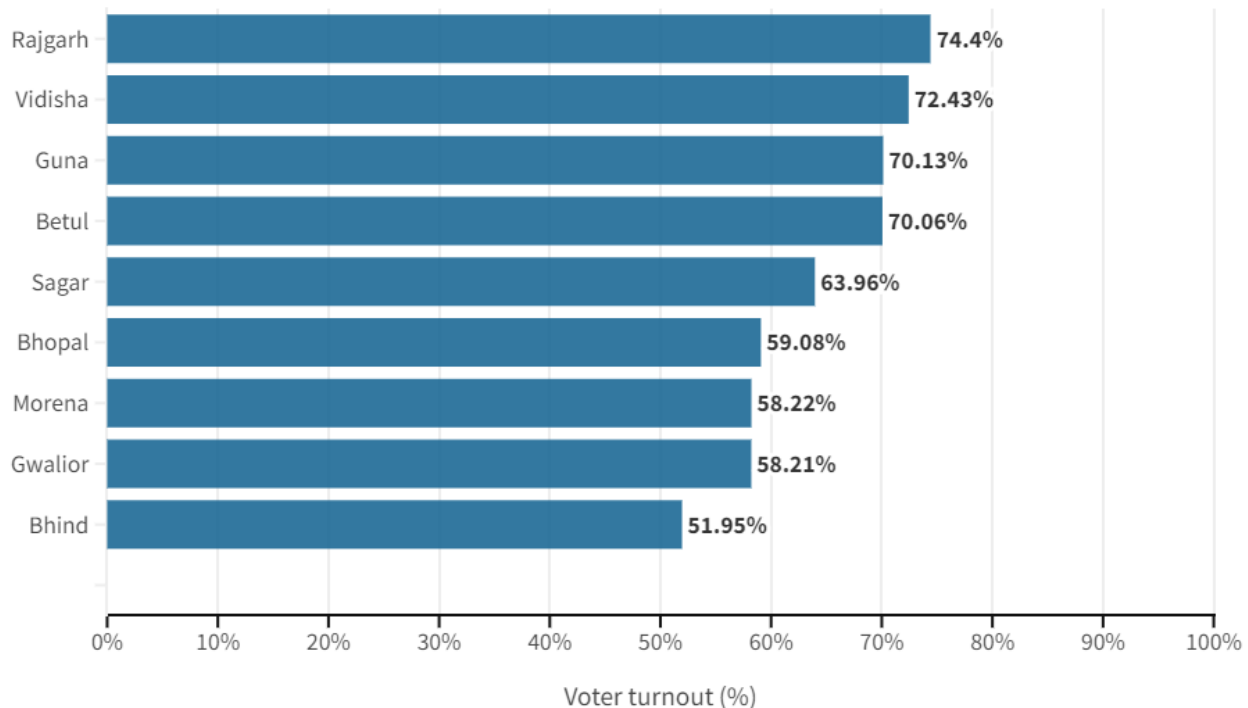
Key Points

- According to data shared by **State's Chief Electoral Officer, Rajgarh** reported the **highest turnout** with 76.19% electors voting, while **Bhind in the Chambal** division recorded the **lowest polling in the State** at 55.44%.
- So far, 21 seats in Madhya Pradesh have gone to polls in the first three phases, while the remaining eight seats will vote in the **fourth phase on 13th May 2024**.

Voter turnout (%) in Madhya Pradesh for Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Poll date: May 7, 2024

As per the ECI, this is an approximate trend*. This trend does not include data of postal ballot voting.



Poor Infrastructure of Government Schools in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh is the **first state in the country to have implemented the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#)**. However, there is poor infrastructure and the absence of teachers in the classrooms.

Key Points

- The **NEP 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 \(SDG 4\)](#)**, while respecting **India's cultural heritage and values**.

Note:



- It replaces the thirty-four year old **National Policy on Education, 1986, modified in 1992** (NPE 1986/92).
- The high school results in Madhya Pradesh have been consistently poor for six years, with a significant number of students failing in Mathematics and English in 2023.
- While a lot has been done to improve the schools on the supply side with **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** and subsequent efforts, there is a need for rejuvenating and re-imagining learning in schools.
 - **Samagra Shiksha subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).**

Illegal Sand Mining

Why in News?

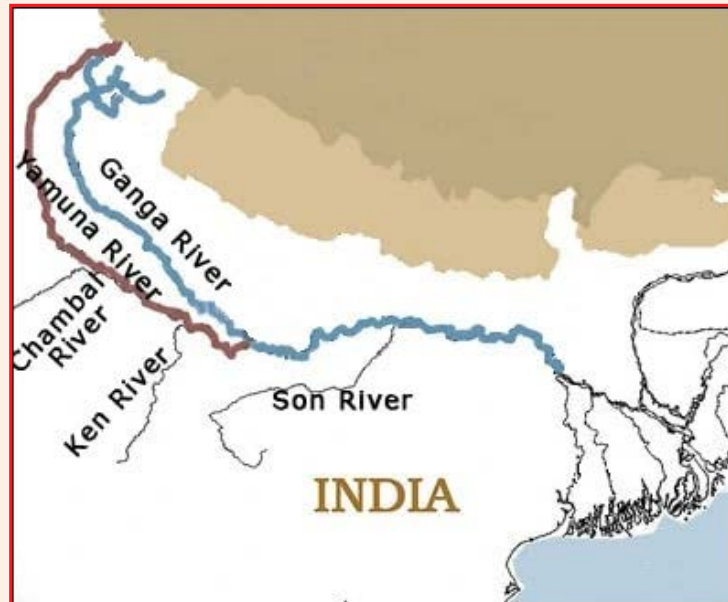
Recently, a police officer was hit by a tractor transporting **illegally mined sand** in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

- The **illegal sand mining** is rampant in Madhya Pradesh, with hundreds of dumpers transporting sand from the banks of the **Son river**.
- Sand mining is the **removal of primary natural sand and sand resources** (mineral sands and aggregates) from the natural environment (terrestrial, riverine, coastal, or marine) for extracting valuable minerals, metals, crushed stone, sand and gravel for subsequent processing.
- This activity, driven by various factors, poses serious **threats to ecosystems and communities**.

Son River

- The Son River, a **perennial river in central India**, is the **Ganges' 2nd-largest southern tributary**.
- Originating near **Amarkantak Hill in Chhattisgarh**, it flows through Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, forming waterfalls at the Amarkantak plateau.
 - It merges with the Ganges near Patna, Bihar.
- Tributaries include Ghaghar, Johilla, Chhoti Mahanadi, Banas, Gopad, Rihand, Kanhar, and North Koel River.
- Prominent dams include the **Bansagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh** and the **Rihand Dam** near Pipri in Uttar Pradesh.



Note:

Madhya Pradesh Tops April GST Collection

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has secured the top position among states in India for achieving a 30% increase in **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection in April 2024 fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

Key Points

- In April, the nation witnessed an **11% increase in GST revenue collection**.
- The country achieved a historic milestone with total GST collections reaching Rs 2.10 lakh crore in the initial month of the fiscal year.
- Total number of registered GST payers in the state has increased to more than 5 lakh.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- It is a **value-added tax** levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption. The GST is **paid by consumers**, but it is **remitted to the government by the businesses** selling the goods and services.
- Features of GST:
 - **Applicable On Supply Side:** GST is applicable on 'supply' of goods or services as against the old concept on the manufacture of goods or on sale of goods or on provision of services.
 - **Destination Based Taxation:** GST is based on the principle of destination-based consumption taxation as against the present principle of origin-based taxation.
 - **Dual GST:** It is a dual GST with the Centre and the States simultaneously levying tax on a common base. The GST to be levied by the Centre is called Central GST (CGST) and that to be levied by the States is called State GST (SGST).
 - Import of goods or services would be treated as inter-state supplies and would be subject to Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) in addition to the applicable customs duties.
 - **GST Rates to be Mutually Decided:** CGST, SGST & IGST are levied at rates to be mutually agreed upon by the Centre and the States. The rates are notified on the recommendation of the GST Council.
 - **Multiple Rates:** Initially GST was levied at four rates viz. 5%, 12%, 16% and 28%. The schedule or list of items that would fall under these multiple slabs are worked out by the GST council.

Note: