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UTTAR PRADESH

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Content

Evacuation Slides

Why in News?

Recently after a threat of a bomb was reported on a **Varanasi-bound Indigo flight** at the **Indira Gandhi International Airport** in Delhi, all 176 passengers on the flight were efficiently evacuated using 'evacuation slides'.

➢ A search of the aeroplane found that the threat was a hoax.

Key Points

➢ An evacuation slide is an inflatable slide which allows passengers to safely exit the flight during an emergency, especially when the flight door is high above the ground.

➢ **There are four types of evacuation slides:**

- **Inflatable slide:** The inflatable slide helps passengers descend to the ground from an aircraft exit door. In case they cannot use the doors, they can try to reach either of the aircraft wings. From there, they can use the slide to reach the ground.

- **Inflatable raft:** It does the same job as the slide, but it can also be used as a life raft in case the aircraft has to land on water.

- **Inflatable exit ramp:** The inflatable exit ramp is installed to help passengers move from certain overwing exits (or aircraft emergency exits) to the wings, if that path looks better for reaching the ground.

- **Inflatable exit ramp/slide:** The inflatable exit ramp/slide is there to assist in descending from an overwing exit or aeroplane wing to the ground. It is a combination ramp and wing-to-ground device.

➢ These are typically made from **carbon fibres** and a **nylon material coated with urethane for fire resistance.** Strong fibres are used to build these slides so that passengers are not able to tear them while descending.

➢ Slides are generally packed and installed within a cabin door or into an external fuselage compartment.

➢ They are inflated with the help of **high-pressure gas carbon dioxide** or **nitrogen gas** containers and ambient air through suction machines.

➢ **Protocols for deploying evacuation slides:**

- According to the **European Union** Aviation Safety Agency (EUASA), evacuation slides must be automatically deployed when the distance between the ground and the flight exit door is six feet or more.

- The inflation time for the slide should be between six and 10 seconds, depending on its location.

- It must be able to withstand temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius and as high as 71 degrees Celsius, as well as sustain rainfall of up to one inch per hour and winds up to 46 km/hr coming from 45-degree angles around the airplane, as per the US Federal Aviation Administration guidelines.

Uttar Pradesh Set to Invest in Civil Aviation

Why in News?

According to the sources, the **Uttar Pradesh government** is targeting **private investment of USD 2 billion (over Rs 16,000 crore)** in the civil aviation sector.

➢ Apart from promoting ancillary activities, such as aviation training, aircraft maintenance, and aero-sports, the proposed investment may be used to **develop and upgrade existing airstrips.**

Key Points

➢ Under the flagship **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)**, apart from the 14 state-owned airstrips marked for immediate development, the state is taking steps to **operationalise 225 routes.**

- Six airstrips namely **Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Shravasti, Moradabad, and Sonbhadra** are being **upgraded to handle the flights** under the RCS.

- The state has allocated a **budget of about Rs 28,000 crore** in the current financial year 2024-25 (FY25) **for the civil aviation infrastructure** for airstrips modernisation, land acquisition, and more.

➢ Uttar Pradesh witnessed a **rise of 20% in the number of flyers** in FY24, indicating a sharp uptick in aviation growth in leisure and business **tourism**.

- The government is also promoting helicopter taxis in major tourist hotspots under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.**

- In 2023, UP Tourism signed an agreement with Rajas Aerosports And Adventures to operate heliports for 30 years between Agra and Mathura.

Note:

- **UP has emerged as the most favoured tourist destination**, logging a 50% jump in tourist inflow to 480 million in 2023.

Regional Connectivity Scheme

- **About:**
  - **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik)** was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for regional airport development and **regional connectivity enhancement.**
  - It is a part of the **National Civil Aviation Policy 2016.**
  - The scheme is applicable for a **period of 10 years.**
- **Objectives:**
  - Improve the air connectivity to remote and regional areas of India.
  - Development of remote areas and enhancing trade and commerce and tourism expansion.
  - Enable common people to access air travel with affordable rates.
  - Employment creation in the aviation sector.
- **Key Features:**
  - Under the scheme, airlines have to cap airfares for 50% of the total seats at Rs. 2,500 per hour of flight.
  - This would be achieved through:
    - A financial stimulus in the form of concessions from Central and State governments and airport operators and
    - **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** – A government grant provided to the airlines to bridge the gap between the cost of operations and expected revenue.
- Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) was created to meet the viability gap funding requirements under the scheme.
  - The partner State Governments (other than UTs and NER states where contribution will be 10%) would contribute a 20% share to this fund.

Uttar Pradesh: The Leading Producer of Prime Ministers

Why in News?

India has had **15 Prime Ministers** till now since independence. U**ttar Pradesh, constituting 17% of India's population** (according to the 2011 census), has been the birthplace of six PMs.

Key Points

- **9 PMs have represented Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha**, some from multiple constituencies.
- Among all the PMs who were in office, **75%** of the time, the office was held by a PM who concurrently served as a **Member of Parliament** from **Uttar Pradesh.**
- This includes the nearly **17-year tenure of Nehru**, cumulative tenure of over **15 years** of his **daughter Indira Gandhi, six-year tenure of Atal Bihari Vajpayee (13 days in 1996, 13 months in 1998 and for five years from 1999),** and the current **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi,** who has been in office since May 2014.
  - While present PM was born in Gujarat, and subsequently became the Chief Minister of the state, he chose to contest elections from the **Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency** in **2014** and **2019.**
- Every Congress leader has represented **Uttar Pradesh** in the **Lok Sabha** during their time in the PM's residence except **PV Narasimha Rao (Andhra Pradesh)** and **Manmohan Singh,** who was an **MP for Rajasthan and Assam** in the **Rajya Sabha.**
- Uttar Pradesh is India's most populous state with **215 million people (2011 census).** It also sends **80 members to the Lok Sabha.**
- Members of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh account for **20% of the Lok Sabha** and a **decisive victory in the state** often determines who comes to power at the Centre.

Uttar Pradesh's 6th Round Voter Turnout

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh recorded a **54.03 % voter turnout in the sixth phase** of the **2024 Lok Sabha election** in **14 constituencies** of the **Purvanchal region.**

Key Points

- According to **Election Commission of India** figures, the voter turnout fell marginally short of the 2019 polling percentage of 54.49 for the same seats.
  - A decline in voter turnout was observed as the polling moved from **West UP constituencies (first three phases)**, to **central UP (Phases 4 and 5)**, to **east UP (14 Lok Sabha seats in Phase 6)**.

Note:

- In the **first phase, 61.11%** voter turnout was recorded. In the **second phase**, it was **55.19%**, **57.34% in the third phase**, **58.22% in the fourth phase** and **58.02% in the fifth phase**. In **Phase 6, 54.03%** polling was witnessed in 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in eastern UP.

Purvanchal Region of UP

- ➢ It covers the regions of **Jaunpur, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Azamgarh, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Balia and Ghazipur.**
- ➢ The **northern parts of this plain** have been **formed by Rapti and Ghaghra rivers**. It is given names of **Rapti Khadar, Saryupar Maidan and Purabiya Plains** from the south to north.
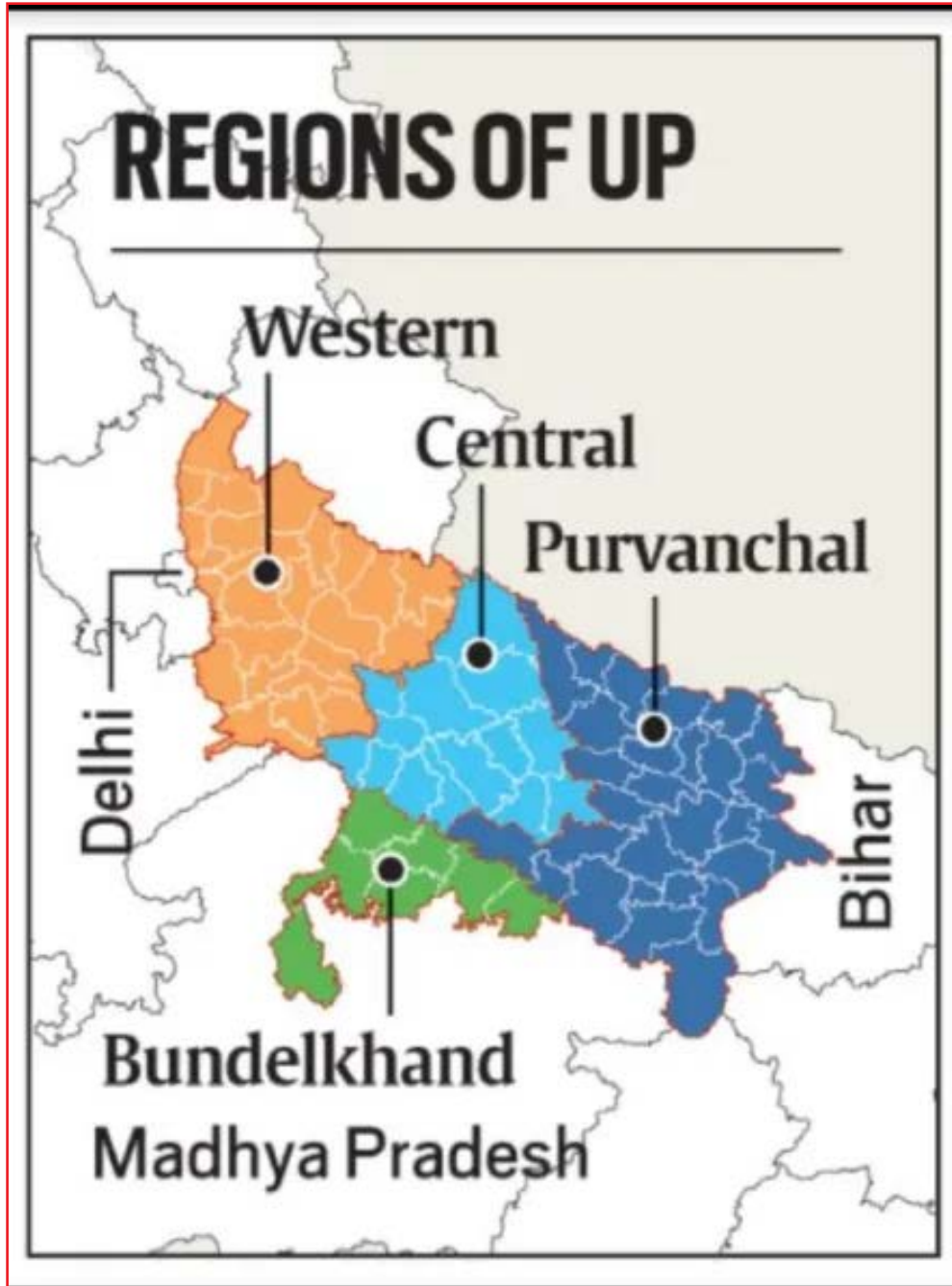
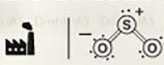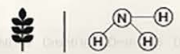

Note:

PMC Issues Notice for Spreading Pollution

Why in News?

The **Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC)** has issued notices to nine departments including **Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA), Public Works Department (PWD), North Central Railway (NCR), Jal Nigam** for affecting the **air quality** in Smart City Prayagraj.

Key Points

➢ The notice includes the writ number from the **Department of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** and advises implementing measures such as using **green curtains to cover construction sites**, regularly **spraying water with sprinkler machines**, employing mechanized road sweeping, and using mist guns to minimize dust.

➢ An official from the PMC stated that the **rise in air pollution in the city is a result of ongoing construction activities**. To address public concerns, notices have been sent to the relevant departments.

   ❍ Failure to comply with the instructions may lead to further enforcement actions in accordance with the regulations.

Air Pollutants

Sulphur Dioxide (SO$_2$)

It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

Impact: Causes respiratory problems.

Ozone (O$_3$)

Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NOx and VOC) under the action of the sun.

Impact: Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO$_2$)

Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

Impact: Chronic lung disease.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

Impact: Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

Ammonia (NH$_3$)

Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

Impact: Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

Lead (Pb)

Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

Impact: Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

Particulate Matter (PM)

PM10: Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.
PM2.5: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
Source: Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.
Impact: Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

Drishti IAS

Note:

Uttar Pradesh Tops in Transmission Line Addition

Why in News?

According to the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA),** **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the **leading state** in terms of the **addition of transmission lines** by state transmission utilities in FY24.

Key Points

➢ In FY2024, **the Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (UPPTCL)** exceeded other state utilities by adding **1,460 ckm (circuit kilometer)** of transmission lines rated at 220kV or higher.

  ○ The **Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO)** came in second with 898 ckm additions by the end of FY24.

  ○ UPPTCL contributed slightly more than 20% of the overall increase from the state sector. **Gujarat came second** with a share of 13% in this increase. Following Gujarat were **Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar.**

Central Electricity Authority

➢ CEA is an organization originally constituted under Section 3(1) of the repealed Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, since substituted by **Section 70 of the Electricity Act, 2003.**

➢ One of its **objectives** is to **formulate a National Electricity Plan every five years** for optimum utilization of available resources for power generation.

➢ It works under the **Ministry of Power** and is located in **New Delhi.**

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL)

➢ **Established on 14th January 2000,** as the result of power sector reforms and restructuring in UP which is the **focal point of the Power Sector,** responsible for planning and managing the sector through its **transmission, distribution and supply of electricity.**

➢ It is a professionally managed utility supplying reliable and cost efficient electricity to every citizen of the state.

Uttar Pradesh Industry 4.0

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh nodal technical university has tied up with technology major **International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation** for **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Cloud computing training** to align the future workforce with the **modern Industry 4.0 concept.**

➢ The state is also pushing for the **'One District, One Incubator' scheme.**

Key Points

➢ With AI investment in India expected to reach **USD 5 billion by 2027,** the Uttar Pradesh government aims to leverage this expanding industry to boost employment opportunities, encourage self-employment, and promote the growth of startups.

➢ State's **Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with IBM for free online courses in such programmes across more than 500 affiliated colleges.

➢ According to a joint study released recently by **Intel and International Data Corporation**, AI spending in India is expected to grow 31.5% from 2023.

  ○ The growth is highest among the eight countries surveyed — Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan.

➢ **Industry 4.0** refers to the **integration of intelligent digital technologies into manufacturing and industrial processes.**

  ○ It covers a set of technologies spanning industrial **IoT (internet of things) networks, AI, big data, robotics, automation.**

➢ As the state has the country's **4th largest startup ecosystem,** the government is taking steps to integrate education with incubators and facilitate angel funding to business ideas.

  ○ It is planning to set up an incubator at every higher educational institution across 75 districts. Currently, over **60 incubators are operational in the state.**

  ○ The state boasts of about 10,000 recognised **startups**, of which 50% have emerged from Tier-II and Tier-III cities. Nearly 4,300 startups are being run by women entrepreneurs.

➢ **UP is home** to **eight** of the **total 108 unicorns in India,** such as Paytm, Paytm Mall, India Mart, Moglix, Pine Labs, Innovaccer, InfoEdge, and Physics Wallah.

Note:

Unicorn

➤ A unicorn is **any privately owned firm with a market capitalisation of more than USD 1 billion.**

➤ It denotes **new entities** dedicated to offering creative solutions and new business models, among other things.

➤ There are several categories like **fintech, Edtechs, B2B** (Business-to-Business) companies, etc.

Workshop on Global Standards & IPR

Why in News?

Recently, the workshop was hosted by **National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT),** Ghaziabad under **the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** in collaboration with **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Area office and Innovation Centre, to commemorate **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (17th May).**

Key Points

➤ The workshop highlighted the importance of **"Global Standards & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)"** for any country's development.

  ❍ It also provided a platform for national stakeholders to forge global partnerships and align with international best practices in **telecommunications standards.**

➤ The workshop set the stage for enhanced participation of Indian experts in the upcoming **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024** and provided an extensive opportunity to the participants to engage with global standards and **intellectual property dynamics.**

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)

➤ The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other **information and communication technologies (ICTs)** can bring to societies and economies, as well as ways to bridge the digital divide.

➤ 17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT)

➤ NTIPRIT was **established in the year 2010** as **National Telecom Academy,** the telecom training institute of the Department of Telecommunications.

➤ Subsequently, in 2011, the **mandate of the institute was expanded** by bringing into the activities related to **Policy Research and Innovations** under its ambit and the institute was rechristened as National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovations & Training (NTIPRIT).

➤ Since then NTIPRIT has grown and the institute is now the **apex Telecom Training Institute** in the country.

Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade

Why in News?

Recently, to mark the successful completion of training of **Air Force Special Forces 'Garud' Commandos**, **Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade** was held at **Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC)**, Air Force Station Chandinagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

➤ The Garud Commando Force is the **special forces unit of the Indian Air Force.** It was **formed in February 2004** and has a current strength of over 1500 personnel.

  ❍ Garud forces are **tasked with** the **protection of critical Air Force bases and installations, search and rescue**, and **disaster relief during calamities.**

  ❍ **In 2004**, Garuds were **deployed in Congo** as part of the **UN peacekeeping operations.**

Illegal Mining on Yamuna Banks

Why in News?

In a joint raid against **sand mining mafia** the mining department and Loni administration seized earthmovers, trucks, and trolleys from the **Yamuna banks** in Loni's Pachera.

Note:

Key Points

➢ A section of land spanning 15 kilometers in Loni along the Yamuna river, encompassing Pachaira, Badarpur, and Nauraspur villages, has been rented out for sand mining.

➢ The <u>illegal sand mining</u> was happening 1.5km away from the leased 48-acre land in Pachera, which has been rented for a 5-year term.

➢ To ensure sustainable river sand mining, it is vital to **refill the mine pits created** during **sand extraction through the natural process of replenishment** within an appropriate time frame.
  ❍ Illegal deep excavations often occur in sensitive locations along the riverbank, resulting in the formation of deep pits.

➢ In 2023, flooding in the Loni area caused significant damage, partly due to the deep pits left by illegal sand mining activities along the <u>Yamuna river</u>.
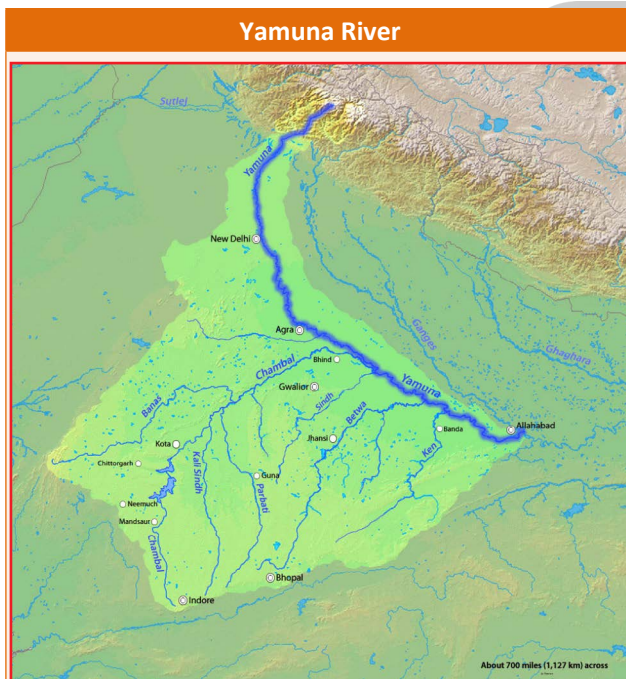
Yamuna River

➢ **About:** The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India.
  ❍ It forms an integral part of the **Yamuna-Ganga Plain**, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.

➢ **Source:** It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier at an elevation of 6,387 meters** on the southwestern sides of **Banderpooch crests** in the **lower Himalayan ranges.**

➢ **Basin:** It meets the **Ganges at the Sangam (where Kumbh mela is held)** in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.**

➢ **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.

➢ **Important Tributaries:** Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.

➢ Government Initiatives Related to Yamuna River:
  ❍ Yamuna Action Plan
  ❍ Delhi Government's Six-Point Action Plan to Clean Yamuna by February 2025

Sand Mining

➢ Sand mining is defined as 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.**

Prayagraj to Get 2nd SSH Lab

Why in News?

Prayagraj soon to get its second **Sentinel Surveillance Hospital Lab (SSH Lab)**, a vital facility to diagnose <u>dengue virus</u>.

Key Points

➢ Currently, the district of Prayagraj only has a SSH lab located at the department of microbiology in **Moti Lal Nehru (MLN) Medical College.**
  ❍ At a workshop held at MLN College to observe **National Dengue Day (16th May 2024)**, it was discussed that plans are in progress to establish a specialized dengue testing laboratory at Tej Bahadur Sapru hospital, also known as Beli hospital, before the end of 2024.

➢ The **theme of Dengue Day 2024** was to **connect with the community and control dengue.**

Note:

Dengue

➤ **About:**
  ○ Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the **dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus)**, transmitted by several species of female mosquito within the genus Aedes, principally **Aedes aegypti.**
    ● This mosquito also transmits **chikungunya**, **yellow fever** and **Zika infection.**
  ○ There are 4 distinct, but closely related, serotypes (separate groups within a species of microorganisms that all share a similar characteristic) of the virus that cause dengue (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4).
➤ **Symptoms:**
  ○ Sudden high fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes, severe bone, joint, and muscle pain, etc.
➤ Diagnosis and Treatment:
➤ Diagnosis of dengue infection is done with a blood test.
➤ There is no specific medicine to treat dengue infection.

Air Pollution Threatening the Mangrove Ecosystem: Study by IIT Kanpur

Why in News?

The study authored jointly by leading scientists from the **Bose Institute, Kolkata,** and **the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur** states that air pollution poses a significant threat to the **Sundarbans**.

Key Points

➤ The study is titled **"Acidity and oxidative potential of atmospheric aerosols over a remote mangrove ecosystem during the advection of anthropogenic plumes".**
➤ The study found that huge amounts of **pollutants,** mainly enriched with **black carbon** or soot particles, arriving from not only Kolkata metropolis but the entire **Indo-Gangetic Plain region**, are significantly deteriorating Sundarbans' air quality, thus affecting its ecosystem.
➤ The authors of the study have suggested **10-point recommendations** to stop Sundarbans's air quality and overall ecosystem degradation.

○ The recommendations include **solar energy promotion, wind energy utilisation**, electric transportation, **subsidised LPG, regulated tourism**, **banning diesel generators, banning of toxic shipments**, closing down of pollutant factories, regulation of brick kilns and land use and strengthening of coastal regulations.

Sundarbans

➤ The Sundarbans hosts the **largest mangrove forests in the world**, lying on the **delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal.**
➤ The mangrove ecosystem is a **specialised environment between the land and the sea** in the tropical and subtropical regions.

Spanning across India and Bangladesh, Sundarbans is amongst the world's largest contiguous blocks of mangrove forest. Less than 40 percent of Sundarbans is located in India and the rest is in Bangladesh. On the Indian side, forest boundaries have changed very little since 1943.

Mangroves

➤ Mangroves are the plant communities occurring in **inter-tidal zones** along the coasts of tropical and subtropical countries.
➤ Mangrove forests **perform multiple ecological functions** such as production of woody trees, provision of habitat, food and spawning grounds for fin-fish and shellfish, provision of habitat for birds and other valuable fauna; protection of coastlines and accretion of sediment to form new land.
➤ Among the states and Union Territories, **West Bengal has the highest percentage of area under total Mangrove cover** followed by Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
➤ The **India State of Forest Report** gives the data about mangroves and their conditions in the country.

Note:

Painting Exhibition at Banaras Hindu University

Why in News?

Recently, a four-day group painting exhibition **'Yogasutra'** was organised by the **Faculty of Visual Arts, Banaras Hindu University.**

Key Points

➤ The exhibition features the artistic talents of four students from the painting department - Joydeb Das, Noddy Judith Gomes, Faraz Imran, and Niharika Ahona Barsaat, showcasing around 25 paintings.

Banaras Hindu University

➤ It was founded by **Madan Mohan Malaviya in 1916** with cooperation of great personalities like Dr Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India.

➤ It is an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the **holy city of Varanasi.**

➤ It has **6 centres of Advanced Studies**, **10 Departments under Special Assistance Programme** and a large number of specialized Research Centers.

➤ Bharat Kala Bhavan, the reputed museum of the university, is a treasure trove of rare collections.

➤ The **927 bed hospital** of the University is equipped with all the modern amenities.

Building Plans in Areas off Yamuna E-Way

Why in News?

The **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)** has introduced a system called **Building Plan Management System (BPMS),** enabling more than 34,000 residential plot owners to submit their building plans for approval online.

Key Points

➤ According to the Authority, the **Building Permission Management System (BPMS)** aims to streamline the approval process for building maps by offering a **fast, transparent, and efficient solution for processing applications.**

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)

➤ It has been **created under the UP Industrial Development Act, 1976** for the systematic development of their respective notified areas abutting Delhi, which if not planned, would have been prone to unauthorized urban growth.

Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti

Why in News?

Vallabhacharya Jayanti, celebrated on **4th May 2024,** commemorates the **birth anniversary** of the renowned Hind scholar and an **ardent devotee of Lord Krishna**, **Shri Vallabhacharya (1479-1531 CE).**

Key Points

➤ Vallabhacharya was a revered figure who had a deep command over the **Vedas and Upanishads.** He was known by the titles **Vallabha and Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya.**

➤ He founded the philosophy of **Shuddha Advaita or pure non-dualism.** He also founded the **Pushti sect of Vaishnavism**, a Krishna-centric cult in the Braj region of India.

➤ He was **born in the year 1479 AD in Varanasi** to a Telugu Brahmin family.
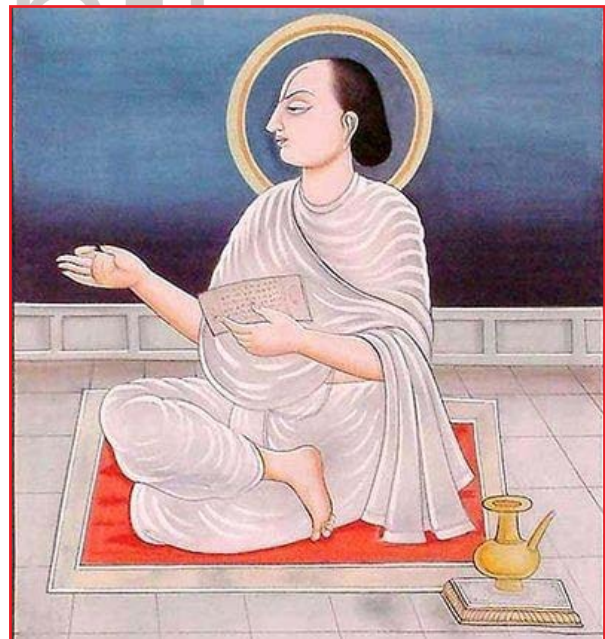
Pushti sect

➤ **Vallabhacharya was the founder of** the Bhakti sect named **'Pushtimarg'.**

➤ Pushtimarg is a subtradition of **Rudra Sampradaya**, also known as Pushtimarg Sampradaya or Vallabha Sampradaya (Vaishnavism).

➤ He founded it in the early 16th century, and it is dedicated to Krishna.

➤ Pushtimarg, a bhakti (devotional) school, was expanded by Vallabhacharya's followers, particularly **Gusainji.**

➤ Its principles are rooted from, and its devotional practises are centred on, the fabled amorous plays of young Krishna, such as those described in the Bhagavata Purana and those associated with Govardhana Hill.

Implementing the Street Vendors Act 2014

Why in News?

A decade has passed since the **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014** came into effect on 1st May 2014, marking a significant milestone after nearly four decades of legal jurisprudence and the tireless efforts of street vendor movements across India.

Key Points

➤ The Act was enacted in order to legalise the vending rights of **street vendors (SVs)**.

➤ It aimed to **protect and regulate street vending in cities**, with **State-level rules** and schemes, and execution by **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** through **by-laws, planning, and regulation.**

➤ The Act clearly **delineates the roles** and responsibilities of both vendors and various levels of **government**.

➤ It commits to **accommodating all 'existing' vendors in vending zones and issuing vending certificates (VCs).**

➤ The Act establishes a participatory governance structure through **Town Vending Committees (TVCs).**

○ It mandates that **street vendor representatives** must constitute **40% of TVC members**, with a **sub-representation of 33% of women** SVs.

○ These committees are tasked with **ensuring the inclusion of all existing vendors in vending zones.**

➤ Additionally, the Act outlines mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes, proposing the establishment of a **Grievance Redressal Committee chaired by a civil judge or judicial magistrate.**

➤ It provides that the **States/ULBs conduct a survey to identify SVs** at least once **every five years.**

Government's Initiatives for Street Vendors

➤ **SVANidhi Scheme:**

○ **SVANidhi Scheme** was launched to benefit over **50 lakh street vendors** who had been **vending in urban areas** including those from **surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.**

○ It also aims to **promote digital transactions through cash-back incentives** up to an amount of Rs. 1,200 per annum.

➤ **National Association of Street Vendors of India:**

○ NASVI is an organization working for the **protection of the livelihood rights of thousands of street vendors across the country.**

○ The main objective was to bring together the **street vendor** organizations in India so as to collectively struggle for macro-level changes.

Leopard Strayed from Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, Forest officials captured a **leopard** which had strayed into Aliganj village from the nearby **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

➤ The **Pilibhit Tiger reserve** is spread over the three districts of Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh.

○ It covers an area of more than 700 square km and is home to a variety of wild animals including leopards and **tigers**.

○ It forms part of **Terai Arc Landscape** in the **upper Gangetic Plain.**

○ The **northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border** while the **southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.**

Note:

Leopards

➢ **Scientific Name:** *Panthera pardus*

➢ **About:**
  ○ The leopard is the smallest of the Big Cat family (of **genus Panthera** namely the **Tiger, Lion (Panthera leo), Jaguar, Leopard, and Snow Leopard**), and is known for its ability to adapt in a variety of habitats.
  ○ A **nocturnal animal,** feeds on smaller species of herbivores found in its range, such as the chital, hog deer and wild boar.
  ○ Melanism is a common occurrence in leopards, wherein the entire skin of the animal is black in colour, including its spots.
  ○ A melanistic leopard is often called a **black panther** and is mistakenly thought to be a different species.

➢ **Habitat:**
  ○ It occurs in a wide range in **sub-Saharan Africa**, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia.
  ○ The **Indian leopard *(Panthera pardus fusca)*** is a leopard widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.

➢ **Threats:**
  ○ Poaching for the illegal trade of skins and body parts.
  ○ Habitat loss and fragmentation
  ○ Human-Leopard conflict

➢ **Conservation Status:**
  ○ **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
  ○ **CITES:** Appendix-I
  ○ **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule-I

Cyber Police Stations in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is to establish **cyber police stations in 57 districts** after the **parliamentary polls** with each cyber police station having 25 posts for officers and employees.

Key Points

➢ The state government, in response to the rising incidents of **cybercrime** nationally and globally, has decided to establish cyber police stations across all 75 districts of the state.
  ○ While cyber stations are already operational in 18 divisions, the remaining 57 districts will also get such stations following the Lok Sabha elections.

➢ The finalisation of these stations will occur following the lifting of the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** and the conclusion of the general elections.

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

➢ The MCC is a **consensus document.** The political parties have themselves agreed to keep their conduct during elections in check and to work within the Code.

➢ It helps the **Election Commission (EC)** in keeping with the mandate it has been given under **Article 324 of the Constitution,** which gives it the **power to supervise** and **conduct free and fair elections** to the Parliament and State Legislatures.

➢ The MCC is operational from the date on **which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement.**

➢ The government **cannot announce any financial grants,** promise construction of roads or other facilities, and make any ad hoc appointments in government or public undertaking during the time the Code is in force.

➢ Enforceability of MCC:
  ○ Though the **MCC does not have any statutory backing**, it has come to acquire strength in the past decade because of its strict enforcement by the EC.
  ○ Certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the **Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and Representation of Peoples's Act (RPA) 1951.**

Cybercrime

➢ It is defined as a crime where a **computer is the object of the crime or is used as a tool** to commit an offense.
  ○ Cybercrimes fall under State subjects as per the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution** of India.

➤ It involves illegal or unauthorized activities that **exploit technology to commit various forms of crimes.**

➤ Cybercrime covers a wide range of offenses and can affect individuals, organizations, and even governments.

IMS-BHU gets Ultrasound, Echocardiogram Machines

Why in News?

The department of Geriatric Medicine at the Institute of Medical Sciences, **Banaras Hindu University**, officially unveiled **two new portable ultrasound and echocardiogram machines.**

Key Points

➤ The department offers complimentary in-house bedside **electrocardiogram and spirometry services**, along with body composition analyzer and hand grip dynamometer for frailty assessment, all provided at no cost.

➤ IMS BHU gave a presentation on the range of **Ankylosing Spondylitis** impacting the bone.

○ The event was arranged by **AIIMS, Jammu** as part of the **Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association Young Surgeons Forum.**

Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)

➤ It is a **type of arthritis** that mainly **affects the back, by causing inflammation in the spine.** This can make your back, rib cage and neck stiff and painful.

➤ It often starts in people who are in their late teens or 20s.

➤ In response to the inflammation, **the body produces extra calcium around the bones of the spine.** This can make extra bits of bone grow and cause your back and neck to be more stiff.

The Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association (APOA)

➤ It is a regional organisation of orthopaedic surgeons from the **Asia Pacific region.**

➤ It **began in 1962** as the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association. With the inclusion of countries of the Indian sub-continent in 2000, the association was renamed as the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association.

➤ It has **24 member chapters** and more than 65,000 members from over 40 countries.

➤ Its **core mission** is to promote the education, research and fellowship amongst orthopaedic surgeons in this region.

Note:

Key Points

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