



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

**APRIL
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Uttar Pradesh Aims to Increase Maize Production

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is targeting to increase the production of Maize to more than **3.2 million tonnes (mt) by 2027-28**.

Key Points

- Currently, the state's maize production across different **cropping seasons (kharif, rabi, and zaid)** is estimated at **2.12 mt across 830,000 hectares**.
 - The yield is at nearly **25.49 quintals (100 kg) per hectare**, which is **lower than the national average**.
 - The state plans to increase maize acreage by 200,000 hectares and **boost production by an additional 1.1 mt**.
 - This will hike the state's maize area and production to about 1.03 million hectares (MH) and 3.2 mt, respectively.
- The state will invest almost Rs 150 crore on various maize publicity programs and give **incentives** to food processing units.
- Maize crop has **multifarious uses as food, poultry feed, and fuel (grain based ethanol)**.
- It is also used in **pharmaceutical, cosmetic, textile, paper, and alcohol industries**.
 - Maize is the **third most important cereal crop in India**, after paddy and wheat, and accounts for nearly **10% of total food grain production**.
 - Globally, maize is referred to as the '**queen of cereals**' owing to its high genetic yield potential among the cereal crops.
- Industry has estimated that India needs to ramp up maize production by 10 mt over the next four-five years to cater to the demand from the ethanol and poultry sectors.
- The demand for maize is rising due to growing health awareness. People prefer maize for its high nutritional value, macronutrients like **starch, fiber, protein, fat, vitamin B complex, carotene and essential minerals like magnesium, zinc, phosphorus, and copper**.

Maize

- **Temperature:** Between 21-27°C
- **Rainfall:** High rainfall.
- **Soil Type:** Old alluvial soil.
- **Top Maize Producing States:** Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- As per the **FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)** data, India was the **fifth largest producer of Maize in 2020**.
- It is used both as **food and fodder**.
- Use of modern inputs such as **High-Yielding Variety seeds, fertilisers and irrigation** have contributed to the **increasing production** of maize.
- **Technology Mission on Maize** is one of the government's initiatives for maize.

ISARC: Development of Rice with Low Methane Emission

Why in News?

Recently, Senior agriculture officials from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal gathered at **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC)**, Varanasi for the **7th ISARC Coordination Committee (ICC)** meeting.

Key Points

- Presiding over the meeting, IRRI interim director general said ISARC is emerging as an **evidence-based research hub** for all research related to **transforming the rice-based agri-food system** in the **South Asian Region**.
 - In 2024, the focus is to work on **development of rice varieties with low methane emissions and enhancing the productivity of premium quality nutritious rice**.
 - To achieve the goals, ISARC is working on propagation of best agronomic and management practices such as **Dry Seeded Rice (DSR)** and **Alternate Wet and Drying (AWD)**.
- **DSR, one of the major flagship research programmes of IRRI**, delivers faster planting and maturing, conserves scarce resources like water and labor.

Note:

- It is more conducive to mechanization and **reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change** in comparison to the conventional puddled transplanted rice technique.
- ISARC has showcased its capabilities in research, extension, capacity development, and technology dissemination, bringing tangible solutions to address pressing challenges facing our agricultural landscape.
- A few achievements like release of ultra-low **Glycemic Index** rice varieties, **Speed breeding protocol**, **Direct Seeded rice and Seeds Without Border**, and urged the national partners to replicate the innovations in their respective regions through technical support from ISARC.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

- IRRI is an **independent, non-profit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations** with support from the Philippine government.
- The institute, **headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines**, has offices in 17 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa.
- The **IRRI South Asia Regional Centre is located at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- It aims to improve the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers and protect the rice-growing environment for future generations.

Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

- It is a **viable option to reduce the unproductive water flows**.
- DSR refers to the process of **establishing a rice crop from seeds sown in the field** rather than by transplanting seedlings from the nursery.
- Conventional rice establishment system requires a substantial amount of water.

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

- It is a **water-saving technology** that farmers can apply to reduce their irrigation water consumption in rice fields without decreasing its yield.
- In AWD, irrigation water is applied a few days after the disappearance of the ponded water. Hence, the **field gets alternately flooded and non-flooded**.

44% of Sitting MPs Face Criminal Charges: ADR

Why in News?

According to the self-sworn affidavits analysed by poll rights body **Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, out of the 514 sitting Lok Sabha MPs, 225 (44%) have **criminal cases** against themselves.

- The report revealed that among the sitting MPs with criminal charges, **29% face serious criminal cases**, including allegations of murder, attempt to murder, promoting communal disharmony, kidnapping, and crimes against women.

Key Points

- Regarding the distribution of criminal cases among States, **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh** stand

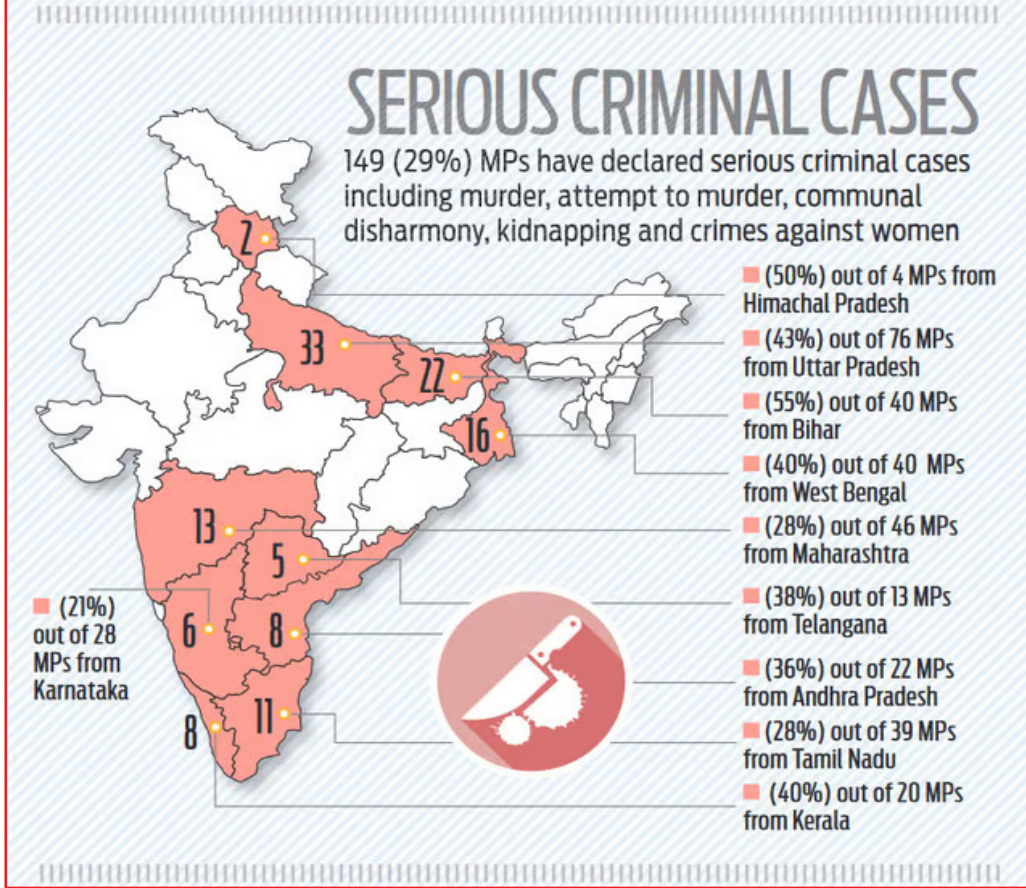
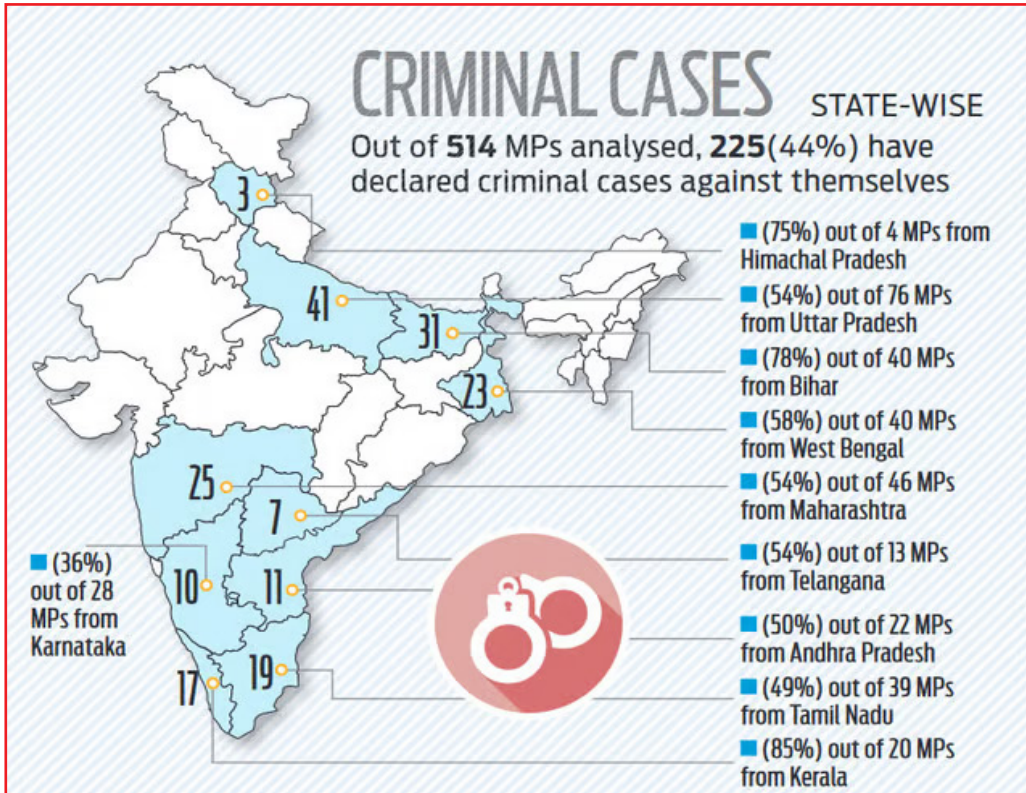
out with more than 50% of their MPs facing criminal charges.

➤ Criteria for **serious criminal cases**:

- Offence for which maximum punishment is of 5 years or more
- If an offence is **non-bailable**
- If it is an **electoral offence** (For eg: bribery)
- Offence related to loss to exchequer
- Offences that are related to **assault, murder, kidnap or rape**
- Offences that are mentioned in **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (Section 8)**
- Offences under **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** and **crimes against women**
- Under **Article 105 of the Constitution**, MPs enjoy certain privileges so that they can perform their parliamentary duties without let or hindrance.

Note:





Note:

- One of the privileges is that an MP cannot be arrested in a **civil case** 40 days before the commencement of the session or a House committee meeting, and 40 days thereafter.

Non-Bailable Offences

- Any **offence not mentioned as bailable under the First Schedule of CrPC or any other law** is considered as non-bailable offence.
- A **person accused of a non-bailable offence cannot claim bail as a right**. Section 437 of CrPC provides for **when bail may be taken in case of non-bailable offence**.
- A person accused of non-bailable offence can be granted bail provided the **accused does not fall under the following grounds**:
 - There are reasonable grounds to believe that he committed an offence punishable with death penalty or life imprisonment.
 - That the accused has committed a cognizable offence and he had been previously convicted of an offence punishable with death, imprisonment of seven years or more.
 - That the accused had been previously convicted on two or more occasions of commission of a cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment for three years or more but not less than seven years.
 - There are exceptional cases in which law gives special consideration in favour of persons i.e., where the accused is a **minor, a woman, a sick person** etc. by virtue of **Section 437(1) of CrPC**.

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

- It is an **apolitical and non-partisan, non-profit organisation** in India, working on electoral and political reforms for over 25 years.
- It was **established in 1999** by a group of professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad.

Appeal Against CAT Order in Contempt Proceedings

Why in News?

Recently, the Allahabad High Court has held that an

appeal against an order of the **Central Administrative Tribunal** while exercising its contempt jurisdiction under **Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunals Act 1985** lies before the Supreme Court **under Section 19 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.

- The Court held that no such order can be challenged before the High Court under **Article 226 of the Constitution of India**.

Key Points

- **The Central Administrative Tribunal** was established under **Article 323 - A of the Constitution**.
 - It **provides for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service** of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
 - There are **19 Benches in the CAT all over India**.
 - The CAT is a specialist body consisting of Administrative Members and Judicial Members who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice.
 - A **Chairman** who has been a sitting or **retired Judge of a High Court** heads the CAT.

Article 226 of the Constitution

- Article 226 of the Constitution **empowers a high court to issue writs** including habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari, prohibition and quo warranto **for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of the citizens and for any other purpose**.
 - The phrase 'for any other purpose' refers to the **enforcement of an ordinary legal right**. This implies that the **writ jurisdiction of the high court is wider than that of the SC**.
 - This is because the **SC can issue writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights and not for any other purpose**, that is, it does not extend to a case where the breach of an ordinary legal right is alleged.
 - The high court can issue writs to any person, authority and government **not only within its territorial jurisdiction but also outside its territorial jurisdiction** if the cause of action arises within its territorial jurisdiction.

Note:

Additional Advocate General

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh **Additional Advocate General (AAG) Ardhendumauli Kumar Prasad** resigned from the office.

- Before being appointed as AAG, he **served as standing counsel for UP in the Supreme Court.**

Key Points

- Additional Advocate General is a **legal officer** who **assists the Advocate General (AG)** of a state or union territory in India.
- He is **appointed by the Governor of the state** on the recommendation of the AG.
- The AAG performs the duties assigned to him or her by the AG, such as appearing in the High Court or other courts on behalf of the state government, giving legal opinions, and drafting pleadings.

Health Department Guidelines For Managing Heat-Related Illness

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttar Pradesh Health Department** has issued guidelines to all District Magistrates and Chief Medical Officers with the preparations for the **prevention and management of heat-related diseases** in the state during summer.

Key Points

- According to the **Indian Meteorological Department**, most parts of the country are likely to experience **higher temperatures** than usual during this summer, especially the central and north-western parts of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Various institutions have anticipated **seasonal outbreaks of diseases** between March and May 2024.
 - There is a higher likelihood of **heatwaves** prevailing in the central and north-western regions of the country from March to May 2024.
- The Health Department will have inter-departmental coordination to organise an array of events to raise

awareness about heat-related diseases as well as their prevention and management.

- The department will make arrangements for **cool and clean drinking water** in crowded places and **provide shelters for heat protection.**
- **Weather forecasts and temperatures** will be displayed on screens installed at crowded locations, while awareness **sessions will be held on protection from heat waves in schools.**
- The Department will prioritise the **training and awareness of medical officers, paramedical staff, and frontline workers**, ensuring they are equipped with the skills to promptly identify and treat these diseases.
- Sufficient availability of essential medications, **intravenous fluids, ice packs, oral rehydration salts**, and other necessary supplies will be ensured.
- **Educational materials** will be distributed to **raise public awareness** about heat-related illnesses and how to prevent and manage them.

Uttar Pradesh Government Procures Power Units to Address Deficit

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL)** has traded 5,500 million unit (Mu) power from 11 states through power banks.

- Around 4,000 Mu will be supplied during the high energy demand period (April-October).

Key Points

- In 2023, the state established a high demand of 28,284 megawatt (Mw), while the power corporation arranged for 3,000 Mu of energy from five states to overcome the demand-supply gap.
- UP's power banking state partners include **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh.**
- Uttar Pradesh's **peak energy demand** is likely to breach **31,000 Mw in 2024** and to **53,000 Mw by 2028.**
 - However, the state government is hopeful that it will ramp up **renewable energy** generation sufficiently.

Note:

- The state is targeting 22,000 Mw of solar energy generation in 4-5 years.

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.

NIA Raids 12 Places in a Naxal Conspiracy Case

Why in News?

In an anti-India conspiracy case, the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** raided 12 places in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Key Points

- Of the total, **11 locations** were searched in **Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh** and **one location in Kaimur district of Bihar** in connection with the case registered originally by **Uttar Pradesh's Anti Terror Squad (ATS)**.
 - During the search operation, **several digital devices**, including mobile phones, SIM cards and memory cards, **along with incriminating documents** like pamphlets of the proscribed **naxal** outfit were seized.
- As per NIA's investigations so far, the banned outfit is making active efforts to re-energise its presence in the **Northern Regional Bureau**, comprising Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- The **NIA** is the **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency of India** mandated to investigate all the **offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India**. It includes:
 - Friendly relations with foreign states.
 - Against atomic and nuclear facilities.
 - **Smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency** and infiltration from across the borders.

- The offences under the **statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations**, its agencies and other international organisations.
- It was **constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008**.
- The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states **without special permission from the states** under **written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Naxalism in India

- The term Naxalism derives its name from the village **Naxalbari of West Bengal**.
- It originated as rebellion against local landlords who bashed a peasant over a land dispute. The rebellion was initiated in 1967, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of **Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal**.
- Started in West Bengal, the movement has spread across Eastern India; in less developed areas of states such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is considered that Naxals support **Maoist political sentiments** and ideology.

UP Government Revokes Licenses for Madrasas

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government **revoked the licences of all 16,000 Madrasas** across the state. This decision entails that **students enrolled in Madarsas will now be required to seek admission in government-run schools**.

Key Points

- On 22 March 2024, the **Allahabad High Court** declared the **Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act 2004, unconstitutional**.
 - While calling the act violative of the principles of **secularism**, the Court said that **Madarsa education is against the principle of secularism**, and the State must make sure that students taking part in religious teachings should be accommodated in the formal education system.

Note:

- However, the **Supreme Court stayed the order** of the Allahabad High Court.
- The cancellation of Madrasa licences marks a significant shift in the state's approach towards religious education institutions.
 - The move aims to streamline the education system in Uttar Pradesh and ensure uniformity in the curriculum and standards across all educational institutions.
- It is noteworthy that Uttar Pradesh is home to over 25,000 madrasas, of which approximately 16,500 are officially recognised by the **UP Board of Madarsa Education**.

Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004

- The Act aimed to regulate and govern the functioning of **madrasas (Islamic educational institutions)** in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- It provided a framework for the establishment, recognition, curriculum, and administration of madrasas across Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this Act, the **Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education** was established to oversee and supervise the activities of madrasas in the state.

Government Disbursed Funds for Underprivileged Kids Education

Why in News?

Recently, the state government, under the **Right of Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act, 2009**, has disbursed funds exceeding Rs 250 crore for the education expenses of more than 3.25 lakh underprivileged children attending private schools.

Key Points

- Each child from the **disadvantaged and weaker sections** enrolled in **private schools** under the RTE will receive a **monthly budget allocation of Rs 450**.
- This initiative aims to **support the educational needs of these children** and ensure their access to quality education.
- In adherence to RTE Act, aspirations of 35,666 students, the highest number hailing from **Lucknow district** have been realized as they pursue their studies in private schools.

- In addition to covering the fees, the government also provides **Rs 5,000 annually per child for educational materials** like books, notebooks, and uniforms.

Educational Initiatives by UP Government

- **Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya Yojana:** This initiative launched to provide free education to children of construction workers employed in the informal sector. Under this scheme, two children of registered workers between the ages of 6 and 16 receive free residential education in dedicated schools.
- **Mahadevi Verma Shramik Pustak Kraya Dhan Yojana (MVSPKDPY):** Launched in 2022, is a commendable initiative aimed at empowering daughters of construction workers.
- **SC/ST Pre Matric Scholarship:** This scholarship program recognises the importance of education in empowering students from marginalised communities and aims to bridge the financial gap that might otherwise hinder their academic progress.

Allahabad High Court to Hear Plea for Mathura Mosque Removal

Why in News?

The Allahabad high court has fixed a date for hearing a plea regarding the removal of the **Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura**, which stands adjacent to the **Krishna Janmasthan temple**.

Key Points

- The suits filed by Bhagwan Shrikrishna Virajman at Katra Keshav Dev Khewat and 17 others claim that the mosque was built on **13.37-acre land of Katra Keshav Deo temple**.
- History of the Disputed Land:
 - Raja Veer Singh Bundela of Orchha had also built a temple on the same premises in **1618** and the mosque was built by **Aurangzeb in 1670** on the site of an earlier temple.
 - The **Krishna Janmasthan temple in Mathura** is believed to have been built **around 2,000 years ago, in the 1st century CE**.
 - A survey has been ordered due to demands by Hindu representatives for complete ownership

Note:



of the premises where the Keshava Deva temple was destroyed on the orders of **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1670.**

- The area was regarded as **nazul land** — non-agricultural state land owned by the Marathas, and then the British.
- The temple was originally built in **1618** during the **reign of Jahangir** and was patronized by **Aurangzeb's brother** and rival, **Dara Shukoh.**
- In **1815**, the **Raja of Benaras** purchased the 13.77-acre land from the **East India Company.**
- Later, the **Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust** was established.
 - The trust acquired ownership rights over the temple, and in **1951.**
 - The 13.77-acre land was placed under the trust with the condition that it would never be sold or pledged.
 - In **1956**, the **Shri Krishna Janmasthan Sewa Sangh** was set up to manage the affairs of the temple.
 - In **1968**, an agreement was signed between the **Sri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sangh and the Shahi Idgah Masjid Trust**, where the temple authority conceded a portion of the land to the **Idgah** as part of the settlement.
- The current dispute involves temple petitioners seeking possession of the entire piece of land.

Mangal Pandey

Why in News?

Remembering legendary freedom fighter **Mangal Pandey** on his death anniversary.

- He is considered the pioneer of the '**Indian Rebellion of 1857**'.

Key Points

- He was born on **19th July, 1827**, in a town near **Faizabad**, what is now eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- He joined the **34th Bengal Native Infantry** of the **British East India Company.**
 - He revolted against the East India Company for **introducing cartridges** that were **greased with animal fat** as it hurt the religious sentiments of the soldiers.

- Eventually, this movement of rebels reached other parts of India and which led to a **mass revolt against the government.**

- The movement of protest and rebellion came to be known as the **Sepoy Mutiny of 1857**, also known as the **First War of Independence.**

- On **29th March, 1857**, Pandey and his fellow sepoys rose up in rebellion against the British officers and even attempted to shoot them. As a result of this, he was **executed on 8th April, 1857**, in Barrackpore.
- In **October 1984**, as a tribute to his efforts, the Government of India issued a **postage stamp with his image.**



Two people drowned in the Tons River

Why in News?

Recently, Two people drowned in **Tons river** in a village in **Ballia district** of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

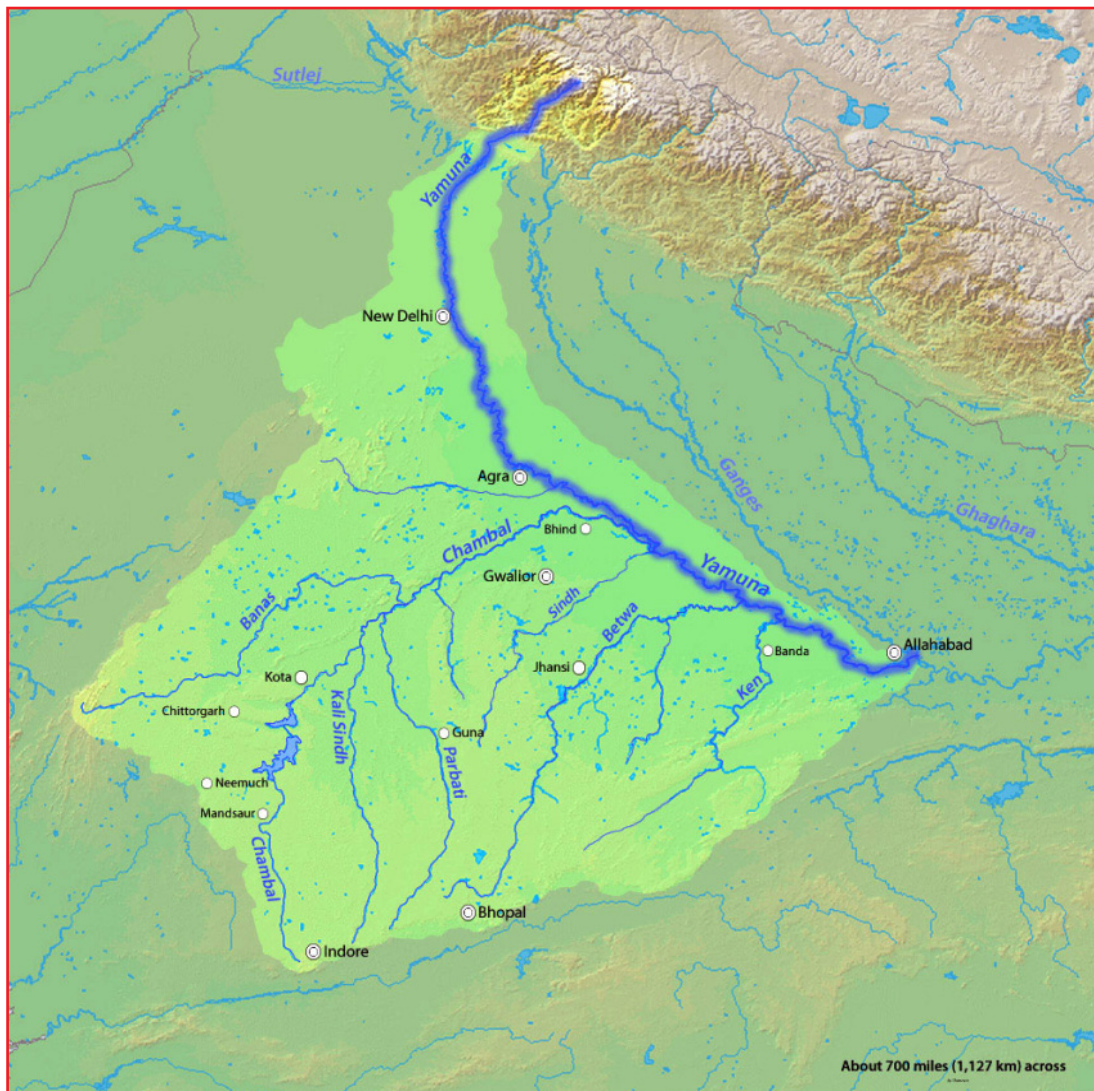
- The Tons is the **largest tributary of the Yamuna.** It flows through **Garhwal region** in Uttarakhand, touching Himachal Pradesh.
- It is one of the most **major perennial Indian Himalayan rivers.**
- It originates at a height of **6,315 metres** from the **Bandarpunch Mountain** in Uttarakhand.
- It carries more water than the Yamuna itself, which it meets below **Kalsi near Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.
- The **Pabbar and Asan** rivers are the main tributaries of the Tons River.

Note:

- The **Asan** is a confluence of two small river systems, one comprising streams **flowing south from the Himalayan range running from Vikas Nagar towards Tehri** (with Mussorie in the centre), and the other comprising streams **flowing north-west from the lower Shivalik hills** (that separate Dehradun and Saharanpur districts).

Yamuna River

- 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.
- 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**.
- 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 dams are Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- Important Tributaries are 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



Note:



New Transformers in Prayagraj

Why in News?

According to the **Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (PVVNL)**, they are guaranteeing round the clock electricity supply in **Prayagraj**, covering both urban and rural regions of the district.

Key Points

- To prevent power outages caused by faulty transformers, Prayagraj's urban areas have received **294 new transformers**.
 - To enhance the electricity supply, two additional sub-stations were to be constructed in the city, with one station in **Malawa** prepared to commence operations from April 2024.
- Attempts have also been undertaken to **reduce electrical malfunctions** stemming from **deteriorating electrical cables**.

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (PVVNL)

- It is a co-successor of **Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited** aimed for distribution of Electric Power in the Eastern area of Uttar Pradesh.
- It was **established on 5 July 2003**, having its headquarters at **Varanasi**.

Dharohar Kashi Ki

Why in News?

The **Indian Minorities Foundation (IMF)** has scheduled a two-day grand event '**Dharohar Kashi Ki**' on April 13 and 14, 2024 to showcase and support the **handicrafts and handloom products of Varanasi**.

Key Points

- According to Rajya Sabha member and IMF convenor Satnam Singh Sandhu, **ambassadors of over 20 countries** would visit **Kashi Vishwanath Dham** and the majestic riverfront through a boat expedition, and watch **Ganga Aarti**.
- The **fashion show** titled '**Banarasi Saree - a fusion of Indian heritage and skilled artisans**' organized by well-known fashion designer Manish Malhotra is set to take place at **NaMo Ghat**.

- It will feature **Bollywood actors** Kriti Sanon and Ranveer Singh showcasing Varanasi's crafts on the runway.
- During the fashion show, a **cultural and musical performance** will be presented by renowned Bhojpuri singer and actor Ravi Kishan.
- IMF would also **pay tribute to distinguished weavers**, who have greatly contributed to the advancement and safeguarding of the exquisite crafts of Kashi.

Indian Minorities Foundation (IMF)

- IMF is a **non- government organization**, founded by Satnam Singh Sandhu, Chancellor Chandigarh University.
- Its main objective is to **foster a sense of national pride** among minority groups by highlighting their shared history, culture, and contributions to the nation, and by encouraging active participation in civic life.

World Homeopathy Day

Why in News?

Recently, Deputy chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Brajesh Pathak inaugurated **the World Homeopathy Day (10th April)** celebrations at the **Homeo Shakti 2024** event in **Gomtinagar**.

Key Points

- The occasion commemorated the 269th birth anniversary of **Samuel Hahnemann**, who is widely recognized as the father of homeopathy.
- Shyam Das Pabhu, priest from ISKCON temple Lucknow, stressed the importance of **mental health alongside physical well-being**, urging **balance between spiritual and physical care** to combat stress and anxiety.
- The theme for World Homeopathy Day 2024 is **"Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family."**

Homeopathy

- The word 'Homeopathy' is derived from two Greek words, **Homois meaning similar and pathos meaning suffering**.
- It simply means treating diseases with remedies, prescribed in minute doses, which are capable of producing symptoms similar to the disease when taken by healthy people.

Note:

- It is **based on the natural law of healing- “Similia Similibus Curantur”** which means “likes are cured by likes”.
- It was given a **scientific basis by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) in the early 19th century.**

Awareness Campaign on Fire Safety

Why in News?

Recently, the **National fire service day** was observed on **14th April, 2024** under the theme ‘**ensure fire safety to contribute towards nation building**’.

Key Points

- The day also honors all courageous firefighters who sacrificed their lives during a **ship explosion at Mumbai dockyard in 1944.**
- The fire department has conducted an extensive awareness campaign in residential areas, apartments, industrial units, markets, malls, and shopping complexes to educate shop owners and residents about preventive measures to prevent short circuits, gas leaks, or fires.

Current Provision Regarding Fire Safety in India

- Fire service is one of the most important emergency response services in the country, which comes under the **12th schedule of the Indian Constitution** dealing with **Municipal functions.**
 - At present, fire prevention and fire fighting services are organised by the concerned **States and Union Territories (UTs), and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).**
- The **National Building Code (NBC) of India, 2016:** Published by the **Bureau of Indian Standards**, NBC is a “**recommendatory document**”, and state governments are expected to incorporate it into their local building by laws, **making the recommendations a mandatory requirement.**
 - It mainly contains **administrative regulations**, general building requirements such as **fire safety requirements**, structural design and construction (including safety) provisions.
- **Model Building Bye Laws, 2003:** Under this, fire clearance is the responsibility of the **Chief Fire Officer** at each point. The concerned **Development**

Authority must provide the building plans to the Chief Fire Officer for clearance purposes.

- Guidelines by the **National Disaster Management Authority** stipulates fire safety requirements for **public buildings, including hospitals** along with design guidelines relating to maintaining a **minimum level of open space, exit mechanisms, stairs, and evacuation drills.**

Uttar Pradesh Government Investment in Hospitality Sector

Why in News?

According to the officials, The Uttar Pradesh government might **invest Rs 32,000 crore** in the **hospitality and tourism sector.**

- The state’s **annual tourist footfall** is estimated to reach **850 million by 2028.**

Key Points

- The investment would likely create an **additional 80,000 accommodation units** by way of hotels, and resorts to bridge the deficit in room availability.
- The state is focusing on ramping up hospitality units in **tourism hotspots** such as **Varanasi, Ayodhya, Prayagraj, and Agra.**
- The heritage properties, including forts and palaces, are being offered to the private sector for development.
- Under the **Tourism Policy 2022** the state is also providing subsidies for **setting up unique countryside farm stays.**
 - Homeowners are encouraged to enlist their properties for homestays, while the owners of heritage properties are being invited to convert their precincts as heritage hotels for discerning tourists.
- The state is aiming to develop **multi-experience circuits** such as wellness centres, and improving the connectivity of Buddhist destinations, such as Sarnath and Kaushambi.
- It is also focusing on diversifying tourism experiences and creating contemporary tourism products by developing **adventure tourism, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions), wellness, and ecotourism.**

Note:

Special Cover on Ram Navami

Why in News?

In a programme organized under the aegis of **postal department** and **Prayag Philatelic society**, postmaster general of Prayagraj region released a special cover on the eve of **Ram Navami**.

Key Points

- Stamp collections featuring iconic cultural figures such as **Lord Ram** serve as a **bridge between people and their heritage**.
- These stamps are not only popular in India but also in over 20 other countries worldwide, where they depict characters and tales from the **epic Ramayana**.
- The unique **Ram Navami-themed stamp** will be on **sale for Rs 25 at the Philatelic bureau** situated in the head post office of Prayagraj.

Prayag Philatelic Society

- It was **formed on 21st July 2017** as a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act 1860** at Allahabad.
- Its objective is to promote the cause of philately among all age groups, it invited membership from all over India.

Rama Navami

- It is a **spring Hindu festival**.
- The festival marks the **birth of Lord Rama**, the **seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu**.
- The day is the **ninth and last day of Chaitra Navaratri**. This typically occurs in the Gregorian months of March or April every year.

Uttar Pradesh Leads India in GI Tags

Why in News?

With six new additions, **Uttar Pradesh** retains its position as the state with the most **GI-tagged products in India**, reaching a total of **75**.

Key Points

- This comprises the renowned '**Tirangi Barfi**' from **Kashi**, a tri coloured sweet that was traded to make

a statement by **freedom fighters** in the **Quit India Movement**.

- The other products that received the certification in Uttar Pradesh include **Banaras Metal Casting Craft, Lakhimpur Kheri Tharu Embroidery, Bareilly Cane and Bamboo Craft, Bareilly Zardozi Craft, and Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print Textile**.
 - With the inclusion of these six new items, Uttar Pradesh remains the leading state in India with the highest number of GI-tagged products.
 - Tamil Nadu comes next with 58 GI products.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag

About:

- A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the **authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory** are allowed to use the popular product name.
- It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Legal Framework and Obligations:

- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
- Furthermore, the significance of protecting industrial property and geographical indications as **integral components of intellectual property** is acknowledged and emphasised in Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention.

Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya

Why in News?

Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an Autonomous body under the Department of science and Technology played a crucial role in the **Surya Tilak Project at Ayodhya**.

Note:

Key Points

- Under the Surya Tilak project, **sunlight was brought on the forehead of Sri Ram Lalla at 12 noon** on the occasion of **Sri Ram Navami** in the Chaitra month.
- IIA team carried out the **calculation of the sun position, design and optimisation of the optical system**, and performed the integration & alignment at the site.
 - The IIA team led the calculation for identification of the calendar days of Sri Ram Navami for **one cycle of 19 years** followed by its repetition, estimation of the position in the sky on the calendar dates of the Ram Navami.
 - They also led the design of an **opto-mechanical system** to bring the sunlight from the top of the temple to the forehead of the idol, **estimation of the size, shape and location of mirrors and lenses** in the system for sufficient light to fall on the idol for about 6 minutes.
- The **device has been manufactured by Optica, Bangalore & implementation** of the opto-mechanical system at the site is being done by **CSIR-CBRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Building Research Institute)**.

Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)

- The IIA is a premier research institute in India dedicated to the study of astronomy, astrophysics, and related fields. Wholly financed by the **Department of Science and Technology, Government of India**.
- It has several **observational facilities**, including the **Vainu Bappu Observatory** in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu, the **Gauribidanur Radio Observatory** in Karnataka, and the **Hanle Observatory** in Ladakh, Jammu, and Kashmir.

Shri Ram Parivar Bhakti Movement launched

Why in News?

The **Vishal Bharat Sansthan**, in collaboration with the **Ram panth**, launched a '**Shri Ram Parivar Bhakti Movement**' on the occasion of **Ram Navami** in the presence of senior **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** functionary.

Key Points

- The movement started with a '**Mahadiksha Sanskar**' organised at Lamahi village, where 1,100 people pledged to take the Ram Parivar Bhakti Movement across the country.
- A group of Dalits, tribals, eunuchs, and women were ordained as priests after undergoing diksha.
- The Rampanthis will spread the culture and bring the Rambhakti movement to a wider audience. The construction of the **Ram Sambandh temple in Lamhi** will allow people from all faiths to visit.

Rama Navami

- It is a **spring Hindu festival**.
- The festival marks the **birth of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu**.
- The day is the **ninth and last day of Chaitra Navaratri**. This typically occurs in the Gregorian months of March or April every year.

IIT Kanpur to Collaborate with Armed Forces Medical Services

Why in News?

Recently, The **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for collaborative research and training with **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur**.

Key Points

- Under this AFMS and IIT Kanpur will collaborate to **undertake research and development of new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains**.
- It will also provide technical expertise for developing **AI diagnostic models**, at the **Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine** established in Armed Forces Medical College, which is **first of its kind amongst medical colleges in India**.
 - Under the ambit of this MoU, faculty exchange program, joint academic activities and development of training modules will also be planned.

Note:

Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)

- The Armed Force Medical Services (AFMS) is an **inter services organisation** under the **Ministry of Defense**, covering the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- It came into **existence in 1948**.

Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket

Why in News?

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'s **Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE)**, Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country for protection against Level 6 of BIS 17051 ammunition.

Key Points

- This bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)** Chandigarh.
- This jacket is based upon a new design approach, where novel material along with new processes have been used.
- The front **Hard Armour Panel (HAP)** of this jacket defeats multiple hits in both ICW (In-conjunction with) and Standalone design.
- The ergonomically designed front HAP is made up of monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing which enhances the wearability and comfort during the operation.

Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)

- TBRL is an important **DRDO lab based in Chandigarh** and it is actively involved in development, production, processing and characterisation of different high explosive compositions, Blast, Lethality and Fragmentation studies of warheads, shells and other ammunitions, Captive flight testing of Bombs, Missiles and Airborne systems, Ballistics evaluation of various protective system like body armour, vehicle armour and helmets against small arm ammunition etc.

Preparations for Maha Kumbh 2025

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** is working for a grand, divine **Maha Kumbh** scheduled to be held in **2025**.

Key Points

- The state government is preparing great **amenities for visitors** attending the large religious gathering.
 - In addition to **arranging accommodations** in the Kumbh area, **luxury hotels are being constructed** in the city.
- Kumbh Mela comes under **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
 - It takes place on the banks of the **Godavari river in Nashik**, the **Shipra river in Ujjain**, the **Ganges in Haridwar**, and the **confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati river in Prayagraj**. The confluence is referred to as the '**Sangam**'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a **culturally diverse festival**.
- The **over month-long fair** is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
 - It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially **renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics** enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves.

MoU Between Kashi Vishwanath Dham (KVD) and UPSNA

Why in News?

The **Shri Kashi Vishwanath Special Areas Development Board** is set to enter into an Memorandum of

Note:



drishti

Understanding (MoU) with **UP Sangeet Natak Akademi (UPSNA)** to **enhance the cultural events** at **Kashi Vishwanath Dham** during various occasions like Mahashivratri.

Key Points

- During a global workshop held in Lucknow, a presentation on the **positive impact of cultural activities** on the **social, economic and cultural scenario** of the holy city was emphasised.
 - Following this, it was determined to introduce a wider range of colors to the events and activities held during **festivals such as Mahashivratri** and on significant dates in the **Sanatan calendar such as Pradosh**.
- According to the director of UPSNA, a comprehensive plan for organising cultural events at KV Dham by

Akademi will be presented to the state government shortly.

- After receiving approval by the state government, consent of the religious affairs department's director and divisional commissioner will be sought to sign the proposed MoU.
- As per the MoU, new arrangements would be made by involving local, national as well as international artistes.

The Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi (UPSNA)

- It is a prominent institution dedicated to the **promotion and preservation of music, dance, and theater** in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India.
- It was **established on 13 November, 1963**.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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