



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

**FEBRUARY  
2025**

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## Fecal Coliform Bacteria

### Why in News?

According to a report by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, the level of faecal coliform bacteria in the **Ganga and Yamuna at Prayagraj Sangam** is far higher than the safe limit of **2,500 units per 100 ml of water**.

### Key Points

- The water of the **Yamuna and Ganga at Prayagraj Sangam** is entirely unfit for **drinking and bathing**, posing serious health risks.
- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** is hearing the issue and a report is being sought from the concerned authorities.
- NGT has already given instructions to the Uttar Pradesh government regarding the **sewage management plan** during the **Maha Kumbh Mela**.
- **Fecal Coliform Bacteria:**
  - **About**
    - It is a collection of **microorganisms** which are mainly found in the feces or waste excreted by warm-blooded animals and **humans**.
    - These are usually considered as indicators of **potential pollution** in the water. Other coliform bacteria include **Escherichia, Klebsiella, and E. coli**.
  - **Effects on health**
    - This bacteria can cause many diseases such as **gastrointestinal infections, skin and eye infections, typhoid, hepatitis A** and **respiratory problems**.

#### Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

- The **CPCB** was constituted as a **statutory organisation** in September 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- Thereafter, the **Central Pollution Control Board** was entrusted with powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- The Board also provides technical services to the **Ministry of Environment and Forests** under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

## Places of Worship Act, 1991

### Why in News?

Recently, Member of Parliament Iqra Chaudhary has approached the **Supreme Court** for effective implementation of the **Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991**.

### Key Points

- This Act freezes/maintains the status of any place of worship in the same condition as it was on **August 15, 1947**.
- **Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:**
  - It seeks to maintain the “**religious nature**” of places of worship as it was in **1947**.
- **Objective :**
  - The purpose of this Act is to protect the religious status of places of worship and to prevent conversion between different **religious denominations** or within the same denomination.
  - **Section 3** of the Act prohibits conversion of a place of worship or even a portion thereof into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or a different class of people within the same religious denomination.
  - **Section 4(2)** of the Act states that all suits, appeals or other proceedings relating to the change of nature of a place of worship (which were pending on August 15, 1947) shall abate after the commencement of this Act and no fresh action can be taken in such cases.
  - The Act also imposes a positive obligation on the Government to maintain the religious character/nature of every place of worship as it was at the time of independence.
- **Exception:**
  - The disputed site of Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid) was exempted from this Act.
  - Apart from this, some other cases were also exempted in this Act such as:
    - Any place of worship which is an ancient and historical monument or an archaeological site covered under the **'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958'**.

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Note:

- Cases which have been settled or on which a final verdict has been given.

#### ➤ Penalty:

- Under **Section 6 of the Act**, any person contravening the provisions of the Act is liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and also to fine.

#### ➤ Opinion of the Supreme Court :

- In its 2019 Ayodhya case verdict, the Constitutional Bench of **the Supreme Court** referred to this law, saying that it manifests the secular values of the Constitution and strictly prohibits its retrogression.

## Solar Dehydration Technology

### Why in News?

**Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has developed a new **Solar Dehydration Technology**, with the aim of **increasing the income of farmers** and reducing crop wastage.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Objective :

- This technology facilitates drying of **fruits and vegetables** through **solar energy**. It is an **efficient and sustainable method**.
- Its objective is to **increase the income of farmers and reduce crop wastage**.
- Farmers can preserve their crops for a long time using this technology and sell them when they get a fair price.

#### ➤ Benefits :

- Solar dehydration is an **eco-friendly method** that saves energy and has a positive impact on the environment.
- Using solar energy **reduces the need for conventional energy sources**, thereby conserving natural resources.

#### ➤ TRAINING PROGRAMS :

- Under this initiative, 30 farmers have recently been trained in solar dehydration technology.

- They were given a **live demonstration of pre-treatment and solar drying of tomatoes**, so that they can apply this technology in their farming.

#### ➤ Collaboration:

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has played a crucial role in this project.
- Additionally, in partnership with the **Food Processing Department of CSJM University**, it has developed **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** and quality protocols for this technology.

### National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- NABARD is an **apex bank for agriculture and rural development**.
- It was **established on July 12, 1982** by an Act of Parliament based on the recommendations of the **Sivaraman Committee**.
- Its function is to provide credit flow for the **promotion and development of agriculture, small industries, cottage and rural industries, handicrafts and other rural crafts**.
- Along with this, the **sustainable development of villages** is to be done by providing support to other related economic activities in rural areas.

## Ganga Water Purity

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government issued a press release to clear the doubts about the **purity of Ganga water** in the **Maha Kumbh 2025**.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About the issue :

- **Claim of purity of Ganga water :**
  - The press release was issued in reference to the data of **the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, in which doubts were raised over the quality of Ganga water in the **Maha Kumbh**.
- **CPCB Report:**
  - The CPCB report had said that at the beginning of the Maha Kumbh, the **Biological Oxygen**

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Note:

**Demand (BOD) of water at Sangam** was 3.94 milligrams per litre.

- On 14<sup>th</sup> January, it was 2.28 mg per liter and on 15<sup>th</sup> January, it decreased to 1 mg per liter.
- However, on 24<sup>th</sup> January, the BOD increased to 4.08 mg per litre and on 29<sup>th</sup> January, it was recorded at 3.26 mg per litre.

○ **Research by Dr. Ajay Kumar Sonkar :**

- **Padmashree Dr. Ajay Kumar Sonkar** dismissed doubts with scientific evidence to prove the purity of Ganga water.
- He collected water samples from various major bathing ghats of the Maha Kumbh and examined them microscopically.
- They found that **despite millions of devotees taking bath in Ganga water, there was no growth of bacteria in it.**
- No drop was observed in **the pH level** of water either.

➤ **Presence of natural viruses :**

- Ganga water contains 1,100 types of natural viruses, called **bacteriophages**, that eliminate harmful bacteria.

#### Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- The CPCB was constituted as a **statutory organisation in September 1974** under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- Thereafter, the Central Pollution Control Board was entrusted with powers and functions under **the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- The Board also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- The main functions of the Central Pollution Control Board are described under **the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.

#### Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)

- The **amount of oxygen required for the biochemical decomposition of organic matter** in water is called BOD.

- The amount of water pollution is measured through BOD. But **only biodegradable matter can be detected through BOD** and it is a very long process. Hence BOD is not used in measuring pollution.
- It is noteworthy that high levels of BOD means that more oxygen is required to decompose large amounts of organic matter present in water.

## Nation's First Biopolymer Plant

### Why in News?

On 22 February 2025, the **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** laid the foundation stone of the **nation's first biopolymer plant** at Kumbhi in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

### Key Points

➤ **About the plant:**

- This **biopolymer plant** will be set up by **Balrampur Sugar Mills Limited** at a cost of **Rs 2,850 crore**.
- It will produce **polymers** in a biological way which will promote an **environmentally friendly industrial revolution**.

➤ **Objective:**

- Its main objective is to **promote environmental protection** by using biopolymers instead of plastic.
- This plant will realize the resolve of **self-reliant India** and **environmental protection**.

➤ **Benefit:**

- The bottles, plates, cups, bags etc. produced by the plant will be completely 'disposable' and will be destroyed in just three months after use.
- Using biopolymers instead of plastic will reduce pressure on the environment.
- This plant will promote **biopolymer** production in the country under **Make in India**.
- **This will give impetus to trade and investment** in the state.

#### Make in India Initiative

➤ **Introduction:**

- **Launched in 2014**, Make in India aims to **transform the country into a leading global manufacturing and investment destination**.

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Note:

- It is led by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.
- This initiative is an open invitation to potential investors and partners from across the world to participate in the growth story of 'New India'.
- Make in India **has achieved significant success in 27 sectors**, including strategic areas of manufacturing and services.

➤ **Objective:**

- **Attracting foreign investment for new industrialisation** and developing the existing industrial base in India to overtake China.
  - To increase the growth rate of the manufacturing sector to **12-14% per annum**.
  - To create **100 million additional manufacturing jobs by 2022** (revised date 2025).
  - To increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 25% by the year 2025**.

## Ganga Expressway will be connected to Jewar Airport

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government announced plans to connect **the Noida International Airport (NIA)**, also known as **Jewar Airport**, under construction in Noida, with **the Ganga Expressway**.

### Key Points

- **About the issue:**
  - To connect Ganga Expressway to Jewar Airport, a new 76 km long link expressway will be built via **Bulandshahr**.
  - The government has made a **provision of Rs 1000 crore for this project in the budget**.
  - This link expressway will be connected **24 kilometres earlier through Yamuna Expressway**.
  - The estimated cost of this entire project is Rs 4415 crore.

➤ **Benefit:**

- With the construction of this expressway, people of Meerut, Bulandshahr will be able to reach Jewar Airport directly in less time.
- This will **accelerate business and industrial development**.
- Better connectivity will also boost the **tourism sector**, thereby improving the local economy.

### Jewar International Airport

- This airport will be **the fourth largest international airport in the world and the fifth international airport in Uttar Pradesh**. It will be the second international airport in Delhi NCR after Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI).
- Noida Airport is being developed by **Zurich Airport International AG**.
- **State of the art MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhauling) services will also be available** at this airport. The airport has been designed in such a way that operating costs can be kept low and the passenger transfer process can be done quickly.

### Ganga Expressway

- **Ganga Expressway is the second longest expressway** in the country after Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway.
- It is an ambitious initiative with an estimated length of 594 kilometres.
- Connecting the state from east to west, **this expressway will pass through 518 villages in 12 districts, significantly reducing the travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj**.
- The Ganga Expressway is not just a transport link but a testimony to Uttar Pradesh's expansion to modernise its adventure landscape.

## Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

### Why in News?

Recently, the **carcass of a male elephant** aged around 45-50 years was found in the dense forests of **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** near the India-Nepal border in **Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh**.

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### Key Points

- **Cause of death:**
  - According to the officials the elephant may have **died due to a fight between two adult elephants**, as footprints and broken trees were found at the spot.
- **Recent wildlife deaths:**
  - Before this incident, a 12-year-old **male tiger** and a 7-year-old **male leopard** had died in the sanctuary.
  - These incidents are causing serious concerns about **the safety of wildlife**.

#### Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:**
  - It is located in the **Upper Ganga Plain** in the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, which naturally sustains a rich and diverse **ecosystem**.
  - It is spread over an area of 400.6 square km.
- **Protection :**
  - In 1987, it was brought under the ambit of **'Project Tiger'** and together with **Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Dudhwa National Park**, it forms the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**. It was established in 1975.
  - Species like **Chital, deer, wild boar, tiger, elephant and leopard** are also found in the sanctuary.
  - It is home to many endangered species including **the gharial, tiger, rhinoceros, Gangetic dolphin, swamp deer, hispid hare, Bengal florican, white-backed and long-billed vultures**.
- **Ecological structure :**
  - The area is covered with **mixed deciduous forests**, comprising sal and teak forests, lush grasslands, numerous swamps and wetlands.
  - **The Girwa River flows** through this area, which balances the ecosystem.

## Brahmos Missile

### Why in News?

The manufacturing of **BrahMos missiles** will begin in **Lucknow** in May-June 2025, marking a significant advancement for the **Indian defense sector**.

### Key Points

- **About the Manufacturing:**
  - According to the Defense Minister **Brahmos missiles along with defense equipment** will be manufactured in Lucknow.
  - A **railway track will also be built to transport the missile** to the manufacturing unit.
    - In this project, Russian scientists will also work with India.
  - It is a part of the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor**.
    - The defence manufacturing centres are being established through the Defence Corridor in two states of India, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

#### Brahmos Missile



- **The BrahMos missile**, which has a range of 290 km, is an **Indo-Russian joint venture** and is the **world's fastest cruise missile** with a top speed of Mach 2.8 (about three times the speed of sound).
  - BrahMos is named after **the Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers**.
- It is a two-stage missile (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in the second stage).
- It is a **multiplatform missile** i.e. it can be launched from land, air and sea and is a multi-capability missile with high accuracy which operates both during day and night irrespective of weather conditions.
- It **operates on the "fire and forgets" principle** i.e. it does not require guidance after launch.
- Vietnam, **the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia** are among other potential customers for the BrahMos missile.

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Note:

# Uttar Pradesh Budget 2025-26

## Why in News?

On 20 February 2025, the Uttar Pradesh government presented a **budget** of **Rs 8 lakh 8 thousand 736 crore** for the **financial year 2025-26** in the Legislative Assembly.

## Key Points

### ➤ About the budget

- This budget is **9.8 percent** more than the budget of the **financial year 2024-25**. The government has taken special care of farmers, youth, women and children in the budget.
- Total Budget amounted **Rs 8,08,736 crore**, which is **9.8% higher** than the budget for **FY 2024-25**.
- New schemes worth **Rs 28 thousand 478 crore 34 lakh (Rs 28,478.34 crore)** have been included in the budget.
- Per capita income in Uttar Pradesh is more than **Rs 93 thousand**.
- According to a report of the **Reserve Bank of India**, Uttar Pradesh has the highest share in tax collection among all the states in the country.
- In the year 2023-2024, India's **GDP growth rate** was **9.6 percent** while Uttar Pradesh's growth rate was **11.6 percent**.
- **According to the state's finance minister**, the budget is an attempt to meet the needs of every section of society - poor, middle class, farmers, women, youth and common people. This is truly a budget for public welfare.
- The Chief Minister has described the budget as in line with the concept of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah of Sanatan Dharma

### ➤ GDP of the state

- The GDP of the state was **Rs 12.89 lakh crore** in the year **2017-18**, which is estimated to increase to **Rs 27.51 lakh crore** in the year **2024-25**.
- The **fiscal deficit** of the state is **2.97 percent** of the **gross state domestic product**, which is lower than the limit of **3.5 percent** set in the **Reserve Bank of India FRBM Act**.

### ➤ Summary of Receipts and Expenditures

Description	Amount (in Rs.)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	Rs 7,79,242.65 crore
<b>Revenue Receipts</b>	Rs 6,62,690.93 crore
<b>Capital receipts</b>	Rs 1,16,551.72 crore
<b>Tax revenue</b>	Rs 5,50,172.21 crore
- Own tax revenue	Rs 2,95,000 crore
- State's share in central taxes	Rs 2,55,172.21 crore
<b>Total Expenses</b>	Rs 8,08,736.06 crore
<b>expenditure on revenue account</b>	Rs 5,83,174.57 crore
<b>capital account expenditure</b>	Rs 2,25,561.49 crore

## Area wise details

### ➤ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME):

- **Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan** was launched in 2024-25, which aims to establish new micro industries by connecting educated youth with self-employment.
- A provision of **Rs 1000 crore** is proposed for this scheme in the financial year 2025-26.
- A provision of **Rs 225 crore** is proposed for the **Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme**.

### ➤ Handloom and Textile Industry:

- Handloom industry is a decentralised **cottage industry** which provides maximum employment in the state.
- There are about **1.91 lakh** handloom weavers and about 80 thousand households in the state.
- There are 2.58 lakh powerlooms operating in the state through which about 5.50 lakh powerloom weavers are earning their livelihood.
- Provision of Rs 300 crore for establishment of textile park under **PM Mitra Yojana**.
- Provision of Rs 150 crore for the implementation of **Uttar Pradesh Textile Garmenting Policy, 2022**.
- A provision of Rs 400 crore proposed for **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme**.
- Rs 150 crore for PM Mitra Textile Scheme.
- Rs 150 crore for textile garmenting scheme.
- Rs 400 crore for Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Scheme.

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Note:



- Budget of Rs 461 crore for Defence Industrial Corridor.

➤ **Infrastructure and Development:**

- 22% amount allocated for infrastructure development.
- ₹3953 crore for hydropower project.
- Rs 900 crore for **expressway (to connect Agra Expressway to Ganga Expressway)**.
- Extension of Ganga Expressway till Haridwar.
- Rs 100 crore for construction of Mathura-Vrindavan Bankebihari temple corridor.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Gram Jodo Yojana, a provision of Rs. 100 crore for the purchase of medium class electric buses and Rs. 50 crore for the establishment of charging stations is proposed.
- A provision of Rs 4500 crore is proposed for Jal Jeevan Mission

➤ **Education and Higher Education:**

- 13% amount allocated for education.
- Rs 25 crore for 22 **new primary schools**.
- Rs 300 crore for **PM Shri Yojana**.
- Rs 454 crore for digital libraries (in villages).
- ₹10 crore for Polytechnic Smart Class Rooms.
- Girls will get benefit in higher education, under the Scooty scheme, meritorious girls will be given scooties.
- Guru Gorakshanath Ayush University (to be completed in 2025).
- Announcement of Government Medical College in Ballia and Balrampur.

➤ **Agriculture and Rural Development:**

- 11% amount allocated for agriculture and allied services.
- Rs 125 crore for new stadiums in villages.
- Rs 195 crore for Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- Rs 425 crore for Swachh Bharat Mission.

➤ **Women and Child Development:**

- 400 crore rupees for Rani Laxmibai Scooty Scheme.
- Scooty will be provided on the basis of eligibility.
- A provision of Rs 2980 crore is proposed for payment of pension due to the eligible beneficiaries of destitute women pension scheme.

- A budget provision of Rs 700 crore is proposed under the Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Scheme.
- A provision of Rs 252 crore proposed for the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Bal Seva Yojana operated during Covid.

- A provision of about Rs 4119 crore is proposed for value integrated child development for the nutrition programme.

- Provision of Rs 971 crore proposed.

- Proposal to make provision of Rs 100 crore for Chief Minister Saksham Suposhan Yojana.

➤ **Social Development and Public Welfare:**

- Rs 4848 crore for PM Housing Scheme.

- Plan to distribute tablets to students in 2025.

- Provision of Rs 8105 crore proposed for Old Age/ Farmer Pension Scheme (pension of Rs 1000 per month).

- A provision of Rs 550 crore is proposed for the Chief Minister's Mass Marriage Scheme to provide grants for the marriage of daughters of all categories.

- An amount of Rs 60 crore is proposed to provide assistance to voluntary organizations for running residential homes for the elderly and disabled persons.

- Provision of about Rs. 6 crore for Pre-10<sup>th</sup> and Post-10<sup>th</sup> Scholarship Scheme for ST students.

- Under the Prime Minister Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan "PM-Janman", the overall development of the especially vulnerable tribal groups is to be undertaken.

- A budget provision of Rs 1998 crore proposed in the financial year 2025-2026 for the development and upliftment of the minority community

- Provision of Rs. 1050 crore proposed under Chief Minister Contingency Welfare Scheme for financial assistance to farmers in case of accidental death/ misconduct.

➤ **Health:**

- 6% amount allocated for medical and health sector.

- Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the whole country in making Ayushman cards.

- Establishment of Government Medical College and establishment of Government Homeopathy Medical College at Varanasi.

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Note:

- Announcement to build government medical colleges in Ballia and Balrampur.
- **Cyber Security and Technological Development:**
  - Rs 3 crore for cyber security.
  - Announcement of establishment of 'Artificial Intelligence City'.
  - Plans to establish a 'Technology Research Translation Park'.
  - Budget of Rs 5 crore to build AI city in Lucknow.
  - ICT Lab and Smart City Plan
  - Plan to establish Centre of Excellence
- **Municipal bodies and development of cities:**
  - Budget of Rs 2.5 crore for each municipal body.
  - 58 municipal bodies will be developed.
  - Like NCR, State Capital Region (SCR) will be formed which will include 6 districts – Lucknow, Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Rae Bareli and Barabanki.
- **Tourism and Cultural Development:**
  - Rs 100 crore for Mathura-Vrindavan corridor.
  - Rs 150 crore for tourism development in Ayodhya.
  - Rs 125 crore for tourism development in Chitrakoot and Mathura.
  - Rs 30 crore for the renovation of public utility temples.
- **Forest and Environment**
  - At present, tree cover in the state has reached 9.96 percent of the geographical area of the state.
  - Uttar Pradesh ranks second in the whole country in terms of increase in forest cover and tree cover.
  - The number of tigers in the state has increased from 173 in the year 2018 to 205 in the year 2022.
  - The country's first vulture tribal centre was established in Gorakhpur.
  - Uttar Pradesh Forestry and Industrial University will be established in Gorakhpur.

## Exhibition on Dyes, Chemicals and Handicrafts

### Why in News?

Recently, an **exhibition on handicrafts, dyes and chemicals and garment technology** was organised at **India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida**.



### Key Points

- **About the event:**
  - The exhibition was organized under **Bharat Tex 2025**, while the mega event was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from 14th to 17th February 2025**.
  - This exhibition will **promote overall growth and competitiveness of the industries** through new business opportunities, performance excellence, sustainability and innovation.
- **The events were centered on four major themes:**
  - **Garment Technology Expo (GTE) 2025** - Showcasing cutting-edge machinery, processes and solutions.
  - **Dyechem World Bharat Tex 2025** - Exhibition focused on nature friendly dyes, chemicals and raw materials.
  - **Handmade Products Exhibition** - Exhibition of handmade textiles.
  - **India Sourcing Conclave (ISC)** - Conference organised by Sourcing Consultants Association.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of NSSTA

### Why in News?

**National Statistical System Training Academy (NSSTA)** celebrated its **17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day** on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### Key Points

- **Venue:**
  - The day was celebrated at **Mahalanobis Auditorium, NSSTA, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.

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- **Theme:**
  - Its theme was “Empowering Governance through Statistical Excellence – 17 Years of Capacity Building and Collaboration” .
- **Objective:**
  - Equip statisticians and field officers with **advanced methodologies**, ensure **high-quality data collection**, and support **evidence-based policy making**.

### National Statistical System Training Academy (NSSTA)

- **Introduction:**
  - Located in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**, this institute is an important training institute **under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
  - It was **established in January 2009**.
- **Objective:**
  - Its main objective is to **strengthen the statistical system in India** and **promote statistical capacity building**.
  - Under this, training is given to central and state government officials, researchers, academicians and other concerned persons.
- **Importance:**
  - Makes government officials and statisticians skilled in **data collection and analysis**.
  - Familiarizes trainees with the latest techniques and methods in the field of statistics at national and international level.
  - Helpful in encouraging **new research related to statistical science** and ensuring effective use of data in government schemes.
  - Promotes statistical training and research in collaboration with various national and international organisations.

## Action on Misleading Video of Maha Kumbh

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Police has taken **strict action against the misleading video** being shared on social media regarding **Mahakumbh 2025**.

### Key Points

- **About the issue:**
  - Action has been taken **against 53 social media accounts** in the last one month.
  - Through these accounts, **false information and misleading videos related to Maha Kumbh were posted**.
  - On the instructions of the **Chief Minister**, the police and **cyber agencies** are keeping an eye on these fake news, so that such misleading information can be stopped from spreading.
- **Effects on people:**
  - Due to the videos an attempt was made to spread false and misleading information.
  - The effect of this **misinformation creates confusion and fear in the minds of people**. An atmosphere of tension and insecurity is created in the society.

### Laws Related to Social Media and Fake News

- It is noteworthy that social media platforms in India already fall under the purview of **the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2008**.
  - Although there is **no specific law to stop fake news in India**. But there are many organizations in India, which work in this regard.
- **The Press Council of India** is one such regulatory body **that can warn newspapers, news agencies and their editors** if it is found that they have violated the principles of journalism.
- **The News Broadcasters Association (NBA)** represents **private television news and current affairs broadcasters and investigates** complaints against them.
- **The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)** accepts and investigates complaints against TV broadcasters for objectionable TV content and fake news.

## Hindon River

### Why in News?

Recently, a **large amount of silt and religious material has been dumped into the Hindon River** in Ghaziabad, further polluting the river.

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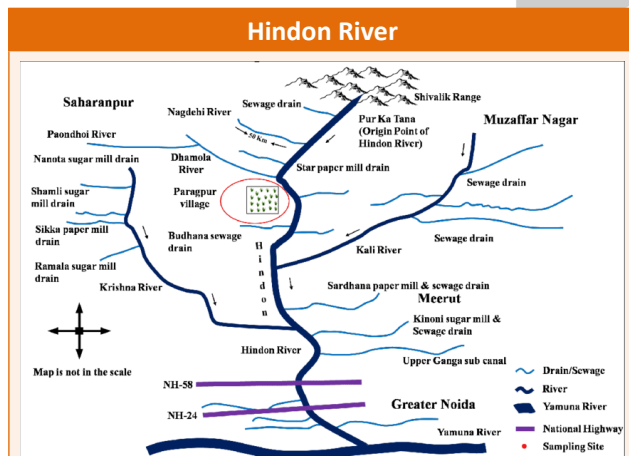
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Note:

### Key Points

- The Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department attributed the river's pollution to the release of untreated drains into it, along with mismanagement and neglect of water quality.
- **Pollution in the river:**
  - **Dissolved oxygen (DO)** ranged from 1.43 to 4.22 mg/l, while the minimum DO required for aquatic life should be 4 mg/l.
  - Total **coliform levels** range from 260,000 to 380,000 MPN/100 ML, while the standard limit is 1,000 MPN/100 ML.
  - The **Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB)** has categorised the river's water quality as 'E', which means **the water is suitable only for irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled waste disposal.**
- In 2015, **the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** declared the Hindon River a **dead river**, stating that it had **high levels of pollution** and was unfit for bathing in many parts.



- This river **originates from the Shivalik Hills** in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh and flows for about 400 km in the industrial area of western Uttar Pradesh and merges with **the Yamuna River** in Noida.
  - Hence it is a **tributary of Yamuna** River.
  - It is a monsoon fed river.
- Its **catchment area** is approximately 7,083 sq. km.
- The **Kali (West) River** and **the Krishna River** are the main tributaries of the Hindon River.

- Evidence of **the Harappan civilization** has been found on the banks of this river, which dates back to 2500 BC.
- Ghaziabad and Noida are situated on the banks of this river.

## Exhibition of Schemes in Maha Kumbh

### Why in News?

Recently, an exhibition was organised in **the Mahakumbh Mela** on the implementation of important schemes by the Central Government and the Uttar Pradesh Government.

### Key Points

- **About the exhibition:**
  - This exhibition was **organized by the Rural Development Department of the Government of India and the Rural Development Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.**
  - Through this an attempt has been made to **depict the implementation of various schemes** and the changing environment of the rural areas through them.
- **The important schemes among them are:**
  - **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** Under MGNREGA, various **development works were carried out in rural areas** such as **Amrit-Sarovar**, soak pit, rain water harvesting, construction of drains, tree plantation, etc. which changed the face of the rural area and led to development.
  - **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):** Through **Saras Haat** of NRLM, women's livelihood was enhanced by promoting their products.
    - Programs like **BC Sakhi** and **Drone Sakhi** showed improvement in the economic and social life of women
  - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural):** The goal of changing the face of housing in rural areas and giving every family its own pucca house was achieved through model houses under this scheme.

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- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):**  
Under PMGSY, rural areas with a population of more than 250 are connected with all-weather roads.
- **Integrated Watershed Management System**
- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin**
- **Under the MNREGA scheme**, various development works were carried out in rural areas such as **Amrit-Sarovar**, soak pit, rain water harvesting, construction of drains, tree plantation, etc. which changed the face of the rural area and led to development.

### Saras Haat

- **About:**
  - It is a programme to **transform rural India in general** and the **lives of rural women in particular**.
  - During the Mela, **workshops on product packaging and design, communication skills, social media publicity** and **Business to Business marketing** will be organised to educate the rural self-help groups and craftsmen.
- **Organiser:**
  - It is an initiative by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) organised by the **Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)**.
  - **CAPART is an autonomous body** set up by the Ministry of Rural Development to interface between the government and **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)** that seek to improve the quality of life in India's rural areas.
- **Objective:**
  - To bring the rural women **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** under one platform so that they can showcase their skills, sell their products, and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.
  - Through participation in **SARAS Aajeevika Mela**, these rural SHG women will get vital national level exposure to understand the demand and taste of urban customers.

## Removal of a High Court Judge

### Why in News?

Recently, after the controversial statement of Allahabad **High Court** judge, an **impeachment motion** signed by 55 members has been introduced in **the Rajya Sabha** to remove him from his post.

### Key Points

- **About the issue:**
  - The Judge had allegedly **made some communal remarks** at a **Vishwa Hindu Parishad** event in December 2024.
  - Under **the Judges Inquiry Act 1968**, 55 opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha have given a notice to **introduce a motion to remove** Justice from the office of judge for his alleged misconduct.
- **Procedure for removal of Judges:**
  - Under **Articles 124 and 218**, judges of **the Supreme Court** and **High Courts** can be removed by **the President** on grounds of **"proven misbehaviour"** or **"incapacity"**.
    - **To remove this, a resolution must be passed** by both houses of the Parliament:
      - Majority of the total membership of the House.
      - **A special majority** of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at the same session .
    - The words **"proven misbehaviour"** and **"incapacity"** are not defined in the Constitution.
      - Misconduct, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, includes **wilful misconduct, corruption, lack of integrity or moral turpitude** .
      - **Incapacity** refers to a **physical or mental condition that impedes judicial functioning**.
- **Procedure under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968:**
  - **Notice of Offer:**
    - For this , signatures of **at least 50 Rajya Sabha members** or **100 Lok Sabha** members are required.

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- After consultation the Chairman or **Speaker** decides whether to accept the motion or not.
- **Inquiry Committee constituted:**
  - If the proposal is accepted then a **three-member committee consisting of judges and a renowned jurist is formed.**
  - The committee investigates allegations of:
    - If the judge is acquitted, the motion is dismissed.
    - If found guilty then the committee report is sent to **the Parliament for voting.**
- **Parliamentary approval:**
  - For **the President** to remove a judge, both the Houses will have to pass a resolution with a special majority.

## Kashi Tamil Sangamam

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated the **third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam** in Varanasi. The unique event highlights **India's cultural foundations** and emphasizes the **emotional and creative bond** shared between Kashi and Tamil Nadu.



### Key Points

- **Inspiration and Vision:**
  - The Sangamam is inspired by the vision of **'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat (One India, Excellent India)'**.
  - Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister highlighted that the event is part of a **grand spiritual and cultural initiative** aimed at advancing this vision.
- The event is integrated with the grand **Maha Kumbh 2025** celebrations, elevating the centuries-old tradition and strengthening the vision of uniting India through the Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- **Significance of Kashi, Kumbh, and Ayodhya:**
  - This edition holds special significance as the **first to be held after the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.**
  - Delegates will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the divinity of Kashi, Kumbh, and Ayodhya.
  - The CM emphasized **Kashi's historical significance as a centre of India's cultural heritage and spirituality** and praised the legacy of Tamil literature.
  - The event reconnects participants with this invaluable heritage.
- **Theme of '4S':**
  - This year's Sangamam is centered around the theme of '4S', uniting **India's Saint tradition, Scientists, Social reformers, and Students.**
  - The theme draws inspiration from **Maharishi Agastya, believed to be the sage who bridged north and south India.**
  - The Kashi Tamil Sangamam has become an **effective platform for dialogue** between the people of north and south India.
- **Music, Heritage, and Devotion:**
  - The Union Education Minister stated that the **celebration weaves together music, heritage, and devotion** on the banks of **the Ganga.**
  - He emphasized that **development and heritage must go hand in hand.**
- **Union Government Initiatives:**
  - Initiatives such as the establishment of the **National Digital Repository of the Indian Knowledge System** to **digitize ancient texts** and use **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** for research were highlighted.
  - **The Bharatiya Bhasha Pustaka Yojana**, which will **translate textbooks into 22 Indian languages**, creating a **"digital Maha Kumbh" for students.**

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### Kashi Tamil Sangamam Significance

- The ancient connection between **Kashi (Uttar Pradesh)** and Tamil Nadu dates back to the **15<sup>th</sup> century** when **King Parakrama Pandya**, ruler of the region around **Madurai**, traveled to Kashi to bring back the **lingam for his temple**.
  - While returning, he **stopped to rest under a tree** — but when he tried to continue his journey, **the cow carrying the lingam refused to move**.
- Parakrama Pandya **understood this to be the Lord's wish, and installed the lingam there**, a place that came to be known as **Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu**.
- For devotees **who could not visit Kashi, the Pandyas had built the Kasi Viswanathar Temple** in what is today **Tenkasi in southwestern Tamil Nadu**, close to the state's border with Kerala.

## NSDC International Academy

### Why in News?

The State Minister of Education inaugurated **the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) International Academy** in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

- **About the Academy:**
  - The Academy is equipped with **state-of-the-art facilities**, designed to provide world-class **skill development and training programmes**.
  - It is a flagship initiative of NSDC under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, dedicated to **transforming India's workforce** by providing globally recognized training and certification.
  - The institute will offer **specialized courses in various fields including foreign languages, health care, employability skills and aviation**.
- **Objective:**
  - Bridging the gap between Indian youth and global employment opportunities.

- To act as a **centre of excellence**, providing tailored training programmes tailored to the skill demands of countries like Germany, Japan and Israel.
- Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

### Prime Minister's Skill Development Scheme

- **About:**
  - This scheme was **launched in the year 2015** with the aim of training the youth.
  - It is the **flagship programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and is being implemented by **the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
  - This scheme replaced the previous **Standard Training Assessment and Reward (STAR) scheme**.
- **Objective:**
  - To provide skill training to a large number of Indian youth, enable them to earn a livelihood by making them employable and motivate them for the same.
  - To **promote standardisation in the certification process** and introduce skills registration process.
  - To expand the existing workforce and train people as required.

## Trash Skimmer Machine

### Why in News?

To realise the dream of a clean India and to keep **the Triveni Sangam** clean and pure, **trash skimmer machines have been installed** in Prayagraj, which are removing 10 to 15 tonnes of garbage from **the Ganga and Yamuna** rivers every day.

### Key Points

- Trash skimmer machines have been installed in 2021 before **the Maha Kumbh** to keep the Triveni Sangam clean and pure.
- **Trash Skimmer Machine:**
  - It is a machine that collects floating debris from the surface of water.
  - This machine picks up **all the items like flowers, leaves, floating garbage, plastic, bottles etc.** from

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the river in various ways and brings them to the shore, which are later disposed of in proper ways.

- This machine is used to clean rivers, ports and seas .
- It also helps in removing **aquatic weeds (water hyacinth)**.

#### Water Hyacinth



- **Water hyacinth**, scientifically known as **Eichhornia crassipes Mart. (Pontederiaceae)**, is an **aquatic weed common in waterbodies across South Asia, including India**.
- This is **not an indigenous species** but was **introduced to India during the British colonial rule** as an **ornamental aquatic plant from South America**.
- The plant **produces beautiful purple flowers** that have **high aesthetic value**.

#### Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- The Government of India laid the foundation of the Swachh Bharat Mission **on 2 October 2014 (Gandhi Jayanti)**. This mission covers all rural and urban areas.
- The urban component of this mission is **implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and the rural component is implemented by **the Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

## Indian Art History Congress

### Why in News?

The **32<sup>nd</sup> Indian Art History Congress** was held from 8 to 10 February 2025 at **Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida**.

### Key Points

- **About the Conference:**
  - The theme of the conference was **“Rendering Indian Epics in Art and Culture”**.
  - It **aimed** to highlight the diverse forms of artistic expressions **based on the epics**.
    - **The Mahabharata and Ramayana**, with their teachings on duty, righteousness, and justice, have shaped the way of life for many.
    - Their ideals resonate across cultures, both in India and beyond.
  - It was organised by **Indian Heritage Institute, Noida under the Ministry of Culture** .
- **Importance:**
  - The conference **highlighted the varied forms of artistic expressions** based on the epics through oral, textual and visual media .
  - Discussion on the influence of epics and their various artistic forms from ancient to contemporary times.
  - To promote interest in Indian art and to work for its **preservation and protection**.
  - To make efforts to protect the tangible and intangible **cultural heritage**.

#### Indian Art History Congress (IAHC)

- It is an **all-India institution that studies Indian art heritage**.
- It aims to **encourage in-depth research** and discussion **on various aspects of Indian art history and culture**.
- This organization works for the **preservation of Indian cultural heritage, tangible and intangible art forms**.
- It provides a platform for experienced and young scholars to exchange their art related research and ideas.
- Its **headquarters** is located in Guwahati.

## New Expressways Approved

### Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has approved the construction of **7 new expressways** to facilitate road transport in the state .

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## Key Points

### ➤ About the Expressway:

- The Chief Minister has announced to **invest Rs 50 thousand crores** on this project.
- These 7 expressways will connect 56 districts of Uttar Pradesh between Lucknow and Delhi.
- The total length of these seven expressways will be 866 km which will be completed in the coming 2-3 years.
- This step will play an important role in the Uttar Pradesh government's mission to make the state's economy **one trillion dollars**.

### ➤ Proposed 7 expressways:

- **Chitrakoot Link Expressway:** This 120 km long expressway will connect various districts of Bundelkhand.
  - **Jhansi Link Expressway:** Its length will be 100 km and through this the major districts of Bundelkhand will get direct connectivity with the expressway.
  - **Jewar Link Expressway:** This expressway will connect **Jewar Airport** to Yamuna Expressway so that people can directly connect to the airport.
  - **Vindhya Expressway:** Its length is 320 km and this expressway will provide better transport facilities to the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh.
    - In this, districts like Mirzapur, Banaras, Jaunpur will be connected to Prayagraj.
  - **Vindhya Purvanchal Link Expressway:** Its length is 100 km and will be constructed between Mirzapur to Ghazipur to connect Vindhyachal region with **Purvanchal**.
  - **Lucknow Link Expressway:** This 50 km long expressway will connect Purvanchal and Agra Expressway.
- **Agra-Lucknow Ganga Expressway Link Road:** The length of this link expressway will be 90 km, which will be built to connect **Ganga Expressway** between Prayagraj and Meerut to Lucknow.

### Expressway network in Uttar Pradesh:

- Uttar Pradesh has the largest expressway network in the country. The following are the major expressways of Uttar Pradesh-

- Yamuna Expressway: **Uttar Pradesh's first expressway**
- Ganga Expressway: **The longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh**
- Agra-Lucknow Expressway: Greenfield Expressway of Uttar Pradesh
- Delhi-Meerut Expressway
- Purvanchal Expressway
- Bundelkhand Expressway
- Gorakhpur Link Expressway
- Lucknow Kanpur Expressway

## Guru Ravidas Jayanti

### Why in News?

**Guru Ravidas Jayanti** was celebrated in Uttar Pradesh on **12 February 2025**. The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About Guru Ravidas:

- **Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on the full moon day of Magh month** according to the Hindu lunar calendar .
- Guru Ravidas or Raidas was a 14<sup>th</sup>-century saint and **reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India**.
- He is believed to have been **born in a cobbler family in Varanasi**.
- He dedicated his entire life towards the abolition of the caste system and openly despised the concept of Brahminical society.
- His devotional songs had an immediate impact on the Bhakti movement and about 41 of his poems **were included in the Sikh religious text 'Guru Granth Sahib'**.
  - Saint Raidas was a disciple of Swami Ramanand. While Mirabai is said to be the disciple of Saint Raidas .
  - He founded the Radasiya or Ravidasiya sect.

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## Pollutants found in Varuna river

### Why in News?

Recently, zoologists from **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** in a research confirmed the presence of about 1000 types of pollutants in the water of **Varuna river**.

### Key Points

- **Pollutants:** Research has found that **580 pollutants** have been found in Varuna river and 349 in **Assi river**. These include toxic chemicals like **Tert alkylphenols, Octylphenols, Butylphenols, Hexadecylphenols**.
- **Effects:** These pollutants are not only endangering the **ecosystem of the river** but also human life in the following ways:
  - **Effect on aquatic life:** Pollution is adversely affecting the lives of fish and other aquatic creatures. Due to which their **mortality rate** is increasing and **reproductive capacity** is decreasing.
    - Its water is also polluting the water of **River Ganga**.
  - **Deterioration of water quality:** Pollutants degrade the quality of water, thereby reducing the availability of potable water.
  - **Effects on human life:** Drinking polluted water can cause **health problems in humans**. Not only can it lead to reduced fertility, but these pollutants can also cause serious diseases like **cancer**.
- **Previous report:** Earlier also, the **Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board** had reported that the pollution of Varuna river was at dangerous levels. Before joining

the Ganga in Varanasi, the **Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)** of Varuna was 12.40 milligrams per liter.

- **Revival of Varuna River:** Although the Uttar Pradesh government is continuously making efforts to revive the Varuna River in **Varanasi**, such as desilting from Bhadohi to **Ganga-Varuna Sangam**, **increasing green cover by planting trees along the river**. Along with this, **wetland** areas will be created in various development blocks, which will improve the **groundwater level** and the water level of the river will be normal.
  - Recently, **the Green Strategic Partnership** between **India and Denmark** has resulted in the establishment of **Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR)** in **Varanasi**. It aims to revive the **Varuna River** using a sustainable approach.

### Varuna River:

- It is a small tributary of the Ganga.
- It originates from Phulpur in **Prayagraj** district and meets the river Ganga near Sarai Mohana in Varanasi district.
- The district 'Varanasi' is named after two rivers, **Varuna and Assi**.
- **Sarnath** is situated at the confluence of the rivers Ganga and Varuna.

## Uttar Pradesh Emerges as a Tourism Hub

### Why in News?

**Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as a new hub of **tourism** by preserving its **historical, religious and cultural heritage**.

### Key Points

- **Tourism in Uttar Pradesh:**
  - Tourism development in Uttar Pradesh is boosting the **state's economy and creating jobs for thousands of people**.
    - More than **65 crore tourists** visited **Uttar Pradesh in the year 2024**, making it the tourism capital of India.
  - Religious sites like the **Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi,**

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and **Mathura-Vrindavan** have made Uttar Pradesh a world-class spiritual center.

- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0:**
  - **Naimisharanya, Prayagraj and Mahoba** are being developed under the **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme** of the Central Government .
- **Importance of Tourism:**
  - Tourism has become a key engine of economic growth in Uttar Pradesh.
  - As one of the fastest-growing sectors, it plays a vital role in **boosting trade, creating jobs, attracting investments, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting social inclusion.**

#### 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.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0:**
  - It is **not an incremental change but a generational shift to evolve the Swadesh Darshan Scheme** as a holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.
  - It will help develop sustainable and responsible destinations with a tourist and destination centric approach.

## Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government approved the **formation of 'Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority'** to promote **water transport** and **water tourism** in the state.

### Key Points

- **Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority:**
  - Its objective is to **promote water transport** by developing waterways, which will **reduce pressure on road and rail networks.**
  - Major cities situated along the **banks of the Ganga River** and other waterways hold significant potential for **water tourism development.**
  - **Structure:**
    - The Authority will be **headed by a Minister of Transport** or an **expert in Waterways, Shipping, Navigation, Ports and Maritime Affairs** nominated by **the Chief Minister.**
      - The Vice-Chairman will be appointed by the State Government.
      - A **representative nominated by the Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** will also be its member.
      - The **Transport Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh** will be the Chief Executive Officer of this Authority.
- **Waterways in Uttar Pradesh:**
  - It is notable that **111 national waterways** have been **declared in the country**, of which **Uttar Pradesh has a total of 11 national waterways** including **Ganga and Yamuna.**

#### Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- IWAI is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Shipping** .
- It was constituted under the **IWAI Act, 1985** by the Indian Parliament.
- Its **headquarter** is located in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh.** While **regional offices** are in **Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi** and **sub-offices** in **Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad), Varanasi, Bhagalpur, Rakka and Kollam.**

## Radar Factory

### Why in News?

A radar manufacturing factory will be set up in the **Defence Industrial Corridor** at Bijhamai village near the Agra Lucknow Expressway at a cost of Rs 400 crore.

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### Key Points

- **About the Factory:**
  - **Spread over 60 hectares**, the factory will be set up by **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited**.
  - The radar manufacturing facility will **improve the defence system of the country** as high quality manufacturing of radars will help in providing better security and surveillance to the army.
  - This factory will help **make India self-reliant** in the manufacturing of **radars and other defense equipment, thereby reducing dependence on foreign countries**.

#### Defence Industrial Corridor (DIC)

- It is a **flagship initiative** of the **Central Government** aimed at strengthening and making India's defence industry self-reliant.
- **Defense corridor** is a route which includes many cities. Industries are set up in these cities for the **manufacture of military equipment**.
- **Importance:**
  - This will help in making the country self-reliant in the field of defence production and promote '**Make in India**', which will **reduce our imports and promote the export of these items to other countries**.
  - It will boost the defence manufacturing ecosystem through coordinated development of technologies, fostering growth of private domestic manufacturers including MSMEs and **start-ups**.

## Bundelkhand: Center of Solar Energy

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh is progressing rapidly in the field of **solar energy** and **Bundelkhand** has emerged as a **major centre of energy**, playing an important role in this progress.

### Key Points

- **Development of Solar Energy in UP:**
  - The government has implemented a comprehensive **solar energy policy**, under which various incentives are being provided to solar energy projects.

- In 2024, **17 solar power plants** with a capacity of about 1100 MW have become operational in the state..
- These solar plants have created direct employment opportunities, underlining the significant economic impact of **renewable energy** expansion in Uttar Pradesh.

#### ➤ Role of Bundelkhand:

- Bundelkhand has emerged as a **major region in the field of renewable energy** and is promoting regional development and employment.
- The **abundant sunlight and climatic conditions** in this region make it **ideal for solar energy production**.

#### ➤ Major projects:

- Solar power units of 4 thousand MW have been installed in Bundelkhand. Out of the 10 new solar plants installed in this region, **995 MW** have started operating.
  - **Jhansi Solar Power Project** 600 MW project by TUSCO Limited commissioned in January 2025.
  - Along with this, a 100 MW solar plant by Fourth Partner Energy started in **Babina, Jhansi with an investment of Rs1200 crore in mid-2024**.
  - Another significant development in Bundelkhand is the **Sun Source Energy Solar Open Access Project**, which contributes an additional 135 MW to the state's energy grid.

#### Bundelkhand

- **Bundelkhand** is a geographical and cultural region located on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a **semi-arid region comprising seven districts** of Uttar Pradesh (Jhansi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot).
- It is also a mountain range. Jhansi is **the largest city of Bundelkhand**.
- Bundelkhand was earlier known as **Jejabhukti or Jejakabhukti**, but from the time of the Bundelas in the 14<sup>th</sup> century it came to be known as Bundelkhand.

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## Asteroid Discovery in Uttar Pradesh

### Why in News?

Recently, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has recognized Daksh Malik, a Class 9 student from Noida, for his **provisional discovery of an asteroid**, currently labeled as '2023 OG40.'

### Key Points

- **Participation in the International Asteroid Discovery Project (IADP):**
  - Along with two school friends, the student has actively participated in the **IADP** which introduced them to the **International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC)**.
  - The IASC, a **NASA-affiliated citizen science initiative**, enables global participation in asteroid discovery.
    - It allows students and astronomy enthusiasts worldwide to **analyze celestial data and contribute to scientific research**.
- **A Rare Achievement:**
  - Despite more than 6,000 participants joining the IADP annually, only a few successfully identify new asteroids.
  - Before this discovery, only five students from the country had ever achieved a named asteroid discovery.
- **Naming the Asteroid:**
  - This achievement also gives **the privilege of naming the celestial body** after its verification process, which may take around four to five years.

### Asteroids

- Asteroids, also referred to as **minor planets**, are remnants from the early stages of our solar system's formation approximately **4.6 billion years ago**.
- They predominantly exhibit **irregular shapes**, though some **display nearly spherical forms**.
- Many asteroids are accompanied by **small moons**, with some even having two moons.
- Additionally, binary asteroids consist of **two similar-sized rocky bodies** orbiting each other, and there are also triple asteroid systems.

## Surajpur Wetland

### Why in News?

The Greater Noida Authority has developed a project to safeguard and preserve **the Surajpur wetland**.

### Key Points

- **Threat from Polluted Wastewater:**
  - The wetland faces a **serious threat due to the indiscriminate discharge of highly polluted wastewater** into its channels, endangering its ecosystem.
- **Need for Technical Assistance:**
  - According to the authority, research institutes, **non-government organizations (NGOs)**, and environmental experts can provide technical support to protect and restore the wetland.
- **Ecological Significance:**
  - Located in the heart of the industrial city of **Greater Noida**, the Surajpur wetland serves as a vital **wildlife habitat**, making its conservation crucial.
- **Geographic Spread and Features:**
  - The sanctuary spans 325 hectares, including a 60-hectare natural lake situated along **the Dadri-Surajpur-Chhalera (DSC) road**, approximately 20 km from Noida.
- **Haven for Migratory Birds:**
  - During the winter season, the wetland attracts various species of **migratory birds**, enhancing its ecological and environmental value.

### Surajpur Wetland



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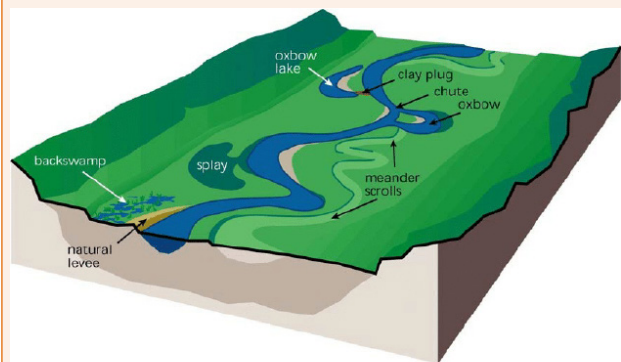
- **Location and Administrative Jurisdiction:**
  - The wetland is **located near Surajpur Village** in Dadri Tehsil of **Gautam Budh Nagar district**.
  - It falls under the jurisdiction of the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Urban Wetland in the Yamuna Basin:**
  - The wetland serves as an excellent example of an urban wetland within the **Yamuna River basin**.
- **Ecological Importance and Green Cover:**
  - It acts as a green lung for Greater Noida, covering a catchment area of 308 hectares, with 60 hectares dedicated to the waterbody.
- **Recognition as an Important Bird Area (IBA):**
  - BirdLife International has classified the wetland as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** due to its significance in **bird conservation**.
- **Breeding and Wintering Habitat for Waterfowl:**
  - The wetland provides a breeding ground for waterfowl such as **Spot-billed Duck, Lesser-whistling Duck, Cotton Pygmy Goose, and Comb Duck**.
  - It also supports wintering waterfowl, including **Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard, Bar-headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Common Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Gadwall**.
- **Diverse Wildlife Presence:**
  - In addition to a rich bird population, the wetland sustains six mammal species, including **Nilgai, Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Hare, Golden Jackal, and Five-striped Squirrel**.
- **Environmental Threats:**
  - The wetland faces significant threats due to the indiscriminate discharge of highly polluted wastewater into its channels, posing risks to its ecosystem.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - It is observed annually to raise awareness about the **importance of wetlands** and marks the adoption of the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** in **1971** in Ramsar, Iran.
  - **Theme for 2025:** Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future.
- **New Corridor:**
  - The government announced a new **nature-culture tourism corridor** will be developed between **Ayodhya and Devi Patan** in UP.
- **Amrit Dharohar Initiative:**
  - **Amrit Dharohar** was launched in **June 2023** to conserve Ramsar Sites that focuses on **four key components** i.e., **Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihood and Wetlands Carbon**.
- **Threat:**
  - The biggest threat to wetlands is **pollution from industrial and human effluents**, which degrade these ecosystems.

### Parvati Arga Ramsar Site

- **About:** It is a **permanent freshwater environment**, consisting of **two oxbow lakes** i.e., **Parvati and Arga**, which are **rain-fed** and located in the **terai region** (Gangetic plains).
  - The nearby **Tikri Forest** is also being developed as an **eco-tourism site**.
  - **Oxbow lakes** are **U-shaped lakes** formed when a meander of a river is **cut off**, creating a **standalone water body**.



## World Wetland Day 2025

### Why in News?

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) organised the **World Wetlands Day 2025** celebrations at the **Parvati Arga Ramsar Site**, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh (UP) on **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**.

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- **Ecological Significance:** It is a refuge for critically endangered white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture, and endangered Egyptian vulture.
  - Migratory birds like **Eurasian coots, mallards, greylag geese, northern pintails,** and **red-crested pochards** visit the site in the winter months.
- **Invasive Species:** It faces threats from invasive species, notably the common water hyacinth.
- **Cultural Landmarks:** The region is home to cultural landmarks such as the birthplaces of **Maharishi Patanjali** and Goswami Tulsidas, boosting religious and cultural tourism.



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