



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

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## Improved Groundwater Level in districts of Uttar Pradesh

### Why in News?

According to the notification issued by the **Namami Gange** and **water supply section-3** of the state, the **groundwater level in 32 districts of the state**, including Prayagraj, has experienced **an enhancement, leading to a decrease in critical zones**.

### Key Points

- The groundwater department in Prayagraj explained that they **analyze various parameters** to determine whether a district falls under **the safe, critical, semi-critical, or over-extracted zone**.
- The primary consideration is the **balance between water extraction and recharge**. Following an in-depth annual assessment, they classify each district accordingly.
- The districts across the state which are in safe zones include Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Agra, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Mathura, Aligarh, Etah, Hathras, Badaun, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Kanpur Nagar, Kannauj, Meerut, Baghpat, Bulandshahar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Amroha, Bijnor, Sambhal, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar and Shamli.

#### Namami Gange Programme

- It is an **Integrated Conservation Mission**, approved as a '**Flagship Programme**' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the **twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga**.
- It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The program is being implemented by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, and its state counterpart organizations i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is the implementation wing of **National Ganga Council** (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority - NGRBA).

- It has a Rs. 20,000-crore, **centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus** and consists of nearly 288 projects.
- The **main pillars** of the programme are:
  - Sewage Treatment Infrastructure
  - River-Front Development
  - River-Surface Cleaning
  - Biodiversity
  - Afforestation
  - Public Awareness
  - Industrial Effluent Monitoring
  - Ganga Gram

## New Courses Added to BHU's Swayam Programme

### Why in News?

The faculty members of the **Banaras Hindu University** have developed 15 courses for the **SWAYAM programme** for the **2024 session**. The courses have been developed in line with requirements and expectations of the learners.

### Key Points

- These courses cover various subjects like **management, commerce, science, medicine, social sciences, humanities, and philosophy**.
- BHU has entered the realm of **online education** for the first time with the introduction of these courses.
  - The initiative not only enriches BHU's educational offerings but also supports the broader goals of providing accessible and quality education for everyone.
- The **technical support** for the courses is **provided by IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur**, with funding from the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- **SWAYAM**, launched by the Government of India, aims to make the best teaching and learning resources available to all individuals, regardless of their geographical location or institutional affiliations.

#### SWAYAM Programme

- **Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)**, was launched on July 9, 2017 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to **provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses**.

Note:



- This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
- The objective is **to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.**
- Academicians from hundreds of institutions throughout the country are involved in developing & delivering **Massive open online courses (MOOCs)** through SWAYAM in almost all disciplines from senior schooling to Post Graduation.

## Food Irradiation

### Why in News?

The government of India **plans to use radiation processing (Food Irradiation)** to extend the shelf life of a 100,000 tonne **onion buffer stock** in 2024, **aiming to prevent shortages and price hikes.**

- India, a major onion exporter, is **facing a 16% decline in onion output for the 2023-24 season**, bringing production down to an estimated 25.47 million tonnes.

### Key Points

- Food irradiation is the **process of exposing food and food products to ionising radiation, such as gamma rays, electron beams, or X-rays.**
  - In India, irradiated food is regulated in accordance with the **Atomic Energy (Control of Irradiation of Food) Rules, 1996.**
- **Significance:**
  - It is used in food processing to help ensure food safety.
  - Seasonal overstocking and long transport times lead to food waste.
  - India's hot, humid climate is a breeding ground for spoilage-causing insects and microbes.
  - Seafood, meat, and poultry can harbour harmful bacteria and parasites that make people sick.

### Onion Production in India

- India is the **second-largest (after China) onion-growing country** in the world, famous for its pungent onions available year-round.
- **Major Onion Producing States:**
  - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are the major onion-producing states.

- **Maharashtra ranks first in Onion production** with a share of 42.53% followed by Madhya Pradesh with a share of 15.16% in 2021-22 (3rd Advance Estimate).
- **Export Destination:** Major export destinations of Indian onion include Bangladesh, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

## India to Import Wheat After 6 years

### Why in News?

India, the **world's second-largest wheat producer, plans to begin wheat imports after a six-year gap** to replenish depleted reserves and control rising prices, driven by three consecutive years of disappointing crops.

### Key Points

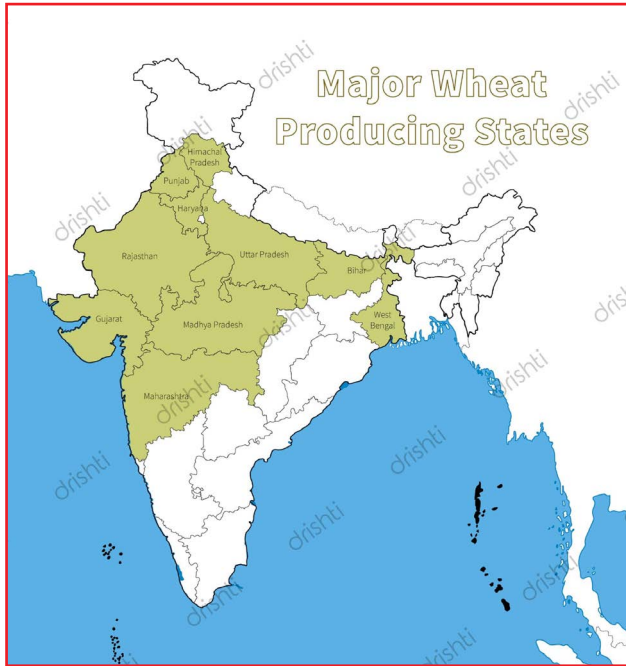
- India's wheat production has **declined in the last 3 years due to unfavourable weather conditions**, leading to a sharp drop in wheat output.
- The government **estimates this year's wheat crop to be 6.25% lower than the previous year's (2023)** record production of 112 million metric tons.
- The government's **target for wheat procurement the year 2024 was 30-32 million metric tons**, but it has managed to buy only 26.2 million tons so far.
- Domestic wheat prices have stayed above the government's **minimum support price (MSP)** of 2,275 rupees per 100 kg and **have been on the rise recently.**
  - So, the government **decided to remove the 40% import duty on wheat to allow private traders and flour millers to import wheat, primarily from Russia.**

### Wheat

- This is the **second most important cereal crop in India after rice** and main food crop, in the north and north-western part of the country.
- **Wheat is a rabi crop** that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
  - **Success of the Green Revolution contributed to the growth of Rabi crops**, especially wheat.
- **Top 3 Wheat Producers in World (2021):** China, India and Russia.

Note:

- **Top 3 Wheat Producers in India (in 2021-22):** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, **National Food Security Mission** and **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana** etc.



## Agniveers to Join Indian Army's Gorkha Rifles

### *Why in News?*

Recently, in Varanasi, **Agniveers** from the third batch marched on to the parade ground of the **39 Gorkha Training Centre (GTC)**, crossing the 'Antim Pag' to join the **3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles** of the **Indian Army**.

- 3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles are **Gorkha infantry regiments of the Indian Army**.
- These are among the **seven Gorkha regiments** of the Indian Army. The other regiments are **1 GR, 4 GR, 5 GR (FF), 8 GR and 11 GR**.

### *Key Points*

- **Agnipath Scheme** was launched in 2022. It allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years. The youth joining the army will be called **Agniveer**.

- Under the scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
- It provides for recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25% of them for 15 more years.

### ➤ **Eligibility Criteria:**

- It is only for personnel below officer ranks (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
  - Commissioned officers hold an exclusive rank in the Indian armed forces. They often hold a commission under the president's sovereign power and are officially instructed to protect the country.
- Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years are eligible to apply.

### ➤ **Objectives:**

- It is expected to bring down the average age profile of the Indian Armed Forces by about 4 to 5 years.
- The scheme envisions that the average age in the forces is 32 years today, which will go down to 26 in six to seven years.

## Faculty Induction in IIT-BHU

### *Why in News?*

A 24-day faculty induction programme was inaugurated at **IIT (BHU)**, Varanasi under the **Malviya Mission Teachers Training programme**, sponsored by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.

### *Key Points*

- This intensive programme will host 40 distinguished faculty members from across India, aiming at fostering **professional growth and enhancing pedagogical skills**.
- **Malviya Mission Teachers Training Programme:**
  - The program aims to **enhance the quality of education** by providing customised training for teachers in higher educational institutions.
    - It aspires to equip **15 lakh teachers across India** with the skills needed to meet the goals of the **National Education Policy (NEP)**.

Note:

- Renaming of **Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs)** as **Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centres** was also announced.

#### University Grants Commission

- It came into existence on **28<sup>th</sup> December, 1953** and became a **statutory body by an Act of Parliament in 1956**, for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of **teaching, examination and research in university education**.
- The head office of the **UGC is located in New Delhi**.

## World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

### Why in News?

Recently, the **National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC)** for the **World's largest grain storage plan** held its **maiden meeting** in New Delhi.

- The plan envisages **transforming Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into Multi-Service Societies**.

### Key Points

- The Pilot project has been **implemented by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** with the support of **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS) in coordination with States/ UTs concerned.
  - NCDC was **established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation** under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
    - NCDC **functions through its Head Office at New Delhi** and multiple Regional Offices.
- The committee **reviewed the status of implementation of its pilot project in 11 States**, which was initiated in 2023.
  - States of **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Telangana** **have implemented its pilot project**.
- The Plan envisages **creation of various agricultural infrastructure at PACS level, including** warehouses, custom hiring center, processing units, **Fair Price**

**Shops**, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes:

- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**, Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), **Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)**, **Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)** etc.

## IIIT-A Achieves QS World University Ranking

### Why in News?

**Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad** has achieved the worldwide ranking 1,401 and holds the **46<sup>th</sup> position** in the overall category in the **QS World University Ranking 2025**.

### Key Points

- QS World University Rankings are released annually by **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**.
- The rankings evaluate the **performance and quality of universities worldwide**.
- The methodology considers indicators such as academic reputation, faculty-student ratio, employer reputation, sustainability, employment outcomes, international research network, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio.
- They provide **rankings by subject, region, student city, business school, and sustainability**.

## Two-Child Policy

### Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** recently faced scrutiny over claims that it had implemented a **two-child policy** as of 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. However, according to official statements, these reports are false and no such policy has been enacted yet.

### Key Points

- While a **draft bill** for such a policy has been submitted to the state government, it has **not been passed and formulated as a law**.

Note:

- The **Uttar Pradesh Law Commission** had shared a draft of the proposed bill on population control in 2021 with the state government.
- According to the draft bill titled **Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation, and Welfare) Bill, 2021**, couples with more than two children would not be allowed to apply for government jobs, seek promotions, or benefit from government welfare schemes.
  - A similar policy is in place in Assam, which bars parents with more than two children from government jobs under the **Assam Public Services (Application of Small Family Norms in Direct Recruitment) Rules, 2019**.

### Two-Child Policy

- **Need:**
  - India's population has already **crossed 125 crores** and India is **expected to surpass the world's most populous nation-China** in the next couple of decades.
  - Despite having the **National Population Control Policy (2000)**, India is the **second most populous country in the world**.
  - Thus, India's natural resources are extremely **over-burdened** and facing **overexploitation**.
- **Criticism:**
  - The restricted child policy will create a shortage of educated young people needed to carry on India's technological revolution.
  - The problems like gender imbalance, undocumented children, etc. faced by China (as a result of the one-child policy) might be experienced by India.

## Maha Kumbh

### Why in News?

In a statement released after an official meeting the **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister** said that the **Maha Kumbh**, which is being **organised in Prayagraj in 2025**, will have a "big impact" on the state's economy with crores of people attending the event.

- A study should be conducted on **attracting both domestic and foreign tourists**, and a concrete action plan should be developed for this purpose.

### Key Points

- In the official meeting, the Chief Minister discussed the ongoing efforts, current results and future policy towards fulfilling the resolution of making the state a **USD 1 trillion economy**.
  - It is emphasized that all the ministers and senior officials should make special efforts towards ease of living and maximum employment generation.
- The total **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of the state was 16.45 lakh crore in 2021-22. It increased to more than 25.48 lakh crores in 2023-24.
  - Uttar Pradesh is contributing 9.2% to the **national income** and is becoming the growth engine of the country's development as the second largest economy of the country.
  - The **unemployment rate of the state**, which was 6.2% in 2017-18, has come down to 2.4% in 2024.

### Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- It 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.

Note:

## Additional Installment of the Tax Devolution

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh received the largest portion of Rs 25,495 crore, which was the highest amount in the country, as an **extra payment for tax devolution** from the **Union finance ministry** under the new government.

- According to the finance ministry, the **funds will allow room for the states to expedite development projects.**

### Key Points

- This amount has come as an **additional installment of devolution of taxes to states** besides the devolution amount for the month of June 2024.
- **Uttar Pradesh topped the list** with maximum allocation, **followed by Bihar** (Rs 14,056.12 crore), **Madhya Pradesh** (Rs 10,970.44 crore), and **West Bengal** (Rs 10,513.46 crore) in tax devolution.

#### Tax Devolution

- Tax devolution refers to the distribution of tax revenues between the central government and the state governments. It is a constitutional mechanism **established to allocate the proceeds of certain taxes among the Union and the states** in a fair and equitable manner.
- **Article 280(3)(a)** of the Constitution of India mandates that the Finance Commission (FC) has the responsibility to **make recommendations regarding the division of the net proceeds of taxes** between the Union and the states.

## Noida International Airport

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government **announced its plans to develop the Noida International Airport** into a world-class civil aviation facility.

- Notably, the Noida International Airport at Jewar is being **developed as the country's first transit hub** with aspirations to develop it into an **Asia-Pacific transit hub, a first for India.**

### Key Points

- The state government announced that the Noida International Airport is **being developed based on the Zurich Airport model in Switzerland**, with the goal of enhancing passenger and flight handling capabilities to world-class standards.
  - The greenfield airport is being **constructed in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar** district in western Uttar Pradesh.
  - It **will be the second international airport in the National Capital Region**, alongside Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- The **government has expedited the processes** for issuing licenses, managing operations, and appointing staff and consultants at the airport **through an e-tendering system.**
- Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) **is dedicated to developing the airport** in accordance with the standards set by the Uttar Pradesh and central governments.
  - YIAPL is entirely owned by **Zurich Airport International AG**, the Swiss firm that secured the concessionaire contract for the **public-private partnership project.**
- Currently, **construction is ongoing for the first phase of airport development**, covering an area of over 1,300 hectares. The entire airport is planned to be developed across 5,000 hectares **in four phases.**

**Note:** Electronic tender, or eTender, is the process of sending and receiving bid tenders using online procurement platforms.

- eTendering **makes a huge difference to the procurement process as it offers improved visibility, compliance and decision-making across source-to-pay (S2P) operations.**

#### Greenfield Airports

- Airports are usually situated in urban areas, and aviation activities can **significantly impact the natural environment**, contributing to environmental degradation, particularly in urban regions.
- To tackle this issue, **the Indian government introduced the Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy in 2008.**
- The primary objective is to divert air traffic from existing urban airports to locations outside city centers, **reducing pollution and environmental strain.**
- **Greenfield Airport in UP:** Kushinagar (International airport)

Note:



## Credit Flow to Startups and Rural Enterprises

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has **eased institutional credit flow to startups and rural enterprises** to provide financial assistance and generate **self-employment opportunities** for the youth.

- Separately, the **state tourism department has also signed two agreements** for improving rural tourism and creating **employment**.

### Key Points

- The state plans to fund about 8,300 enterprises under two credit schemes: **Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana (MYSY)** and **Mukhyamantri Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana (MMGRY)**.
  - According to a State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) report, **6,259 and 723 units have been approved** under MYSY and MMGRY, respectively.
- Startups and rural enterprises **have got institutional funding worth more than Rs 163 crore**.
  - Under MYSY, the state offers **loans of up to Rs 25 lakh to set up industries and up to Rs 10 lakh for the service sector entities**.
  - UP is **home to nearly 52 government-recognised incubators and more than 7,200 startups** registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- The signed agreements **will foster sustainable tourism and community empowerment and augment facilities and infrastructure**, offering tourists an authentic experience of rustic village life.
  - The memoranda of understanding have been **signed with the State Rural Livelihood Mission (UPSRLM)** and Manyawar Kanshiram Institute of Tourism Management.

## Power Demand in UP Reaches High

### Why in News?

According to the **Grid India Power Supply Report**, Uttar Pradesh achieved the first position in the country

by supplying **28,889 megawatt (MW) of electricity**, surpassing states like Maharashtra and Gujarat.

### Key Points





- The power demand in Uttar Pradesh reached its highest ever due to the **severe heatwave conditions** and **rising temperatures** in the state.
  - Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan met demands of 24,254 MW, 24,231 MW, 16,257 MW, and 16,781 MW respectively.
- Uttar Pradesh's Power Department set a national record for the **highest power supply** during peak hours, demonstrating its strong energy infrastructure in the face of increasing demands.

### Heat Waves

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

Note:



Heat wave Scenario		40°C	30°C
Maximum Temperature		Plains	Hills
Heat wave conditions prevail when...		Severe heat wave conditions prevail when....	
Normal maximum temperature	Deviation from normal	Normal maximum temperature	Deviation from normal
Above		Above	
40°C	4-5°C or more	40°C	6°C or more
At or below		At or below	
40°C	5-6°C or more	40°C	7°C or more

## Uttar Pradesh Flood Management Programme

### Why in News?

Recently, **Uttar Pradesh** has launched extensive preparations to safeguard the state from potential **flooding**.

- He has directed officials to create a **strong flood management plan**, highlighting quick relocation steps for residents and **livestock** to safer areas.

### Key Points

- The state administration has divided Uttar Pradesh into **three flood management zones**: 29 highly sensitive districts, 11 sensitive districts, and 35 normal districts.
  - Teams consisting of officials from **irrigation, agriculture, and animal husbandry** departments are closely monitoring these areas.
- In order to enhance readiness, seven **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** teams, 18 **State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)** teams, and 17 **Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC)** teams have been strategically stationed.
  - 400 committed individuals known as **'Aapda Mitras'** and 10,500 volunteers have been prepared by the state government to assist in case of emergencies.
  - In addition, a detailed flood readiness guide has been provided to all districts to enhance preparedness.

### National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- It is an Indian specialised force constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- The responsibility of managing disasters in India is that of the state governments. The **'Nodal Ministry'** in the central government for management of natural disasters is the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- It refers to **trained professional units** that are called upon for specialized response to disasters.

### Aapada Mitra Programme

- **About:**
  - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** that was launched in **May 2016**. The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is the implementing agency.
  - It is a programme to identify suitable individuals in **disaster-prone regions** who can be trained to be first responders in times of disasters.
- **Aim:**
  - **To provide the community volunteers** with the skills that they would need to **respond to their community's immediate needs** in the aftermath of a disaster thereby enabling them to **undertake basic relief and rescue tasks during emergency situations** such as floods, flash-floods and urban flooding.

## Uttar Pradesh Accelerates Thermal Power Projects

### Why in News

The **Uttar Pradesh government** is accelerating the **Ghatampur and Obra C thermal power projects** to address the state's growing energy demand.

### Key Points

- The combined **capital expenditure (capex)** for these projects exceeds **Rs 32,000 crore**.
- The **Ghatampur project (1,980 MW)** is estimated to cost **Rs 19,006 crore** and is being developed by **Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power (NUPPL)**.
- All three units of the **Ghatampur project** are expected to be commissioned in **2024-25**, with the state receiving **75%** of the production of electricity.

Note:

- The **Obra C thermal power plant (1,320 MW)** had a cost overrun due to changes in prices and exchange rates.
  - The state will meet **70%** of the **augmented cost of Obra** through **borrowings**, while the remaining **30%** will be provided through **share capital**.

#### Capital Expenditure

- It is incurred with the purpose of increasing assets of a durable nature or of reducing recurring liabilities.
  - **Example:** The expenditure incurred for constructing new schools or new hospitals. All these are classified as capital expenditure as they lead to creation of new assets.

## PM Modi's visit to Kashi Vishwanath Temple

### Why in News?

The **Prime Minister of India** recently visited **Varanasi**, marking his **first trip** to the holy city since he assumed office for the **third time**.

### Key Points

- He inaugurated the **first phase of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple corridor project**.
- The corridor **connects the temple to the banks of the river Ganga** and is a **symbol of India's Sanatan culture**.
- After the inauguration, PM Modi addressed the audience, emphasizing the historical significance of the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**. He also highlighted the resilience of the city against past invasions and attempts to tarnish its image.
- Before the inauguration, PM Modi offered prayers at the **Kaal Bhairav Temple** in Varanasi.
- In the evening, PM Modi witnessed the **Ganga Aarti**. This visit holds immense cultural and historical significance, celebrating the spirit of Varanasi and its iconic temple.

#### Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

- **Kashi Vishwanath Corridor** connects the iconic **Kashi Vishwanath temple** and the **ghats along the river Ganga**.
- Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples **dedicated to Lord Shiva**.

- The temple stands on the **western bank of the holy river Ganga** and is one of the **twelve Jyotirlingas**, the **holiest of Shiva temples**.
- Kashi Vishwanath Dham has become one of the top pilgrimage spots in India as a record **12.9 crore devotees visited the shrine in two years**.

## National Commission for Women

### Why in News?

According to the sources, the **highest number of complaints received by the National Commission for Women (NCW)** in 2024 has been from **Uttar Pradesh** followed by **Delhi and Maharashtra**.

### Key Points

- Out of the **12,648 complaints** filed with the NCW in 2024, **Uttar Pradesh led with 6,492 complaints**, followed by Delhi with 1,119 complaints, and Maharashtra with 764 complaints.
  - Other states like **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and West Bengal** also reported varying numbers of complaints.
- The most complaints, totaling 3,567, were reported in the category related to **"right to dignity,"** encompassing harassment apart from **domestic violence**.
- This was followed by 3,213 complaints of domestic violence, 1,963 complaints of **dowry harassment**, 821 of **molestation**, 524 of **police apathy towards women complaints**, and 658 of **rape or attempted rape**.
- Manipur, which has seen large-scale **ethnic violence** as well as crimes against women, recorded only six complaints with the NCW in 2023.

#### National Commission for Women (NCW)

- The NCW is the **statutory body of the Government of India**, generally concerned with **advising the government on all policy matters** affecting women.
- It was **established in January 1992** under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.
- The **objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India** and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns.

Note:

- The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour.
- The NCW also receives and investigates complaints from women who are victims of violence, discrimination, harassment, or deprivation of their rights.

## Violence against women

State-wise number of complaints received by National Commission for Women so far

State	Complaints
Uttar Pradesh	6,492
Delhi	1,119
Maharashtra	764
Bihar	586
M.P.	516
Haryana	509
Rajasthan	409
West Bengal	307
Karnataka	305
Tamil Nadu	304
Others	1,337

## PM-KISAN Scheme

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India granted the disbursement of the 17<sup>th</sup> installment of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**, reflecting the commitment of the government towards **farmer welfare**.

### Key Points

- The 17<sup>th</sup> installment will be given to more than **Rs 20,000 crore** to around **9.26 crore** beneficiary farmers under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** through **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
  - So far, more than **11 crore** eligible farmer families have received benefits of more than **Rs. 3.04 lakh crore** under **PM-KISAN**.
- Certificates to more than 30,000 women from **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** as **Krishi Sakhis** were also granted.
- **Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP)** aims to transform rural India through the **empowerment of rural women as Krishi Sakhi**, by imparting training and certification of Krishi Sakhis as **Para-extension Workers**.
- This certification course also **aligns with** the objectives of the **"Lakhpati Didi" Program**.

### Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- Under the scheme, the Centre **transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments**, directly into the bank accounts of **all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings**.
  - It was launched in **February 2019**.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India**.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- The entire responsibility of **identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments**.
- **Objective:**
  - To **supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers** in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.

Note:

- To **protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders** for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

#### Lakhpati Didi Scheme

- The government's goal is to create **two crore "lakhpati didis" (prosperous sisters) in villages**. This scheme aligns with the broader mission of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.
- Under this scheme, **women will be provided skill training so that they can earn over Rs 1 lakh per year**.
- Features:
  - Drones will be **provided to women SHGs for agricultural activities**.
  - This initiative aims to leverage technology to transform the agricultural landscape while empowering women **in rural communities**.
  - Around **15,000 women's SHGs will be given training in operating and repairing drones**.
    - This training will not only create new avenues for income generation but also equip women with cutting-edge skills.
  - Drones have the potential to revolutionize agriculture by enabling **precision farming, crop monitoring, and pest control**.
  - Under the scheme, women will be trained in skills like **LED bulb making, plumbing, among others**.

## Development of Varanasi International Airport

### Why in News?

The Union Cabinet approved a comprehensive development plan for **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi**, with a projected cost of **Rs 2869.65 crore**.

- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** will oversee the project, which aims to significantly **enhance the airport's passenger handling capacity**.

### Key Points

- The project involves building a **fresh terminal, lengthening the runway, and enlarging the apron**.
  - The upcoming terminal will span **75,000 square meters**, catering to **6 million passengers** annually

and handling up to **5,000 passengers** during peak hours.

- This will showcase **Varanasi's cultural heritage**, providing travelers with a unique experience.
- The airport is on track to transform into an **eco-friendly airport** by prioritizing **environmental sustainability** through **energy efficiency, recycling waste, reducing carbon emissions, harnessing solar power, and maximizing natural light**.

#### Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- It was **constituted by an Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995** by merging erstwhile **National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India**.
- The merger brought into existence a single organisation entrusted with the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and air space in the country.

## Agri Startups with E-Commerce Platforms

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to connect the state's **agriculture commodity startups** with central government promoted **e-commerce platforms** like **ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)** and **e-NAM (National Agriculture Market)**.

### Key Points

- The state government has instructed the agriculture department to link **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** with ONDC and e-NAM using a specialized farmer producer cell, which will be formed shortly.
  - The startups are also at liberty to join any e-commerce or digital marketing platform.
- The state plans to support an open agriculture market by **streamlining licensing procedures** for inputs like **fertilisers**, seeds, and **pesticides**, as well as licenses for market yards, **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, and connecting with the ONDC and e-NAM platforms for market access.

Note:



- Around 3,240 FPOs are currently active in Uttar Pradesh as part of the **Atmanirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojana**.
- Under Atmanirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojana, **2,725 FPOs will be formed, which will directly benefit 27.25 lakh shareholder farmers.**
- The Uttar Pradesh government has collaborated with industry partners to boost **food processing** and implement **artificial intelligence** in agriculture.
- They also aim to organize the **Krishi Bharat global farmers' conference** in November 2024 in partnership with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- Farmers from nations including the **US, Germany, Brazil, Italy, Poland, France, Spain, Indonesia, and Kenya** are anticipated to attend the four-day event in Lucknow.

#### ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)

- The ONDC aims at **promoting open networks developed on open-sourced methodology**, using open specifications and open network protocols, independent on any specific platform.
- The project to **integrate e-commerce platforms** through a network based on open-source technology has been tasked to the **Quality Council of India**.
- Implementation of ONDC, which is expected to be on the **lines of Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** could bring various operational aspects put in place by e-commerce platforms to the same level.
  - Various operational aspects include onboarding of sellers, vendor discovery, price discovery and product cataloguing etc.
- On ONDC, buyers and sellers may transact irrespective of the fact that they are attached to one specific e-commerce portal.

#### E-NAM (National Agriculture Market)

- It is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** for agricultural commodities.
- It enables farmers to **sell their produce directly to buyers, reducing intermediaries, ensuring fair prices, and enhancing sustainability.**

#### Other Government Schemes to Promote Agri-Export in India

- **Operation Greens: Operation Greens** is an initiative to stabilise the supply and prices of essential agricultural commodities, including fruits and vegetables.
  - It aims to reduce price volatility, ensure farmers receive remunerative prices, and promote sustainable agri exports.
- **Market Access Initiative (MAI):** MAI is a program that supports export promotion activities, including participation in international trade fairs, capacity building, and market research. It helps Indian agricultural exporters explore new markets and gain market access.
- **Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA): SAMPADA** aims to modernise infrastructure for agro-processing clusters, which helps reduce post-harvest losses, increase the shelf life of agricultural products, and enhance the export competitiveness of Indian agri-products.
- **National Horticulture Mission (NHM): NHM** focuses on promoting sustainable horticulture practices, including **organic farming, precision farming**, and water-use efficiency. It supports the production of high-value horticultural products for export.
- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority): APEDA** is responsible for promoting the export of scheduled products and provides guidelines for sustainability, quality, and certification requirements for exporters.
- **Setting up of Agri Export Zones (AEZs):** AEZs are established in different parts of the country to promote the export of specific agricultural commodities.
  - These zones provide a conducive environment for sustainable agri exports through infrastructure development and technology adoption.
- **Promotion of Organic Farming:** The government has initiated programs to promote **organic farming**, which contributes to **environmental sustainability** and increases the export potential of organic products.

Note:

### Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- CII is a **non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization**. It was founded in 1895.
- It works to **create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India**, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

## Campaign to Eradicate Malaria

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched an intensified campaign to **eradicate Malaria from the state by 2027**.

- This initiative involves thorough investigation and complete treatment of every malaria case.

### Key Points

- **June** is **Anti-Malaria Month** under the **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme**, with 771 malaria cases reported in the state this year.
  - Efforts include improved **case reporting, management, and increased epidemiological and entomological investigations**, as well as accelerated vector control measures.
- According to the officials, health workers are conducting **extensive surveys and tests, and community education** on malaria prevention and symptoms is ongoing.
- With the **monsoon expected in late June**, a **critical period for mosquito-borne diseases**, extensive activities are planned to prevent malaria.
  - These include **insecticide** spraying and fogging, and community awareness seminars.

### Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by **plasmodium parasites**.
  - There are **5 Plasmodium parasite species** that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species **P. falciparum and P. vivax** pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria is predominantly found in the **tropical and subtropical areas** of **Africa, South America** as well as **Asia**.

- Malaria is spread by the bite of an **infected female Anopheles mosquito**.
  - The **mosquito becomes infected after biting an infected person**. The malaria parasites then enter the bloodstream of the next person the mosquito bites. The parasites travel to the **liver**, mature, and then infect **red blood cells**.
- Symptoms of malaria include fever and **flu-like illness**, including **shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness**. Notably, **malaria is both preventable and curable**.

### National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)

- NVBDCP is the **central nodal agency** for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. **Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya** in India. It works under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

## One Family, One Identity Scheme

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the process of issuing '**Family ID**' to each family in the state and instructed for its quick implementation.

- He emphasized that the Family IDs are being issued to ensure government benefits for every family and **employment opportunities** for at least one member.

### Key Points

- Under the "**One Family, One Identity**" scheme, each family receives a unique ID to create a comprehensive live database of family units in the state.
- This database will **improve the management of beneficiary-oriented schemes**, timely targeting, transparent operations, and ensure 100% delivery of schemes to eligible people by simplifying access.
  - Approximately 15.07 crore people from 3.60 crore families in Uttar Pradesh are benefiting from the **National Food Security Act 2013**, using their **ration card** numbers as their Family IDs.
  - Over 1 lakh families without ration cards have been issued Family IDs.

Note:

### National Food Security Act, 2013

- **Notified on:** 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.
- **Objective:**
  - To provide **for food and nutritional security** in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Coverage:**
  - 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.
  - Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Priority Households to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
  - Households covered under existing **Antyodaya Anna Yojana**.
- **Provisions:**
  - **5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month** at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
  - The existing AAY household will **continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month**.
  - **Meal and maternity benefit** of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
  - Meals for children up to 14 years of age.
  - **Food security allowance** to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
  - **Setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms** at the district and state level.

## World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Centre

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh has established the **world's first conservation and breeding center** for **Asian king vultures** in Maharajganj district.

### Key Points

- The facility aims to improve the population of Asian king vultures, which has been listed as **critically endangered** in the **International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list** since 2007.
  - The centre is named **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre**, where **24x7 monitoring of the vultures** is being done.
- Asian king vultures (also called **red-headed vulture**) are **critically endangered due to a loss of their habitats and the excessive use of diclofenac**, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, in domestic animals, which becomes poisonous for vultures.
  - At present the centre has a **pair of male and female vultures**. Three more females, who are in the aviary, will gradually get their male counterparts. The aviary is **20-feet by 30-feet**.
  - The **centre aims to ensure the good health of growing vultures and provide them with a pair**. Once a female lays an egg, the pair will be left free in their natural environment.

### Asian King Vultures



- This is one of the **9 species of Vulture** which are **found in India**.
- It is also called the **Asian King vulture** or **Pondicherry Vulture** was extensively found in India but its numbers drastically reduced after diclofenac poisoning.
- Conservation status:
  - **IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1**

Note:



## Irrational Arrest Gross Violation of Human Rights

### Why in News?

Recently, the Allahabad high court approved anticipatory bail for an individual charged under the Cow Slaughter Act, 1955 at Lanka police station in Varanasi.

- The court observed that **irrational and indiscriminate arrest** was a gross **violation of human rights**.

### Key Points

- The courts have emphasized that arresting individuals should be a last resort for the police, only done in exceptional circumstances when it is absolutely necessary for interrogation.
  - Making **unfounded and arbitrary arrests constitutes serious human rights violations**.

#### Anticipatory Bail (Pre-arrest Bail)

- It is a legal provision that **allows an accused person to apply for bail before being arrested**.
- In India, pre-arrest bail is **granted under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973**. It is **issued only by the Sessions Court and High Court**.
- The **provision of pre-arrest bail is discretionary**, and the court may grant bail after considering the nature and gravity of the offence, the antecedents of the accused, and other relevant factors.
- The **court may also impose certain conditions while granting bail**, such as surrendering the passport, refraining from leaving the country, or reporting to the police station regularly.

## Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government passed the proposal for promulgation of an Ordinance that provides for **jail terms ranging from two years to life imprisonment**, and **finances of up to Rs 1 crore** for those involved in question paper leaks.

### Key Points

- The **Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance** has made all offences **cognizable and non-bailable**.
  - The offences will be tried by sessions courts and will be non-compoundable, with strict provisions for bail.
- The Ordinance covers exams conducted by **Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, UP Subordinates Service Selection Board, UP Board, state universities, and authority, bodies, or agencies** nominated by them.
  - It will also **cover exams for regularisation and promotion** in government jobs.
- The Ordinance also **punishes distributing fake question papers and creating fake employment websites**.
  - Allows for **blacklisting companies and service providers** found guilty of adversely affecting examinations.
  - If an exam is affected, the **financial burden will be recovered from those involved**.

#### Ordinance

- It is a **decree or law promulgated by a State or Central government** when the **legislature or parliament is not in session**.
- The legislative power to issue ordinances is in the **nature of an emergency power** given to the executive only to meet an emergent situation.
- Constitutional Provisions in Relation to Ordinances:
  - **Article 123** of the COI authorises the **President to issue Ordinances** during Parliament's break, while **Article 213** empowers **Governors to issue Ordinances** when the legislature is not in session.

#### Cognisable Offences

- In **cognisable offences**, an officer can **take cognizance of and arrest a suspect without seeking a court's warrant** to do so, if he/she has "reason to believe" that the person has committed the offence and is satisfied that the arrest is necessary on certain enumerated bases.
- Within **24 hours** of the arrest, the **officer must have detention ratified** by a judicial magistrate.
- According to the **177<sup>th</sup> Law Commission Report**, cognisable offences are those that require an **immediate arrest**.

Note:

- Cognisable offences are generally heinous or serious in nature such as **murder, rape, kidnapping, theft, dowry death** etc.
- The **First Information Report (FIR)** is registered only in cognisable crimes.

#### 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**.

## Museum of Temples in Ayodhya

### Why in News?

Recently, The Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved a proposal from **Tata Sons** to build a 'Museum of Temples' in **Ayodhya**, with an estimated cost of ₹750 crore.

### Key Points

- According to the **State Tourism Minister Jaivir Singh**, the company will manage the project using its **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund**.
  - The **tourism department** would lease the **company land for this international-level museum for 90 years**, charging a token fee of Rs 1.
  - The company will invest an **additional ₹100 crore in carrying out more development projects** in the temple town.
- The **CM Tourism Fellowship Programme** has also received **approval from the cabinet**.
  - Initially, **25 researchers will be chosen**, each receiving ₹40,000, with ₹30,000 for payment and ₹10,000 for field trips, along with tablets. They will support **tourism development and attract investments in the sector**.
- Other proposals approved during the cabinet meeting included:
  - The **launch of helicopter services in Lucknow, Prayagraj and Kapilvastu** under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model** by building helipads.

- Develop dormant heritage buildings into tourist spots such as **Kothi Roshan Dulha in Lucknow, Barsana Jal Mahal in Mathura and Shukla Talab (pond) in Kanpur**.
- The proposal aims to substitute the **Indian Penal Code** with the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023** as the new penal code of the nation. Additionally, the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023** and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023** will be put into effect.

#### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- The concept of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** is the idea that companies should assess and take responsibility for their effects on the **environment and on social welfare**, and to **promote positive social and environmental change**.
- The **four main types of corporate social responsibility are**:
  - Environmental Responsibility
  - Ethical Responsibility
  - Philanthropic Responsibility
  - Economic Responsibility
- The CSR provisions within **Companies Act, 2013** is applicable to companies with an **annual turnover of 1,000 crore and more**, or a **net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more**, or a **net profit of Rs. 5 crore and more**.
  - The Act requires companies to set up a **CSR committee** which shall recommend a **Corporate Social Responsibility Policy** to the **Board of Directors** and also monitor the same from time to time.

## Spiritual Circuit Development

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is **developing 12 major tourism circuits to boost tourism in the state**.

- Significant focus has been placed on enhancing the spiritual circuit to tap into its vast potential among these initiatives.

### Key Points

- **Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department** is preparing to implement a detailed strategy, including **surveys of**

Note:

tourist destinations, gap analysis, and adherence to the [UP Tourism Policy Document 2022](#).

- The **plan prioritizes standards based on the 7 S'** -- Suchna (Awareness), Swagat (Welcome), Suvidha (Amenities), Suraksha (Safety), Swachhta (Cleanliness), Sanrachna (Infrastructure) and Sahyog (Support).
- Uttar Pradesh has made significant advancements in its tourism sector, becoming a key destination for tourists worldwide.
- The development of [Kashi Vishwanath Dham](#) and [Ayodhya Dham](#), along with their respective corridors, has elevated these sites to premier tourist attractions within the state.
- The upcoming [Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in 2025](#) is expected to draw 30 crore participants, further highlighting Uttar Pradesh's growing prominence in the tourism industry.
- A **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** will be prepared to strategically improve tourism development across different circuits, including the spiritual circuit.
  - The chosen agency will work closely with department officials to tailor the survey methodology for tourist gap analysis.
  - The survey report will include **visitor feedback, photography, and video documentation**.
- The action plan involves gathering feedback from visitors at selected tourist spots outlined in the DPR, **collecting tourism statistics, evaluating growth trends, and prioritising a citizen-centric approach**.
  - By implementing best practices and leveraging technology, the approach aims to effectively operate and upgrade these locations.

#### Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC)

- It was established in the year **1974**.
- The **main objective** of establishing UPSTDC is **to provide tourist accommodation, restaurants, wayside amenities** to the tourists and to open recreational centres.
  - **Organise package tours** ensuring promotion of tourism in the State through vigorous publicity.

## UP Lead in Filing GST Return

### Why in News?

According to the [Goods and Services Tax Network \(GSTN\)](#), **Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra** are leading in filing [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) returns monthly, indicating their economic potential.

- GST is a **value-added tax** levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.

### Key Points

- **In April 2024, UP**, the most populous state in the country, reported over **908,900 GST returns** summarizing their monthly transactions (in the form of GSTR-3B).
  - While industrialised **Tamil Nadu reported over 880,200 GST returns**.
  - **Maharashtra was in third position** with over 798,600 GST returns.
- Monthly return filings reflect **business activity, compliance levels, revenue potential, tax administration efficiency, and demand for goods and services** in the state.

#### Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)

- GSTN has developed an **Indirect Taxation platform for GST in India**.
- The platform helps **taxpayers in preparing, filing returns, making payments, and complying with indirect tax regulations**.
- It provides **IT infrastructure and services** to the Central and State Governments, taxpayers, and other stakeholders.
- GSTN is a not for profit, limited by shares, Government Company. It was incorporated in 2013 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Now Section 8 of the [Companies Act, 2013](#)).
  - The company is **headed by a chairman** who is appointed by the Government.
- The Board of GSTN in its 49th Board Meeting held in June 2022 has approved the **conversion of GSTN into Government Company** and hence **100% of the shareholding being held by Government (50% with Union Government and 50% jointly with State Governments & UTs)** in GSTN.

Note:

## Rampur: City of Knives

### Why in News?

Rampur district, in Uttar Pradesh, is celebrated as the “City of Knives” for its renowned Rampuri chaku, a historic blade crafted since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



### Key Points

- Rampuri chaku were a **symbol of the city’s artisanship** and a **reflection of the royal patronage** that valued skill and precision.
  - The blade, forged from **high-quality steel**, was complemented by a **handle crafted from various materials, including bone, horn, and ivory**.
  - The **handles were often embellished with ornate carvings**, making each knife a piece of art.
- In the mid-1990s, **Uttar Pradesh banned** the manufacture of **knives with blades longer than 4.5 inches**. This regulation, **aimed at reducing violence**, had struck a blow to the traditional knife-making industry of Rampur.
  - Despite regulatory challenges in recent decades, **artisans uphold its legacy with legal adaptations**, maintaining its sharpness and intricate craftsmanship.
- This title honors Rampur’s rich **cultural heritage**, resilience, and **commitment to preserving a craft** that has defined its identity and captivated knife enthusiasts worldwide.

## UP-PRAGATI Accelerator Programs (UPPAP)

### Why in News?

KisanKraft Ltd, the Bengaluru-based agri-firm has joined the **World Bank’s Water Resource Group (WRG)’s**

**low methane rice project** to promote the **Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)** in Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

- The company partnered with seed companies **Delta Agri Genetics** and **Savannah Seeds** to provide its DSR seed varieties for multi-location trials.
- It has developed **15 new paddy varieties** suitable for the DSR cultivation method, which requires less water.
  - These varieties **do not need stagnant water, reduce water needs by half, and also decrease the use of pesticides and fertilizers**.
  - The company will conduct the **pilots in Rae Bareli, Sitapur, Pratapgarh, Barabanki, Unnao, and Ayodhya** districts.
- **Rice is India’s most crucial food crop**, using the largest portion of freshwater and occupying **28% of irrigated lands**.
  - Due to increasing freshwater scarcity and soil degradation, new technologies like Dry Direct Seeded Rice (dry-DSR) are becoming more popular.

### UP-PRAGATI

- UP has launched an accelerator program called **UP-PRAGATI in collaboration with the 2030 Water Resources Group, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, and the private sector.
- The program aims to **promote water-use efficiency and low-carbon practices in agriculture** through technological and institutional innovations to boost incomes across the state.
- The UP PRAGATI program **aims to promote Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) across the state** over the next five years on 250,000 hectares in collaboration with stakeholders.

### Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

- **Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)**, also known as the ‘broadcasting seed technique,’ is a **water-saving method of sowing paddy**.
- In this method, **seeds are directly drilled into the fields**. In contrast to the traditional water-intensive method of transplanting rice seedlings from a nursery to waterlogged fields, this method saves groundwater.
- There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.
- Farmers have to only level their land and give one pre-sowing irrigation.

Note:

## Birth Anniversary of Sucheta Kriplani

### Why in News?

Sucheta Kripalani birth anniversary is celebrated on **25 June, 2024** to commemorate her remarkable contributions as a pioneering figure in the **independence movement** and Indian politics.



### Key Points

- **About:**
  - She was an **Indian politician and freedom fighter**, born on **25 June 1908** in the **Ambala district of Haryana**.
  - She was among the 15 women who were elected in 1946 as members of the new **Indian Constituent Assembly** formed to draft the **Constitution of India**.
- **Key Contributions:**
  - Sucheta Kripalani came to the forefront during the **Quit India Movement** and was **arrested by the British in 1944** for her involvement.
  - She was the founder of the women's wing **All India Mahila Congress (AIMC)** for the freedom movement during the 1940s.
  - She played a crucial role in the **rehabilitation of refugees in Noakhali in 1946**.
  - She became the **first woman Chief Minister (Uttar Pradesh, 1963)** in India.

### Quit India Movement

- On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1942, **Mahatma Gandhi** called to end **British rule and launched the Quit India Movement** at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- Gandhiji gave the call **"Do or Die"** in his speech **delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan**, now popularly known as **August Kranti Maidan**.
- Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the **'Grand Old Lady'** of the Independence Movement is **known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan** in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.
- The slogan **'Quit India'** was **coined by Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
  - Meherally had also coined the slogan **"Simon Go Back"**.

## UP Chief Minister Announces 4 New Highways

### Why in News?

Recently, **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** announced to introduce four new link expressways after a detailed study and action plan.

### Key Points

- As per reports, the new expressways include the **Purvanchal Expressway**, which will be connected to the **Agra-Lucknow Expressway**, and **Ganga Expressway**- which connects Farrukhabad and **Jewar Airport** via two link expressways.
- The **Ganga Expressway, from Meerut to Prayagraj**, is planned to be completed and open to the public by December 2024 to enable devotees to utilize the expressway for **Prayagraj Kumbh in 2025**.
- **Gorakhpur Link Expressway**, will provide excellent connectivity for the districts of **Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Azamgarh, and Ambedkar Nagar**.
  - These new expressways will significantly **boost the state's infrastructure and connectivity**.
  - To promote **environmental sustainability** and enhance the aesthetics of these new routes, saplings should be planted along both sides of all expressways.

Note:



## Sustainable Cities Challenge

### Why in News?

The holy city of **Varanasi** has been selected as one of the three cities globally to participate in the **Sustainable Cities Challenge** along with **Detroit and Venice**.

- The launch event of the Sustainable Cities Challenge was hosted by the **Toyota Mobility Foundation**.

### Key Points

- As part of the Sustainable Cities Challenge, the Toyota Mobility Foundation will provide funding of **USD 9 million**.
- Varanasi, which receives over seven crore tourists and pilgrims annually, will invite innovators and startups to develop **data-operated solutions** to make the city safer and more accessible for visitors.
- Varanasi is inviting innovators from around the world to develop **Crowd Management Solutions**.
- Over **150 cities from 46 countries** around the world participated in the challenge after the call to cities was first launched in **June 2023**.

## Stop Diarrhoea Drive

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh health department is going to launch the '**Stop Diarrhoea**' campaign on **July 1, 2024**.

### Key Points

- The risk of **viral, bacterial and parasitic infections** increases due to **accumulation of contaminated water** during the rainy season.
- In such situations, children may suffer from diarrhoea which increases the problem of dehydration. It is **transmitted through contaminated food and water**.
- **ASHA workers** will go door-to-door and teach the method of making **ORS solutions** to the families of children suffering from diarrhoea.
- They will also give information about the benefits of using **ORS and zinc** as well as cleanliness and hygiene.
- Attention will be given to **vulnerable areas**, like urban slums, remote areas, nomads, families of labourers engaged in construction work, and families living in brick kilns.

### Diarrhoeal Disease

- Diarrhoea is defined as the **passage of three or more loose or liquid stools per day (or more frequent passage than is normal for the individual)**.
- The most severe threat posed by diarrhoea is dehydration.
- During a diarrhoeal episode, **water and electrolytes (sodium, chloride, potassium and bicarbonate) are lost through liquid stools, vomit, sweat, urine and breathing**.
- Dehydration occurs when these losses are not replaced.

Note:

**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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