



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

MADHYA PRADESH

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## PepsiCo India Establishing Flavor Plant in Madhya Pradesh

### Why in News?

Recently, **PepsiCo India** announced to invest Rs 1,266 crore to set up a flavour manufacturing facility at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh as part of its expansion plans in the country.

### Key Points

- The plant, spread over 22 acres, will play a significant role in scaling up PepsiCo's beverage production in India, **generating employment and positively impacting the local economy.**
  - The construction of the upcoming plant is slated to **start in 2024** and is expected **to be operational in the first quarter of 2026.**
  - The new unit will be the company's second flavour manufacturing facility in India. **PepsiCo's first flavour manufacturing facility is in Channo, Punjab.**
- PepsiCo India said in line with its global sustainability goals, the new manufacturing facility will **operate entirely on renewable energy sources** leading to a **reduction in carbon footprint** by an impressive **1.9 metric tonne per day.**
- With **zero liquid discharge technology**, the plant aims to achieve approximately **90% overall water efficiency**, ensuring responsible management of water resources, and replenishing 100% of the water used at the facility.

**Note:** The components of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), including **reverse osmosis**, enable extensive reuse and recovery of water and salts, and the process minimizes the freshwater requirements.

## World's Oldest Ghost Fair in Madhya Pradesh

### Why in News?

The Ghost fair, also known as 'bhooton ka mela' is a **400 years old fair** organised every year in the village of **Malajpur (Betul district), Madhya Pradesh.**

- The fair attracts **pilgrims, mystics, and curious travellers** from across the globe.

### Key Points

- Every year **on the occasion of Basant Panchami** a fair is conducted on the Tombstone of Hindu Saint "**Gurusahab Baba**".
  - This ghost fair is celebrated for three weeks, and people '**possessed**' by **evil spirits**, visit the village to get rid of such negative energies.
- According to the legend, Malajpur Ghost Fair dates back to the 18th century when a man called Deoji Maharaj with **magical powers**, visited the village. Eventually he started controlling spirits and exorcising people.

## Kuno National Park

### Why in News?

Tourists are visiting **Kuno National Park** located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, to see **Cheetahs.**

### Key Points

- **Kuno National Park** is home to several cheetahs translocated from **Namibia and South Africa.**
  - The Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India formally commenced on September 17, 2022, to restore **the population of cheetahs**, which were declared **extinct in the country in 1952.**
  - The project is implemented by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in collaboration with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, and cheetah experts from Namibia and South Africa.

Note:



# Cheetah

**Common Name** - Cheetah

**Scientific Name** - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)



## Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

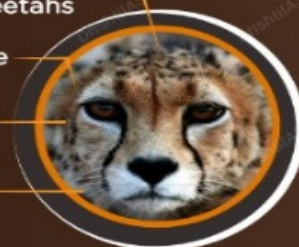
- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
  - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
  - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
  - The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter- continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

**IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable**



**African Cheetah**

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

**IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered**



**Asiatic Cheetah**



Note:

## Shakti - Festival of Music and Dance

### Why in News?

To rejuvenate the Temple Traditions in the country **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, under the series of **Kala Pravah**, is organising the festival under the title 'Shakti a festival of music and dance' during the holy Navaratri from 9th April 2024.

### Key Points

- The inauguration of the Shakti festival will begin from the **Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati** and this will be continued at **Mahalakshmi Temple, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Jwalamukhi Temple, Kangada, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura Sundari, Udaipur, Tripura, Ambaji Temple, Banaskantha, Gujarat, Jai Durga Shaktipeeth, Deoghar, Jharkhand** and it will be concluded on 17th April, 2024 at **Shaktipeeth Maa Harsidhi Temple, Jaisinghpur, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**.

### Sangeet Natak Akademi

- It is **India's national academy for music, dance and drama**.
- It was **created** by a resolution of the (then) Ministry of Education, Government of India, in **1952 with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman**.
- It is presently an **Autonomous Body** of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.
- It has been working towards the **preservation, research, promotion and rejuvenation of performing art forms of the country** expressed in the form of music, dance, drama, folk and tribal art forms and other allied art forms of the country.

## First Edition of the Ujjain Trade Fair

### Why in News?

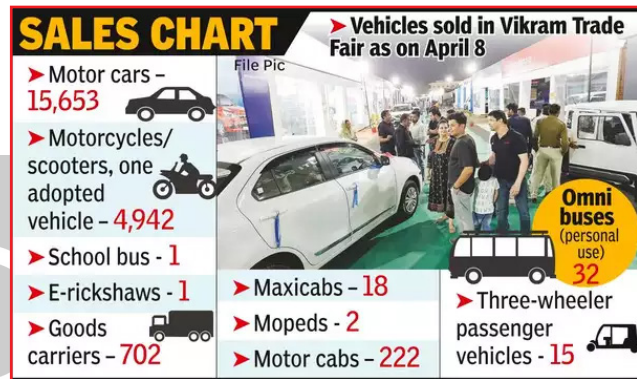
Recently, the first edition of the **Ujjain trade fair** concluded with more than **23,700 vehicles** sold in over a month making a business of over **Rs 1,200 crore**.

### Key Points

- According to the **Ujjain Regional Transport Office**

(RTO), tax rebate and revenues on vehicles sold in the **40-day long Ujjain trade fair** stood at more than Rs 125 crore.

- It is higher by over 20% from the tax exemptions offered in the **Gwalior mela** concluded in February 2024.
- The state government had offered a **50% discount in the lifetime motor vehicle tax rate** on the sale of non-transport vehicles and light transport vehicles in the Ujjain Vikram Trade Fair.
  - **Non-transport light motor vehicles** are for personal use like a car, while **light transport motor vehicles** are used for carrying passengers and goods.



## Gudi Padwa

### Why in News?

Recently, people celebrated the auspicious occasion of **Gudi Padwa** symbolising the commencement of the **Hindu New Year** with joy and religious fervour.

### Key Points

- Devotees also embarked on the nine-day **Chaitra Shukla Pratipada**:
  - It marks the beginning of the **new year of the Vikram Samvat** also known as the **Vedic [Hindu] calendar**.
  - Vikram Samvat is based on the day when the emperor Vikramaditya defeated Sakas, invaded Ujjain and called for a new era.
  - Under his supervision, astronomers formed a new calendar based on the **luni-solar system** that is still followed in the northern regions of India.

Note:

- It is the first day during the waxing phase (in which the visible side of the moon is getting bigger every night) of the moon in the **Chaitra (first month of Hindu calendar)**.

#### Gudi Padwa and Ugadi

- The people of **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka** celebrate the New Year as **Ugadi** while **Maharashtra and Goa** mark the day's celebrations with **Gudi Padwa**.
- The common practice in the celebrations of both the festivals is the **festive food** that is prepared with a **mix of sweet and bitter**.
- A famous concoction served is jaggery (sweet) and neem (bitter), called **bevu-bella** in the South, signifying that life brings both happiness and sorrows.
- **Gudi** is a doll prepared in **Maharashtrian** homes.
  - A bamboo stick is adorned with green or red brocade to make the gudi. This gudi is placed prominently in the house or outside a window/door for all to see.
- For **Ugadi**, doors in homes are adorned with **mango leaf** decorations called **toranalu** or **Torana** in **Kannada**.

when it was battered by strong 50 kmph winds during a summer storm recently.

- The Omkareshwar Dam backwaters will house plants with capacities of 100 megawatts in Kelwa Khurd, 88 megawatts in Indawadi and 90 megawatts in Ekhand village.

#### The Omkareshwar Dam

- It is a gravity dam on the **Narmada River** just upstream of Mandhata in **Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is **named after the Omkareshwar temple** located just downstream.
- The dam was **constructed between 2003 and 2007** with the **purpose of providing water for irrigation** of 132,500 ha (327,000 acres).
- An associated hydroelectric power station located at the base of the dam has an installed capacity of 520 MW.

## Storm Damages World's Biggest Floating Solar Plant

### Why in News?

The biggest floating solar plant in the world located at **Omkareshwar Dam, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh** has sustained severe damage due to a storm.

### Key Points

- **Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation (NHDC)** has initiated an assessment of the harm but remains positive that the **plant will resume power generation** shortly.
  - The Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited (NHDC Limited) is a **joint venture between the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC Limited)**.
- The floating structure, constructed on the backwaters of Omkareshwar Dam, was all set for deployment

## New Curriculum for Fourth Year UG Students

### Why in News?

With the upcoming session, the **Department of Higher Education (DHE) in Madhya Pradesh** has formulated a **new curriculum for undergraduate** students who are starting their fourth year under the **National Education Policy 2020**.

### Key Points

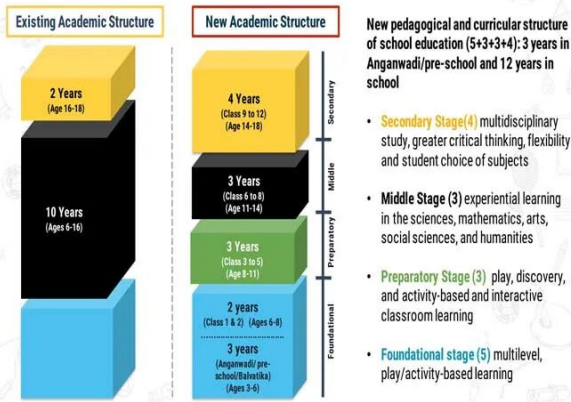
- Madhya Pradesh has become one of the primary states in India in carrying out the **National Education Policy**.
  - More than **450,000 students in undergraduate professional courses** in the state can apply for admission in the fourth year if they have a **CGPA of 7.5 or above**.
- According to the new curriculum developed by the DHE, students can specialize in different subjects through **research projects**.
- The switch to four-year programs is anticipated to be advantageous for students who plan to study further on international soil, as it matches the entry criteria for specific graduate courses abroad.

Note:

### National Education Policy 2020

- The **National Education Policy 2020** seeks to tackle the evolving development needs of India.
  - It calls for a **comprehensive overhaul of the education system**, including its **regulations and management**, to establish a modern system that aligns with 21st-century educational goals, including **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)**, while respecting India's cultural **heritage and values**.
- It replaces the thirty-four year old **National Policy on Education, 1986, modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92)**.

#### Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



## Spreading Awareness on Cleanliness

### Why in News?

Women from a **self-help group** in **Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh**, are going door-to-door to raise awareness about cleanliness among the locals.

### Key Points

- The **municipal corporation** has offered a **special job to women in self-help groups to promote cleanliness in households** in the region, paying them **₹100 for the task**.
- Under this initiative, women associated with the **Vaibhav Lakshmi Self-Help Group** are going door-to-door in areas like Mahajanapeth and Shikarpura and spreading information related to cleanliness to the locals.

### Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- These are **informal associations** of people who choose to come together to find ways to **improve their living conditions**.
- It can be defined as a **self governed, peer controlled information group** of people with **similar socio-economic background** and having a desire to collectively perform common purpose.
- Villages face numerous problems related to **poverty, illiteracy, lack of skills, lack of formal credit** etc. These problems cannot be tackled at an individual level and need collective efforts.
- Thus SHG can become a vehicle of change for the **poor and marginalized**. SHG relies on the notion of **"Self Help"** to encourage **self-employment** and poverty alleviation.

## Meteorological Department Issues Warning in Madhya Pradesh

### Why in News?

The **Meteorological Department** in Madhya Pradesh has issued a **warning for 15 districts**. Over the past few days, the state has experienced storms, rain, and hailstorms in various areas.

### Key Points

- Due to **western disturbance, cyclonic circulation** and trough line, a strong system is active in the state. There may be more activity of two western disturbances in the coming days. Due to this, rain and hail are expected.
  - The Meteorological Department has also issued **advisory for the people**.

### Western Disturbances

- These are a series of **cyclonic storms that originate in the Mediterranean region, travel over 9,000 km to bring winter rains to northwest India**.
  - A Western Disturbance **collects moisture from the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea** and traverses over **Iran and Afghanistan before hitting the western Himalayas**.

Note:

- Western Disturbances are the **primary source of snowfall that replenishes the Himalayan glaciers** during winter.
- These glaciers **feed major Himalayan rivers like the Ganga, Indus and Yamuna** as well as myriad mountain springs and rivulets.

#### Monsoon Trough

- A **trough is a belt of low pressure extending to a large area**. This trough is seen during monsoon period, hence known as **Monsoon trough**.
- Monsoon trough is a **part of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** where the northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere winds meet.
- This is **normally shown as a line connecting the location of monsoon low pressure areas**. These troughs run across continents during peak monsoon periods.

## Eurasian Otter Radio-Tagged in Satpura Tiger Reserve

### Why in News?

For the first time in India, a **Eurasian otter** was radio-tagged in the **Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR)** in **Narmadapuram district** in Madhya Pradesh.

### Key Points

- There are three species of otters commonly found in India— **smooth-coated otter, Asian small-clawed otter, and Eurasian otter**.
- Apart from the smooth-coated otter, there had been no proof of the presence of the remaining two otter species in Central India until 2016 when the Eurasian otter was first captured on camera in STR, marking the expansion of the species' habitat to Central India.
- To fill this deficiency, a **project was launched in Satpura in 2019** by the Madhya Pradesh forest department in partnership with **Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT)**.
  - The aim is to investigate the ecology of Eurasian otters and explore forest riverine ecosystems, with backing from the Astral Foundation and the Alkyl Amines Foundation.

- Wildlife Conservation Trust is an Indian not-for-profit organisation based in Mumbai which was registered in 2002.

#### Smooth-Coated Otter



- It is a species of otter. Its scientific name is *Lutrogale perspicillata*.
- **Distribution:**
  - They are found throughout much of **southern Asia, from India eastward**.
  - There is also an **isolated population found in the marshes of Iraq**.
- **Habitat:**
  - They are mostly found in lowlands, coastal mangrove forests, peat swamp forests, freshwater wetlands, large forested rivers, lakes, and rice paddies.
  - Some build permanent burrows near water with an underwater entrance and a tunnel that leads to a chamber above the high-water line.
  - Although adapted for water, smooth-coated otters are equally comfortable on land and can travel long distances overland in search of suitable habitat.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**

Note:



### Small-Clawed Otter



- Its scientific name is *Aonyx cinereus*.
- Distribution:
  - It has a wide distribution range, extending through India in South Asia to eastwards in Southeast Asia and Southern China.
  - In India it is found mostly in the protected areas of West Bengal, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh and in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and some parts of Kerala in the Western Ghats region.
- They are primarily found in freshwater habitats such as rivers, streams, and wetlands.
- They feed on fish, crustaceans, and mollusks.
- Conservation Status:
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable

### Eurasian Otter



- **About:**
  - It is a **semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal**.
  - Its scientific name is *Lutra lutra*.

### ➤ Distribution:

- It has one of the **widest distributions of all Palaearctic mammals**.
- Its range covers parts of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- In India, it occurs in **northern, northeast, and southern India**.

### ➤ Habitat:

- It lives in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests, and coastal areas.
- In the Indian subcontinent, Eurasian otters occur in cold hills and mountain streams.

### ➤ Conservation Status:

- **IUCN:** Near threatened
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule II
- **CITES:** Appendix I

## MP's UNESCO Digital Innovations

### Why in News?

In commemoration of **World Heritage Day (18th April)**, **Madhya Pradesh Tourism** is spearheading notable technological advancements across the state's **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** listed and tentative heritage sites.

### Key Points

- These endeavors underscore a steadfast dedication to **heritage preservation** while aiming to elevate the visitor experience through cutting-edge technology.
- Renowned for its cultural richness and diversity, Madhya Pradesh proudly boasts **three UNESCO World Heritage Sites**:
  - The **Khajuraho Group of Monuments**, renowned for its intricate erotic sculptures;
  - The **Stupas at Sanchi**, among India's oldest stone structures symbolizing Buddhism.
  - The **prehistoric Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka**, adorned with ancient rock paintings depicting early human life.
- Complementing these are 10 sites on the Tentative List, including:

Note:

- the picturesque **Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat in Jabalpur**, the architecturally significant **Mandu Group of Monuments**, the historical ensemble of **Orchha featuring grand temples and palaces**, the biodiversity-rich **Satpura Tiger Reserve**, the storied **Gwalior Fort**, the innovative water management system of **Khooni Bhandara in Burhanpur**, the **Rock Art Sites of the Chambal Valley** showcasing ancient artistic expressions, the monumental **Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple in Bhojpur**, culturally significant **Gond monuments** of Ramnagar and Mandla, and the historical ensemble of Dhamnar illustrating monastic traditions.
- Among the notable advancements are:
  - QR code-based audio guides offering in-depth narratives at major museums and monuments.
  - Captivating lights and sound shows have been introduced in various cities, including Sanchi, Orchha, Mandu, etc.
  - Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR & VR) experiences with Oculus devices, integration of WhatsApp for enhanced convenience, online ticket booking systems for streamlined access, and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping for meticulous documentation and preservation of the state's monuments.

#### Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)

- These temples were built during the **Chandella dynasty**, which reached its pinnacle between 950 and 1050.
- Only 20 temples remain, belonging to two different religions namely-Hinduism and Jainism, including the famous **Temple of Kandariya** decorated with intricately and beautifully carved sculptures.

#### Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)

- These shelters are located within the **foothills of Vindhya range**, on the southern edge of the **central Indian plateau**.
- Unearthed in the form of five clusters of natural rock shelters exhibiting paintings that date back to the Mesolithic, and other periods succeeding it.
- The cultural traditions of the inhabitants in surrounding areas are very similar to those displayed in the paintings.

#### Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)

- It is the **oldest Buddhist sanctuary** in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India **until the 12th century A.D.**
- Consists of monolithic pillars, palaces, temples and monasteries all in different states of conservation most of which **date back to the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.**

## Madhya Pradesh Rivers Pollution

### Why in News?

**Pollution** is on the rise in numerous **major rivers across Madhya Pradesh**, presenting a grave concern for the **state's environmental health**.

### Key Points

- The cleanliness of key rivers like **Narmada, Kshipra, and Betwa** has been a recurring issue in Lok Sabha, Assembly, and urban body elections over the past 15 years.
- Despite the implementation of various schemes such as the **Namami Gange Mission and National River Conservation**, pollution levels continue to rise due to a lack of interest and commitment from regional public representatives and responsible officials.
- The condition of the **Narmada River**, considered the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh, is particularly dire in terms of pollution.
- In addition to the Narmada, other significant rivers like **Mahi, Tapti, Kali Sindh, Chambal, Parbati, Dhasan, Ken, Sindh, Kuno, Shipra, Betwa, and the Son River** - the largest tributary joining the Ganga from the south-are also experiencing increasing pollution levels.

#### Namami Gange

- Namami Gange Programme 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**.

Note:

- The program is being **implemented by the NMCG and its state counterpart organizations** i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- In **phase 2 of Namami Gange Programme (2021-26)**, the states will focus on expeditious completion of projects and preparation of bankable Detailed Project Report (DPR) for projects in Ganga tributary towns, cutting down delays.
  - Focus is also being given to the **revival of small rivers and wetlands**.
  - For the future, each Ganga district is to develop scientific plans and health cards for at least 10 wetlands and adopt policies for reuse of treated water and other by-products.

#### National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)

- NRCP is a **centrally funded scheme** launched in 1995 aimed at preventing the pollution of rivers.
- Programs for river conservation are being implemented under **National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority)**.
  - The National Ganga Council, also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga, has replaced the NGRBA.

## Ashwagandha

### Why in News?

Ashwagandha is growing in popularity, both in India and abroad. It is an **evergreen shrub** found in parts of **India, Africa, and the Middle East**.

### Key Points

- **Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera)** is a medicinal herb. It is reputed as an immunity enhancer.
- It is classified as an **adaptogen**, which means that it can **help the body to manage stress**.
- Ashwagandha also boosts brain function and lowers blood sugar and helps fight symptoms of anxiety and depression.
- Ashwagandha has shown clinical success in **treating both acute and chronic rheumatoid arthritis**.
  - **Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)** is an autoimmune disease that can **cause joint pain and damage throughout your body**.

- An autoimmune disease is a condition in which your immune system mistakenly attacks your body.
- Being **hardy and drought tolerant** species with its enormous **biocompounds**, its usage is forever regarded and continues to enjoy the monopoly in many parts of India, particularly in **Madhya Pradesh**.
  - It grows in **dry parts in sub-tropical regions**. Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are the **major Ashwagandha producing states** of the country.
  - In Madhya Pradesh it is cultivated in more than 5000 hectares.
- The estimated production of Ashwagandha roots in India is more than 1500 tonnes and the annual requirement is about 7000 tonnes necessitating the increase in its cultivation and higher production.



## Impact of the Forest Rights Act on Land Conflicts

### Why in News?

Recently, **Land Conflict Watch**, a data research agency, tracking land-related conflicts in India, has noted a significant correlation between land conflicts and the enforcement of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006**.

### Key Points

- **FRA enacted in 2006 recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities** and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources on which these communities **were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation** and other sociocultural needs.

Note:

- Out of the 781 conflicts documented in the **Land Conflict Watch (LCW)** database, a subset of 264 conflicts has been closely linked to **parliamentary constituencies** where the Forest Rights Act (FRA) is an important issue.
- These constituencies are commonly referred to as **'FRA constituencies'** based on the **People's Forest report (by Centre for Science and Environment)**.
- Maharashtra, Odisha, and **Madhya Pradesh** have the **highest number of core FRA** constituencies.
- The states with the most forest rights issues in **critical FRA constituencies** are Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Status of Implementation of FRA

- **Titles Accorded:** As of February 2024, approximately **2.45 million titles have been granted to tribal and forest dwellers**.
  - However, out of **five million claims received, about 34% have been rejected**.
- **Recognition Rate:** Despite the vast potential, the actual recognition of forest rights has been limited. As of 31st August 2021, **only 14.75% of the minimum potential forest areas eligible for forest rights have been recognised** since the FRA came into force.
- **State Variations:**
  - **Andhra Pradesh:** Recognized 23% of its minimum potential forest claim.
  - **Jharkhand:** Recognized only 5% of its minimum potential forest area.
  - **Intra-State Variations:** Even within states, recognition rates vary. For instance, in Odisha, while the district of Nabarangapur achieved a 100% IFR recognition rate, Sambalpur's rate stands at 41.34%.

## Special Breed Cows in Madhya Pradesh

### Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister welcomed a pair of **Punganur cows**, specially brought from Andhra Pradesh.

### Key Points

- The Punganur cow is a dwarf cattle breed native to the Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the **world's smallest humped cattle breeds**.

- It has **high resilience to drought** and can adapt to low-quality feed.
- It is also **prized for its milk**, which boasts a higher fat content, making it ideal for producing ghee.
  - A Punganur cow can give around 1 to 3 litres a day, and the milk fat content is 8% as compared to 3 to 4% in other native breeds.
  - The milk is also rich in nutrients such as **Omega fatty acids, calcium, potassium, and magnesium**.
- It has a **broad forehead and short horns**. The horns are **crested-shaped** and often lose curving backward and forward in males and lateral and forward in females.
- Punganur cows are considered **eco-friendly, requiring less water, feed, and space** compared to **hybrid breeds**.
- Many temples in Andhra Pradesh, including the famous **Tirupati Tirumala Temple**, use the milk of a Punganur cow for **Ksheera Abhishekam (milk offering to the deity)**.



## National Parks in Madhya Pradesh

### Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh, often referred to as the "Heart of India," is renowned for its **rich biodiversity and natural landscapes**. The state is home to a total of **11 national parks**, each offering a **unique ecosystem and a diverse array of flora and fauna**.

### Key Points

- From dense forests to sprawling grasslands, Madhya Pradesh's national parks provide habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, including **Bengal tigers, leopards, deer species like barasingha, and numerous bird species**.

Note:

- The parks also play a crucial role in the **conservation of endangered species** and contribute significantly to the state's **eco-tourism sector**.
- **Bandhavgarh National Park:**
  - Known for its high density of **Bengal tigers**, Bandhavgarh National Park is one of the most popular **tiger reserves in India**. It also houses various other **wildlife species** such as **leopards, deer, and numerous bird species**.
- **Kanha National Park:**
  - Famous for its diverse wildlife and lush landscapes, Kanha National Park **inspired Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book**. It is renowned for its significant population of **Bengal tigers**, as well as **barasingha (swamp deer)** and other species of deer.



Note:

- **Dinosaur Fossil National Park:**
  - Located in **Dhar district**, this national park **preserves the fossilised remains of dinosaurs** that roamed the region millions of years ago. Visitors can explore the fossil beds and learn about the prehistoric creatures that once inhabited the area.
- **Ghughua Fossil National Park:**
  - Situated near **Shahpura**, Ghughua Fossil National Park is renowned for its large **collection of plant fossils** dating back to the **Jurassic period**. Visitors can observe the well-preserved fossils embedded in the rocks.
- **Kuno National Park:**
  - It was initially **established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1981**. It covers an area of 344.686 sq km in the **Sheopur and Morena districts**. The main predators in the area include the Indian leopard, Southeast African cheetah, jungle cat, sloth bear, dhole, Indian wolf, Indian jackal, striped hyena, and Bengal fox. Ungulates found here include **chital, sambar, nilgai, chousingha, chinkara, blackbuck, and wild boar**.
- **Madhav National Park:**
  - Nestled in the **Vindhya Range (Gwalior district)**, Madhav National Park is characterised by its diverse flora and fauna, including **deer, leopards, and various bird species**. It also surrounds the scenic Madhav Sagar Lake.
- **Panna National Park:**
  - It is renowned for its efforts in **tiger conservation** and is home to a significant population of these majestic cats. The park also boasts a rich biodiversity, including various species of **deer, antelope, and birds**.
- **Pench National Park:**
  - Located on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, **Pench National Park is famous for its dense forests and diverse wildlife**. Visitors can spot tigers, leopards, sloth bears, and a variety of bird species.
- **Sanjay National Park:**
  - This national park, located in the **Chhattisgarh-Madhya Pradesh border region**, is known for its pristine forests and diverse flora and fauna. It is a **part of the Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve** and provides habitat for **tigers, leopards, and other wildlife**.

- **Satpura National Park:**
  - It is characterised by its rugged **terrain, deep valleys, and dense forests**. It offers a unique experience of exploring the wilderness through **jeep safaris, boat rides, and walking trails, allowing visitors to encounter wildlife like tigers, leopards, and sloth bears**.
- **Van Vihar National Park:**
  - Situated in **Bhopal**, Van Vihar National Park is a unique urban national park that aims to **conserve biodiversity within an urban setting**. It provides a natural habitat for various species of animals, including **deer, monkeys, and birds**, and offers a serene environment for visitors to enjoy nature walks and wildlife viewing.

## Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Complex

### Why in News?

The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, is conducting a scientific survey at the medieval-era Bhojshala complex on High Court's direction. It has sought eight more weeks to complete the exercise.

- Bhojshala complex is located in **Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh**.

### Key Points

- Hindus consider Bhojshala, an **ASI-protected 11th-century monument**, to be a **temple** dedicated to **Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati)**, while the **Muslim community call it Kamal Maula Mosque**.
- As per an arrangement made by the ASI on 7th April 2003, Hindus perform puja in the Bhojshala premises on Tuesdays, while Muslims offer namaz in the complex on Fridays.
- The **high court** had on 11th March 2024 **ordered the ASI to conduct a "scientific survey"** of the Bhojshala-Kamal Moola mosque complex **within six weeks**.
- According to ASI, a detailed survey of the complex and its peripheral area is in progress using scientific tools, and the team is conducting detailed documentation of the entire monument.
  - Excavation, which is a very systematic and slow process, is also in progress, and more time will be needed to understand the nature of exposed portions of the structures.

Note:

- On close examination of the monument, it is observed that later filling in the entrance porch is hiding the original features of the structure, and its removal is to be done very carefully, without causing any damage to the original structure, which is a slow and time-taking process.
- The ASI has requested the **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** to conduct a **Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey**.
  - A team from the NGRI and their scientists were surveying the entire area regularly, strictly complying with the directions passed by the High Court.

**Note:** The **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** is a geoscientific research organization established in **1961** under the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

#### Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)

- **Archiological Survey of India (ASI)** uses **GPR** to produce a **3-D model** of buried archaeological features.
- GPR operates by introducing a short radar impulse from a surface antenna and records the time and magnitude of return signals from the subsoil.
- Radar beam spreads like a **cone**, causing reflections before the antenna passes over the object.
- Radar beams spread out in a cone, leading to reflections that may not directly correspond to physical dimensions, creating false images.

## Madhya Pradesh to Boost Cruise Tourism

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** and the **Government of Gujarat** to elevate **cruise tourism** in Madhya Pradesh.



Note:

### Key Points

- Under this collaboration, **two floating jetties, known as pontoons**, have been dispatched from Kolkata to Kukshi in the state.
  - The proposed cruise route is set to embark from **Ekatma Dham (Statue of Oneness)** in **Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh**, and voyage to the **Statue of Unity in Kevadiya, Gujarat**.
- According to the terms outlined in the MoU, IWAI is committed to providing two floating jetties to both Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
- Additional **infrastructure and amenities for cruise tourism will be developed by the state** government, fostering economic growth in the region and extending benefits to the local populace.
- **Cruise tourism** promises not only to **enrich the tourism landscape** but also to offer tourists an immersive experience of the local culture, traditions, lifestyle, and cuisine amid the scenic vistas of the **Narmada River**.

#### Narmada River

- The Narmada River (also known as Rewa) serves as a traditional boundary between North and South India.
- It is 1,312 km west of its origin from the **Amarkantak peak** of Maikal mountain. It flows into the **Gulf of Khambhat**.
- It drains a large area in Madhya Pradesh besides some areas in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- **It is a West flowing river of the peninsular region** flowing through a rift valley between the Vindhya Range on the north and the Satpura Range on the south.
- **Tributaries:**
  - The **predominant tributaries from the right** are – Hiran, Tendori, Barna, Kolar, Man, Uri, Hatni, and Orsang.
  - The **predominant left tributaries are** – Burner, Banjar, Sher, Shakkar, Dudhi, Tawa, Ganjal, Chhota Tawa, Kundi, Goi, and Karjan.
- **Dams:**
  - The Major dams on the river include Omkareshwar and Maheshwar dams.



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Note: