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(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

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Ayodhya Deepotsav 2024

Why in News?

Recently, preparations for the 8th **Deepotsav in Ayodhya** have intensified under **Chief Minister's** guidance to make this year's event the grandest one.

Key Points

- A total of **18 tableaux** depicting pivotal moments in **Lord Ram's life** will be displayed, symbolizing Ayodhya's deep **cultural heritage**.
 - Key events such as his **marriage, exile, and victory over Ravana** will be represented.
- The **Information Department** is creating 11 tableaux, while the **Tourism Department** is crafting seven, focusing on the seven chapters of the **Ram Charit Manas**, such as **Bal Kand and Lanka Kand**.
- Ayodhya will be illuminated extensively, with diverse lighting enhancing the city's festive spirit.

Ramlila (North India)

- Ramlila, literally "**Rama's play**" is a performance of **Ramayana epic** in a series of scenes that include song, narration, recital and dialogue.
- It recalls the battle between Rama and Ravana and consists of a series of dialogues between gods, sages and the faithful.
- It is performed across northern India during the festival of **Dussehra**.
- The most representative Ramlilas are those of **Ayodhya**, Ramnagar and **Benares, Vrindavan**, Almora, Sattna and **Madhubani**.
- This staging of the Ramayana is based on the **Ramcharitmanas** which was composed by **Tulsidas** in the 16th century AD.

Green Ayodhya Fund Initiative

Why in News?

Recently, Ayodhya introduced the **Green Ayodhya Fund** to drive sustainable **urban development** and environmental conservation.

Key Points

- **Objective:**
 - The fund aims to promote **eco-friendly** initiatives, sustainable urban planning, and conservation efforts to create a greener Ayodhya.
 - It supports projects on **waste management, renewable energy**, urban greenery, and **pollution reduction**, aligning with environmental goals for sustainable urban landscapes.
- **Public Involvement:**
 - The fund encourages community participation and donations to support initiatives, fostering a sense of shared responsibility in **environmental conservation**.

Ram Temple

- **Traditional Architecture and Construction:**
 - This is a 3-storey temple, built in the traditional Nagara style, standing tall with pink sandstone from Mirzapur and the hills of Bansi-Paharpur (Rajasthan).
 - Temple covers an expansive 71 acres, showcasing the architectural marvel.
- **Temple Dimensions:**
 - Spanning 250 feet in width and 161 feet in height, the main temple area covers 2.67 acres, boasting 390 pillars, 46 doorways, and 5 mandaps.
- **Unique Features Inside:**
 - The main Garbh Griha holds the idols of Ram Lalla, accompanied by multiple mandaps, including Rang Mandap & Nriya Mandap.
- **Innovative Anointment Tradition:**
 - On every Ram Navami at noon, a system of mirrors and lenses will focus the sun's rays on Ram Lalla's idol. This unique anointment requires no electricity, utilizing brass instead of iron or steel.
- **Sculptor's Contribution:**
 - The idol of five-year-old Ram Lalla, crafted by Mysuru sculptor Arun Yogiraj, stands at 51 inches and was consecrated in a special ceremony.
- **Durability and Symbolism:**
 - No iron has been used in the temple's construction, designed to endure for at least a millennium.

Note:

Uttar Pradesh's Path to Economic Leadership

Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister highlighted **Uttar Pradesh's rapid growth** towards becoming India's top economy, driven by infrastructural, industrial, and agricultural advancements.

Key Points

- **GSDP Growth:** UP's **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** is expected to surpass Rs. 32 trillion by FY25, up from Rs.26 trillion in FY24.
 - The government's crackdown on crime and land mafias has helped in reclaiming **64,000 hectares** of land to create space for businesses.
 - The government highlighted **Rs. 40 trillion FDI proposals** and 15 million job opportunities.
- **Focus on Traditional Sectors:** Support for industries like **Moradabad's brass, Firozabad's glass, and Bhadohi's carpets.**
- **Ease of Doing Business:** UP ranked **2nd** in **EODB**, transitioning from **14th** place in 2017.
 - UP's annual budget increased from **Rs. 2 trillion to Rs.7.5 trillion since 2017.**
 - **Rs.1.5 trillion** worth of infrastructure projects are underway.
- **Tourism Boost:** Cultural sites like **Ayodhya, Varanasi,** and Mathura attract millions of tourists.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Half of India's **expressways** and 21 airports are in UP.
- **Startup Ecosystem:** The **'Nivesh Mitra' platform** streamlines investment, supporting MSMEs and startups.
- **Agriculture and Rural Growth:** **NABARD** has provided Rs. 1 trillion in funding, and nearly 10,000 **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** are operational.

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

- FPOs are voluntary organizations controlled by their **farmer-members** who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.

- They are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without **gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.**
- FPOs operatives provide education and training for their farmer-members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their FPOs.
- FPOs in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other states have shown encouraging results and have been able to realise higher returns for their produce.
 - For example, tribal women in the Pali district of Rajasthan formed a producer company and they are getting higher prices for custard apples.

New Noida Development Plan

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government approved the development of **New Noida City** to boost residential, industrial, and **logistics infrastructure** by **2041.**

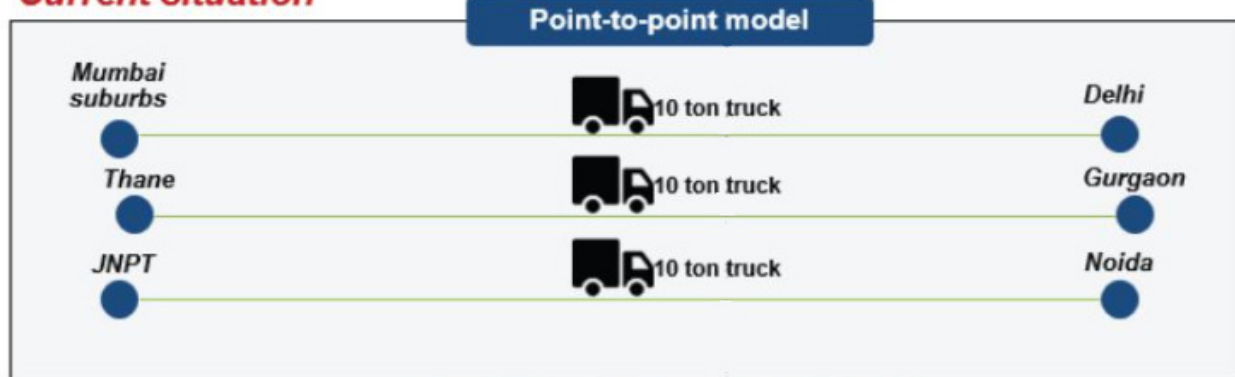
Key Points

- **Location:**
 - Spanning 209.11 sq. km, covering 84 villages in **Gautam Buddha Nagar** and Bulandshahr districts.
- **Features:**
 - Balance residential distribution and align with future growth.
 - Affordable homes for all categories, especially industrial workers.
 - Industrial hubs, **Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MMTH), and Logistics Hub (MMLH).**
- **Phased Development:**
 - **Phase 1 (2024-2028):** Develop arterial roads over **1,432 hectares.**
 - **Phase 2 (2028-2034):** Focus on Northern and Southern zones; develop 3,136 hectares.
 - **Phase 3 (2033-2039):** Commercial and industrial spaces; develop 5,908 hectares.
 - **Phase 4 (2037-2043):** Finalize industrial, public spaces, and residential areas.

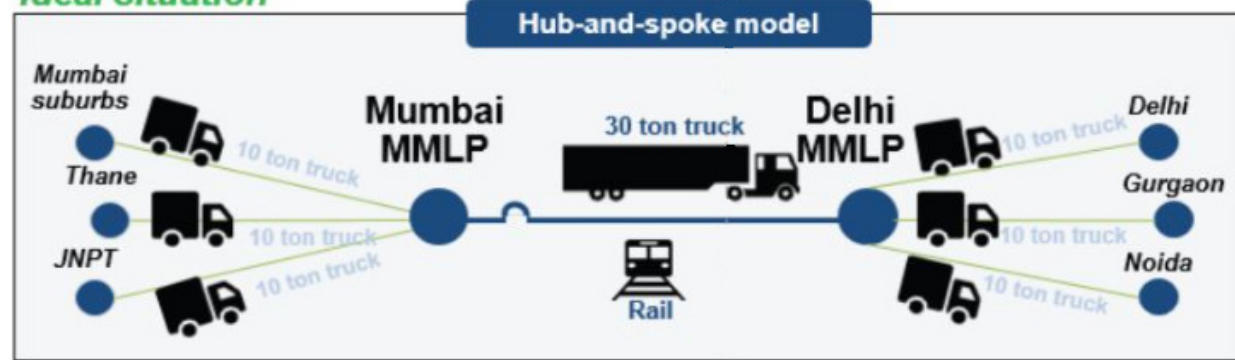
Note:

Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP)

Current situation



Ideal situation



➤ About:

- Developed under a 'Hub & Spoke' model, the MMLP will integrate multiple modes of freight transport through highways, railways & inland waterways.
- The **Multi Modal Logistic Park project** is poised to develop state-of-the-art large scale warehousing facilities for different types of commodities, to become a one stop solution for all services related to cargo movement like warehousing, custom clearance, parking, maintenance of trucks etc.
 - It will have all the facilities like **warehouses, railway siding, cold storage, custom clearance house, yard facility, workshops, petrol pumps, truck parking, administrative building, boarding lodging, eating joints, water treatment plant, etc.**

➤ Focus:

- The MMLPs will focus on a **technology driven implementation** for a state-of-the-art freight management system.
 - Many value-added services like packaging, repackaging and labelling will be available in these projects.
- **MMLP will be a freight handling facility** for mechanised material handling and value-added services along with other associated facilities.

Kashi to Emerge as a Big Centre of Healthcare

Why in News?

Recently, during his visit to Varanasi, the Prime Minister **inaugurated the RJ Sankara Eye Hospital**.

- Kashi, traditionally known as a hub of religion and spirituality, is now also emerging as a **significant healthcare center**. The hospital's establishment represents a fusion of modern healthcare and spiritual heritage.

Note:

Key Points

- The newly inaugurated hospital will conduct 30,000 **free eye surgeries annually for patients from economically disadvantaged backgrounds**, following a cross-subsidization model where 75% of surgeries will be free and funded through the revenue generated from paying patients who constitute 25% of the beneficiaries.
- The facility will cater to the eye care needs of elderly individuals, children, and people **from 20 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh**, as well as residents of nearby states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.
- Other Launched Projects:
 - PM's visit to Varanasi included **launching several development initiatives valued at over ₹6,700 crore**, including multiple airport projects.
 - At the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, he **laid the foundation for the expansion of the runway, a new terminal building**, and associated infrastructure at an estimated cost of ₹2,870 crore.

Note:

- **Kashi Vishvanath Temple** is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
 - Varanasi city is also called **Kashi**, and hence the temple is popularly called Kashi Vishvanath Temple.
- The temple **stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga**, and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shivatemple.
- The **main deity is known by the name Vishvanatha or Vishveshvara** meaning "Ruler of The Universe".

Govt Plans Pre-Diwali Gifts for UP Employees

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government is expected to offer multiple benefits to state employees ahead of **Diwali**.

Key Points

- **Three Potential Benefits:**
 - **Dearness Allowance (DA) Hike:** A 4% increase in **DA**, bringing more financial relief to state employees by adjusting their income to match **inflation**.
 - **Bonus Announcement:** The state government may provide a Diwali bonus to employees, offering additional financial support for the festive season.

- **Retirement Age Review:** Discussions are ongoing about possibly increasing the **retirement age** for specific government employees.
- **Dearness Allowance (DA):**
 - It is the cost-of-living adjustment to **offset inflation**, provided to government employees and pensioners. It is calculated as a percentage of the **basic salary**.
- **Impact on Economy:**
 - **Increased Consumer Spending:** The hike boosts disposable income, especially around festive periods, spurring consumer demand.
 - **Inflation Control:** DA helps employees manage inflation, but an increase in demand could potentially raise inflation if supply doesn't keep pace.
 - **Fiscal Pressure:** For the government, DA hikes increase expenditure, which may strain the fiscal budget but stimulate economic growth through consumption.

Inflation

- **Inflation**, as defined by the **International Monetary Fund**, is the rate of increase in prices over a given period, encompassing a broad measure of overall price increases or for specific goods and services.
- It reflects the rising cost of living and indicates how much more expensive a set of goods and/or services has become over a **specified period, usually a year**.
 - In India, inflation's impact is particularly significant due to economic disparities and a large population.

PM to Inaugurate Sports Facilities in Varanasi

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Modi is set to inaugurate new sports facilities in **Varanasi**, enhancing opportunities for athletes.

Key Points

- PM Modi will inaugurate phases 2 and 3 of the **National Center of Excellence** at Dr. Sampurnanand Stadium, Varanasi.
 - The upgrade cost **Rs 325.65 crore**, enhancing infrastructure for over 20 sports disciplines.
 - The complex includes multi-level courts, swimming pools, athletic tracks, and spaces for indoor/outdoor sports, **para-sports**, and recovery zones.
 - PM Modi will also launch development projects worth over **Rs 1,000 crore**

Note:

Varanasi

- Varanasi is in southeastern Uttar Pradesh state. It is located on the left bank of the **Ganges (Ganga) River** and is one of the seven sacred cities of Hinduism.
- It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Its early history is that of the first Aryan settlement in the middle **Ganges valley**.
- Varanasi was the capital of the kingdom of Kashi during the time of the Buddha (6th century BCE), who gave his first sermon nearby at Sarnath.
- The city remained a **centre of religious, educational, and artistic activities as attested by the celebrated Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Xuanzang**, who visited it in about 635 CE.
- Varanasi subsequently declined during three centuries of Muslim occupation, beginning in 1194.
- Varanasi became an independent kingdom in the 18th century, and under subsequent British rule it remained a commercial and religious centre.
- In 1910, the British made Varanasi a new Indian state, with **Ramnagar (on the opposite bank) as headquarters but with no jurisdiction over the city of Varanasi**.

UP Government's Ordinances on Food Safety and Contamination

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government recently proposed two **ordinances** to address growing concerns over **food contamination** and anti-social activities in the food industry, spurred by a series of incidents involving contamination by human waste.

Key Points

- **New Food Ordinances:**
 - **Prevention of Pseudo and Anti-Harmony Activities and Prohibition of Spitting Ordinance 2024.**
 - **Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Contamination in Food (Consumer Right to Know) Ordinance 2024.**
 - These ordinances are designed to make **food contamination** by spitting or mixing human waste a **cognizable and non-bailable offense**.
- **Ordinance to Address "Anti-Social Elements" and "Illegal Citizens":**
 - The ordinances will include provisions to take strict action against food establishment employees confirmed to be **"illegal foreign citizens."**

- This move is aimed at weeding out individuals who hide their identities to engage in food contamination or other **anti-social activities**.
- **Mandatory Name and Identity Display at Food Establishments:**
 - To promote transparency, the government has made it mandatory for all food establishments to prominently display the names of owners and managers.
 - Additionally, all workers in food establishments must wear **identity cards** while on duty.
 - This measure is aimed at ensuring accountability and preventing individuals from hiding their identity.
- **Compulsory Installation of CCTV Cameras:**
 - All eateries and food establishments will be required to **install CCTV cameras** in their kitchens and dining areas.
 - The footage must be kept for at least a month and be available to district authorities if required.
 - This will help monitor food preparation and service to prevent contamination.
- **Right to Information for Consumers:**
 - Every consumer will have the **right to essential information** about the food they consume and the establishments where it is prepared.
 - The ordinances ensure that sellers display clear signboards and avoid using false names or pseudonyms, holding them accountable for any violation.
- **Legal and Constitutional Process for an Ordinance:**
 - **Ordinance as a Legislative Tool:**
 - An ordinance is a temporary law enacted by the executive (**Governor**, at the state level) when the legislature is not in session.
 - It is issued under **Article 213 of the Indian Constitution** for states, which empowers the Governor to promulgate ordinances in urgent situations.
 - **Approval and Continuation:**
 - Once an ordinance is issued, it must be presented to the state legislature when it reconvenes.
 - The ordinance will cease to exist if it is not approved by both houses of the state legislature within six weeks from the start of the next session.
 - **Constitutional Safeguards:**
 - The ordinance must adhere to the principles of **reasonableness** and **public interest** under **Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)**.
 - Judicial review is available if the ordinance is seen to violate fundamental rights or exceed the executive's constitutional mandate.

Note:

UP Government To Ban Passenger Travel on Tractor-Trolleys

Why in News?

In response to a **series of accidents**, the Uttar Pradesh government is enforcing a ban on the use of tractor trolleys for passenger transport to improve **road safety**.

Key Points

- **Strict Enforcement on Tractor Trolley Ban:** The Uttar Pradesh government has renewed its focus on enforcing the ban on tractor trolleys for passenger transport following multiple accidents.
- **Rural Dependence on Tractor Trolleys:** Tractor trolleys are commonly used in rural areas due to affordability and accessibility, despite being banned for passenger use.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** The government plans to launch **awareness campaigns** in rural areas, emphasizing the importance of safety over convenience.
- **Planned Safety Measures:** Posters and messaging campaigns will be used to educate the public and promote **safer transportation alternatives**.

Safety first

In 2021, road traffic injuries were the 13th leading cause of death in India and the 12th leading cause of health loss.

Percentage of road traffic deaths by victims mode of transport in six States

	Chhattisgarh	Chandigarh	Delhi	Haryana	Maharashtra	Uttarakhand
Pedestrian	19	23	44	29	24	28
Bicycle	4	13	3	3	1	3
Motorised two-wheeler	58	51	40	47	58	48
Motorised three-wheeler	1	7	4	3	1	3
Car	4	4	5	8	6	7
Bus	1	1	0	1	1	4
Truck	5	1	2	5	5	4
Farm tractor	6	0	0	2	2	0
Others	0	1	1	1	2	1
Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	1
Total (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100

Percentage of road traffic deaths by type of impacting vehicle in six States

	Chhattisgarh	Chandigarh	Delhi	Haryana	Maharashtra	Uttarakhand
Bicycle	0	0	1	0	1	0
Motorised two-wheeler	13	11	6	10	14	10
Motorised three-wheeler	0	7	2	1	0	1
Car	7	36	14	25	14	21
Bus	3	5	6	4	4	7
Truck	24	12	18	32	27	28
Farm tractor	5	1	1	7	4	6
Others	11	12	5	1	5	2
None	16	9	3	2	16	5
Unknown	18	9	45	17	15	21
Total (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: India Status Report on Road Safety 2024

Note:



Uttar Pradesh Scraps Street Race from Grand Prix

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has intervened to cancel the proposed street race element for the **Indian Grand Prix at the Buddh International Circuit**, prioritizing logistics and safety.

- A **Grand Prix** is a premier motorsport event that forms part of the **Formula One (F1) World Championship**, as well as other racing series.

Key Points

- **Government Takes Control of Event Changes:** The Uttar Pradesh government has assumed control over a major change related to the **Indian Grand Prix**, canceling the idea of incorporating a street race element.
- **Street Race Proposal Scrapped:** Initial plans to include a street race element in the **MotoGP** event have been officially sidelined, in favor of a more streamlined approach.
- **Focus on Safety and Logistics:** The decision aligns with the state government's strategy to prioritize spectator safety, streamline event logistics, and reduce potential disruptions.
- **Commitment to Buddh International Circuit:** The government's move emphasizes maintaining the race at the **Buddh International Circuit**, which holds a long-term contract for hosting the MotoGP event.
- **Centralizing Operations for Efficiency:** By eliminating the street race, the authorities aim for a smoother event execution, avoiding the logistical challenges and risks associated with urban racing.
- **Strengthening International Sporting Presence:** This intervention reflects Uttar Pradesh's growing role in hosting international sporting events, bolstering its image as a capable and reliable venue for global competitions.
- **Aligning with MotoGP Organizers' Expectations:** The decision also supports the MotoGP organizers' standards for participant and spectator safety, ensuring high-quality event management.



Buddh International Circuit

- The Buddh International Circuit is a motor racing track located in Jaypee Sports City, **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**, named after **Gautama Buddha**, similar to the district of its location.
- The track was officially inaugurated on 18 October 2011.

Note:

Sakhi Niwas Hostels

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government launched a new phase of its **Mission Shakti initiative**, aiming to provide safe housing for working women.

Key Points

- 18 new **Sakhi Niwas hostels** will be opened by October 2024, under **Mission Shakti 5.0** in cities like Varanasi, Lucknow and Noida.
- Program offers safe, affordable housing near workplaces for working women.
 - Each hostel will accommodate 50 women, and married women can house children (up to 18 years for daughters, 12 years for sons).
- Central and state governments co-fund the project.
- **"Nari Shakti 5.0"** is a campaign by the Uttar Pradesh government.
 - The aim is to enhance the safety and awareness of women and children.

Mission Shakti

- **About:** Mission Shakti' is a scheme of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** aimed at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment.
 - It seeks to realise the Government's commitment for **"women-led development"** by addressing issues affecting women on a **life-cycle continuum basis and by** making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence and citizen-ownership.
- **Sub-Schemes:** It has two sub-schemes - '**Sambal**' and '**Samarthya**'. While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for safety and security of women, the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for empowerment of women.
 - Sambhal:
 - The components of 'Sambal' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of **One Stop Centre (OSC)**, **Women Helpline (WHL)**, **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** with a new component of Nari Adalats - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.
 - Samarthya:
 - The components of 'Samarthya' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of **Ujjwala**, **Swadhar Greh** and **Working Women Hostel** have been included with modifications.
 - In addition, the existing schemes of **National Creche Scheme** for children of working mothers and **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** under umbrella ICDS have now been included in Samarthya.
- A new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been added in the **Samarthya Scheme**.



Note:



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Public Holiday for Navami in UP

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government declared a public holiday on **11th October, 2024**, in observance of **Navami**, a significant day in Hindu traditions.

Key Points

- Navami marks the end of **Navratri** with rituals like 'Kanya Bhoj' and havan (sacred fire ceremonies).
- In the Hindu calendar, Navami is the ninth day of the **lunar fortnight (Paksha)**. Each month has two Navami days, one on the ninth day of the "bright" (**Shukla**) fortnight and one on the ninth day of the "dark" (Krishna) fortnight.
- Navami is also associated with two festivals in Hinduism.
 - **Maha Navami**: The ninth day of Sharad Navratri, **Maha Navami** commemorates the day when Goddess Durga defeated the demon Mahishasura. It symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.
 - **Ram Navami**: A festival that celebrates the birth of **Lord Rama**.

Classification of Calendars in India

Calendar	Type	Zero Year	Origin	Key Features
Vikram Samvat	Hindu Lunar Calendar	57 B.C.	Introduced by King Vikramaditya after victory over Sakas	Lunar-based; 12 months with 354 days; divided into Shuklapaksha (bright half) and Krishnapaksha (dark half); 13th month (Adhik Mass) in certain years.
Saka Samvat	Hindu Solar Calendar	78 A.D.	Introduced by Saka rulers after defeating the Kushanas	Solar-based; adopted as the official calendar of India in 1957; each year has 365 days.
Hijri Calendar	Islamic Lunar Calendar	622 A.D.	Originated in Saudi Arabia	Lunar-based; 12 months with 354 days; the 9th month, Ramzaan, is observed for fasting.
Gregorian Calendar	Scientific Solar Calendar	1582 A.D.	Introduced by Pope Gregory XIII	Solar-based; replaced the Julian calendar; civil calendar in use today; 365 days with leap years to correct for 365.25 days.

'Sugarcane Tigers' in Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, over 10 **tigers** have mysteriously disappeared from the sugarcane fields of Pilibhit, raising fears of poaching or migration.

Key Points

- **'Sugarcane Tigers'**:
 - 'Sugarcane tigers' is a term used for tigers that inhabit sugarcane fields instead of forest areas.
 - These fields offer thick cover and prey, creating a habitat similar to forests.
 - Pilibhit, in Uttar Pradesh, is known for such tigers, as sugarcane fields offer shelter due to the shrinking forest cover and human encroachments in tiger habitats.

Note:



➤ Pilibhit Tiger Reserve :

- It is located in Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It was notified as a **Tiger Reserve** in 2014.
 - In 2020, it bagged **international award TX2** for doubling up the number of tigers in the past four years.
- It forms part of **Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain.**
- The northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - It is home to a habitat for over 127 animals, 326 bird species and 2,100 flowering plants.
 - Wild animals include tiger, **swamp deer**, **bengal florican**, **leopard**, etc.
 - It has high **sal forests**, plantations and grasslands with several water bodies.

TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger

- * The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- * The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found


- ▣ Found only in **13 Tiger Range countries**- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- ◆ As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status

- ▣ IUCN Red List: Endangered
- ▣ CITES: Appendix I

Threats

- ▣ Habitat loss
- ▣ Poaching and illegal trade
- ▣ Human-Wildlife conflict



UP Bypolls 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh is gearing up for **by-polls** in several constituencies, following vacancies created by various factors.

Note:

Key Points

- **About:**
 - Bypolls, also known as **bye-elections or special elections**, refer to **elections** held to **fill vacant seats in the legislative bodies of India**.
 - It serves as a **vital component within the broader electoral cycle** and complements regular elections by **addressing unforeseen vacancies**.
- **Purpose:**
 - The primary objective of bypolls is to ensure **the timely filling of vacant seats, enabling the representation of the affected constituency or district in the legislative body**.
- **Occurrence:**
 - Bypolls are conducted when a seat in the legislature becomes vacant due to reasons such as the **death, resignation, disqualification, or expulsion of a sitting member**.
- **Timeframe:**
 - Section 151A of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through **bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy**, provided that the **remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more**.
 - Hence, there is **no need to hold bye elections if the remaining term of the Lok Sabha is less than one year** from the date of occurrence of vacancies.
- **Impact:**
 - **Impact on Political Landscape:** Bye-elections often serve as a **litmus test for political parties and their popularity**.
 - They provide an opportunity for parties to **gauge public sentiment and assess their support base**.
 - **Impact on Government Majority:** Bye-election outcomes can affect the majority of the ruling government.

- If the **ruling party loses a significant number of by-poll seats, it may lead to a loss of majority in the legislative body**, which can impact the government's stability and decision-making.
- **Testing the Electoral Strategies:** Bye-elections provide an avenue for political parties to test their **electoral strategies and fine-tune their campaign approaches**.
 - Parties may experiment with **candidate selection, campaign themes, and messaging during by-polls**, which can influence their strategies in subsequent elections.

Kumbh Summit 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the UP government has launched a series of cultural events across the state for the preparation of **Maha Kumbh 2025**.

Key Points

- **Kumbh Summit Events:**
 - Launched across 18 tehsils of U.P. as a prelude to **Maha Kumbh 2025**.
 - Events include **"Kumbh Abhinandan"** road show, **Bal-Yuva Kumbh, Kala-Sanskriti Kumbh, Kavi Kumbh, and Bhakti Kumbh**.
 - Universities and educational institutions will take part in these cultural celebrations.
 - Various cultural academies, including **Lalit Kala Academy** and **Sangeet Natak Academy**, are responsible for organizing competitions.
 - Focus on eco-friendly practices like **'zero plastic usage'** and **AI** tools for security.
 - Ensuring transport via 700 electric buses and enhancing accessibility for devotees during peak festival days.
 - Deadline of December 15, 2024 is set for all facilities to be ready for Maha Kumbh.

Note:



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

UP International Trade Show, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **UP International Trade Show, 2024** was launched to promote Uttar Pradesh's growing status as a global investment hub, emphasizing **MSMEs, ODOP, and GI products**.

Key Points

- **Showcase of Uttar Pradesh's Growth:**
 - UP International Trade Show, 2024, aims to project Uttar Pradesh as a major growth engine in India.
 - Led by Prime Minister and Chief Minister, the state targets achieving a **trillion-dollar economy**.
 - In this International Trade show the partner country is **Vietnam**.

- The show highlights UP's business, trade, craft, culture, cuisine, and innovation.
- **Focus on MSMEs and Economic Development:**
 - The trade show promotes **MSMEs, Geographical Indication (GI) products, and One District, One Product (ODOP) schemes**.
 - It provides a platform for enterprises to showcase and expand their reach globally, driving economic growth.
 - It also features **promotional schemes and initiatives from both government and private sectors**.
- **Milestones and Achievements:**
 - The inaugural edition (**21st - 25th Sept, 2023**) attracted foreign buyers from over 60 countries.
 - Inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, with the presence of Chief Minister.

"Radio Man of India" Sets Record

Why in News?

Ram Singh Boudh from Uttar Pradesh sets a **Guinness World Record** with his unique **radio** collection, preserving the legacy of radios.

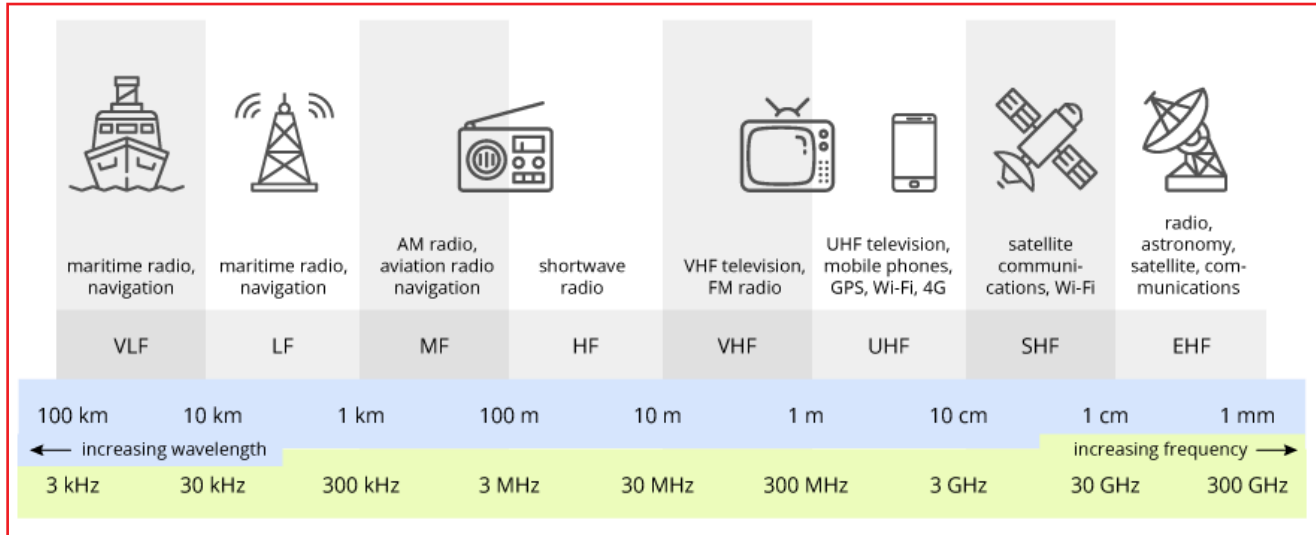
Key Points

- **World Record Radio Collection:**
 - Ram Singh Boudh, famously known as the "**Radio Man of India**," has amassed a collection of 1,257 unique radios, dating from the **1920s to 2010**.
 - His collection surpassed the previous world record of **625 radios held by M Prakash**.
- **Prime Minister's Recognition:**
 - Boudh's passion for preserving the legacy of radios gained national recognition when the Prime Minister mentioned him during the **Mann Ki Baat** radio program in November 2023.
 - PM Modi highlighted Boudh's dedication to keeping radios relevant, noting that his efforts sparked greater curiosity about his collection.
 - The Prime Minister acknowledged that **Mann Ki Baat** itself has revitalized interest in radios and **Akashvani (All India Radio)**, making them popular once again in many households.

Note:

Radio Spectrum

- The radio spectrum (also known as **Radio Frequency or RF**) is a part of the **electromagnetic spectrum**, **electromagnetic waves** in this frequency range are called radio frequency bands or simply '**radio waves**'.
 - Radio waves have the longest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum. These were discovered by **Heinrich Hertz in the late 1880s**.
- RF bands spread in the range between **30 kHz and 300 GHz** (alternative point of view offers coverage 3 KHz – 300 GHz).



UP Approves New Universities, Jobs

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has approved key **policies and initiatives** to enhance **education** quality and **employment** opportunities.

Key Points

- **Policy Approval:**
 - The '**Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Promotion Policy, 2024**' was approved by the cabinet to improve education quality and boost employment.
 - Includes provisions such as:
 - Stamp duty exemptions.
 - Capital subsidies.
 - Special incentives for sponsoring bodies.
 - Additional benefits for top 50-ranked universities.
- **Establishment of New Private Universities:**
 - Two new private universities approved:
 - **KD University** to be established by **Rajiv Memorial Academic Welfare Society** in **Mathura**.
 - **Vidya University** to be set up by **Vidya Bal Mandali** in **Meerut** on a **42.755-acre campus**.

Note:



drishti

➤ **Impact on Higher Education:**

- Aims to enhance private investment to meet increasing demand for local higher education.
- Provides access to high-quality education within Uttar Pradesh.
- Expected to create both direct and indirect job opportunities for the youth.

➤ **Self-Employment Scheme:**

- New scheme introduced to promote self-employment:
 - Subsidies on **loans up to Rs 5 lakh for projects** in microenterprises and the service sector.
 - Aim to set up **10 lakh micro units in 10 years**.
 - Support for **1 lakh educated and trained youth annually**.
- Eligibility and Focus:
 - Applicants must have at least an **eighth-grade education**.
 - Priority for those with **intermediate-level education**.
 - Scheme aims to **boost employment** in rural and urban areas.

UP Aims for 'Zero Poverty' Goal

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced a campaign to make Uttar Pradesh the first state in India to achieve **zero poverty** within a year.

Key Points

➤ **Campaign Objective:**

- Identify and support the poorest families in each **gram panchayat** to integrate them into the mainstream.
- Families will receive assistance in:
 - Food and clothing.
 - Quality education.
 - Healthcare services.

- Housing facilities.
- Stable income sources.

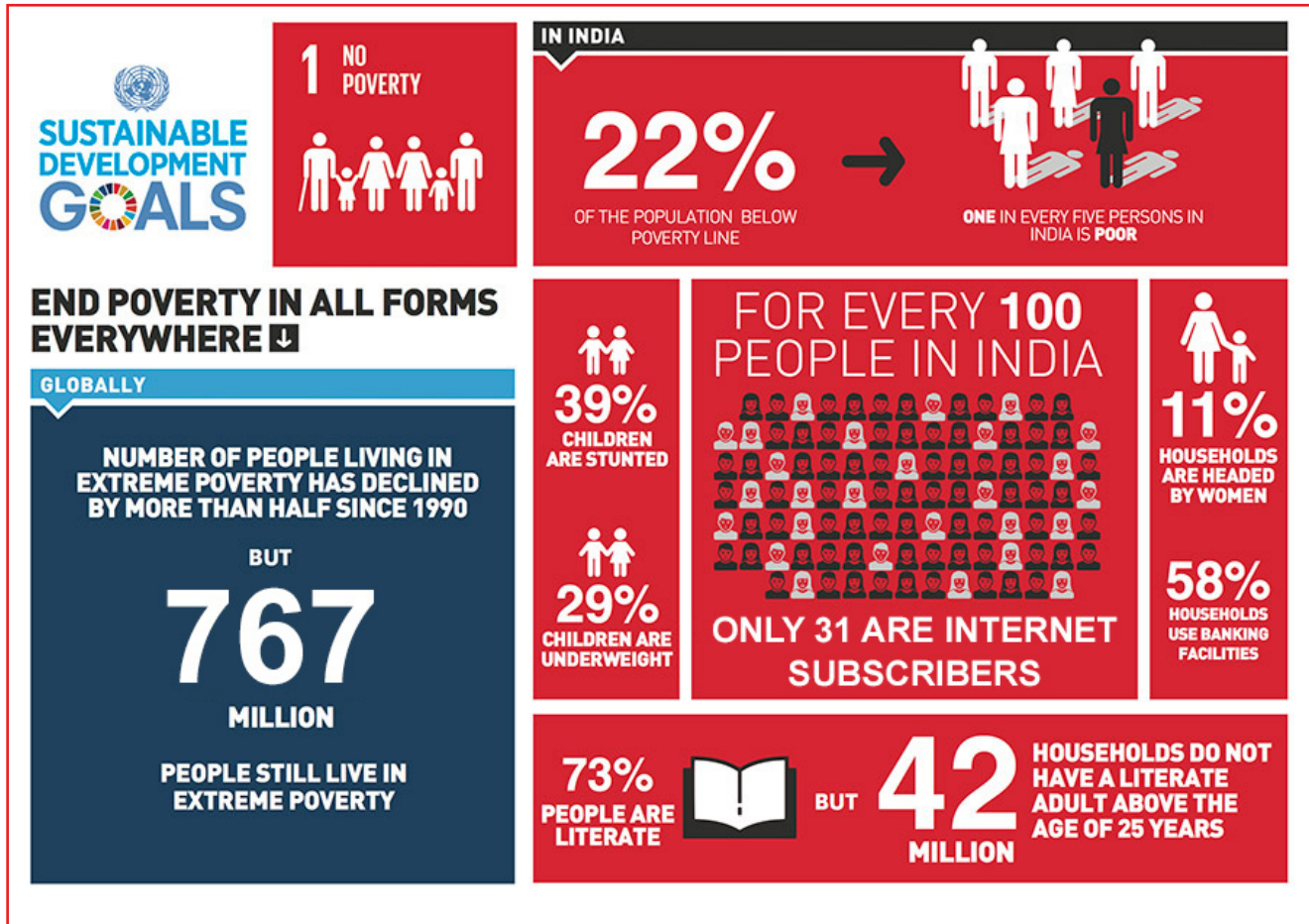
➤ **Family Identification Process:**

- Targeting the poorest **10-25 families per gram panchayat** using a three-tier, transparent selection method:
 - **Level 1:** Identification through the '**Mop-up**' **mobile app** based on criteria such as homelessness, landlessness, reliance on daily wages, and lack of resources.
 - **Level 2:** Formation of a **village-level committee comprising five members (gram pradhan, former gram pradhan, local school headmaster, and representatives from self-help groups)**.
 - **Level 3:** Families receive an automated vulnerability rating via a digital system post-committee recommendations.

➤ **Government Schemes Benefits:**

- Eligible families will gain access to various government schemes, including:
 - Ration cards and food supplies from the **Department of Food and Civil Supplies**.
 - Benefits under housing schemes like **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**.
 - Educational support such as school admissions and uniforms.
 - Medical facilities through **Ayushman Bharat Insurance** and other health initiatives.
- Integration with schemes from the **Labor Department, MNREGA, State Rural Livelihood Mission**, and others.
- Access to skill development initiatives and employment benefits.
- Collaboration with educational institutions to develop tailored sustainable income plans for identified families.
- **Zero Poverty portal (ZeroPoverty.in) will be integrated with the Family ID portal** for efficient data management and support for families needing ration cards.

Note:



Uttar Pradesh Boosts Solar Energy Production

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved significant [solar energy](#) projects to enhance [renewable energy](#) production in the state.

Key Points

- **Approval of Solar Parks:**
 - Development of solar parks in [Bundelkhand](#) approved under the new energy policy.
 - Two major solar projects covering over **1,500 hectares of land**.
 - Expected capacity of 450 MW, making it one of the largest solar parks in India.
- **Renewable Energy Goals:**
 - Contributes to Uttar Pradesh's target of reaching **22,000 MW of solar energy production by 2026-2027**.
- **Current Solar Capacity:**
 - As of August 2024, Uttar Pradesh government has installed a total solar [PV capacity of 3,280.15 MW](#), including:
 - Approximately **2,965.12 MW from utility-scale projects**.
 - Over **260 MW from solar rooftop installations**.
 - Around 315 MW from off-grid solar and [KUSUM projects](#) (according to [Ministry of New and Renewable Energy \(MNRE\)](#) data).

Note:



Negligence in Gang Chart Approval

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government informed the **Allahabad High Court** about transferring the **District Magistrate** of Amroha for negligence in approving gang charts without proper justification violating the **Uttar Pradesh Gangster and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Rules, 2021**.

Key Points

➤ Case Background:

- The matter arose from a writ petition filed to quash an FIR lodged against him under **Section 3(1) of the UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986**.
- The petitioner contended that neither the Superintendent of Police (SP) nor the DM of Amroha recorded satisfaction while approving the gang chart.
- A **Gang chart** is a document that contains details about an accused's criminal history and other relevant information in cases related to the **Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986**.

➤ High Court's Observations:

- A bench comprising **Justice Vivek Kumar Birla** and **Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal** noted that the SP-Amroha and DM-Amroha did not record satisfaction while preparing the gang chart, as required by **Rule 16(2) of the 2021 Rules**.
- The Allahabad High Court noted that the DM's actions were contrary to both the 2021 Rules and the guidelines set by the HC in the **Sanni Mishra vs State of UP case**.
- The court labeled this as **"sheer negligence,"** noting similar cases from Amroha where officials did not properly prepare gang charts according to the rules.

➤ Court's Final Decision:

- The court refrained from issuing direct action against the officers and left the decision to the state government.

The Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986

- **Purpose:** To prevent gang-related and anti-social activities.
- **Scope:** Targets individuals involved in organized crime, violent offenses, or habitual criminals.
- **Provisions:**
 - Defines "gang" and "gangster" in legal terms.
 - Allows authorities to take preventive action, including detaining suspects.
 - Allows the attachment of properties obtained through criminal activities.
 - The act empowers district magistrates and police to approve gang charts (a formal record of an individual's gang-related activities).

UP Gangster and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Rules, 2021

- **Purpose:** Provides detailed guidelines for implementing the UP Gangsters Act.

➤ Key Provisions:

- **Recording Satisfaction:** The competent authority, usually the District Magistrate, must record satisfaction while forwarding and approving gang charts.
- **Joint Meetings:** Mandates joint meetings between the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate before approving a gang chart.
- **Due Process:** Specifies procedural guidelines to ensure the preparation of gang charts is thorough and based on concrete evidence.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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