



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

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NIA to Probe Human-Trafficking Syndicate

Why in News?

Recently, the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** carried out searches across 22 locations in six states as part of an investigation into a **human-trafficking syndicate** that entices youth to work in call centers involved in **cyber fraud**.

Key Points

- The searches were conducted in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and other regions.
 - It originates from a police report filed in Gopalganj, Bihar which involves an **organized syndicate that lures and traffics Indian youth to foreign countries** under the pretense of providing jobs.
- Trafficked individuals were **coerced into working in fake call centers**. These call centers were involved in conducting cyber fraud operations.
- **Human Trafficking:**
 - It refers to the **illegal trade and exploitation of people**, typically for the purposes of forced labour, sexual exploitation, or involuntary servitude.
 - It involves the **recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of individuals** through **threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, or deception** for the purpose of exploiting them.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

➤ About:

- The **NIA** is the **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency of India** mandated to investigate all the **offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India**. It includes:
 - Friendly relations with foreign states.
 - Against atomic and nuclear facilities.
 - **Smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency** and infiltration from across the borders.
 - The offences under the **statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations**, its agencies and other international organisations.

- It was **constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008**.
- The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states **without special permission from the states** under **written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

State-of-the-Art Cruise at Mahakumbh's Grandeur

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is preparing for **Mahakumbh 2025**, adding a new attraction, the **Nishadraj cruise**.

Key Points

➤ Launch of Nishadraj Cruise:

- The Nishadraj cruise, managed by the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**, has begun its **journey from Varanasi to Prayagraj**.
- The **cruise is equipped with modern amenities**, reflecting the state's commitment to innovation and excellence.
- There is ongoing **coordination between the Prayagraj Mela Authority** and the **Varanasi administration** for the cruise's journey.

➤ Inauguration:

- The **Prime Minister is scheduled to visit Mahakumbh on 13th December 2024**.
- At **Shrungverpur Dham**, the PM will **unveil statues of Lord Ram** and Nishadraj before boarding the Nishadraj cruise for a journey from Arail to the **Sangam**.
- Upon reaching the Sangam, he will perform a ritual bath and pay homage to the sacred **Ganga River**.
 - The itinerary includes a Ganga Aarti, visits to the Bade Hanuman Temple and Akshayavat, and interactions with prominent saints and spiritual leaders at the Parade Ground.

Note:

Inland Waterways Authority of India

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is a **statutory body** under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) Act, 1985**.
- It was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** for development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation.
- It is **headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh** and its main function is to build necessary infrastructure in inland waterways, surveying economic feasibility of new projects and also carrying out administration and regulation.
- As per the **National Waterways Act, 2016, 111 waterways** have been declared as National Waterways.

Uttar Pradesh Focuses on Gems & Jewellery Growth

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government, is taking substantial steps to enhance the **gems and jewellery sector**, focusing on **economic value addition** and **export growth**.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh, with its rich **cultural heritage** and **skilled craftsmanship**, is a significant player in India's **gems and jewellery sector**.
 - The state's annual trade in this industry is estimated at over **Rs 1 trillion**, involving more than one million **traders, retailers, craftsmen, and designers**.
- **Major Hubs:**
 - The hubs for **gems and jewellery trade** in Uttar Pradesh include **Meerut, Lucknow, NOIDA Export Processing Zone, Moradabad, Kanpur, and Agra**.
 - These centers are pivotal in both **manufacturing and exports**, contributing significantly to the state's economy.
 - The organized segment of the trade accounts for about **35%** of the overall market, highlighting the importance of structured growth and development.
- **Government Initiatives & Significance:**
 - The CM of Uttar Pradesh has drafted a comprehensive blueprint to **develop Meerut as a major jewellery manufacturing and trading hub** for North India.

- **Meerut's jewellery industry**, with an annual turnover of over **Rs 2,000 crore**, employs approximately **40,000 goldsmiths, gemstone makers, and jewellery traders**.
- The proposed hub, spanning **32,000 square meters**, aims to position Meerut as a **key center for gems, precious stones, and gold jewellery**.
- To support this vision, the government plans to construct a **modern multi-storey flatted factory complex** to foster business growth and encourage startups in the sector.
- **National and Global Significance:**
 - The gems and jewellery sector in Uttar Pradesh is not only vital for the state but also contributes **10-12% of India's total merchandise exports**.
 - In 2023, the domestic market for gems and jewellery was valued at **USD 92 billion**, underscoring its importance in the national economy.
 - Uttar Pradesh's thriving wholesale jewellery market serves clients from other states, further solidifying its role as a key player in the industry.

UP Government Boosts Police & Forensic Capacity

Why in News?

On **Constitution Day (26th November)**, Chief Minister of UP highlighted the state's commitment to transparent police recruitment and establishing **forensic labs** at the **zonal level** during the **National Conference on Forensic Science and Cybersecurity**.

- These initiatives are part of broader efforts to enhance law and order, ensuring timely justice for victims and maintaining **good governance**.

Key Points

- **Highlights of the Conference:**
 - **New Criminal Laws:**
 - India has recently implemented **three new criminal laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023.**
 - These laws, effective from 1st July 2024, aim to protect citizens by ensuring that no one is declared guilty without proper evidence.

Note:

- **Challenges and Reforms in Law and Order:**
 - Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh faced significant challenges in maintaining **law and order**, with a high prevalence of hooliganism (vandalism/violence).
 - The Uttar Pradesh Government has observed that over half of the positions within the Uttar Pradesh Police were unfilled during previous government. Addressing this situation has become a key focus for the current government.
- **Transparent Recruitment and Forensic Labs:**
 - The state government has recruited over **154,000 police personnel** transparently and recently initiated the recruitment of an additional **7,200 policemen**.
 - Earlier, **forensic labs** were limited to four locations. Now, high-quality forensic labs have been established at the **zonal level**, with plans to expand them to the **range level**.
 - These labs are crucial for gathering evidence in criminal cases and ensuring justice.
- **Cybersecurity and Forensic Science Initiatives:**
 - Today, **1,775 police stations** in Uttar Pradesh are equipped with **cyber helplines**, enhancing the state's ability to tackle **cybercrime**.
 - Additionally, the **Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences** has been established to further support **forensic investigations** and improve the **quality of evidence** presented in court.

Constitution Day

- The **Constitution Day**, also known as **National Law Day or Samvidhan Diwas**, is celebrated in India on **26th November** every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
 - On **29th August, 1947**, the **Constituent Assembly** set up a **Drafting Committee** under the **Chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** to prepare a **Draft Constitution for India**.
 - On **26th November 1949**, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect on **26th January 1950**.
- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** on **19th November, 2015**, notified the decision of the **Government of India** to celebrate **26 November** as '**Constitution Day**'.

- The day is observed to spread the importance of the constitution and the thoughts and ideas of **B. R. Ambedkar**, the chief architect of the constitution.

Farmers Protest Over Land Acquisition Policies

Why in News?

Farmers from across Western Uttar Pradesh **protested** outside the Greater Noida Authority office to **voice their unresolved land acquisition grievances**.

Key Points

- **Leadership and Demands of the Protest:**
 - The protest was led by the **Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU)** and supported by **All India Kisan Sabha**, and **Bharatiya Kisan Parishad**.
 - They **demand for fair compensation**, including 10% developed land and 64.7% enhanced compensation for acquired land.
 - Greater Noida Authority officials confirmed that the farmers' demands have already been presented to the Uttar Pradesh government.
- **Protest Participation and Actions:**
 - Farmers from around **20 districts**, including **Gautam Budh Nagar**, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, and Agra, joined the protest, which **started with a tractor rally on the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway**, causing minor traffic disruptions.
 - The protest followed several months of smaller demonstrations outside the Greater Noida Authority Office, which farmers felt had resulted in no meaningful outcomes.
- **Future Agitation Plans:**
 - Farmers announced plans to shift their agitation to the **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)** from 28th November to 1st December 2024, followed by a march to Delhi starting on 2nd December 2024.
- **Compensation and Development Allegations:**
 - Farmers allege that despite giving up their agricultural land for the development of Noida, Greater Noida, and the Yamuna Expressway, they have not received their rightful compensation or developed plots.

Note:

Irrigation Department Project of UP

Why in News?

Recently, the Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh has initiated the process regarding the four-laning (widening) the road along the Agra Canal.

Key Points

➤ Project Overview:

- **Objective:** The Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department aims to widen the road along the Agra Canal into a four-lane stretch, facilitating smoother traffic flow.
- **Proposal:** A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the [Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority \(FMDA\)](#) has been submitted to formalize the project, estimated to cost Rs 278 crore.

➤ Status and Challenges:

- Despite government approval, progress has stalled due to land ownership formalities.
- Formal permission from the UP Irrigation Department is required as the department owns the land.
- A Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared, and the FMDA's approval is pending for signing the MOU to initiate tenders.

➤ Benefits:

- Enhanced access to Greater Faridabad, Noida, Delhi, Ballabgarh, and the upcoming Greenfield Expressway to [Jewar Airport](#).
- The widened road will ease congestion on the existing two-lane stretch.

➤ Significance:

- This project addresses long-standing demands for better infrastructure, promising enhanced regional connectivity and economic growth.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)

Why in News?

On the occasion of the [World Antimicrobial Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#), [Banaras Hindu University](#) organised an awareness programme.

- The aim is to educate patients and MBBS students about the correct use and importance of antimicrobial drugs.

Key Points

➤ Overview of WAAW:

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is observed annually from 18th to 24th November to raise awareness about [antimicrobial resistance](#).
- AMR occurs when microorganisms like [bacteria](#), [viruses](#), [parasites](#), or [fungi](#) evolve and become resistant to antimicrobial medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risks of disease spread, severe illness, and death.
- Experts stressed that antimicrobial resistance contributes to approximately 300,000 deaths annually and clarified that not every fever is typhoid or requires antibiotics.


➤ Interactive Activities:

- Students used a street play to effectively convey the message of AMR awareness to the audience.

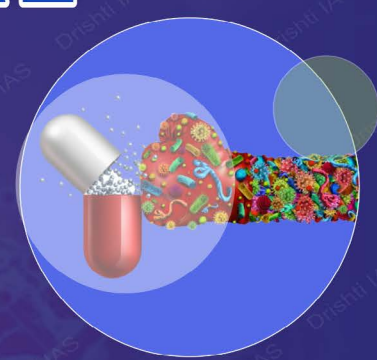
Note:

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The ability of microorganisms to resist the effects of antimicrobial drugs



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CAUSES OF ↑ AMR

- Poor infection control/sanitation
- Antibiotic overuse
- Genetic mutations of microbe
- Lack of investment in R&D of new antimicrobial drugs

Microbes that develop AMR are called 'Superbugs'

RECOGNITION BY WHO

- Identified AMR as **one of the top 10 threats** to global health
- Launched **GLASS** (Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System) in 2015

IMPACTS OF AMR

- ↑ Risk of spreading infections
- Makes infections harder to treat; prolonged illness
- ↑ Healthcare costs

INDIA'S INITIATIVES AGAINST AMR

- Surveillance of AMR in microbes causing **TB, Vector Borne diseases, AIDS etc.**
- **National Action Plan on AMR (2017)** with One Health approach
- **Antibiotic Stewardship Program** by ICMR

New Delhi metallo-β-lactamase-1 (NDM-1) is a bacterial enzyme, emerged from India, that renders all current β-lactam antibiotics inactive

EXAMPLE

- Carbapenem antibiotics stop responding due to AMR in *K. pneumoniae*
- AMR Mycobacterium tuberculosis causing Rifampicin-Resistant TB (RR-TB)
- Drug-resistant HIV (HIVDR) making antiretroviral (ARV) drugs ineffective

- **Proper handwashing techniques were demonstrated** emphasizing the role of infection prevention in combating AMR.
- **Significance:**
 - The initiative marked a **crucial step in raising awareness and educating the public about the dangers of antibiotic resistance** and promoting sustainable practices to address the issue.

Survey on Jama Masjid in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the Court ordered a survey on the **16th century Mughal era Jama Masjid** in **Sambhal** district of Uttar Pradesh. The order is followed by a petition filed by a senior advocate.

Note:

Key Points

- **Claims on Historical Conversion:**
 - The petition alleges that the **Jama Masjid** in Sambhal was **originally a Hari Har temple** located in mohalla Kot Purvi and was **converted into a mosque in 1529**.
 - It asserts that the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is responsible for managing and controlling the disputed site.
- **Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind:**
 - Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, highlighted the importance of **the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991**, which preserves the **religious character of all places of worship** as they existed on **August 15, 1947**.
 - They expressed concerns over the disregard for this legislation in recent judicial actions and emphasized **the Supreme Court's** endorsement of the Act in the **Ayodhya verdict**.
- **Historical Context of the Jama Masjid:**
 - The Jama Masjid in Sambhal is one of three mosques **constructed during Babur's reign (1526–1530)**. The others include the mosque at Panipat and the now-demolished Babri Masjid.
 - **Historian Howard Crane** described the mosque's architectural features in his work, **The Patronage of Babur and the Origins of Mughal Architecture**.
 - Crane noted a **Persian inscription stating that Babur ordered the mosque's construction in December 1526** through his subedar, **Jahangir Quli Khan**.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organisation for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
 - **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958** governs the functioning of ASI.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.

- It was founded in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham**—**the first Director-General of ASI**. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.

Excavation to Uncover Buddha's Relics

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Finance inaugurated an **archaeological excavation at Ramgram in Maharajganj district** of Uttar Pradesh.

- The project, spearheaded by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, seeks to **uncover evidence of Lord Buddha's eighth relic**, which is believed to be buried at the site.

Key Points

- **Historical and Spiritual Significance:**
 - The site is **among the eight places where Lord Buddha's relics were enshrined**, holding immense importance in **Buddhist traditions**.
 - It is situated within the **Sohgibarwa Wildlife Division** and is **historically associated with the ancient Kolia kingdom**.
 - Kolia was an **ancient Indo-Aryan clan** of north-eastern South Asia whose existence is attested during the **Iron Age**.
- **Potential for Regional Development:**
 - The excavation is expected to transform the location into a prominent **Buddhist pilgrimage site**.
 - This development is anticipated to **boost tourism and stimulate economic growth** in the region.
- **Focus on Global Recognition:**
 - The project aims to integrate the site into the global **Buddhist pilgrimage circuit**.
 - Local authorities foresee **increased visits from international pilgrims and scholars**, enhancing the region's cultural profile.

Note:

Sohagi Barwa Wildlife Sanctuary

➤ About:

- It is situated in the **Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh.**
- In the **north, the Sanctuary shares the international boundary with Nepal**, and in the **east shares the border with Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve.**
- It was **declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in June 1987.**

➤ Drainage:


- It is drained by the **great Gandak, the little Gandak, Pyas and Rohinirivers.**

➤ Flora:

- Nearly 75% of the area consists of **Sal forest**, and other humid areas are covered with **Jaamun, Gatal, Semal, Khair Trees, etc.**
- The lower region of the sanctuary, which is water logged during rains, consists of **Grasslands and patches of Cane forests.**

➤ Fauna:

- It is inhabited by a variety of animals which mainly includes **Leopard, Tiger, Jungle Cat, Small Indian Civet, Langur, Deer, Blue Bull, Wild boar, Porcupine etc.**



GAUTAM BUDDHA

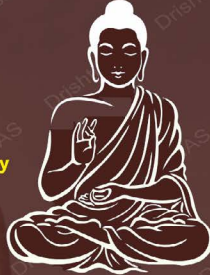
Believed to be 9th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH


- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini (Nepal)** near **Kapilavastu**

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilvastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshalan dynasty**



IMPORTANT EVENTS



| Buddha's Birth
| The Great Departure (Mahabhinishkramana)
| Enlightenment (Nirvana)
| First Sermon (Dhammachakraparivartan)
| Death (Mahaparinirvana)

*Buddha referred to himself as **Tathagata** (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as **Bhagavat** (in Buddhist texts)*

CONTEMPORARIES

- Vardhaman Mahavira
- Bimbisara
- Ajatshatru

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA

- **Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- **Sarnath** (first sermon)
- **Vaishali** (Last sermon)
- **Kushinagara** (death place (483 BC))

Note:

27th IEEE WPMC 2024

Why in News?

Recently, India hosted the **27th IEEE International Symposium on Wireless Personal Multimedia Communications (WPMC) 2024** in Greater Noida.

- Indian officials highlighted the country's rapid strides in telecommunication innovation, and **transitioning from 5G deployment to envisioning the future of 6G technology.**

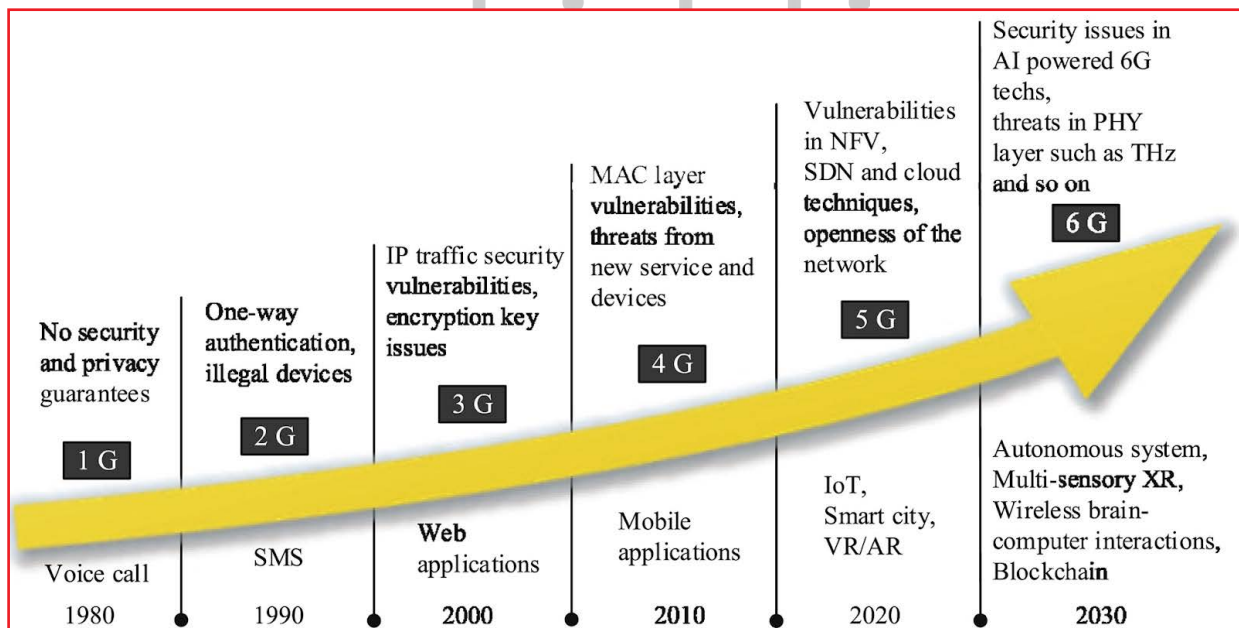
Key Points

- **Objective and Theme:**
 - It **provides a platform** for researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to **discuss advancements in wireless communications.**
 - The **theme, "Secure 6G – AI Nexus: Where Technology Meets Humanity,"** focuses on the intersection of 6G and **Artificial Intelligence (AI).**
- **Venue:**
 - The event was **hosted at Sharda University** and has brought together experts and thought leaders from various countries.
- **India's Role in Wireless Communication:**
 - An expert highlighted **India's growing innovation ecosystem** and its potential to **contribute significantly to the global telecommunications sector.**

- India is expected to file approximately **10 patents related to 6G technology** soon, further enhancing its economic and technological stature.
- **Vision for 6G Technology:**
 - The government envisions achieving unprecedented **speeds of up to 1 terabit per second with ultra-low latency**, marking a transformative step in global connectivity and socio-economic development.
 - This initiative aligns with national goals to position India as a global leader in the telecommunications sector.
- **Transformative Potential of 6G:**
 - Experts emphasized the potential of 6G to enable portable devices with **advanced capabilities, focusing on high-frequency utilization and minimal latency.**
 - The technology is expected to **revolutionize rural ecosystems** by facilitating remote healthcare, education, and agriculture, aligning with **India's mission to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive growth.**

India's initiative for providing safer and better telecom services:

- [Telecommunication Act, 2023](#)
- [Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023](#)
- [National Cyber Security Strategy](#)
- [Bharat 6G Alliance](#)
- [BharatNet Project](#)



Note:

Cybersecurity Workshop in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** of **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, organised a two-day **Cybersecurity Workshop** in Lucknow.

CYBER SECURITY

Cybersecurity refers to any technology, measure, or practice for preventing cyberattacks or mitigating their impact.

CYBER SECURITY ATTACKS

'Crime in India' Report 2022 (NCRB) highlighted 24.4% surge in cybercrimes in India since 2021.

Common Cybersecurity Myths

- ⊖ Strong passwords alone are adequate protection
- ⊖ Major cybersecurity risks are well-known
- ⊖ All cyberattack vectors are contained
- ⊖ Cybercriminals don't attack small businesses

Cyber Warfare

- ⊖ Digital attacks to disrupt vital computer systems, to inflict damage, death, and destruction.

Recent Major Cyber Attacks

- ⊖ WannaCry Ransomware Attack (2017)
- ⊖ Cambridge Analytica Data Breach (2018)
- ⊖ Financial data of 9M+ cardholders, including SBI, leaked (2022)

Regulations & Initiatives

- ⊖ **International:**
 - ⊕ UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace
 - ⊕ NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)
 - ⊕ Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001 (India not a signatory)
- ⊖ **India:**
 - ⊕ IT Act, 2000 (Sections 43, 66, 66B, 66C, 66D)
 - ⊕ National Cyber Security Policy, 2013
 - ⊕ National Cyber Security Strategy 2020
 - ⊕ Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
 - ⊕ Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
 - ⊕ Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In)

CYBER THREAT ACTORS

CYBER THREAT ACTOR	MOTIVATION
NATION-STATES	GEOPOLITICAL
CYBERCRIMINALS	PROFIT
HACKTIVISTS	IDEOLOGICAL
TERRORIST GROUPS	IDEOLOGICAL VIOLENCE
THRILL-SEEKERS	SATISFACTION
INSIDER THREATS	DISCONTENT

Types of Cybersecurity

- ⊖ Critical infrastructure security (Robust access controls)
- ⊖ Network security (Deploying firewalls)
- ⊖ Application security (Code reviews)
- ⊖ Cloud Security (Tokenization)
- ⊖ Information security (Data masking)

Steps Needed for Cyber Security

- ⊖ Network Security
- ⊖ Malware Protection
- ⊖ Incident Management
- ⊖ User Education and Awareness
- ⊖ Secure Configuration
- ⊖ Managing User Privileges
- ⊖ Information Risk Management Regime

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Note:

Key Points

- **Cybersecurity Training Program by NeGD:**
 - **NeGD's Cybersecurity Training Program**, part of the **State Capacity Building Scheme**, is designed to strengthen cybersecurity resilience among state government officials.
 - The program equips **Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)** and Deputy CISOs with critical skills to handle and mitigate cyber risks effectively.
 - The NeGD was **established in 2009** by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** as an Independent Business Division under the **Digital India Corporation**.
 - Its aim was to **facilitate and catalyze the implementation of the Digital India Program** across Ministries and State Governments.
 - **Objective:**
 - **Cybersecurity Awareness:** Increase understanding of cybersecurity issues, cyber threats, and **e-governance** frameworks.
 - **Cyber Resilience and Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Enhance participants' knowledge of the **Cyber Resilience Ecosystem** and the role of **AI** in cybersecurity.
 - **Cyber Suraksha Kendra:** Educate on the importance of **Cyber Suraksha Kendra** for protecting state-level **e-governance** systems.
 - **Data and Application Security:** Provide insights into data protection (**Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**) application security, and endpoint security.
 - **Crisis Management:** Train participants in developing **Cyber Crisis Management Plans (CCMP)** for effective incident response.
 - **Identity and Access Management:** Address challenges in identity and access management to secure government digital systems.
- **State Capacity-Building Scheme:**
 - NeGD, under MeitY, has **launched a series of capacity-building workshops** for state leaders, CISOs, and officials across the nation.
 - These workshops provide **practical training and best practices for managing cyber threats**, adopting secure IT frameworks, and strengthening digital governance.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

- It aims to **protect the digital personal data of individuals in India** and regulate the collection, storage, processing, and sharing of such data.
- **Key features:**
 - Establishes a **Data Protection Board of India** to enforce compliance.
 - Requires **explicit consent** for data collection and processing.
 - **Mandates data fiduciaries** to implement reasonable security safeguards.

Trees Cut Down for Proposed Kanwar Yatra Route

Why in News?

According to **the National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, authorities have cut around 17,600 trees in Uttar Pradesh's **Ghaziabad, Meerut, and Muzaffarnagar** districts to make way for a new **Kanwar Yatra** route.

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - Earlier this year, the NGT took **suo motu cognizance** of a news report regarding the Uttar Pradesh government's plan to cut down 1,12,722 trees.
 - The purpose of this large-scale tree-cutting was to facilitate a proposed **Kanwar Yatra route** between **Muradnagar in Ghaziabad and Purkaji in Muzaffarnagar**.
- **Findings of the Interim Report:**
 - In August 2024, the NGT **established a joint panel to examine the environmental concerns** associated with this project.
 - The report, **based on data from the Irrigation Department**, highlighted that initial permission allowed for felling 1,12,722 trees, but the target was later reduced to 33,776 trees.
- The NGT instructed the Uttar Pradesh government to clarify if the calculation of trees to be cut follows the **U.P. Protection of Trees Act, 1976**.
 - The government must also specify if **additional vegetation such as plants and bushes**, which may be removed for road construction, **fall under the Act's definition of trees**.

Note:

The Kanwar Yatra

- It is a **Hindu pilgrimage** in the **month of Shravana**, by **Lord Shiva devotees**.
- The devotees **travel to pilgrimage** places like **Haridwar**, **Gaumukh**, **Gangotri** in Uttarakhand, **Sultanganj** in Bihar, **Prayagraj**, **Ayodhya**, and **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh, and return by carrying **Ganga** water in kanwars to seek the blessings of Shiva.
 - The water is offered to Shiva temples, including the **12 Jyotirlingas** across India and other shrines like the Pura Mahadev Mandir and Augharnath in Uttar Pradesh, the famous **Kashi Vishwanath temple**, and the **Baba Baidyanath Temple** in Deoghar, Jharkhand. The ritual is known as **Jal Abhishek**.

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

About

- ⊙ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ⊙ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ⊙ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ⊙ **Places of Sitting:** **New Delhi (Principal)**, Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

Structure

- ⊙ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ⊙ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ⊙ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
 - 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

Powers & Jurisdiction

- ⊙ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ⊙ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ⊙ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ⊙ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
 - Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ⊙ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ⊙ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ⊙ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
 - If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ⊙ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ⊙ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ⊙ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ⊙ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ⊙ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ⊙ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ⊙ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



Drishti IAS

Note:



drishti

Full Motion Simulator Facility Inaugurated in Agra

Why in News?

Recently, the **Indian Air Force (IAF) C-295 Full Motion Simulator (FMS)** was inaugurated in **Air Force Station Agra**, Uttar Pradesh. It will allow a significant proportion of **pilot training to be undertaken in the simulator**, thereby saving precious flying hours on the aircraft.

Key Points

- The simulator **offers pilots near-realistic training, replicating missions** such as tactical airlift, para-dropping, para-trooping, medical evacuation, and disaster relief.
 - It also **simulates critical scenarios, enhancing pilots' readiness for real-world operations** and improving their ability to make rapid, high-stakes decisions, which boosts the overall safety of military flights.
- The introduction of the **C-295 aircraft** into the IAF **strengthens the country's aerospace industry**, as it marks the beginning of **"Atmanirbhar Bharat"** in private-sector transport aircraft production.
- **C-295 Aircraft:**
 - It is a **transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity** with contemporary technology.
 - Robust and reliable, it is a **versatile and efficient tactical transport aircraft** which can perform a number of different missions.
 - **Features:**
 - The aircraft, with a flight endurance of up to 11 hours, **can carry out multi-role operations under all weather conditions.**
 - It can routinely operate day as well as night combat missions from desert to maritime environments.
 - It has a **rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops** and cargo. Short take-off/land from semi-prepared surfaces is another of its features.
 - **Replacement:**
 - It will **replace the Indian Air Force's ageing fleet of Avro-748 planes.**
- The Avro-748 planes are a **British-origin twin-engine turboprop, military transport and freighter** with a 6-tonne freight capacity.



Ganga's Water Quality Deteriorating

Why in News?

Recently, The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has observed that the water quality in **the Ganga** in Uttar Pradesh is deteriorating because of the **discharge of sewage or sullage into the river.**

Key Points

➤ NGT's Concerns:

- The NGT reviewed the sewage treatment situation in Uttar Pradesh, finding a 128 million litres per day (MLD) gap in sewage treatment in Prayagraj district.
 - The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** report revealed that 25 untapped drains in Prayagraj discharge untreated sewage into the Ganga, while 15 others discharge into the **Yamuna.**
 - Out of 326 drains in Uttar Pradesh, 247 are untapped and discharge wastewater into the Ganga and its tributaries.

➤ NGT's Directives:

- The NGT ordered the Uttar Pradesh chief secretary to submit an affidavit detailing each drain's sewage, connected **sewage treatment plants (STPs)**, and timelines for making STPs functional.
- The affidavit should also include **short-term measures to prevent untreated sewage discharge.**
- Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Issues:
 - The CPCB report indicated that six out of 41 STPs in 16 Ganga-front towns are non-operational, and only one of the 35 functional plants complies with regulations.

Note:

- The water quality at 41 locations showed faecal coliform levels exceeding safe limits (500/100 ml), with 17 locations exceeding 2,500 MPN/100 ml, indicating severe pollution from untreated sewage.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It is a statutory organisation, was **constituted in 1974** under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- CPCB was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate change of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

Minority Status to Aligarh Muslim University

Why in News?

Recently, **The Supreme Court** ruled on the **minority status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**. The case stemmed from petitions seeking to restore AMU's minority status, which was struck down by the Allahabad High Court in 2006.

Key Points

- The **Court overruled the 1967 Constitution Bench decision**, which had stated that AMU could not be considered a minority institution as it was established by a statute and was a central university.
- **Key Observations:**
 - The court held that an institution created by a minority community qualifies as a minority educational institution, regardless of how it is legally constituted.
 - The purpose of such institutions is to **preserve the community's cultural fabric**.
 - Minority status does not depend on the institution being solely for the community, but predominantly benefiting it.
 - The Court found that the loss of administrative control by the community does not strip the institution of its minority character.

➤ Article 30(1) Significance:

- **Article 30(1)** grants minorities the **right to establish and manage educational institutions** to preserve their educational and cultural values.
 - The right to administer does not require community members to manage the institution but ensures its autonomy to maintain community-specific educational goals.

➤ The AMU Case:

- AMU, established in 1875, was granted minority status by Parliament through the **AMU (Amendment) Act, 1981** but this provision was **invalidated by the Allahabad High Court in 2006**.

➤ Government's Argument:

- The Centre argued that AMU, as an institution of national importance, **cannot be considered a minority institution** due to its national character.
- The government contended that **AMU is not limited to any particular religion or community**.

➤ University's Stand:

- AMU maintained that it was **originally established by the Muslim community** to provide education and empowerment to its members.

New Rules for Appointing Police Chief

Why in News?

Recently, **The Uttar Pradesh government** has framed **new rules for appointing the state's Director General of Police (DGP)**.

Key Points

- **Uttar Pradesh's New Rules on DGP Appointment are:**
 - The UP Cabinet approved the **Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh Selection and Appointment Rules, 2024**.
 - DGPs will be selected by a committee **considering the officer's service record, experience, and remaining tenure**.
 - Only officers with at **least six months of service left before retirement are eligible** for the post.
 - Appointed DGPs will serve a **minimum of two years**.

Note:

- The selection committee includes a retired **High Court** judge, UP Chief Secretary, **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** representative, and others.
- **Existing Practice:**
 - The state government must send a **list of eligible senior officers to the UPSC** three months before the incumbent DGP's retirement.
 - The UPSC reviews the list and **sends a shortlist of three candidates** to the state for the final appointment.
 - Only officers with a **minimum remaining tenure (before retirement) of six months** from the date of creation of the vacancy would be eligible for the appointment as DGP. Once appointed, the DGP would have a **minimum tenure of two years**.
- **Reason for New Rules:**
 - The rules were introduced in response to a **contempt notice from the SC following multiple petitions challenging the appointment** of temporary DGPs.
 - The petitions argue that temporary appointments violate SC directives meant to insulate the police from political influence.
 - Although 17 states have enacted their own Police Acts, UP had not done so until now.



Note:

SC Upholds Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004

Why in News?

Recently, the **Supreme Court** partially upheld the constitutional validity of the **Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Act, 2004**, affirming that the state has the **authority to regulate madrasa education** to maintain standards of excellence.

Key Points

- **Supreme Court's Judgment:**
 - The Court declared that **provisions concerning higher education**, specifically at the **Fazil (undergraduate)** and **Kamil (postgraduate)** levels, were **unconstitutional**.
 - These provisions conflicted with the **University Grants Commission Act, 1956** falling under the Centre's exclusive jurisdiction as per Entry 66 of **the Union List** in the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution**.
 - The judgment stated that the **Act was consistent with the state's duty to ensure that students in recognised madrasas acquire a minimum level of competency**. This ensures they can participate effectively in society and earn a living.
 - The Court emphasized that while **minorities have the right under Article 30** of the Constitution to **establish and manage their educational institutions**, this right is **not absolute**.
 - The state has a legitimate interest in maintaining educational standards in minority institutions and can impose regulatory conditions for aid and recognition.
 - The Court interpreted '**education**' in **Entry 25 of the Concurrent List** broadly, stating that while madrasas impart religious education, their **primary purpose is educational, bringing them within the ambit of this entry**.
 - The Madrasa Board conducts exams and issues certificates to students, further aligning with the educational framework.
 - The Supreme Court set aside the Allahabad High Court's ruling, which had stated that the 2004 Act violated **Article 21A (Right to Education)** and the **secularism** principle of the Constitution.

- The Court clarified that Article 21A should be interpreted alongside the **rights of religious and linguistic minorities** to establish educational institutions.

- Referring to **Article 28(3)** of the Constitution, the Court added that students attending a State-recognised minority institution **should not be compelled to take part in religious instruction or worship**, ensuring their **right to freedom of religion**.

Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004

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

Uttar Pradesh Expands Sanskrit Scholarship Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government launched a new scholarship scheme to support **Sanskrit education**, enhancing eligibility and funding for students.

Key Points

- **Expansion:**
 - The scheme now supports **69,195 students with a budget of Rs. 586 lakh**, a significant increase from the previous 300 beneficiaries.
 - Unlike the prior scheme, which had strict age limits, the new scholarship is open to all qualified Sanskrit students across Uttar Pradesh.
 - CM emphasized **Sanskrit's relevance** to scientific fields such as computer science, encouraging students to view it as a language with broad applications.
- **Support for Traditional Gurukul Education:**
 - Plans to revive **gurukul-style schools** were announced, with improved support for residential facilities and hiring of qualified teachers.

Note:



- Establishment of a Vedic science center will facilitate research, integrating traditional Sanskrit knowledge with modern scientific inquiry.

Gurukul

- The 'Gurukul' was a type of education system in ancient India with shishya (students) living with the guru in the same house.
- Nalanda has the oldest university system of education in the world.
- Students from across the world were attracted to Indian knowledge systems.

Preparations for Kumbh Mela 2025

Why in News?

Recently, UP CM announced measures to make the **Kumbh Mela 2025** a safer, culturally rich event.

Key Points

Enhanced Safety Measures:

- Advanced security and surveillance systems, including **drones**, will be deployed for crowd control and emergency response.

Cultural Showcases:

- Traditional performances and exhibitions will feature throughout the Mela, emphasizing India's diverse heritage.

Infrastructural Developments:

- Road expansion, improved sanitation, and upgraded facilities are prioritized to handle millions of pilgrims.

Environment-Friendly Initiatives:

- Steps to minimize waste and maintain the cleanliness of the Ganga River and surrounding areas.

Kumbh Mela

- Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
- Kumbh Mela comes under the **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- The festival is held at **Prayagraj (at the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati), Haridwar (on the Ganges), Ujjain (on the Shipra) and Nasik (on the Godavari) every four years by rotation** and is attended by millions of people irrespective of caste, creed or gender.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.
- The event encapsulates the science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, and social and cultural customs and practices, making it extremely rich in knowledge.
- Knowledge and skills related to the tradition are transmitted through ancient religious manuscripts, oral traditions, historical travelogues and texts produced by eminent historians.
- The teacher-student relationship of the sadhus in the ashrams and akhadas remains the most important method of imparting and safeguarding knowledge and skills relating to Kumbh Mela.

Note:

Key Points**Details**

Summary