



Gunfight Between Banned Maoist Group and Security Forces | Jharkhand | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, in **Jharkhand's Chatra district** a gunfight broke out between members of a banned [Maoist](#) outfit and security personnel.

Key Points

- During a combing operation in Angarha forest in Kunda, around 200 km from the state capital Ranchi, cadres of the outlawed T리티या सम्मेलन प्रस्तुति कमीटी fired upon the security forces.
 - The T리티या सम्मेलन प्रस्तुति कमीटी is a breakaway faction of the banned Communist Party of India (CPI) (Maoist).

The Tृतीय प्रस्तुति कमीटी (TPC)

- It is a **splinter group of the Maoist Communist Centre of India**. TPC has declared CPI (Maoist) as its **main enemy, not police machinery**.
- The areas of influence of TPC are in Chatra, Palamu and Latehar district of Jharkhand. **TPC is a rival of other Maoist outfits**.
- It was **formed in 2002** when several cadres broke away from Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) due to its perceived domination of Yadav caste in decision making and **led to the formation of the TPC by non-Yadavs chiefly the Mahtos, Ganjhus, Bhogta, Oraon and Kharwars among others**.

Uttar Pradesh's Priority Sector Jump | Uttar Pradesh | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

According to **the State Focus Paper 2024-25 for UP**, prepared by [the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development \(NABARD\)](#), **credit flow** into UP's priority sectors is estimated to touch **Rs 5.73 trillion in 2024-25**.

- **Agriculture, [Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises \(MSME\)](#)**, and services sector are identified as priority sectors by the government.

Key Points

- To achieve the **[USD1-trillion economy target](#)**, the state would need a **growth rate of 250% in**

agriculture, 300% in MSME, and 450% in services sectors.

- Underscoring the importance of credit as the catalyst for growth, the UP government has nudged bankers to improve the **state's credit deposit (CD) ratio**.
- A state delegation is participating in the [World Economic Forum \(WEF\)](#) at Davos, Switzerland to **showcase UP as a leading investment destination**.
- The state is also promoting **startups for job creation**. The **Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) of UP** partnered with **Bharat Startup & Innovation Society (BSIS)**, a charitable society that works on nurturing and mentoring the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- The Chief General Manager of NABARD, UP, has **referred to the state as the "growth engine" of India**, with an estimated growth rate of 19.2%.
 - In terms of [ease of doing business](#), the state has moved to the **2nd position from 14th in 2017**.
- The State Focus Paper **aggregates the credit potential** at the ground level for all the **75 districts**.
 - Based on the paper, the **annual credit plan for 2024-25 will be finalised by the state level bankers' committee (SLBC) in UP**.
- The state is taking steps to boost farm exports by improving the harvest quality.
- UP accounts for **20% of total millet production of India**, but the exports were only 1%.

The World Economic Forum (WEF)

- It is a **Swiss nonprofit foundation established in 1971**, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Recognized by the Swiss authorities as the **international institution for public-private cooperation**.
- **Committed to improving the state of the world** by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- NABARD is a **development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country**. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.
 - Its **headquarter is located in Mumbai**, the country's financial capital.
- It is **responsible for the development of** the small industries, cottage industries, and any other such village or rural projects.
- It is a statutory body established in 1982 under the Parliamentary act-**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.

'Divya Ayodhya' App | Uttar Pradesh | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched '**Divya Ayodhya**', a mobile app centered on [tourism](#), **designed to enhance the navigational experience for devotees and tourists visiting Ayodhya**.

- The 'Divya Ayodhya' app, by **combining technology with cultural experiences** and highlighting rural homestays, is poised to **transform the way tourists connect** with the sacred city, offering a more **immersive and enriching experience** for all.

Key Points

- This all-in-one platform addresses various needs, ranging from **itinerary planning and exploration of hidden gems** to immersing in Ayodhya's cultural richness.
 - It would also help in **exploring key landmarks, temples, monasteries, and historical sites**, all accompanied by **detailed descriptions and timetables**.
 - The app facilitates the **booking of e-cars and e-buses**, offering real-time tracking of their routes and convenient boarding and deboarding options.
 - Users can also reserve **homestays, hotels, or tent cities through the app**, which connects them with locally trained tourist guides.
 - Additionally, the app provides the **option to book wheelchairs and golf carts** for seamless sightseeing.
- According to reports, the UP government is in the process of identifying locations on the **outskirts of Ayodhya to introduce rural homestay options**.
 - People visiting Ayodhya can now **rent a portion of a house in Daulatpur village** for a **unique farm stay experience**.
 - These initiatives not only aim to **boost tourism** but also **contribute to the local economy** while promoting sustainable tourism practices.
- The state government is also set to enhance facilities for tourists and pilgrims visiting key destinations such as Ram Janmabhoomi and temples in Ayodhya. The introduction of **electric buses on the 'Dharma Path' and 'Ram Path'** is part of these efforts, aiming to provide essential services.

Study to Analyse Air Pollution in Bihar | Bihar | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar government has decided to conduct a **real-time apportionment study** in **Muzaffarpur and Gaya** to identify sources of [air pollution](#).

- The decision was taken because **Muzaffarpur, Gaya and the state capital Patna** are among **the 122 non-attainment cities** in terms of air pollution trends.

Key Points

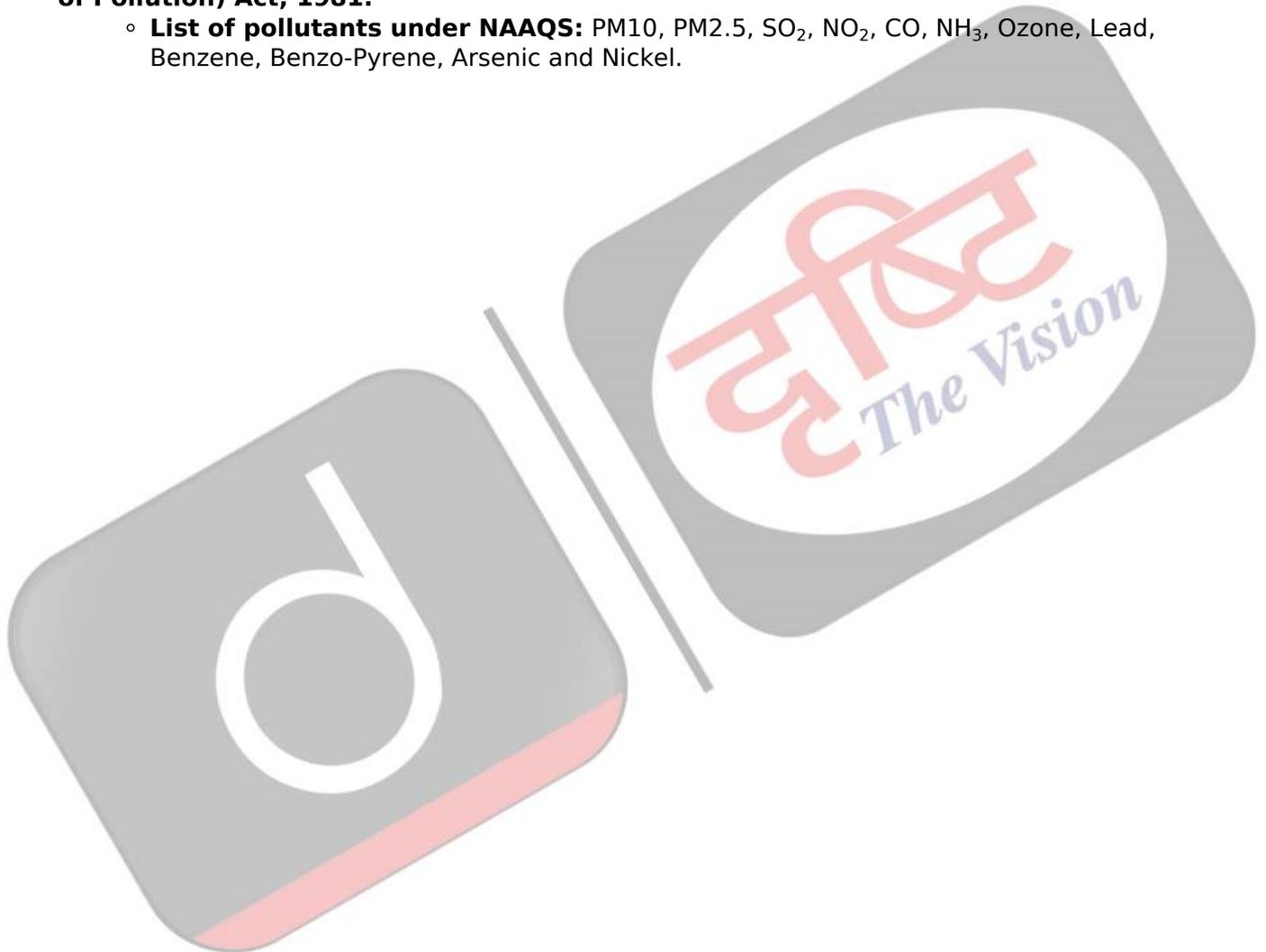
- The study will be conducted by the **Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi and Patna)** along with **the Bihar State Pollution Control Board**.
 - The study will identify the "**seasonal mass concentration level of [PM2.5](#) and [PM10](#) in ambient air**" of the extended urban areas of both cities.
 - [PM 2.5](#) and [PM 10](#) are **minute particles** present in the air, and exposure to these is harmful to health.
- **Real-time source apportionment studies** help **identify factors**, such as **vehicles, dust, biomass burning, and emissions from industries**, responsible for an increase in air pollution in an area
- **The Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development, Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** is already conducting the study in the Bihar capital and it is expected to be completed by September 2024.
- **The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, which proposed strategies to reduce air pollution.
 - **The NCAP identified 122 non-attainment cities** that violate the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**.

- Apart from conducting **emission inventory, carrying capacity and source apportionment of particulate matter**, experts will also collect data on the contribution of **river bed material (soil) and source of road dust**.
- **Covering of construction materials** during transportation, **mandatory green shields** for building construction, **development of green belts**, promotion of **e-vehicles** and use of **environment-friendly fuel**, stringent checking of **vehicle emission** and use of **smog guns** are some of the steps that are being taken by the authorities concerned in the state.
- The **Indo-Gangetic plain** faces massive **aerosol loading**, which is also one of the reasons for air pollution in several cities.
 - Aerosol is **defined as a suspension system of solid or liquid particles** in a gas.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- NAAQs are the standards for ambient air quality with reference to various identified pollutants notified by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
 - **List of pollutants under NAAQS:** PM10, PM2.5, SO₂, NO₂, CO, NH₃, Ozone, Lead, Benzene, Benzo-Pyrene, Arsenic and Nickel.

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Air Pollutants

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

Impact: Causes respiratory problems.

Ozone (O₃)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO_x and VOC) under the action of the sun.

Impact: Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

Impact: Chronic lung disease.

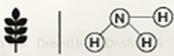
Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

Impact: Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

Ammonia (NH₃)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

Impact: Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

Impact: Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

Particulate Matter (PM)



PM10: Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

PM2.5: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

Source: Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

Impact: Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



Concerns Over River Interlinking Project | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

According to a report, a major dam project in Madhya Pradesh, part of the ambitious **river interlinking project**, has been found to be in violation of environmental clearances by a central government's expert committee.

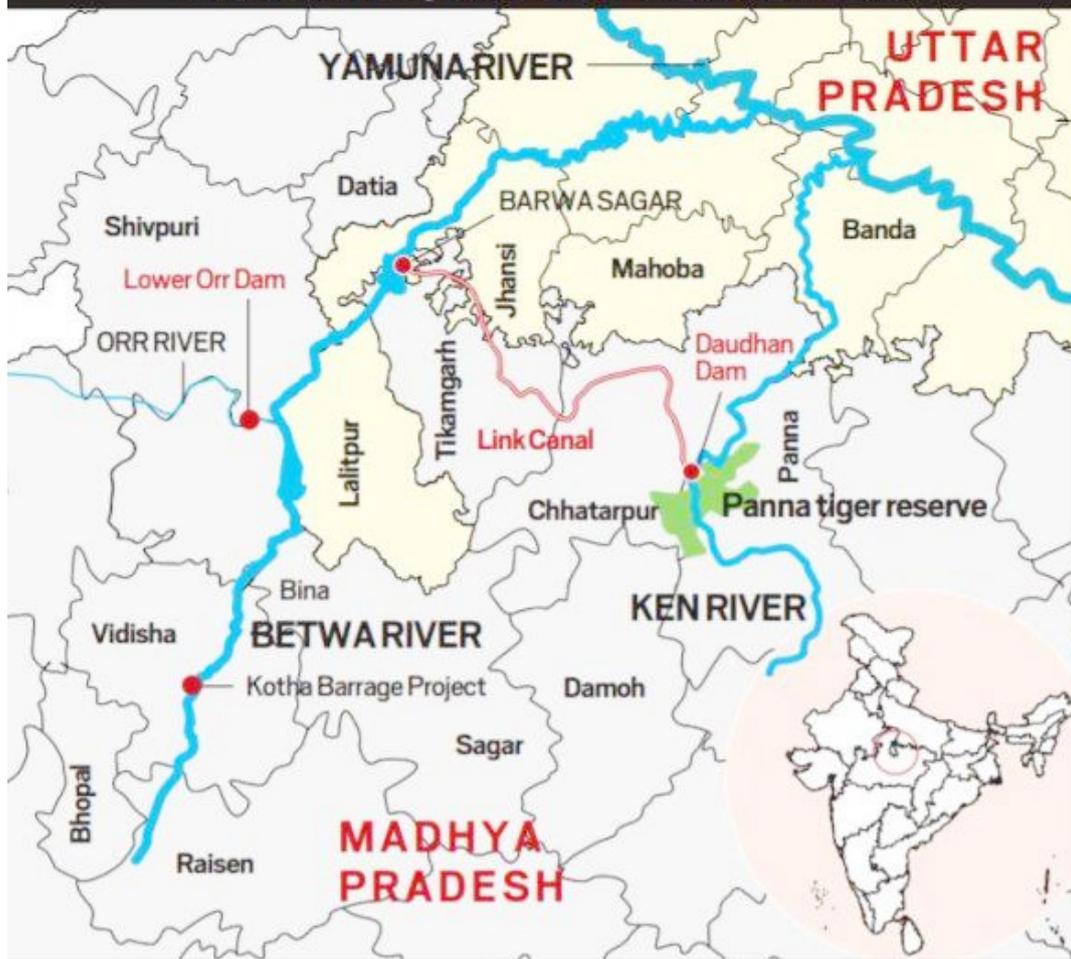
Key Points

- The dam project under the scanner is the **Lower Orr dam** which began in 2019. It is part of the [Ken-Betwa river interlinking project](#).
- The [national interlinking of rivers \(ILR\)](#) is the idea that rivers should be inter-connected, so that water from the surplus rivers and regions could be transferred to deficient regions and rivers to address the issue of [water scarcity](#).
 - This led to the setup of the **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** in 1982.
- There are four major projects for which detailed project reports (DPRs) have been prepared are: **Ken-Betwa link, Damanganga-Pinjal link, Par-Tapi-Narmada link, and Mahanadi-Godavari link**.
 - The criticism of interlinking of rivers ranges from ecological consequences, displacement of natives, to the flawed premise of the exercise.
- The Lower Orr project under the scanner involves the construction of a dam and a canal network.
- As of 2022, when the alleged irregularities came to the light, around 82% of the dam and 33.5% of the canal network had been completed without a clearance from the Union **Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, as per the findings of the [Expert Appraisal Committee \(EAC\)](#).

Ken-Betwa River Link Project (KBLP)

- It is the **first project under the National Perspective Plan for the interlinking of rivers**, which aims to transfer surplus water from one river basin to another to address water scarcity and enhance irrigation.
- The KBLP **involves transferring water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh**, both of which are tributaries of the Yamuna River.
- The project has two phases, with mainly four components:
 - **Phase I will involve one of the components-** the Daudhan Dam complex and its subsidiary units such as the Low-Level Tunnel, High-Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and powerhouses.
 - **Phase II will involve three components:** The Lower Orr Dam across the Orr River, a tributary of the Betwa, the Bina Complex Project, and the Kotha Barrage.

TWO STATES, TWO RIVERS AND A LINK



Good Governance in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Addressing a meeting of divisional level officials at **Tripura Sundari Temple complex** located in **Umrai, Banswara**, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan laid emphasis on holding public hearings at the **gram panchayat** level.

- Asserting **good governance** is the Rajasthan government's priority.

Key Point

- The Rajasthan government is taking important decisions to **ensure the progress of the state**.
- The **role of every officer and employee** is very important in **implementing the public welfare schemes** and the decisions of the government on the ground and providing **benefits to the eligible persons**.
- CM gave instructions for **effective monitoring of the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra**, reviewed the schemes and programmes run in the division and gave necessary guidelines.
 - **Regular public hearings** should be ensured **at the gram panchayat level** so that

people do not have to come to the district headquarters and the capital for their grievances.

- As part of the state government's **zero tolerance policy** the officials are directed to take **strict action against the corrupt, mining and land mafia.**

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

- The Yatra launched on 15th November, 2023 on the occasion of [Janjatiya Gaurav Divas](#).
- It aims to **promote and publicize government welfare schemes.**
 - To enroll potential beneficiaries of these schemes by collecting details during the yatra.
- The schemes that will be publicized through the yatra include [Ayushman Bharat PMJAY](#), [PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana](#), [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana](#) among others.
- Five specially designed **IEC (Information, Education and Communication) Vans** will carry the message of the Government's flagship welfare programmes.
- The target is to cover over **2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and over 3,600 urban local bodies by 25th January 2024.**

Plan to Prevent Human-Wildlife Conflict | Uttarakhand | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama issued directions to the **Forest Department** to prepare an **action plan to prevent [human-wildlife conflict](#).**

- This comes after rising **incidents of [leopards attacking children](#)** in different parts of Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- The officials are asked to prepare a **proposal to increase from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 6 lakh financial assistance** paid to the **families of those killed in human-wildlife conflicts.**
- The chief minister also warned of **strict action against officials** who are **found negligent** in this regard.

Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue Centers

- These are **important facilities to care and cater for the helpless wildlife that may have been injured in an accident** or have been illegally attempted for poaching or illegally captured and are in need of immediate medical attention and rehabilitation.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT



When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the Sonitpur Model by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.

Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

Advisory for HWC Management (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)

- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

State – Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand** - **Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests to **enrich food stock for wild elephants**



Haryana Declares Dry Day on January 22 | Haryana | 16 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Ahead of the [inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya](#), Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a **dry day on January 22**.

Note

- The CM also **laid the foundation stone of a medical college in Panchkula**.
 - **Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP)** is being built on nearly 30 acres at Sector 32 adjacent to the Ghaggar river at an estimated cost of ₹650 crore.

Key Points

- Haryana has become the **seventh state to ban liquor sales on the day of the Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony at Ram Temple in Ayodhya.**
 - These include **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Chhattisgarh.**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/statepcs/16-01-2024/print>

