



Uttar Pradesh's 6th Round Voter Turnout | Uttar Pradesh | 27 May 2024

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh recorded a **54.03 % voter turnout in the sixth phase** of the **2024 Lok Sabha election** in **14 constituencies** of the [Purvanchal region](#).

Key Points

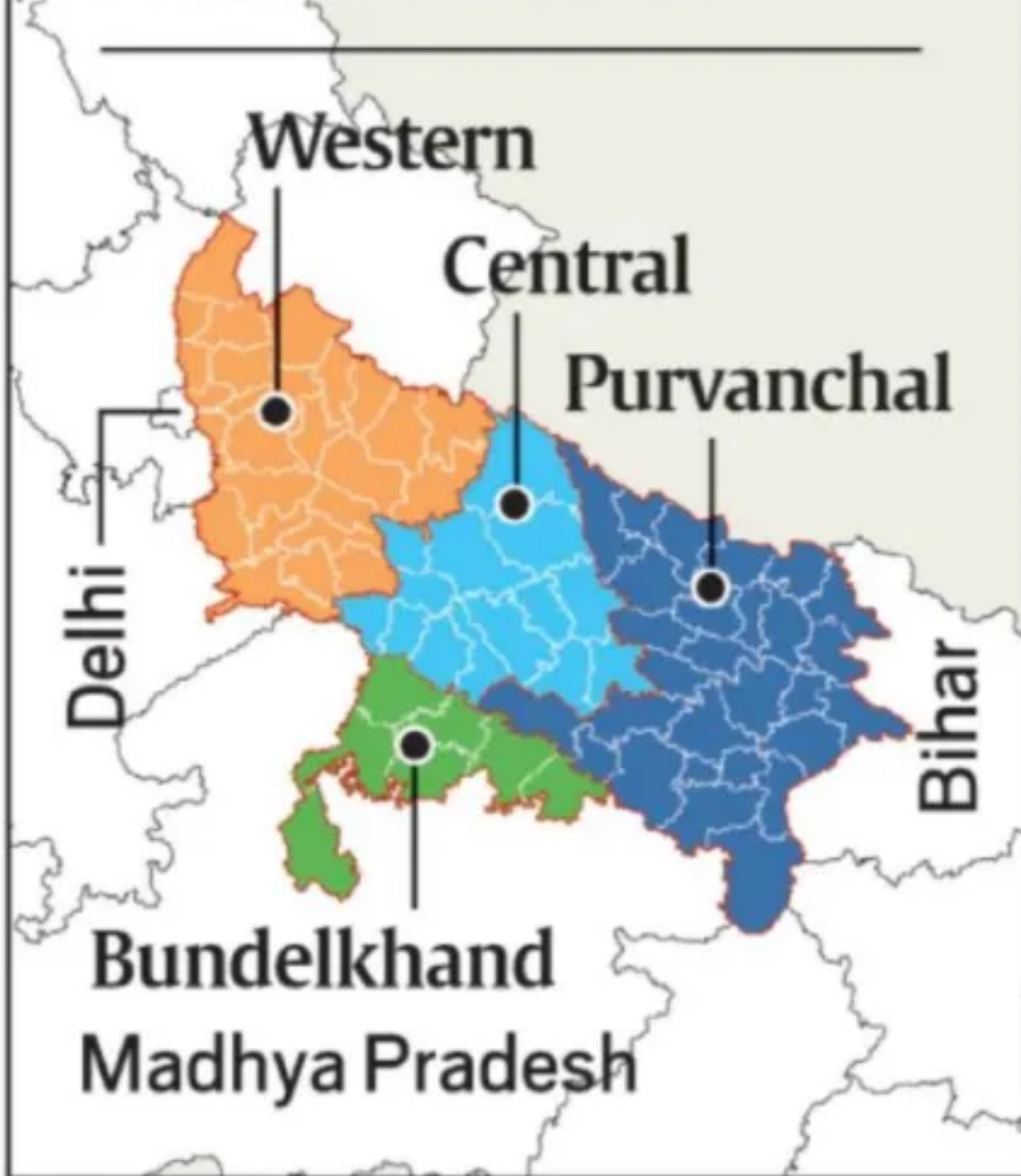
- According to [Election Commission of India](#) figures, the voter turnout fell marginally short of the 2019 polling percentage of 54.49 for the same seats.
 - A decline in voter turnout was observed as the polling moved from **West UP constituencies (first three phases)**, to **central UP (Phases 4 and 5)**, to **east UP (14 Lok Sabha seats in Phase 6)**.
 - In the **first phase, 61.11%** voter turnout was recorded. In the **second phase**, it was **55.19%**, **57.34% in the third phase**, **58.22% in the fourth phase** and **58.02% in the fifth phase**. In **Phase 6, 54.03%** polling was witnessed in 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in eastern UP.

Purvanchal Region of UP

- It covers the regions of **Jaunpur, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Azamgarh, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Balia and Ghazipur**.
- The **northern parts of this plain** have been **formed by Rapti and Ghaghra rivers**. It is given names of **Rapti Khadar, Saryupar Maidan and Purabiya Plains** from the south to north.

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REGIONS OF UP



Why in News?

According to the sources, with the [Uniform Civil Code \(UCC\)](#) expected to be implemented in Uttarakhand by the end of 2024, a facility that will **enable live-in and married couples** to register their relationship is in the process of being introduced.

- The Uttarakhand Assembly passed the UCC bill on **7th February 2024**.

Key Points

- UCC calls for the registration of live-in relationships just like marriages and states that **live-in partners must not be under 18**.
 - According to the officials, the **training of the government employees** will be conducted in **both online as well as offline modes**.
 - The **online registration facility** will be beneficial for both government staff as well as the couple since this will reduce the need for visiting the registrar's office several times.
 - However, the **parents of the couples aged between 18 and 21 will be informed** about their children's live-in relationships.
- The **bill** that has been passed in the Parliament **says that anyone staying in a live-in relationship for more than a month without getting it registered will be punishable** with an imprisonment up to three months or a fine of up to Rs 10,000 or both.
 - If a **woman in a live-in relationship gets deserted** by her partner, she will be **entitled to claim maintenance from him** for which she may approach a competent court having jurisdiction over the place where they last cohabited.
 - The bill **state's small tribal community is exempted from the proposed law**, which also mandates registration of live-in relationships.





UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

All sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a National Civil Code - the Uniform Civil Code.

THEY COVER AREAS LIKE



Marriage



Divorce



Maintenance



Inheritance



Adoption



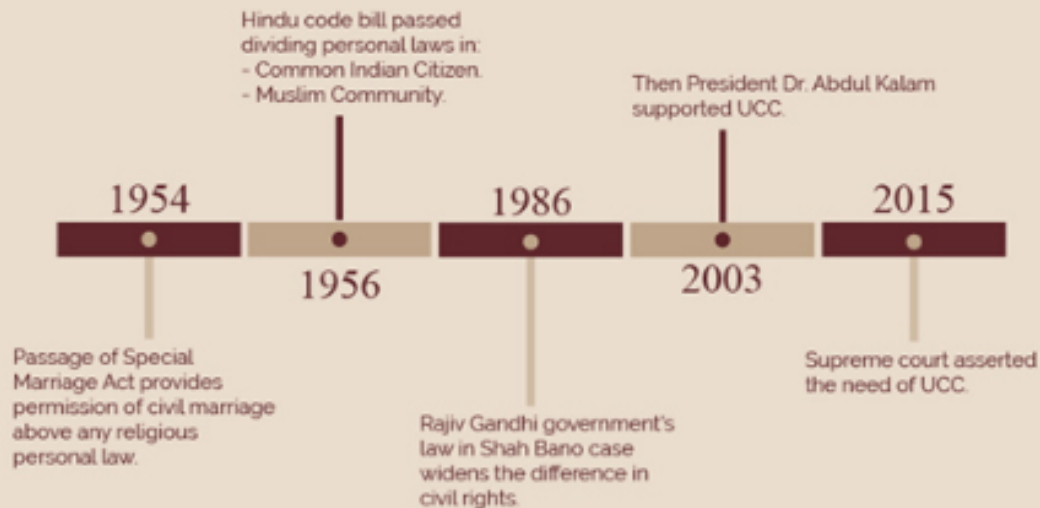
Succession of Property

It is based on the premise that there is necessarily no connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society.

"UCC refers to a common set of laws governing civil rights of every citizen."

Article 44 of Directive Principles sets duty of state for implementing UCC.

TIMELINE



The dialogue for UCC was started by the Law Commission in the year 2016

May 2024

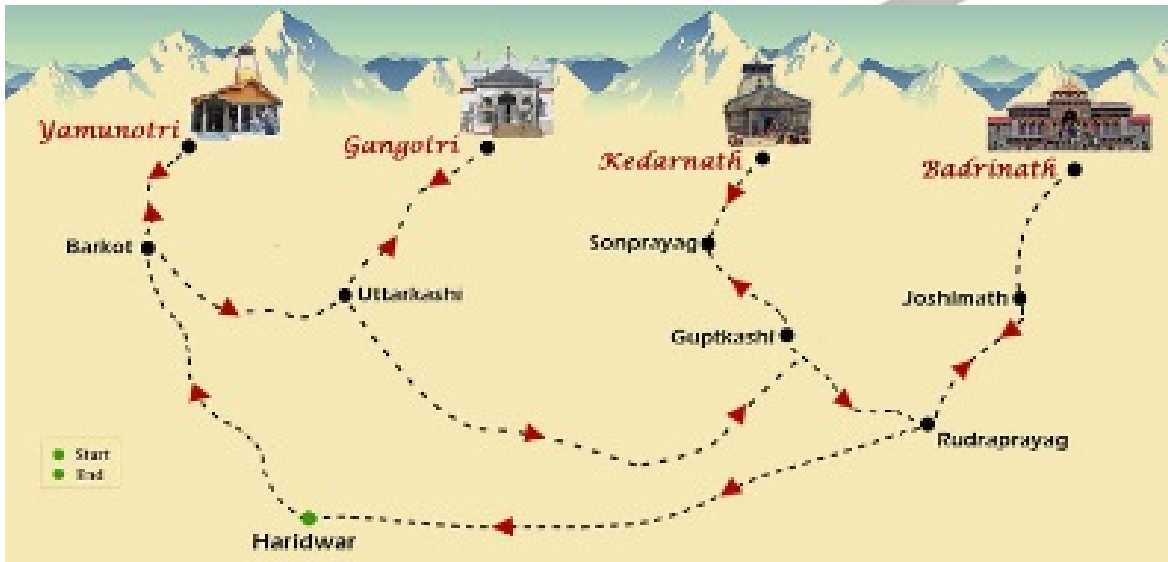
Why in News?

Compelled by the heavy rush of pilgrims, the Uttarakhand Government is set to introduce a regulatory system for the [chardham pilgrimage](#), similar to the 2019 '**Devasthanam Management Board**' which was abandoned due to protests by the priests.

Key Points

- The government has constituted a **special High-Level Committee (HLC)** to suggest the constitution of a '**new authority or institution**' to **regulate Chardham and other religious pilgrimages to the state.**
- The HLC formed by the state government has been mandated to look into the smooth and uninterrupted regulation of the pilgrimages in Uttarakhand in the future.
 - It will also monitor and regulate the daily flow of devotees in the ongoing Chardham pilgrimage for **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, and Kedarnath shrines.**

Char Dham Yatra



- **Yamunotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.
 - River Yamuna is the second-most sacred river in India after River Ganga.
- **Gangotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
 - Considered the most sacred of all Indian rivers.
- **Kedarnath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva.
 - Situated on the bank of the Mandakini River.
 - One of the 12 Jyotirlingas (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Chamoli district.
 - Home to the sacred Badrinarayan Temple.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Vishnu.
 - One of the holy shrines for Vaishnavites.

Attack on Jharkhand Labourers in Manipur | Jharkhand | 27 May 2024

Why in News?

Laborers from Jharkhand who had **migrated to conflict-affected Manipur** earlier in 2024, in **search of improved opportunities**, are now coming back in large numbers following the fatal shooting of one individual and the injury of two others by armed criminals in Imphal.

Key Points

- This marks the first instance of an attack on individuals from outside Manipur since the start of the state's ethnic conflict.
- Such acts of violence against non-locals have contributed to the Union government's decision to repeatedly extend the ban on seven [Meitei extremist groups](#) in the state.
 - The longstanding ethnic conflict in Manipur involves the **Meitei majority** and the **Kuki-Zo Scheduled Tribe community**.
 - Over **225 casualties have been recorded**, with thousands injured and tens of thousands internally displaced as a result.
- An uptick in incidents like abductions and assaults on civilians is attributed to radical outfits such as [Arambai Tenggol](#) and members of valley-based insurgent groups like [United National Liberation Front \(UNLF\)](#), due to the large number of missing weapons in the State.
- **Tensions** between the two communities **persist, leading to occasional attacks near the buffer zones** separating the hill and valley districts.

Meitei Community

- The Meitei people are also known as Manipuri people.
 - Their primary language is the **Meitei language, which is also called Manipuri and is the only official language** of Manipur.
- They are predominantly settled in the Imphal Valley, although a significant number **reside in other Indian states, such as Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya**, and Mizoram.
 - There is also a notable presence of **Meitei in the neighboring countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh**.
- The Meitei people are divided into clans, and members of the **same clan do not intermarry**.

CHEQUERED HISTORY

Manipur, which has over 35 communities inhabiting the valleys and hills of the state, has a chequered history of violent and deadly clashes.



Naga-Kuki Fight

The Kukis are hill tribes spread across the Northeast besides Myanmar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. On September 13, 1993, militants of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) massacred around 115 Kuki civilians in the hills of Manipur. However, NSCN-IM refuted the allegation.

The rivalry between Nagas and Kuki started in the colonial era. In 1990 there were clashes over land. Kukis often claimed 350 of their villages were uprooted, over 1,000 killed and 10,000 were people displaced. Chins are called Kukis on the Indian side.

Meitei Pangal and Meiteis

In 1993 there were clashes between Meitei Pangal (Muslim) and Meitei. A bus carrying Muslim passengers was set on fire. Over 100 people were killed.

Insurgency

Manipur had scores of militant outfits and violence was largely triggered by insurgents.

The NSCN-IM entered a ceasefire agreement with the Government of India in 1997.

Valley-based militant outfits (Meitei groups) such as the UNLF, PLA, KYKL etc. are yet to come to the negotiating table.

The Kuki outfits under two umbrella groups, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF), also signed the tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) pacts with the Centre and Manipur on August 22, 2008.

Hill and Valley



The current conflict between Meiteis and Kukis is the extension of hills versus plains conflict. Meiteis account for 53% of the population, while tribal communities account for around 40% of the population. Naga tribes make up for (24%) and Kuki/Zomi tribes (16%).

NSCN-IM

Integration of Naga-inhabited areas of Northeast is the core demand of NSCN-IM which has been holding peace parleys with the Centre. There was violent protest in Manipur in 2001 when the cease fire agreement signed between the Government of India and NSCN-IM was extended.

Cyclone Remal | Jharkhand | 27 May 2024

Why in News?

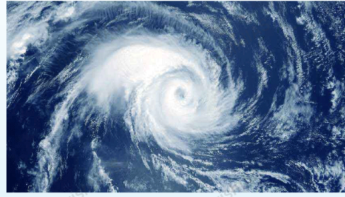
The deep depression brewing in the [Bay of Bengal](#) has escalated into [Cyclone "Remal."](#) posing a **potential threat** to West Bengal and neighboring states, including Jharkhand.

Key Points

- **Meteorologists** from the Ranchi-based [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) anticipate significant effects in the affected regions.
 - The IMD predicts **thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds** across several parts of the state from 26th May to 31st May 2024.
 - These weather conditions are expected to affect various districts, including Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Bokaro, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Simdega, and more.
- The name '**Remal**' in the list of tropical cyclones is given by **Oman**. It will be the first cyclone to hit the region this 2024 pre-monsoon season.
 - 'Remal,' meaning '**sand**' in **Arabic**.

CYCLONE

Cyclones are rapid **inward** air circulation around a **low-pressure** area.

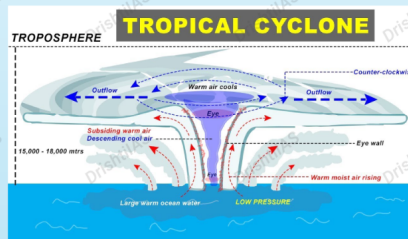


Cyclone v/s Anticyclone

Pressure System	Pressure Condition at the Center	Pattern of Wind Direction	
		Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Cyclone	Low	Anticlockwise	Clockwise
Anticyclone	High	Clockwise	Anticlockwise

Classification

- **Tropical Cyclones;** originate between the **Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer**
- **Extra Tropical/ Temperate Cyclones;** originate in the **Polar Regions**



Conditions for Formation

- Large sea surface with temperature $>27^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Presence of the **Coriolis force**
- Small **variations in the vertical wind speed**
- A **pre-existing weak low- pressure area**
- **Upper divergence** above the sea level system

Different Names for Tropical Cyclones

- **Typhoons** - Southeast Asia and China
- **Hurricanes** - North Atlantic and eastern Pacific
- **Tornados** - West Africa and southern USA
- **Willy-willies** - Northwest Australia
- **Tropical Cyclones** - Southwest Pacific and Indian Ocean

Nomenclature

- Nodal Authority - **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**
- Indian Ocean Region - **Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand** contribute to naming cyclones that occur in this region.

Cyclones in India

- **Bi-annual Cyclone Season** - March to May and October to December
- Recent Cyclones - **Tauktae, Vayu, Nisarga and Mekanu** (in Arabian Sea) and **Asani, Amphan, Fani, Nivar, Bulbul, Titli, Yaas and Sitrang** (in Bay of Bengal)

Green Hydrogen Plant Inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 27 May 2024

Why in News?

GAIL (India) Ltd has **successfully launched** its **first green hydrogen plant at Vijaipur** in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- The **10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser** for the **green-hydrogen producing unit** at the Vijaipur complex has been **imported from Canada**.
- The plant will produce about **4.3 tonnes of green hydrogen per day**, with a **purity of about 99.999% by volume**.
 - It uses electricity produced from **renewable sources** such as the sun's [solar energy](#), to split water to produce green hydrogen.
 - The plant is in line with the [National Green Hydrogen mission](#) that has set out a goal of 5 million tons of annual green hydrogen production capacity for the country by 2030.
 - India is putting increased focus on hydrogen as an alternative fuel source to lower its carbon emissions, while also meeting its growing energy needs.
- Initially the hydrogen produced from this unit shall be used as a fuel along with natural gas for captive purpose in the various processes and equipment running in the existing plant at Vijaipur.
 - Further, this hydrogen is planned to be dispensed to retail customers in the nearby geographies, transported through high pressure cascades.
- **GAIL is also setting up** around 20 MW **Solar power plants at Vijaipur** (both ground mounted and floating) to meet the requirement of green power for the 10 MW PEM Electrolyzer.
- GAIL is currently experimenting in Indore by **mixing hydrogen with natural gas** in its **CGD (city gas distribution) network to evaluate its effectiveness**.
 - If successful, the plan is to increase the blending ratios with the required approvals as per the test outcomes.
 - **Present rules permit blending up to 5% hydrogen with natural gas**. Collaborative research is being conducted by GAIL along with **Engineers India Limited** and **IIT Kanpur** to explore higher blending levels of hydrogen with natural gas.



NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION



NODAL MINISTRY

► Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

OBJECTIVE

- Decarbonise energy/industrial/mobility sector
- Develop indigenous manufacturing capacities
- Create export opportunities for GH₂ and its derivative

COMPONENTS OF NGHM

- Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT)
- Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP) (PPP for R&D)

Expected Outcomes by 2030

- ◆ Atleast 5MMT GH₂ annual production
- ◆ Rs 1 lakh crore fossil fuel import savings
- ◆ 6 lakh jobs
- ◆ 50MMT CO₂ annual emissions averted
- ◆ ₹ 8 lakh crore investment

GH₂ is not commercially viable at present; current cost in India is around ₹350-400/kg.
The National Hydrogen Energy Mission aims to bring it down under ₹100/kg.

HYDROGEN AND GREEN HYDROGEN

Hydrogen is the most common element in nature but exists only in combination with other elements. It has to be extracted from naturally occurring compounds (like water).

Green Hydrogen (GH₂) is made by splitting water through an electrical process called electrolysis, using an electrolyser powered by renewable energy (RE).

