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## Madhya Pradesh Tops April GST Collection | Madhya Pradesh | 02 May 2024

### Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has secured the top position among states in India for achieving a 30% increase in [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) collection in April 2024 fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

### Key Points

- In April, the nation witnessed an **11% increase in GST revenue collection.**
- The country achieved a historic milestone with total GST collections reaching Rs 2.10 lakh crore in the initial month of the fiscal year.
- Total number of registered GST payers in the state has increased to more than 5 lakh.

### The Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- It is a **value-added tax** levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption. The GST is paid by consumers, but it is **remitted to the government by the businesses** selling the goods and services.
- **Features of GST:**
  - **Applicable On Supply Side:** GST is applicable on 'supply' of goods or services as against the old concept on the manufacture of goods or on sale of goods or on provision of services.
  - **Destination Based Taxation:** GST is based on the principle of destination-based consumption taxation as against the present principle of origin-based taxation.
  - **Dual GST:** It is a dual GST with the Centre and the States simultaneously levying tax on a common base. The GST to be levied by the Centre is called Central GST (CGST) and that to be levied by the States is called State GST (SGST).
    - Import of goods or services would be treated as inter-state supplies and would be subject to Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) in addition to the applicable customs duties.
  - **GST Rates to be Mutually Decided:** CGST, SGST & IGST are levied at rates to be mutually agreed upon by the Centre and the States. The rates are notified on the recommendation of the GST Council.
  - **Multiple Rates:** Initially GST was levied at four rates viz. 5%, 12%, 16% and 28%. The schedule or list of items that would fall under these multiple slabs are worked out by the GST council.

## Why in News?

The **Rajasthan** government is planning to host a **three-day [Investors' Summit](#) in December 2024**. The state government plans to organise these summits annually to speed up [industrialization](#).

## Key Points

- The **business sector in the state** believes that the regular occurrence of such incidents could potentially draw attention, effort, and funds away from the industries department's other responsibilities, as organising these events involves extensive year-round planning and preparation.
- The task of providing an industry-friendly environment rigorous engagement starting from **policymaking to implementation, infrastructure development, administration and monitoring, dispute resolution and host of other responsibilities**.
- The main emphasis should be on developing an attractive industrial policy to attract investments from other states to the region.

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## Great Indian Travel Bazaar | Rajasthan | 02 May 2024

### Why in News?

The **tourism department of Rajasthan** will host the **13th [Great Indian Travel Bazaar \(GITB\)](#)** in Jaipur from 5th to 7th May, 2024 to promote [tourism](#) in the state.

### Key Points

- The department is organising the event jointly with the **Centre's tourism ministry** and [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry \(Ficci\)](#).
  - The state would showcase cultural events based on **art, tourism and history of Rajasthan**.
  - A '**Wed in India Expo**' will take place on the first day of the event with the objective to **encourage tourists from India and abroad to get married in Rajasthan**.
  - On the second and third day of the event, **business-to-business meetings** will be organised with foreign tour operators. They will also be offered tours across Rajasthan.
- According to the general secretary of **All Wedding Industries Federation, Rajasthan, 1.5 to 2 million weddings** take place **every year in Rajasthan**.
  - If efforts are made by the tourism industry and the state government collectively, **Rajasthan can be promoted as a destination wedding spot**. This may **increase destination weddings by 5-10%**.
  - This will provide **new employment opportunities** to lakhs of people. The government will also get revenue and people associated with the **hotels and tourism sector will get good business**.

### Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

- FICCI is a **non-government, not-for-profit organisation established in 1927**.
- It is the **largest and oldest apex business organisation in India** whose history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

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# Chakravayuh: The Escape Room | Haryana | 02 May 2024

## Why in News?

Recently, the [Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau \(HSNCB\)](#) has launched a pioneering project called '**Chakravayuh: The escape room**' which aims to keep teenagers away from [narcotics addiction](#).

## Key Points

- Chakravayuh, meaning **labyrinth**, is an “**anti-drug escape room**” experience designed to **simulate real-life challenges** through immersive and interactive learning environments.
- The **first functional smart classroom** has been **launched in DAV Public School, Ambala**, and the project will be replicated in other government and private schools across the state.
- It is designed to **simulate realistic scenarios in a controlled environment** where participants must use their intellect and moral judgment to navigate the situations.
  - The **setup is equipped with modern technologies** such as [augmented reality \(AR\)](#) and [virtual reality \(VR\)](#) to create engaging and captivating scenarios that grab the attention and interest of young people.
  - The activity involves **solving a set of challenges**, each representing a different life scenario, including the urge to take drugs.
- The escape room educates participants about the [consequences of drug abuse](#) and the importance of **good decision-making skills**. It immerses them in scenarios that require **quick thinking and effective communication**, reflecting real-life situations. The initiative enhances teamwork and peer support mechanisms by requiring a collaborative effort to progress through challenges.
- The HSNCB is also working on **digitising this experience** so that the children interested in gaming can also **play this game online and gain knowledge** about the adverse impact of narcotic abuse.

## Drug Addiction

- It refers to the **condition of being addicted to a drug**, particularly narcotic drugs.
- These are generally illegal drugs that affect the mood and behaviour of a person.
- **Drug abuse** refers to the **use of certain chemicals for the purpose of creating pleasurable effects on the brain**.
- There are over **190 million drug users around the world** and the problem has been increasing at alarming rates, especially among young adults under the age of 30.
- **Government Initiatives to Tackle Drug Addiction:**
  - It constituted the [Narco-Coordination Centre \(NCORD\)](#) in November, 2016 and revived the scheme of “**Financial Assistance to States for Narcotics Control**”.
  - Narcotics Control Bureau has been provided funds for developing a new software i.e. **Seizure Information Management System (SIMS)** which will create a complete **online database of drug offences and offenders**.
  - The government has constituted a fund called “**National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse**” to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with combating illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs; rehabilitating addicts, and educating the public against drug abuse, etc.
  - The government is also conducting a **National Drug Abuse Survey** to measure trends of drug abuse in India through the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with the help of National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of AIIMS.
  - '**Project Sunrise**' was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016**, to tackle the [rising HIV prevalence](#) in north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs.

- **The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, (NDPS) 1985:** It prohibits a person from producing, possessing, selling, purchasing, transporting, storing, and/or consuming any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
  - The **NDPS Act** has since been **amended thrice** – in 1988, 2001 and 2014.
  - The Act extends to the whole of India and it applies also to all Indian citizens outside India and to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India.
- Government has also announced the launch of the **'Nasha Mukh Bharat', or Drug-Free India Campaign** which focuses on community outreach programs.

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## Village in Bihar Refuses to Vote | Bihar | 02 May 2024

### Why in News?

For the past two elections, residents of **Khokhanaha village in Supaul's Kosi region** have boycotted the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and the 2020 Bihar Assembly polls in anger against all political parties over **lack of government initiative to mitigate their sorrows from [Kosi river](#)**.

- Due to this Khokhanaha village is also **refusing to vote in the 2024 elections**.

### Key Points

- The Kosi River **caused significant damage to the village** a few years ago, and a year ago it isolated the village and four others from Supaul.
- These villages are now **located on an island between two streams of the Kosi**. Despite being only five kilometers away on the map, it takes an **entire day to travel to Supaul for basic necessities**.
- Residents of Khokhanaha and neighboring villages in the Kosi belt **feel neglected** by the government.
- They endure **recurring floods**, which **devastate their lives and livelihoods** without proper compensation or measures to control the river. Essential services like **electricity and healthcare are also lacking in these areas**.

### The Kosi River

- The Kosi is a **trans-boundary river** which flows through **Tibet, Nepal and India**.
- It has its **source in Tibet** that includes the **world's highest upland**, it then **drains a large part of Nepal before emerging onto the Gangetic plains**.
- Its **three major tributaries, the Sun Kosi, Arun and Tamur** meet at one point just upstream of a 10 km gorge cut through the Himalayan foothills.
- The river crosses into **northern Bihar, India** where it branches into distributaries before joining the **Ganges near Kursela in Katihar district**.
- The Kosi carries **the maximum amount of silt and sand after the Brahmaputra in India**.
- It is also known as the **"Sorrow of Bihar"** as the annual floods affect about 21,000 sq. km. of fertile agricultural lands thereby disturbing the rural economy.



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## Severe heatwave hits Jharkhand | Jharkhand | 02 May 2024

### Why in News?

Severe [Heatwave Conditions](#) gripped parts of Jharkhand with **Baharagora in East Singhbhum district** recording a maximum temperature of **47.1 degrees Celsius**.

### Key Points

- The weather department issued an '**Orange Alert**' for severe heatwave in **11 Jharkhand districts**.
  - These are Sahibganj, Godda, Pakur, Dumka, Jamtara, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Seraikela-



Kharswan, East and West Singhbhum.

- According to the **Ranchi Meteorological Centre**, [mining activities](#) and [pollution](#) could be one of the **reasons for temperatures** reaching above 47 degrees Celsius.

## Heat Waves

### ▪ About:

- Heatwaves are **prolonged periods of excessively hot weather** that can cause **adverse impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy**.
- India, being a tropical country, is particularly vulnerable to heatwaves, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years.

### ▪ IMD Criteria for Declaring Heat Wave in India:

- Heat Wave **need not be considered till the maximum temperature** of a station **reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions**.
- If the **normal maximum temperature of a station** is less than or equal to 40°C, then an **increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition.
  - Further, **an increase of 7°C or more from the normal temperature** is considered a severe heat wave condition.
- If the **normal maximum temperature** of a station is more than 40°C, then an **increase of 4°C to 5°C from the normal temperature** is considered to be heat wave condition. Further, an increase of 6°C or more is considered a **severe heat wave condition**.
  - Additionally, if the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more** irrespective of **normal maximum temperature**, a heat wave is declared.

| Heat wave Scenario                          | 40°C  | 30°C                       |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Maximum Temperature                         | Plains  | Hills                      |
| <b>Heat wave conditions prevail when...</b> | <b>Severe heat wave conditions prevail when....</b> |                            |
| Normal maximum temperature                  | Normal maximum temperature                          | Normal maximum temperature |
| Deviation from normal                       | Deviation from normal                               | Deviation from normal      |
| Above                                       | Above   | Above                      |
| 40°C  | 40°C  | 40°C                       |
| 4-5°C or more                               | 6°C or more   | 6°C or more                |
| At or below                                 | At or below   | At or below                |
| 40°C  | 40°C  | 40°C                       |
| 5-6°C or more                               | 7°C or more   | 7°C or more                |