



UP Lead in Filing GST Return | Uttar Pradesh | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

According to the [Goods and Services Tax Network \(GSTN\)](#), **Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra** are leading in filing [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) returns monthly, indicating their economic potential.

- GST is a **value-added tax** levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.

Key Points

- **In April 2024, UP**, the most populous state in the country, reported over **908,900 GST returns** summarizing their monthly transactions (in the form of GSTR-3B).
 - While industrialised **Tamil Nadu reported over 880,200 GST returns**.
 - **Maharashtra was in third position** with over 798,600 GST returns.
- Monthly return filings reflect **business activity, compliance levels, revenue potential, tax administration efficiency, and demand for goods and services** in the state.

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)

- GSTN has developed an **Indirect Taxation platform for GST in India**.
- The platform helps **taxpayers in preparing, filing returns, making payments, and complying with indirect tax regulations**.
- It provides IT infrastructure and services to the Central and State Governments, taxpayers, and other stakeholders.
- GSTN is a not for profit, limited by shares, Government Company. It was incorporated in 2013 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Now Section 8 of the [Companies Act, 2013](#)).
 - The company is **headed by a chairman** who is appointed by the Government.
- The Board of GSTN in its 49th Board Meeting held in June 2022 has approved the **conversion of GSTN into Government Company** and hence **100% of the shareholding being held by Government (50% with Union Government and 50% jointly with State Governments & UTs)** in GSTN.

Rampur: City of Knives | Uttar Pradesh | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Rampur district, in Uttar Pradesh, is celebrated as the "**City of Knives**" for its renowned **Rampuri chaku**, a historic blade **crafted since the 18th century**.



Key Points

- Rampuri chaku were a **symbol of the city's artisanship** and a **reflection of the royal patronage** that valued skill and precision.
 - The blade, forged from **high-quality steel**, was complemented by a **handle crafted from various materials, including bone, horn, and ivory.**
 - The **handles were often embellished with ornate carvings**, making each knife a piece of art.
- In the mid-1990s, **Uttar Pradesh banned** the manufacture of **knives with blades longer than 4.5 inches**. This regulation, **aimed at reducing violence**, had struck a blow to the traditional knife-making industry of Rampur.
 - Despite regulatory challenges in recent decades, **artisans uphold its legacy with legal adaptations**, maintaining its sharpness and intricate craftsmanship.
- This title honors Rampur's rich [cultural heritage](#), resilience, and **commitment to preserving a craft** that has defined its identity and captivated knife enthusiasts worldwide.

UP-PRAGATI Accelerator Programs (UPPAP) | Uttar Pradesh | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

KisanKraft Ltd, the Bengaluru-based agri-firm has joined the [World Bank's Water Resource Group \(WRG\)'s low methane rice project](#) to promote the [Direct Seeded Rice \(DSR\)](#) in Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- The company partnered with seed companies **Delta Agri Genetics** and **Savannah Seeds** to provide its DSR seed varieties for multi-location trials.

- It has developed **15 new paddy varieties suitable** for the DSR cultivation method, which requires less water.
- These varieties **do not need stagnant water, reduce water needs by half, and also decrease the use of pesticides and fertilizers.**
- The company will conduct the **pilots in Rae Bareilly, Sitapur, Pratapgarh, Barabanki, Unnao, and Ayodhya districts.**
- **Rice is India's most crucial food crop**, using the largest portion of freshwater and occupying **28% of irrigated lands.**
- Due to increasing freshwater scarcity and soil degradation, new technologies like Dry Direct Seeded Rice (dry-DSR) are becoming more popular.

UP-PRAGATI

- UP has launched an accelerator program called **UP-PRAGATI in collaboration with the 2030 Water Resources Group, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation,** and the private sector.
- The program aims to **promote water-use efficiency and low-carbon practices in agriculture** through technological and institutional innovations to boost incomes across the state.
- The UP PRAGATI program **aims to promote Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) across the state** over the next five years on 250,000 hectares in collaboration with stakeholders.

Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

- **Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)**, also known as the **'broadcasting seed technique,'** is a **water-saving method of sowing paddy.**
- In this method, **seeds are directly drilled into the fields. In contrast to the traditional water-intensive method of transplanting rice seedlings from a nursery to waterlogged fields,** this method saves groundwater.
- There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.
- Farmers have to only level their land and give one pre-sowing irrigation.

Birth Anniversary of Sucheta Kriplani | Uttar Pradesh | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Sucheta Kripalani birth anniversary is celebrated on **25 June, 2024** to commemorate her remarkable contributions as a pioneering figure in the [independence movement](#) and Indian politics.



Key Points

▪ About:

- She was an **Indian politician and freedom fighter**, born on **25 June 1908** in the **Ambala district of Haryana**.
- She was among the 15 women who were elected in 1946 as members of the new [Indian Constituent Assembly](#) formed to draft the [Constitution of India](#).

▪ Key Contributions:

- Sucheta Kripalani came to the forefront during the [Quit India Movement](#) and was **arrested by the British in 1944** for her involvement.
- She was the founder of the women's wing **All India Mahila Congress (AIMC)** for the freedom movement during the 1940s.
- She played a crucial role in the **rehabilitation of refugees in Noakhali in 1946**.
- She became the [first woman Chief Minister \(Uttar Pradesh, 1963\)](#) in India.

Quit India Movement

- On 8th August 1942, [Mahatma Gandhi](#) called to end **British rule and launched the Quit India Movement** at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- Gandhiji gave the call "**Do or Die**" in his speech delivered at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan**, now popularly known as **August Kranti Maidan**.

- Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the **Grand Old Lady** of the Independence Movement is **known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan** in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.
- The slogan '**Quit India**' was coined by **Yusuf Meherally**, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
 - Meherally had also coined the slogan "**Simon Go Back**".

Madhya Pradesh: Tiger State of India | Madhya Pradesh | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has the highest [tiger](#) population in the country. Among approximately 3,800 **big cats** in the wild, **785 of them are in Madhya Pradesh.**

- **Karnataka** for a brief period **between 2011 and 2018 had surpassed Madhya Pradesh** for the most number of tigers.

Key Points

- The [tiger census of 2022](#) put the population in the country between 3,682 and 3,925, out of which MP tops the list with 785 tigers followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560) and Maharashtra (444) respectively.
- [Jim Corbett National Park](#) in Uttarakhand tops the list with **260 tigers** amongst all the tiger reserves across the country.
 - **Efforts made by** stakeholders including [tribals](#) and **jungle dwellers** besides **forest officials** who made remarkable progress has also **led to [conservation of big cat species](#).**
- The **first tiger census was conducted in 1972**, which recorded the tiger population as 1,827.
 - India's tiger population has faced **severe threats due to habitat loss, [poaching](#), and [human-wildlife conflict](#).**
 - In the early 20th century, India had a robust tiger population, but by the 1970s, their numbers had diminished alarmingly.
- In response, the government launched '[Project Tiger](#)' in **1973**, which aimed at creating a network of [tiger reserves](#) across the country to provide safe habitats for tigers and to curb poaching activities.
 - Maintaining the [ecological balance](#) and [biodiversity](#) of India's forests was also an objective of the project.

Tiger Reserves

- A protected area designated for the conservation of the **striped big cats (tigers)** is referred to as **Tiger Reserve**. However, a **tiger reserve may also be a national park or wildlife sanctuary**.
 - For Example: The **Sariska Tiger Reserve** is also a [national park](#). It is so because the place was originally created as a national park and **later dedicated to tiger conservation**.
- Tiger Reserves are **notified by State Governments** as per provisions of **Section 38V of the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)** on advice of the [National Tiger Conservation Authority](#).
- Presently, India accommodates **a total of 54 Tiger Reserves** (with the most recent addition being the [Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve](#)).

TIGER

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

Subspecies of Tiger

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

Habitat

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



Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

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

Protection Status

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

Threats

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

Conservation Efforts

- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA): For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- Tx2 campaign: Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA): Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- Project Tiger: Launched in 1973
- Tiger Census: Every 4 years

Tigers In India

- India has the largest population
 - As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
 - Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- Tiger Reserves: India now has 53 tiger reserves
 - Ranipur in UP is the latest
 - Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)



India's First Pilot Project for Underground Coal Gasification | Jharkhand | 27 Jun 2024

Why in News?

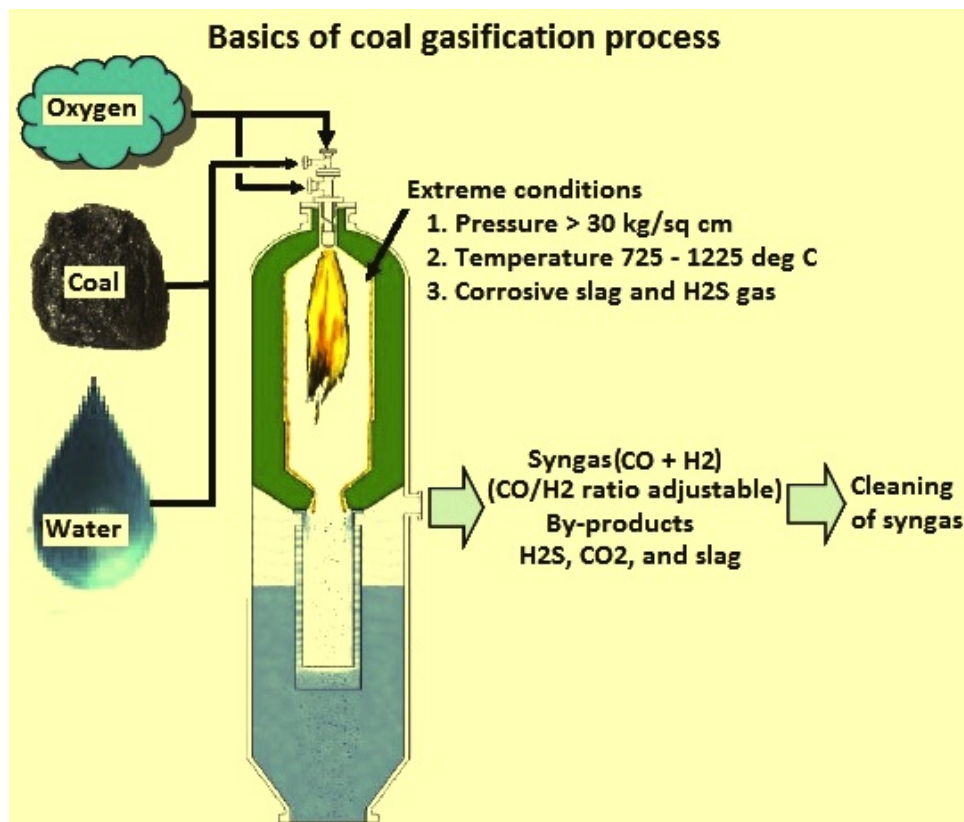
The Ministry of Coal, [Eastern Coalfields Limited \(ECL\)](#) is conducting a pilot project for [Underground Coal Gasification \(UCG\)](#) at the **Kasta coal block in Jamtara District**, Jharkhand.

Key Points

- It aims to revolutionise the coal industry by using **in-situ coal gasification** to **convert it into valuable gases such as methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.**
 - These gases can be utilised to produce **synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks for fuels, fertilizers, explosives,** and other industrial applications.
- The Ministry of Coal is fully committed to promoting coal gasification projects, recognizing their potential to transform coal into various **high-value chemical products.**
 - The **first phase** involves creating a **Technical Feasibility Report** through borehole drilling and core testing. The **next phase** will **focus on coal gasification** at a pilot scale.
- The successful execution of this pilot project is expected to **create transformative opportunities for India's energy sector**, highlighting the sustainable and efficient use of the

country's coal resources.

Coal Gasification



- **Process:** Coal gasification is a process in which coal is **partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas.**
 - This gas is then used instead of piped natural gas, methane and others for deriving energy.
 - In-situ gasification of coal - or **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** - is the technique of converting coal into gas while it is still in the seam and then extracting it through wells.
- **Production of Syngas:** It produces Syngas which is a **mixture consisting primarily of methane (CH₄), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapour (H₂O).**
 - **Syngas** can be used to produce a wide range of **fertilizers, fuels, solvent and synthetic materials.**