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## Chhattisgarh's Initiatives to Combat Malaria | Chhattisgarh | 17 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister has directed the health department to take **proactive measures for preventing seasonal diseases** during the monsoon season.

- As a result, the number of **malaria cases** across the state, including Bastar, has **significantly reduced**.

### Key Points

- Preventing diseases like malaria in the **dense forests and inaccessible areas of Bastar Division** has always been a **major challenge**.
- Under the **malaria eradication campaign**, The malaria positivity rate decreased from 4.60% to 0.51% during nine phases of the malaria eradication campaign from 2020 to 2023.
  - The tenth phase ended on 5th July, 2024, and **16.97 lakh insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed in 22 districts** as part of the campaign.
- The health department's malaria case report for the first half of 2024 revealed the following number of cases: 1,660 in Bastar, 4,441 in Bijapur, 1,640 in Dantewada, 259 in Kanker, 701 in Kondagaon, 1,509 in Narayanpur, and 1,144 in Sukma.
- Consequently, the health department has enhanced case monitoring and strengthened the treatment facilities in all the districts.

### Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by **plasmodium parasites**.
  - There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – **P. falciparum and P. vivax** – pose the greatest threat.
- Malaria is predominantly found in **the tropical and subtropical areas** of Africa, South America as well as Asia.
- Malaria is spread by the bite of an **infected female Anopheles mosquito**.
  - The **mosquito becomes infected** after biting an infected person. The malaria parasites then enter the bloodstream of the next person the mosquito bites. The parasites travel to the liver, mature, and then infect **red blood cells**.
- Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Notably, **malaria is both preventable and curable**.

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## Regional Industrial Conclaves in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh

| 17 Jul 2024

## Why in News?

According to the sources, The **Madhya Pradesh government** is going to organise **Regional Industrial Conclaves (RIC)** in different cities of the state in the coming months.

## Key Points

- According to the **Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC)**, following Jabalpur, RIC events will be organized in **Gwalior, Rewa, and Sagar**.
  - Additionally, a **textile conclave is planned for Indore**, and a conclave focused on electronics and **renewable energy** equipment manufacturing units will be held in Bhopal.
- As per officials, after organising the **Global Investors Summit (GIS)** in Indore for several consecutive years, the state government has now decided to organise it in the **capital city, Bhopal**.

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## Madhya Pradesh Pilgrimage Scheme | Madhya Pradesh | 17 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

**Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister has directed for the expansion of the **government's pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens** and inclusion of the state's religious places in it.

### Key Points

- The **Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana**, under which people visit various pilgrimage sites in the country, was started in 2012.
- The **geographical structure of Madhya Pradesh prevents many residents from visiting various pilgrimage sites**, leaving them unaware of the unique features within their own state.
  - The **scheme should be expanded to enable senior citizens to visit** not only **renowned pilgrimage sites across the country** but also notable religious locations within Madhya Pradesh.
- The CM asked the officials to:
  - Prepare a plan for **facilitating meritorious students to visit important tourist places** of historical importance.
  - Enable **visits of folk artists from tribal-dominated areas to the tourist places**, where they can **showcase their art**.

### Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana

- It was **launched** by the Department of Religious Trusts and Endowments, Government of Madhya Pradesh in **June 2012**.
- Under the scheme, the state government provides **one-time assistance to senior citizens above 60 years of age (2 years relaxation in case of women) of the state to visit a prescribed pilgrimage outside the state**.
- In this scheme, **free travel** is made to senior citizens of the state.
  - The pilgrims travel by special train, breakfast, food, and pure drinking water, arrangements for stay at pilgrimage places, etc.

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## Haryana Adds New OBC Quota | Haryana | 17 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Haryana Government** hiked the creamy layer ceiling for **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** from an **annual income of ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh**. Also introduced a **5% quota for the OBC-B category in Panchayati Raj Institutions and municipalities**.

### Key Points

- **OBCs in Haryana** are estimated at around **40% of the State's population** and **comprise 78 castes**.
- The **5% reservation** for the OBC-B category **would be in addition to the 8% quota for the OBC-A category already in force**.

### Other Backward Class (OBC)

- The term OBC includes all classes of citizens who are **socially and educationally backwards**.
- Supreme Court concluded that in order to identify OBC's, the **principle of exclusion of creamy layer** should be applied.
  - A **creamy layer** can be defined as those **classes of people within the OBC category who are no longer backward** and are socially and economically at par with other forward classes of the country.

### Constitutional Provisions

- Under **Article 15(4)** of the Constitution, the **State has the power to make special provisions** for the advancement of **any socially and educationally backward class i.e., the OBC**.
  - The term "special provision for advancement" includes several aspects like reservation of seats in educational institutions, financial assistance, scholarships, free housing etc.
- Under **Article 16(4)**, the state is empowered to enact laws **for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of OBCs**.

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## MSP for Makhana | Bihar | 17 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

- Recently, The **Bihar government** has urged the Centre to declare the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for makhana**, an aquatic crop **cultivated across 10 districts** in the state.

### Key Points

- The state has raised concerns about the shortage of staff at the Darbhanga-based **Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Research Centre (ICAR-NRC)** for Makhana.

- **Bihar produces about 85% of the country's makhana**, with approximately 10 lakh people directly or indirectly involved in its cultivation and production process.
- According to the Agriculture Ministry, The **ICAR-NRC for Makhana in Darbhanga** was **approved by the Department of Agricultural Research & Education**, Government of India, as a new scheme **during the IX Five Year Plan period (1997-2002)** for Conservation, Research & Development of the makhana crop.
  - The **NRC for Makhana started operating in February 2002**, but in **2005 it was merged with the ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region (RCER) in Patna**, resulting in the **revocation of its "national" status**.
  - **In May 2023**, the Central government upgraded the Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga to **"National Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga"** and expanded its mandate to include other aquatic crops such as fish.
  - The **NRC for Makhana was transferred under the ICAR's Agricultural Engineering Division** and attached **to the Ludhiana-based ICAR-Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology**.

## Mithila Makhana

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: *Euryale ferox* Salisb.) is a special variety of **aquatic fox nut cultivated in Mithila region of Bihar** and Nepal.
- Makhana is the **one of the three prestigious cultural identities** of Mithila.
  - **Pan, Makhan and Machh (fish)** are the three prestigious cultural identities of Mithila.
- It is also very famous in the **Kojagara festival of Maithil Brahmins** celebrated for newly married couples.
- Makhana contains **protein and fiber**, along with **micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus**.
- It received its **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag** in 2022.

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## Saushrutam 2024 | Uttar Pradesh | 17 Jul 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, The **Department of Shalya Tantra** at **All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** successfully organised the **Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti** on the occasion of **Sushruta Jayanti-2024**.

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## Key Points

- **Sushruta Jayanti** is celebrated annually on **15th July** to honor Sushruta, the legendary **father of surgery**.
- He was an **ancient Indian surgeon from Kashi** (around 7th century BC) and is the author of '**Sushruta Samhita**', a comprehensive textbook on medicine and surgery.
- The Sushruta Samhita is organized into **five major sections**:
  - **Sutrasthana**: Primary principles dealing with basic principles of medical sciences and pharmacology;
  - **Nidana**: It deals with pathological concepts;
  - **Sarirasthana**: On human anatomy;
  - **Chikitsasthanam**: On medical and surgical management;
  - **Kalpasthanam**: On toxicology.