



Lightning Strike Kills in Bihar | Bihar | 03 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, At least 12 people were killed by [lightning strikes](#) in different parts of Bihar. The **Chief Minister expressed his condolences** over the deaths and **announced an [ex gratia](#) of 4 lakh each for their families.**

- **Ex gratia** meaning is a **payment made out of virtue** to individuals by an organization or government **for claims and damages.**

Key Points

- The Chief minister has asked people to be **vigilant and stay at home during [thunderstorms](#).**
 - He has also encouraged citizens to adhere to the advisories released by the [State Disaster Management Department](#) regarding thunderstorms and heavy rainfall.
- According to **the [Bihar Economic Survey report for 2023-2024](#)**, the state witnessed **400 deaths related to lightning and thunderstorms in 2022-23** and the highest number of deaths were reported from Gaya (46), Bhojpur (23) and Nawada (21).
 - The state government allocated Rs 430 crore for management of disasters in 2022-23 and of this Rs 285.22 crore went toward local disasters like lightning and drowning.

Lightning

- It is the natural process of "**an electrical discharge of very little duration and high voltage** between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud," accompanied by a bright flash, a loud sound, and occasionally thunderstorms.
- **Cloud-to-ground (CG) lightning is dangerous because** it can electrocute people due to its high electric voltage and current. **Inter- or intra-cloud lightning** is visible and safe.

India to Host Tarang Shakti | Rajasthan | 03 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, **India will host the international air exercise '[Tarang Shakti](#)'** in two phases, taking place in **Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.**

Key Points

- It will be the **largest [international air exercise](#)** ever conducted in India, with invitations extended to 51 countries.

- The [Indian Air Force](#) has received confirmation from ten countries for participation with their assets and 18 countries as observers.
 - Phase one of the exercise will be conducted at **Sulur in Tamil Nadu** from August 6 to August 14 and **four countries including France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom will participate** with their assets.
 - Phase two will be held at **Jodhpur in Rajasthan** from September 1 to 14 and it will see **participation from Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE and the USA** with their assets.
- **F-18, A-18, C-130 aircraft, F-16 aircraft, A-10, KC-130 aircraft, KC-135 aircraft** of the Indian Air Force will take part in this exercise.
 - It aims to **boost military cooperation and highlight [India's defence industry](#)**, supporting the country's vision of [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#) (self-reliant India).

Atmanirbhar Bharat
The Road Ahead

5 Pillars of Self-Reliant India

- Economy**: Quantum jumps, not incremental changes
- Infra-structure**: One that represents modern India
- System**: Technology driven
- Demography**: Vibrant demography of the largest democracy
- Demand**: Full utilisation of power of demand and supply

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- Package of ₹ 20 lakh crores (about 10% of GDP*)
- Focus on Land, Labour, Liquidity and Laws
- To cater to labourers, middle class, cottage industry, MSMEs and industries among others

**including recent economic measures and RBI announcements*

Bold Reforms– Need of the Hour

- Supply Chain Reforms for Agriculture
- Rational Tax System
- Simple and Clear Laws
- Capable Human Resource
- Strong Financial System

Rare Orchid Species | Uttarakhand | 03 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Two **research associates** from the **Uttarakhand forest department** found a [rare orchid species](#), **Calanthe davidii**, at Gini Band in Munsyari tehsil of **Pithoragarh district**.



Key Points

- **India is home to 244 orchid species, and Uttarakhand hosts 120 of them**, some of which are exceptionally rare.
 - One such rare species is *Calanthe davidii*, a **terrestrial plant that grows in clusters** and reaches **heights between 40 and 90 centimeters**.
 - This species was **initially discovered in the [Western Himalayas](#)**, including Mussoorie and Mayabasti in Uttarakhand, Chamba in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **In Uttarakhand**, it was **first found in Mussoorie in 1898** and **in Champawat in 2002**.
 - This species is **under threat due to seasonal goat herding** activities.
 - In response, the **Uttarakhand forest research wing** has **initiated efforts to cultivate the plants in a nursery located in Chamoli district**, in order to conserve this species.
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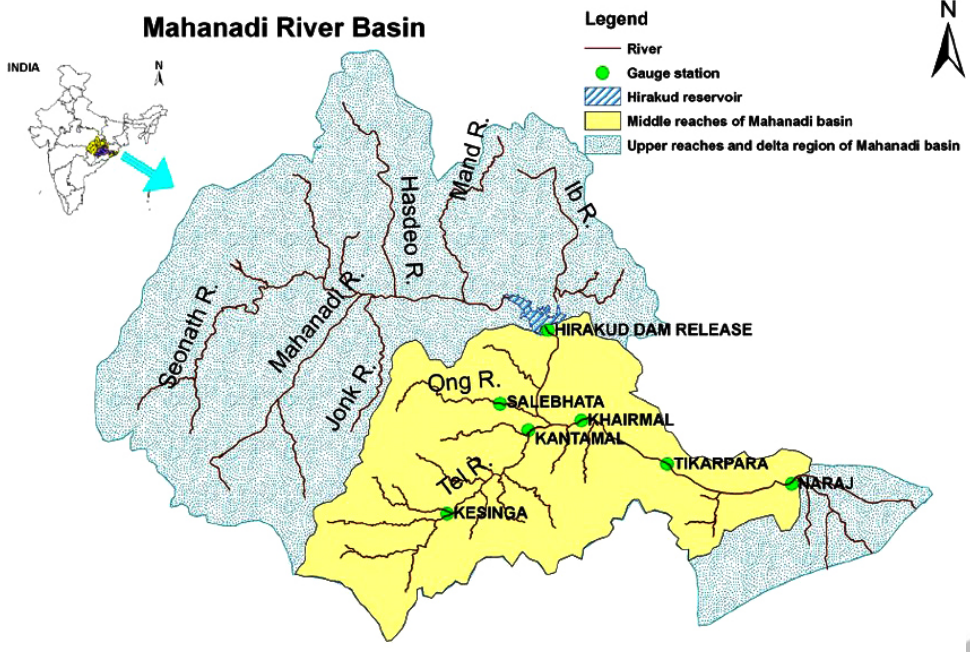
No Flood Threat in Mahanadi | Chhattisgarh | 03 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the government officials there is **no fear of flood** on the [Mahanadi River system](#).

Key Points

- The Mahanadi River system is the **third largest of peninsular India after [Godavari](#) and [Krishna](#)**, and the **largest river of Odisha state**.
- The catchment area of the river **extends to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra**.
- Its basin is **bounded by the Central India hills** on the north, by the **Eastern Ghats** on the south and **east and by the [Maikala range](#)** in the west.
- **Source:**
 - It rises from **a place near Sihawa, near Raipur** in the state of Chhattisgarh to the south of Amarkantak.
- **Major Tributaries:**
 - The Seonath, the Hasdeo, the Mand and the Ib rivers joins Mahanadi from **left whereas the Ong, the Tel and the Jonk joins it from right**.
- **Mahanadi River Dispute:**
 - The Central Government constituted [Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal](#) in 2018.
- **Major Dams/Projects on Mahanadi:**
 - [Hirakud Dam](#) is the longest dam of India.
 - Ravishankar Sagar, Dudhawa Reservoir, Sondur Reservoir, Hasdeo Bango and Tandula are other major projects.
- **Urban Centres :**
 - Three important urban centres in the basin are **Raipur, Durg and Cuttack**.
- **Industries:**
 - Mahanadi basin, because of its rich mineral resource and adequate power resource, **has a favourable industrial climate**.
 - **Iron and Steel plant** at Bhilai
 - **Aluminium factories** at Hirakud and Korba
 - **Paper mill** near Cuttack
 - **Cement factory** at Sundargarh.
- Other industries based primarily on agricultural produce **are sugar and textile mills**.
- **Mining of coal, iron and manganese** are other industrial activities.



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