



New Flight Schedule to Boost Regional Tourism | Madhya Pradesh | 02 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh government expanded air services routes to boost regional tourism** and announced a new flight schedule for the [PM Shri Tourism Air Service](#).

Key Points

- The scheme **aimed at enhancing tourism and improving air connectivity**, has announced a **new scheme scheduled to start from 1st August 2024**.
 - The service will now incorporate **cluster routes linking Khajuraho** to Bhopal, [Gwalior](#), **Rewa and Singrauli**.
 - Flights from **Bhopal and Jabalpur to Ujjain** will be offered on Sunday, while services to Khajuraho will operate on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
 - The **state is classified into five regions**-Gwalior and Chambal, Baghelkhand region, Bundelkhand region, Mahakaushal region, Malwa-Nimar region and Narmadapuram.
- The state government is set to host an ambitious **39th IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators) Annual Convention** in **Bhopal** to boost tourism in MP.
 - This event is **expected to draw over 1000 delegates**, including tour operators, hoteliers, and other key stakeholders from across the country, **promising to enhance both domestic and international tourism in Madhya Pradesh**.

PM Shri Tourism Air Service

- The PM Shri Tourism Air Service was **inaugurated on 13th June 2024**.
- It is an **intra-state air service that connects Madhya Pradesh's religious and tourist spots**, aiming to improve connectivity for domestic and international tourists.

Toxic Waste Disposal of Bhopal Gas Tragedy | Madhya Pradesh | 02 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh government** decided to **incinerate 337 Metric Tons (MT) of toxic waste** from the Union Carbide facility, nearly 40 years after [the Bhopal gas tragedy, 1984](#).

Key Points

- The **central government** has earmarked **Rs 126 crore for the disposal of the waste.**
 - The **disposal process is expected to be executed in 180 days**, at the incinerator of the **Treatment Storage Disposal Facility (TSDF) in Pithampur, Indore.**
- The disposal process involves transporting the waste from the contaminated site to the disposal site, blending it with reagents, and then incinerating it.
 - The Madhya Pradesh Department of [Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation \(BGTRR\)](#) will oversee the disposal.
- **Challenges and Concerns:**
 - The plan to **incinerate the waste at the Pithampur TSDF has faced opposition from residents**, leading to the suspension of further plans in 2015.
 - A 2021 [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) report directed the remediation of the [Solar Evaporation Ponds \(SEPs\)](#) located north of the factory, indicating ongoing environmental contamination.
 - The Solar Evaporation Ponds (SEPs) were **used primarily to store low-level radioactive wastes contaminated with high concentrations of nitrate.**
 - Traces of heavy metals and other contaminants have been found in the borewell water around the site, exceeding acceptable limits.
 - Social groups working for the rehabilitation of the gas tragedy victims have refuted claims about the safety of the incineration process, citing **high levels of Dioxins and Furans** detected during trial runs.

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy 1984

- The **Bhopal gas tragedy** was one of the **worst industrial accidents in history that occurred on the night of 2-3 December 1984** at the **Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, MP.**
- It exposed people and animals to the highly toxic gas [methyl isocyanate \(MIC\)](#), causing immediate and long-term health effects and deaths.

Red Alert for Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 02 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) has issued a **red alert** for certain areas in **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand** due to an **increased risk of extremely heavy rainfall and potential flooding.**

Key Points

- Heavy rainfall raises concerns for **waterlogging, landslides, and disruptions to daily life and transportation.**
- Authorities are urging residents in these areas to **stay informed with the latest weather updates and take necessary precautions** to safeguard their health and property as the monsoon intensifies.

Colour- Coded Weather Warning

- It is issued by the **IMD** whose objective is to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.
- Warnings are updated daily.

- The IMD uses 4 colour codes are:
 - **Green (All is well): No advisory** is issued.
 - **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.
 - **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
 - **Red (Take Action):** When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.
- These alerts are **universal in nature** and are also issued during floods, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall.
- For instance, when the water in a river is 'above normal' level, or between the 'warning' and 'danger' levels, a yellow alert is issued.

Ayodhya Becomes a Model Solar City | Uttar Pradesh | 02 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The Uttar Pradesh has **achieved a 40 MW power generation capacity** through a [solar energy](#) plant in **Ayodhya**.

- Due to which **Ayodhya achieved** the prestigious designation of a **model solar city** under the [Uttar Pradesh Solar Energy Policy 2022](#).

Key Points

- According to this policy, a **solar city is defined as one where renewable energy plants can reduce the estimated total demand for conventional energy by at least 10%**.
 - Ayodhya has surpassed this benchmark, **achieving double the required capacity**.
- The plant was set up by [National Thermal Power Corporation \(NTPC\) Green Energy Limited](#) near the [Saryu River](#) in the villages of Majha Rampur Halwara and Majha Sarairasi.
 - The **state government has leased 165.10 acres of land to NTPC Green Energy Limited for 30 years at the nominal rate of Rs 1 per acre per year** to establish a solar power plant project.
 - This plant will be purchased by [Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited \(UPPCL\)](#) **for 25 years at a cost-plus-determined tariff**, leading to Ayodhya being declared a model solar city.

Saryu River

- The Saryu is a river **that flows through Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh**.
- This **river is of ancient significance as it is mentioned in the Vedas and the Ramayana**.
- The river is **formed at the confluence of rivers Karnali and Mahakali**. It is a tributary of River Ganges.
- On **Ram Navami**, the festival that celebrates the birthday of Lord Rama, **thousands of people take a dip in the Saryu River at Ayodhya**.

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL)

- **Established on 14th January 2000**, as the result of power sector reforms and restructuring in UP which is the **focal point of the Power Sector**, responsible for planning and managing the sector through its **transmission, distribution and supply of electricity**.
- It is a professionally managed utility supplying reliable and cost efficient electricity to every citizen of the state.

Uttar Pradesh Gets Permission for New Medical Colleges | Uttar Pradesh | 02 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [National Medical Commission \(NMC\)](#) granted permission to **seven new medical colleges** and increased seats in two existing colleges in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

- Permission has been issued for the autonomous state medical colleges in **Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Kushinagar, Pilibhit, Sultanpur, Kanpur Dehat and Lalitpur collectively** having **600 MBBS seats**.
 - Additionally, the government medical colleges in Agra and Meerut have had their seat counts increased by 72 and 50 bringing the total to **200 seats at the Agra Medical College and 150 seats at the Meerut Medical College**.

National Medical Commission (NMC)

- NMC is the **apex regulatory body for medical education and practice in India**.
- It was **established in 2020** by the [National Medical Commission Act, 2019](#), replacing the **Medical Council of India (MCI)**.
- It consists of four autonomous boards: the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board, the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board, the Medical Assessment and Rating Board, and the Ethics and Medical Registration Board.
 - NMC also has a Medical Advisory Council, which advises the commission on matters related to medical education and practice.
- NMC is responsible for conducting and overseeing major screening tests, such as NEET-UG, NEET-PG, and FMGE.
- It also regulates the **standards and quality of medical education and training**, the registration and ethics of medical practitioners, and the assessment and rating of medical institutions.
- NMC has also achieved the prestigious [World Federation for Medical Education \(WFME\)](#) recognition, which means that the medical degrees awarded by the NMC are recognized globally.
 - The WFME was founded in 1972 by the World Medical Association, the World Health Organization, and other organizations.