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## Toll-Free Number for Vidya Samiksha Kendras | Uttar Pradesh | 13 Aug 2024

### Why in News?

According to the sources, the **Uttar Pradesh government** is set to implement a **toll-free number system** for the [Vidya Samiksha Kendras](#) as part of its efforts to **improve the quality of education**.

### Key Points

- This toll-free line will act as a **platform for gathering feedback, addressing concerns, and resolving school education inquiries from parents, students, and teachers**.
  - It will use [interactive voice response \(IVR\) technology](#) to address various educational concerns.
- This initiative is anticipated to **increase public involvement and bolster the education system** in order to support students at the primary, upper primary, and composite school levels across the state.
  - Additionally, all Vidya Samiksha Kendras will be incorporated into this process.

### Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs)

- **About:**
  - VSK is aimed at **leveraging data and technology** to bring a big leap in learning outcomes.
  - This will cover data of more than **15 Lakh schools**, 96 Lakh teachers and 26 Crore students and analyze them meaningfully using big data analysis, [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) and machine learning in order to enhance the overall monitoring of the education system and thereby improving learning outcomes.
- **Objectives:**
  - To monitor the **real-time status of various projects/ activities** under the ambit of Samagra Shiksha.
  - To keep track of enrolled **students including learning outcomes**, Dropouts, support required by teachers and schools, etc.
  - To monitor and **track field level academic and non-academic activities** at state level and also empower administrators and teachers in the field to take data driven decisions.
  - To set up a centralized **help desk for grievance redressal mechanisms** for stakeholders of the School ecosystem.
  - To identify and analyse improvement areas for decision making and implementation that needs urgent attention.

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## Women Swept Away in Uttarakhand Rivers | Uttarakhand | 13 Aug

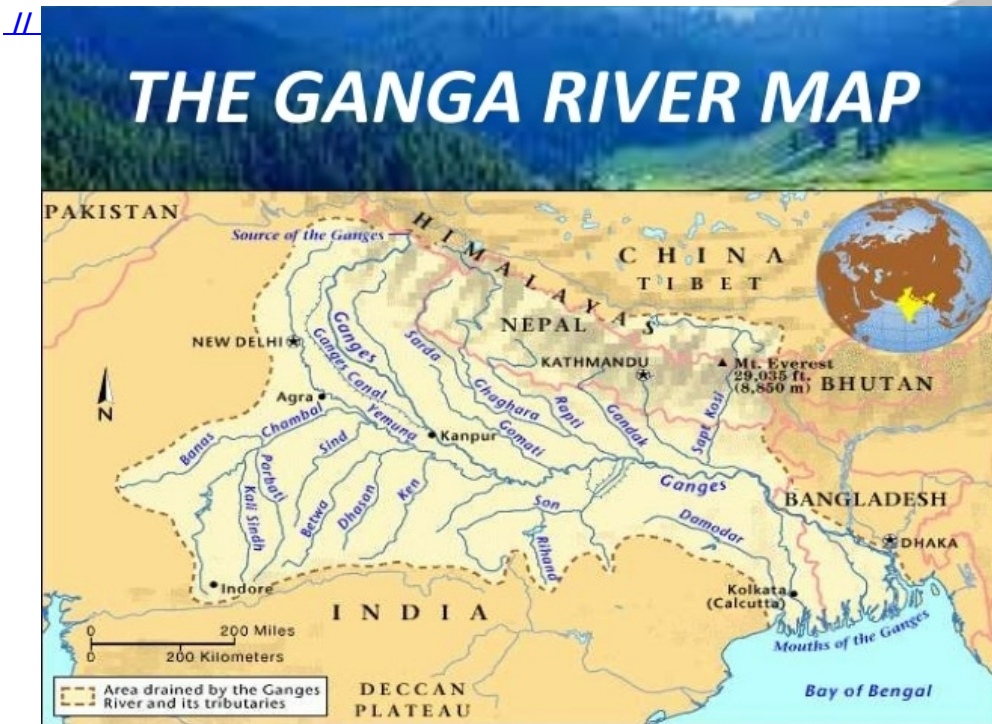
2024

## Why in News?

Recently, Three women were swept away by strong currents in [Ganga](#) and [Bhagirathi rivers](#) in Uttarakhand.

## Key Points

- A [State Disaster Response Force \(SDRF\)](#) team has launched a search operation in the area.
- **Bhagirathi River:**
  - It is a **turbulent Himalayan river** of Uttarakhand, and one of the two headstreams of the Ganges.
  - The Bhagirathi **rises at the foot of [Gangotri Glacier](#), at [Gaumukh](#)**, at an elevation of 3892 m and fanning out into the 350 km wide Ganga delta, it finally empties into the [Bay of Bengal](#).
  - The [Bhagirathi and Alaknanda](#) join at [Devprayag](#) in Garhwal and are thereafter known as [the Ganges](#).



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## Stampede at Temple in Bihar | Bihar | 13 Aug 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, several people died after a [stampede](#) occurred at **Baba Siddhnath Temple** in Makhdumpur, located in the **Jehanabad district** of Bihar.

### Key Points

- The incident was reportedly sparked by a **dispute among**[kanwariyas](#) and flower vendors near the temple entrance.
- Local authorities are investigating the cause, and **financial assistance has been announced for the families of the victims.**

## Stampede

- **About:**
  - A stampede is an impulsive mass [movement of a crowd](#) that **often results in injuries and deaths.**
  - It is often **triggered by response to a perceived danger**, loss of physical space and a collective will to attain something seen as gratifying.
- **Types:**
  - **Two main types of stampedes are Unidirectional stampedes** occur when a crowd moving in the same direction encounters a sudden change in force, triggered by forces like sudden stops or negative forces like broken barriers.
  - **Turbulent stampedes** happen in situations with uncontrolled crowds, induced panic, or crowds merging from multiple directions.
- **Fatalities in Stampedes:**
  - Stampedes can cause fatalities through:
    - **Traumatic Asphyxia: It is the most common cause that occurs** due to external **compression of the thorax or upper abdomen.** Can happen even in moderate crowds of 6-7 people pushing in one direction.
    - **Other causes:** Myocardial infarction (heart attack), Direct crushing injuries to internal organs, Head injuries and Neck compression.

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## Floating Solar Project in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 13 Aug 2024

### Why in News?

According to the sources, The [largest floating solar project](#) in central and north India, generating **90 MW of energy**, has been commissioned at **Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh.**

### Key Points

- The project is executed by **SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL)**. It is a **Mini Ratna Schedule 'A'** Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- **Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project:**
  - Located in the [Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park](#) on [Narmada river](#) in **Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.**
  - The project aims to significantly **reduce carbon emissions by 2.3 lakh tons of CO2**, supporting India's goal of achieving [net-zero emissions by 2070.](#)
  - It will also help in [water conservation](#) by reducing water evaporation.

### Narmada River



#### ▪ About:

- The Narmada River (also known as Rewa) serves as a traditional boundary between North and South India.
- It is 1,312 km west of its origin from the [Amarkantak peak](#) of **Maikal mountain**. It flows into the [Gulf of Khambhat](#).
- It drains a large area in Madhya Pradesh besides some areas in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- **It is a West flowing river of the peninsular region flowing** through a rift valley between the [Vindhya Range](#) on the north and the [Satpura Range](#) on the south.

#### ▪ Tributaries:

- The **predominant tributaries from the right** are - Hiran, Tendori, Barna, Kolar, Man, Uri, Hatni, and Orsang.
- The **predominant left tributaries are** - Burner, Banjar, Sher, Shakkar, Dudhi, Tawa, Ganjal, Chhota Tawa, Kundi, Goi, and Karjan.

#### ▪ Dams:

- The Major dams on the river include **Omkareshwar and Maheshwar dams**.

## Rajasthan's First Aviation Academy | Rajasthan | 13 Aug 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **Rajasthan** Chief Minister inaugurated the state's **first [flight training academy](#)** at **Kishangarh airport in Ajmer district**.

### Key Points

- The new academy would help in the **growth of economic activities in Kishangarh**, which had emerged as a **major business centre because of its marble and granite industry**.
- The **enhancement in air connectivity** in the State will also **facilitate [tourism](#)**.
- The **Centre had approved 21 greenfield airports across the country** and taken steps to increase the number of air passengers and **promote regional connectivity** by upgrading under-serviced air routes.
  - More than 1.41 crore domestic passengers had benefited from the Centre's [UDAN scheme](#).



## UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme

### ▪ About:

- The scheme was **launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation** for regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement.
- It is **a part of the [National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016](#)**.
- The scheme is applicable for a **period of 10 years**.

### ▪ Objectives:

- Improve the air connectivity to remote and regional areas of India.
- Development of remote areas and enhancing trade and commerce and tourism expansion.
- Enable common people to access air travel with affordable rates.
- Employment creation in the aviation sector.

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## Security Camps on Tribal Properties | Jharkhand | 13 Aug 2024

### Why in News?

According to a Citizen's report, most of the **security camps in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**, post 2019, **have been set up on private or community properties of tribals** without their consent and in **severe violation of existing laws**.

### Key Points

- The proliferation of paramilitary camps set up without the consent of tribal communities in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, which are meant to **facilitate [mining operations](#)** and corporate interests at the cost of Adivasi lives and **constitutional rights**.
  - The **peaceful democratic protests against the camps have been ignored** or suppressed using brutal methods, such as lathi-charge, burning the sites, and firing on the protestors.
- Most of these camps have been set up in areas that currently fall in the conservation or **no-mining zone** as per [the Management Plan for Sustainable Mining 2018](#).
- The report calls for the implementation of the [Panchayat \(Extension to Scheduled Areas\) Act, 1996](#) and [the Forest Rights Act, 2006](#) to respect the law and end human rights violations.

## Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996

### ▪ About:

- The PESA Act was **enacted in 1996** "to provide for the extension of the provisions of **Part IX** of the Constitution relating to the [Panchayats](#) to the Scheduled Areas".
  - **Part IX, comprising Articles 243-243ZT** of the Constitution, contains provisions **relating to municipalities and cooperative societies**.

### ▪ Provisions:

- Under the Act, **Scheduled Areas are those referred to in Article 244(1)**, which says that the provisions of the [Fifth Schedule](#) shall apply to the **Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.
- The Fifth Schedule **provides for a range of special provisions for these areas**.
- **Ten states** — Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana have **notified Fifth Schedule areas** that cover (partially or fully) several districts in each of these states.

## Forest Rights Act, 2006

- The **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** was introduced to formally recognise and grant forest rights and occupation in **forest lands** to forest-dwelling **Scheduled Tribes** and other traditional forest dwellers who have resided in these forests for generations, even though their rights had not been officially documented.
- It aimed to **address the historical injustices** faced by forest-dwelling communities due to the forest management policies of colonial and post-colonial India, which failed to acknowledge their **long-standing symbiotic relationship with the forests**.
- Additionally, the Act sought to **empower forest dwellers** by enabling them to access and utilise forest resources sustainably, promote biodiversity and ecological balance, and protect them from unlawful evictions and displacement.

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/13-08-2024/print>

