



MP Prohibits Hindu Students from Enrolling in Madrasas | Madhya Pradesh | 20 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh** government has **issued an order barring Hindu students from enrolling in the [madrasas](#)**, regulated by the state madrasa board or those receiving government aid.

Key Points

- The decision is a result of complaints that **several madrasas in the state were enrolling fictitious Hindu students to get government aid.**
 - An investigation found that **thousands of Hindu students have been enrolled in madrasas**, which were **operating only on paper.**
- According to the authorities, the **madrasas cannot force the students to participate in the religious activities or religious studies without written consent from them or their parents**, if they are minors.
 - All institutes, including madrasas, government-aided, and private institutes, must comply with the provisions of the **[New Education Policy 2020](#).**

New Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- The **NEP 2020** seeks to tackle the evolving development needs of India.
 - It calls for a **comprehensive overhaul of the education system**, including its **regulations and management**, to establish a modern system that aligns with 21st-century educational goals, including **[Sustainable Development Goal 4 \(SDG4\)](#)**, while respecting **India's cultural heritage and values.**
- It replaces the thirty-four year old **National Policy on Education, 1986, modified in 1992** (NPE 1986/92).

Initiatives of Madhya Pradesh For Promoting Menstrual Health | Madhya Pradesh | 20 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the India unit of the **[United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)** **praised the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister's initiatives** for promoting **[menstrual health](#)** among adolescents in the state.

Key Points

- During an event, Chief Minister transferred a collective sum of **Rs 57.18 crore to the accounts of 19 lakh girl students** under the '[Samagra Shiksha](#)' programme for sanitation and hygiene.
- Under the sanitation and hygiene scheme, funds have been transferred for **sanitary napkins to girl students of Classes VII to XII.**
 - School and college Girls are also being educated about the [importance of cleanliness and its measures.](#)

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- It was **launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018.**
- It is an **integrated scheme for school education** covering the entire gamut from **pre-school to class XII.**
- It aims to deliver inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education.
- It **subsumes** the three Schemes of [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan \(SSA\)](#), **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** and **Teacher Education (TE).**
- It is being implemented as a [centrally sponsored scheme.](#)
 - It involves a 60:40 split in funding between the Centre and most States.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

- UNICEF was **created in 1946** as **International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF)** by the **UN relief Rehabilitation Administration** to help children affected by World War II.
- UNICEF became a **permanent part of the United Nations in 1953.**
- It is **mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights**, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- UNICEF is guided by the **Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.**
 - It strives to establish **children's rights as enduring ethical principles** and international standards of behaviour towards children.
- Awarded the **Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965** for "**promotion of brotherhood among the nations**".
- **Headquarters:** New York City.

Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojana (JMMSY) | Jharkhand | 20 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the **Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojana (JMMSY).**

Key Points

- Under the scheme, **Rs 1,000 will be given to eligible women between 21 and 50 years** of age from families living **below the poverty line.**
 - **A total of Rs 12,000 will be sent to the bank accounts** of all eligible women every year through [Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme.](#)
- The **state government has launched many ambitious schemes** for the **all-round**

development of all classes and communities.

- The state government has decided to **waive off agriculture loans up to 2 lakhs instead of just Rs 50,000.**
- Girls in government schools are benefiting from the [Savitribai Phule Samridhi Yojana](#), and model schools are being run to strengthen the education system.
- Under the [Mukhyamantri Rojgar Srijan Yojana](#), loans continue to be issued to people at subsidised rates.

Mukhyamantri Rojgar Srijan Yojana

- Under this, **young citizens** of the state between the **ages of 18 and 45** are provided a loan of **Rs 25 lakh at the lowest rate** to start their own business. Along with this, **40% grant (subsidy) or Rs 5 lakh** is provided by the government.
- [Scheduled Caste](#), [Scheduled Tribe](#), [Minority](#), [Backward Class](#) and women that are part of [Sakhi Mandal](#) can avail the benefit of the scheme.
 - Sakhi Mandal is a **group of women** who come together to **improve their standard of living and socio-economic status.**

Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana

- This scheme was started in the state with the aim of **emphasising on [girl education](#), ending [child marriage](#) and [women empowerment](#).**
- Under this scheme, the state government is giving **assistance of a total of Rs 40,000 to adolescent girls for good education.**

Uttarakhand Lifts Restrictions on Char Dham Tourists | Uttarakhand | 20 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttarakhand government decided that there will be no limit on the number of pilgrims visiting the [Char dhams](#), despite multiple [landslides](#) that have blocked the route for pilgrims.

- The **yatra starts in May and continues till the first week of September** every year.

Key Points

- The state government has set a **daily limit of 12,000 pilgrims for the dhams, but in 2018, a Supreme Court-appointed committee recommended a limit of 5,000 pilgrims per day for Kedarnath.**
- At a **2023 investor summit**, the state government reported that the **tourism sector contributes 15% to the state's [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#).**
 - They also outlined plans to attract investments totaling Rs 20,000 crore and initiate 200 projects through the [Public-Private Partnership \(PPP\) model](#) by 2030.

Char Dham Yatra

- **Yamunotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.

- River Yamuna is the second-most sacred river in India after River Ganga.
- **Gangotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
 - Considered the most sacred of all Indian rivers.
- **Kedarnath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva.
 - Situated on the bank of the Mandakini River.
 - One of the 12 Jyotirlingas (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Chamoli district.
 - Home to the sacred Badrinarayan Temple.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Vishnu.
 - One of the holy shrines for Vaishnavites.

Gross Environment Product Index | Uttarakhand | 20 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a **Gross Environment Product Index**.

Key Points

- The **Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation** is the creator of the Gross Environment Product Index.
- There are **four pillars of the Gross Environment Product Index**: air, soil, tree and water.
 - The formula is, **GEP index = (Air-GEP index + Water-GEP index + Soil-GEP index + Forest-GEP index)**.
- **Significance:**
 - It helps in assessing the **impact of anthropological pressure** on our ecosystem and natural resources.
 - It provides a **robust and integrated method for assessing a state's ecological growth**, capturing various facets of environmental well-being as a result of human actions.
- **Recommendation:**
 - Activities should be **prohibited; regulated and promoted**.
 - Regulated activities should be allowed only as per carrying capacity and **environmental impact assessment**.

Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation

- It is a **Non-governmental Organisations**, formed in 1979.
- Its **aims** are:
 - Resource based **ecological and economical development of Himalayan community**.
 - Building and empowering community organisation for **socio economical independence**.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

EIA is a study conducted in the early stages of development project planning to predict and address potential environmental impacts



- Statutory Status:** Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 (Made EIA mandatory)
- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- Project Categorisation:** EIA Notification of 2006 categorised the developmental projects in:
 - Category A Project:** Needed prior Environmental Clearance (EC) from MoEF&CC
 - Category B Project:** Needed prior EC from State/UT Govt.
 - Category B1 projects** (Mandatorily requires EIA)
 - Category B2 projects** (Do not require EIA)

There are 39 categories of projects that require an EC process and are subject to EIA

EIA Process as per EIA Notification, 2006

| Step | Objective | Carried Out By |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need of EIA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) (Category B) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies important issues for EIA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Term of Reference (ToR) prepared by MoEF&CC with EAC/SEAC for Category B Projects* |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses concerns of affected people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/ UT Pollution Control Board (UTPCB) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Appraisal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny of Final EIA Report/ Environmental Management Plan (EMP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAC for category A Projects and SEAC for category B1 Projects |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granting EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category A: MoEF&CC Category B: State EIA Authority (SEIAA) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring (Post EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of general and specific conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPCB / UTPCB and Regional Offices |

Government Initiatives For EC

- PARIVESH (Proactive and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous, and Environmental Single Window Hub):** Single Window System for EC
 - Developed by MoEF&CC and National Information Centre (NIC)
- Environmental Information System (ENVIS):** Collect, Collate, Storing, Retrieving and Disseminating Information Related to the Environment Sector
- Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2020:** Published by MoEF&CC to replace existing EIA Notification, 2006

NCPCR Chief Demands UN Probe in Bihar Madrasas | Bihar | 20 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [National Commission for Protection of Child Rights \(NCPCR\)](#) chairman raised serious concerns over the "radical" curriculum in government-funded madrasas of Bihar and the enrolment of Hindu children in these schools.

Key Points

- The chairman criticised the [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) for its role in developing this curriculum for madrasas.
 - He also called on the [United Nations](#) to investigate these activities and urged that the **Madrasa Board be dissolved**.
 - Many **books included in the curriculum of these madrasas are published in Pakistan** and research on their content is ongoing.
- The **use of funds for activities outside the scope of the [Right to Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#)** constitutes a **violation of both the [Indian Constitution](#) and the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#).**

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- NCPCR is a **statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**.
- It is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- The Commission's mandate is to **ensure that all laws, policies, programs, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective** as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It **inquiries into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009**.
- It monitors the implementation of the [Protection of Children from Sexual Offences \(POCSO\) Act, 2012](#).

Convention on the Rights of the Child

- It is a treaty **adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989**.
- It recognises a child as every human being under 18 years old.
- It sets out the **civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child**, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.
 - It includes rights such as Right to Education, Right to Rest and Leisure, Right to Protection from Mental or Physical Abuse including Rape and Sexual Exploitation.
- It is the **world's most widely ratified human rights treaty**.