



Uttar Pradesh Aims to Attract More Tourists by 2028 | Uttar Pradesh | 26 Aug 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Uttar Pradesh** is set to become a premier [tourism](#) destination in India, with an **ambitious goal of attracting 80 crore tourists by the year 2028**.

Key Points

- **Uttar Pradesh saw a surge in tourist numbers**, from 23 crore in 2016-17 to 48 crore in 2023-24, a **growth of 51%**.
- The state government is developing **12 new [tourism circuits](#) across the state** to enhance and promote key locations.
 - 12 new tourism circuits are: **Ramayana Circuit, Sufi-Kabir Circuit, Bundelkhand Circuit, Jain Circuit, Krishna-Braj Circuit, Shakti-Peeth Circuit, Mahabharata Circuit, Wildlife & ECO Tourism Circuit, Swatantrata Sangram Circuit, Aadhyatmik Circuit, Buddhist Circuit** and **Craft Circuit**.
- Efforts are being made to **improve local infrastructure and accommodation options** to cater to the growing number of tourists.
- The state is focusing on **spiritual tourism**, with many devotees visiting religious sites such as [Ayodhya](#), [Kashi](#), [Mathura](#), [Naimisharanya](#), and [Prayagraj](#).
- The Chief Minister has emphasized the need to promote tourism alongside industrial development, leveraging the state's cultural and spiritual assets like the [Taj Mahal](#) and [Ram Mandir](#) to boost the tourism sector's contribution

Important Fairs of Uttar Pradesh

- **Taj Mahotsav:**
 - It is a vibrant **10-day festival** held annually at **Shilpgram in Agra**. This celebration draws inspiration from the rich **Mughal and Nawabi culture** that thrived in Uttar Pradesh during the 18th and 19th centuries.
 - **Kumbh Mela:**
 - It is **one of the largest religious gatherings in the world**, celebrated by Hindus **every 12 years at four rotating locations** in India: **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain**.
 - Pilgrims gather to bathe in the **sacred rivers ([Ganges](#), [Yamuna](#), [Saraswati](#), [Godavari](#), and [Shipra](#))**, seeking spiritual purification.
 - **Ganga Mahotsav:**
 - The **Ganges River** is very important to India and has supported many civilizations along its banks. A festival is celebrated in **Varanasi during the Karthik month** to thank the river goddess for her blessings and to ask for more.
 - The ghats are decorated with lights and flowers, and on Karthik Purnima, people gather by the river to light and float earthen lamps.
-

NCB's Zonal Office in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 26 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Minister inaugurated the zonal office of [the Narcotics Control Bureau \(NCB\)](#) in Chhattisgarh's **Raipur**.

Key Points

- During his visit he also chaired meetings on the scenario of **narcotics substances**, the **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** situation and **inter-state coordination on Naxalism** in Chhattisgarh.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau:**
 - It was constituted by the Government of India in **1986** under [the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985](#).
 - It is the apex coordinating agency under **the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
 - **The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances** is based on [Article 47](#) of the Indian Constitution which **directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.**

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985

- It **prohibits a person from producing, possessing, selling, purchasing**, transporting, storing, and/or consuming any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
- The **National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse** was also created under a provision of the **NDPS Act, 1985**, to **meet the expenditure incurred in the implementation of the Act.**

Union Minister Visits Vallabhacharya Ashram | Chhattisgarh | 26 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Minister offered prayers at [Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya Ashram](#) in **Champanan town of Chhattisgarh's Raipur district**.

Key Points

- The Union Minister **visited Chhattisgarh for security and development meetings in Naxalite-affected areas.**
- **Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya:**
 - Vallabhacharya was a revered figure who had a **deep command over the Vedas and Upanishads**. He was known by the **titles Vallabha and Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya**.
 - He **founded the philosophy of Shuddha Advaita** or pure non-dualism. He also founded the **Pushti sect of Vaishnavism**, a Krishna-centric cult in the Braj region of India.
 - He also **established the Jagadguru Acharya and the Guru of the Pushti Marg**

- **bhakti school** after developing his own interpretation of the Vedanta philosophy.
- He was **born in the year 1479 AD in Champaran** town of Chhattisgarh's Raipur district.



Vedas and Upanishads

▪ Vedas:

- There are **four Vedas: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharva Veda.**
- The word "Veda" comes from the root "vid," which means **"spiritual knowledge" or "subject of knowledge".**
- The Vedas were **written by Vedic poets and seers called rishis**, who used Sanskrit poetry to describe cosmic mysteries.

▪ Upanishads:

- Also called **Vedantas**, these are the **source of Indian philosophy** and are usually counted at 108, though there are more than 200 known.
- The word **"Upanishads" means "to sit down near (the teacher),"** and teachers would often pass them down verbally to their students in the forest.
- The **ten main Upanishads are Isha, Kena, Katha, Prashan, Mundaka, Mandukya, Tattiriya, Aitareya, Chhandogya, and Brihadaranyaka.**

Intense Rain Warning by IMD | Madhya Pradesh | 26 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, [the India Meteorological Department](#) has **warned of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall** in parts of **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan** and **Gujarat, Goa** and **Maharashtra**.

Key Points

- They have advised fisherfolk to avoid venturing into [the Arabian Sea](#) and [Bay of Bengal](#).
 - Small ships and exploration and production operators have been asked to **monitor weather developments** and take necessary precautions.
- People are recommended to **avoid locations susceptible to [waterlogging](#)** and check for traffic alerts before commuting.
- Farmers in the impacted regions should **ensure adequate [drainage](#) in their fields** and offer support to their crops.
 - There is a **risk of [landslides](#) and damage to [horticultural crops](#)** due to inundation in the affected regions.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all **matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects**.
- It works as an **agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the [World Meteorological Organization](#).

New Ramsar Site in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | 26 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the centre declared the [Tawa Reservoir](#) in **Madhya Pradesh** as a new [Ramsar Site](#).

Key Points

- **The Tawa Reservoir:**
 - It is situated at the confluence of the **Tawa and Denwa rivers** near **Itarsi town**, was originally built for irrigation and now also supports power generation and aquaculture.
 - The reservoir lies within **the [Satpura Tiger Reserve](#)**, bordering the [Satpura National Park](#) and **Bori Wildlife Sanctuary**.
 - **River Malani, Sonbhadra, and Nagdwari** are the major tributaries of the Tawa reservoir.
 - The **Tawa River**, a left-bank tributary of Narmada river, originates in **the [Mahadeo Hills](#)**

of **Chhindwara district**, flows through **Betul district**, and meets the **Narmada River** in Narmadapuram district.

- **It is the longest tributary of the Narmada river.**
- The reservoir hosts **Spotted deer** and **Painted Stork**.

The Ramsar Convention

- The **Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of **UNESCO**, aimed at conserving wetlands of international importance.
 - In India, **it came into force on 1st February 1982**, under which wetlands of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Montreux Record** is a register of **wetland sites** of International Importance where **changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur** as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
 - It is maintained as part of the **Ramsar List**.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/26-08-2024/print>

