



Effects of Lithium Mining in Reasi | Jammu & Kashmir | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a new study highlights the environmental concerns associated with [lithium brine extraction](#), a process involving pumping salt-rich water to the surface and using evaporation ponds to extract lithium.

Key Points

▪ Potential Impact of Lithium Mining in Reasi (J&K):

- **Water Crisis:** Many villages in Reasi are struggling to access enough water, after perennial streams dried up following the construction of the Chenab Rail Bridge.
 - Water-intensive lithium mining can further worsen the situation.
- **Threat to Biodiversity:** The [Himalayan region](#) in J&K is a [biodiversity hotspot](#) and a [eco-sensitive](#) region, and mining could lead to a significant loss of biodiversity.
 - It can hamper the habitat of migratory birds like Common Teal, Northern Pintail etc who come every year to stay in lakes, marshes and wetlands of [Jammu and Kashmir](#).
- **Food Insecurity:** Mining and processing lithium can further jeopardise food security through its excessive carbon emissions, water, and land use methods.
- **Pollution:** The Himalayas are the source of so many rivers and mining activity may pollute the entire riparian ecosystem.

• **Lithium:** It is a soft, silvery metal. It has the lowest density of all metals.

- It has high reactivity, low density and excellent electrochemical properties.
- Its ores are Petalite, Lepidolite and Spodumene. It is also known as the "[white gold](#)".

• **Applications:**

- **Batteries:** The most important use of lithium is in [rechargeable batteries](#) for mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and [electric vehicles](#).
 - Lithium is also used in some non-rechargeable batteries for things like heart pacemakers, toys and clocks.
 - **Alloys:** A magnesium-lithium alloy is used for armour plating.
 - **Air Conditioning:** Lithium chloride and lithium bromide are used in air conditioning and industrial drying systems due to their [hygroscopic properties](#).
 - **Lubricants:** Lithium stearate is used as an all-purpose and high-temperature lubricant.
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Proposed Two New Districts | Madhya Pradesh | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh has been preparing to create new districts, potentially including **Bina from**

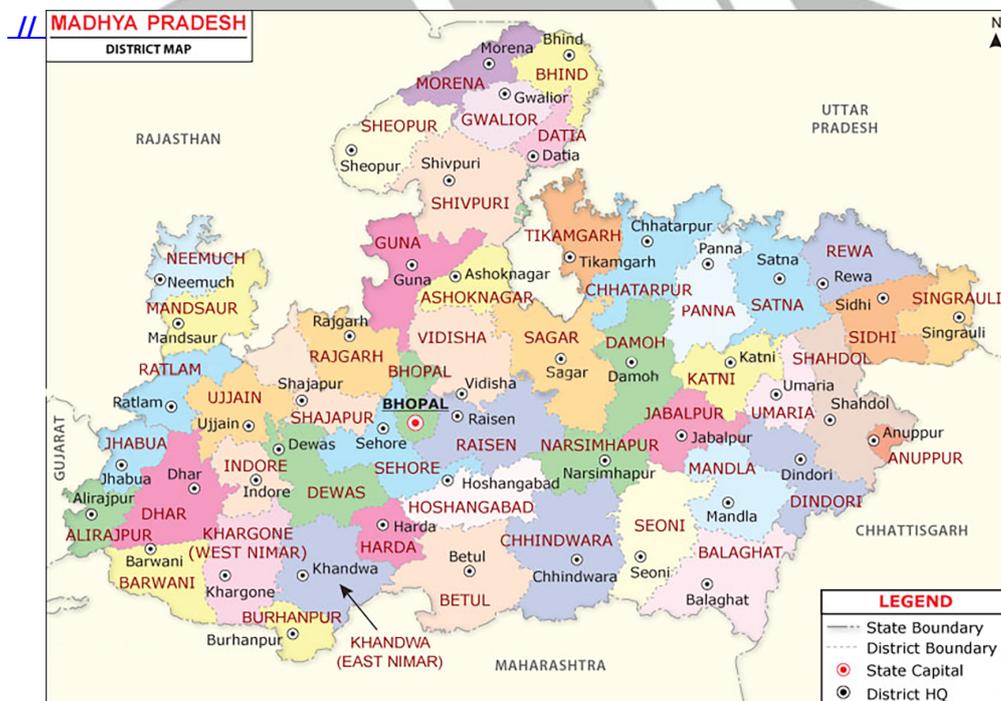
Sagar district and Junnardeo from Chhindwara district, which would bring the total to 57 districts.

Key Points

- **Bina:** A significant railway junction and industrial town located on the [Malwa Plateau in Sagar district](#).
- **Junnardeo:** A tehsil in Chhindwara district with ongoing efforts to grant it district status. If made a district, it may include Parasia and other assembly constituencies.
- **Recent District Formations:**
 - **Maihar:** Became the **55th district in September 2023** after being separated from Satna district. It has two assembly constituencies and three cement factories.
 - **Pandhurna:** Became the **54th district**, created by merging **Pandhurna and Sausar tehsils from Chhindwara district**, known for [pulse crops](#).
 - **Mauganj:** Became the **53rd district on 15th August 2023** after separating from **Rewa district**, consisting of four tehsils and two assembly constituencies.
- **Benefits of Creating Smaller Districts:**
 - Smaller districts facilitate easier development, better communication between the public and administration, **faster implementation of government schemes**, and improved law and order.
 - Financial independence and improved access to essential services like roads, electricity, and water.
- **Proposed New Districts:** **Nagda** from Ujjain and **Chachaura** from Guna district are proposed new districts, with discussions initiated during Kamal Nath's government.

Malwa Plateau

- The plateau is of volcanic origin and its name, "**Malwa**," is derived from the **Sanskrit word "malav,"** referring to part of the abode of **Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth**.
- The Malwa Plateau is situated in **north-central India**, covering central Madhya Pradesh and southeastern Rajasthan. It is **bordered by the Madhya Bharat Plateau, Bundelkhand Upland, Vindhya Range, and Gujarat Plains**.



Jagar Lok Sanskriti Utsav | Uttarakhand | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, government celebrated the state's rich folk culture at the **Jagar Lok Sanskriti Utsav**, and released the book **Uttarakhand ka Lok Putra Pritam Bharatwan** by **Sachidanand Semwal** and praised **Pritam Bharatwan as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand's folk culture**.

Key Points

- **Jagar Lok Sanskriti Utsav:** It is a festival celebrating the folk culture and traditions of Uttarakhand.
- **Jagar:** It is a Hindu form of **Shamanism** which is practiced in the hills of Uttarakhand, both in [Garhwal](#) and [Kumaon](#).
 - **Shamanism** is a global spiritual practice where a shaman enters altered states of consciousness to interact with the spirit world, heal, communicate with spirits, and guide souls.
 - As a ritual, Jagar is a way in which gods and local deities are woken from their dormant stage and asked for favors or remedies.
- **Pritam Bharatwan:** He is known for promoting the traditional culture and folk arts of Uttarakhand.
- **Restoration and Recognition Efforts by Government:**
 - Efforts are underway to restore traditional fairs to their original form and provide better platforms for artists.
 - Initiatives are being taken to gain recognition for the [Jagar singing style](#).
 - Preservation and publication of scripts related to folk art and culture are being promoted through the Guru-Shishya tradition and art galleries.

Divisions of Uttarakhand



Landslides Block Badrinath National Highway | Uttarakhand | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a landslide blocked the **Jyotirmath-Malari road**, which connects to the [India-China border](#), as well as the **Karnaprayag-Gwaldam national highway**.

Key Points

- Landslides triggered by heavy rain have blocked the highway at **Pagalnala, Patalganga, and Nandaprayag**.
- **Jyotirmath-Malari Road**: A high mountain road within the [Nanda Devi National Park](#), linking Jyotirmath (1,934 m) and Malari (3,033 m).
 - Extremely steep with numerous hairpin turns along the [Dhauliganga River](#), subjected to periodic damage from winter snow, ice, and river flooding.
- **Dhauliganga**: It originates from [Vasudhara Tal](#), perhaps the largest glacial lake in Uttarakhand.
 - Dhauliganga is one of the important tributaries of [Alaknanda](#), the other being the Nandakini, Pindar, Mandakini and Bhagirathi.
 - It merges with the Alaknanda at [Vishnuprayag](#).
- **Nanda Devi National Park**: Situated around the peak of [Nanda Devi \(7,816 m\)](#) in Uttarakhand, India; includes the **Nanda Devi Sanctuary**, a glacial basin surrounded by peaks and drained by the [Rishi Ganga](#).
 - Established as **Sanjay Gandhi National Park in 1982**, renamed **Nanda Devi National Park**; inscribed as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988](#).

Landslide

- A **landslide** is the **movement of rock, earth, or debris** down a slope due to **gravity**, often triggered by factors such as **heavy rain, earthquakes**, or the instability of the slope. It results in the **displacement of material**, which can lead to significant damage and destruction.

Pitr Chaya Express | Uttarakhand | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand announced plans to run a special train from Mumbai to Uttarakhand for temple visits.

Key Points

- **Pitr Chaya Express**: This train is dedicated to honoring ancestors, covering important pilgrimage sites like **Tarpan at Haridwar, Rishikesh, Panch Prayag, and Brahma Kapal at Badrinath**.

- It aligns with the Hindu tradition of offering “Tarpan” to ancestors during the Shradh (Pitr Paksh) period.

Note: [Manaskhand Express](#) is another train which has started in June 2024, offers a journey covering popular destinations in Uttarakhand, including train travel, meals on the train, road travel within the state, sightseeing, and accommodation in hotels or homestays.

- **Destinations Covered:** Punagiri Temple, Nanakmatta Gurudwara, Tea Garden at Champawat, Haat Kalika Temple, Patal Bhuvneshwar Temple, Jageshwar Temple, Golu Devta Temple, [Kainchi Dham](#), Kasar Devi Temple, Sun Temple Katarmal, and [Naina Devi Temple](#).

Operation Bhediya | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the forest department launched ‘**Operation Bhediya (Wolf)**’ after a series of attacks by a pack of wolves in Mehsi tehsil, which resulted in the deaths of six children and a woman, and around 30 injuries over the past 45 days.

Key Points

- **Operation Bhediya:** Aims to capture and neutralize a pack of [wolves](#) responsible for recent attacks.
- **Technologies and Strategies:** Utilization of [drone](#) cameras and thermal [drone mapping](#) to locate and track the wolves.
 - Approval has been obtained for tranquilizing the wolves to safely capture them.
- The [Chief Wildlife Warden](#) can allow hunting of a [Schedule I wild animal](#) if it poses a danger to humans by issuing a written order explaining the reasons.
- **Wolf:** It is classified as "[Least Concern](#)" by the [IUCN](#), listed in [Schedule I of the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#), and included in [Appendix I of CITES](#).
- **Schedules in WPA, 1972:**
 - **Schedule I:** Protects endangered species with strict penalties; prohibits hunting except in extreme cases (e.g., Black Buck, [Snow Leopard](#)).
 - **Schedule II:** High protection and trade prohibition for certain species (e.g., Assamese Macaque, Indian Cobra).
 - **Schedules III & IV:** Protects non-endangered species with lesser penalties for violations (e.g., Chital, [Flamingo](#)).
 - **Schedule V:** Lists vermin species that can be hunted (e.g., Common Crows, Rats).
 - **Schedule VI:** Regulates cultivation and trade of specified plants, requiring prior permission (e.g., Blue Vanda, Kuth).