



Excavation to Uncover Buddha's Relics | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Finance inaugurated an **archaeological excavation at Ramgram in Maharajganj district** of Uttar Pradesh.

- The project, spearheaded by the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#), seeks to **uncover evidence of Lord Buddha's eighth relic**, which is believed to be buried at the site.

Key Points

- **Historical and Spiritual Significance:**
 - The site is **among the eight places where Lord Buddha's relics were enshrined**, holding immense importance in **Buddhist traditions**.
 - It is situated within the **Sohgibarwa Wildlife Division** and is **historically associated with the ancient Kolia kingdom**.
 - Kolia was an **ancient Indo-Aryan clan** of north-eastern South Asia whose existence is attested during the [Iron Age](#).
- **Potential for Regional Development:**
 - The excavation is expected to transform the location into a prominent **Buddhist pilgrimage site**.
 - This development is anticipated to **boost tourism and stimulate economic growth** in the region.
- **Focus on Global Recognition:**
 - The project aims to integrate the site into the global [Buddhist pilgrimage circuit](#).
 - Local authorities foresee **increased visits from international pilgrims and scholars**, enhancing the region's cultural profile.

Sohagi Barwa Wildlife Sanctuary

- **About:**
 - It is situated in the **Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh**.
 - In the **north, the Sanctuary shares the international boundary with Nepal**, and in the **east shares the border with Bihar's [Valmiki Tiger Reserve](#)**.
 - It was **declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in June 1987**.
- **Drainage:**
 - It is drained by the [great Gandak](#), the [little Gandak](#), [Pyas](#) and [Rohin rivers](#).
- **Flora:**
 - Nearly 75% of the area consists of [Sal forest](#), and other humid areas are covered with **Jaamun, Gotal, Semal, Khair Trees, etc.**
 - The lower region of the sanctuary, which is water logged during rains, consists of **Grasslands and patches of Cane forests**.
- **Fauna:**
 - It is inhabited by a variety of animals which mainly includes [Leopard](#), [Tiger](#), **Jungle Cat**, **Small Indian Civet**, **Langur**, **Deer**, **Blue Bull**, **Wild boar**, **Porcupine** etc.

GAUTAM BUDDHA



Believed to be 9th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH

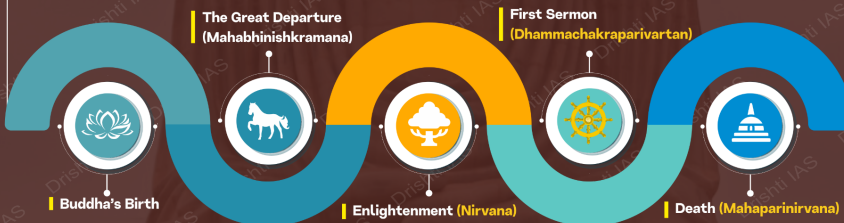
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilavastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshalan dynasty**



IMPORTANT EVENTS



Buddha referred to himself as **Tathagata** (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as **Bhagavat** (in Buddhist texts)

CONTEMPORARIES

- Vardhaman Mahavira
- Bimbisara
- Ajatshatru

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA

- Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- Sarnath** (first sermon)
- Vaishali** (last sermon)
- Kushinagara** (death place (483 BC))

27th IEEE WPMC 2024 | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, India hosted the **27th IEEE International Symposium on Wireless Personal Multimedia Communications (WPMC) 2024** in **Greater Noida**.

- Indian officials highlighted the country's rapid strides in telecommunication innovation, and **transitioning from 5G deployment to envisioning the future of 6G technology**.

Key Points

- Objective and Theme:**
 - It **provides a platform** for researchers, industry leaders, and policymakers to **discuss advancements in wireless communications**.
 - The **theme, "Secure 6G - AI Nexus: Where Technology Meets Humanity,"** focuses on the **intersection of 6G and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- Venue:**
 - The event was **hosted at Sharda University** and has brought together experts and thought leaders from various countries.

▪ **India's Role in Wireless Communication:**

- An expert highlighted **India's growing innovation ecosystem** and its potential to **contribute significantly to the global telecommunications sector**.
- India is expected to file approximately **10 patents related to 6G technology** soon, further enhancing its economic and technological stature.

▪ **Vision for 6G Technology:**

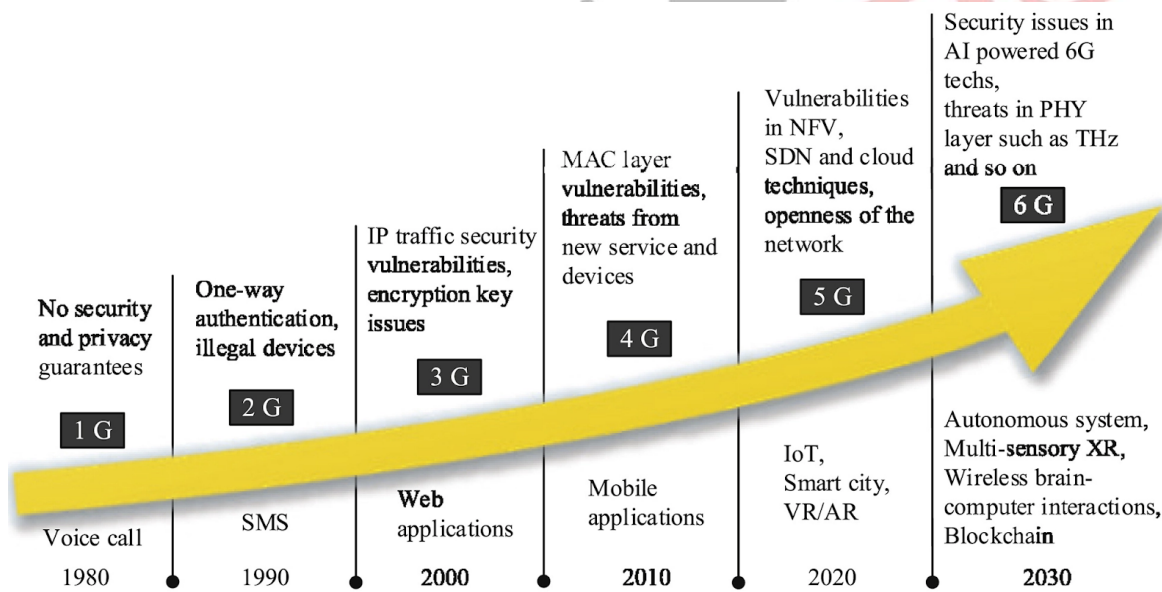
- The government envisions achieving unprecedented **speeds of up to 1 terabit per second with ultra-low latency**, marking a transformative step in global connectivity and socio-economic development.
- This initiative aligns with national goals to position India as a global leader in the telecommunications sector.

▪ **Transformative Potential of 6G:**

- Experts emphasized the potential of 6G to enable portable devices with **advanced capabilities, focusing on high-frequency utilization and minimal latency**.
- The technology is expected to **revolutionize rural ecosystems** by facilitating remote healthcare, education, and agriculture, aligning with **India's mission to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive growth**.

India's initiative for providing safer and better telecom services:

- [Telecommunication Act, 2023](#)
- [Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023](#)
- [National Cyber Security Strategy](#)
- [Bharat 6G Alliance](#)
- [BharatNet Project](#)



Aadhaar Card Not Proof of Age: Madhya Pradesh HC | Madhya Pradesh | 20 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** ruled that **Aadhaar Card** can be used to establish identity but

was **not as a proof of date of birth.**

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - A widow filed a petition seeking compensation under the [Jan Kalyan \(Sambal\) Yojana 2018](#), for her husband's death by electrocution.
 - Her application was rejected as her husband's age, according to other documents like the [Voter ID and ration card](#), exceeded the eligibility limit of 64 years.
 - The petitioner argued that the age recorded in the Aadhaar card should be considered, which would have made her eligible for the compensation.
- **Legal Precedence and Supreme Court Ruling:**
 - The High court referenced an October 2024, [Supreme Court](#) ruling stating that Aadhaar cannot be used as proof of age.
 - The ruling considered earlier judgments by various High Courts and a circular issued by [Unique Identification Authority of India \(UIDAI\)](#) in August 2023.
- The High Court observed that any **executive instruction allowing Aadhaar to be used as proof of age under state schemes cannot override Court judgments.**

Aadhaar

- Aadhaar is a **12 digit individual identification number** issued by the [Unique Identification Authority of India \(UIDAI\)](#) on behalf of the Government of India. The number serves as a **proof of identity and address**, anywhere in India.
- Aadhaar card, which is a biometric document, **stores an individual's personal information on a government database.**
- An Aadhaar card can be issued to any person **residing in the country for more than six months continuously**, provided he/she submits one of the 18 listed identity cards and an address proof.
 - Foreign nationals are eligible to obtain one **if they have been living in India for half a year.**
- Aadhaar number will help the residents to avail various services provided by banking, mobile phone connections and other Govt and Non-Govt services in due course.

Bills Passed in Haryana Assembly | Haryana | 20 Nov 2024

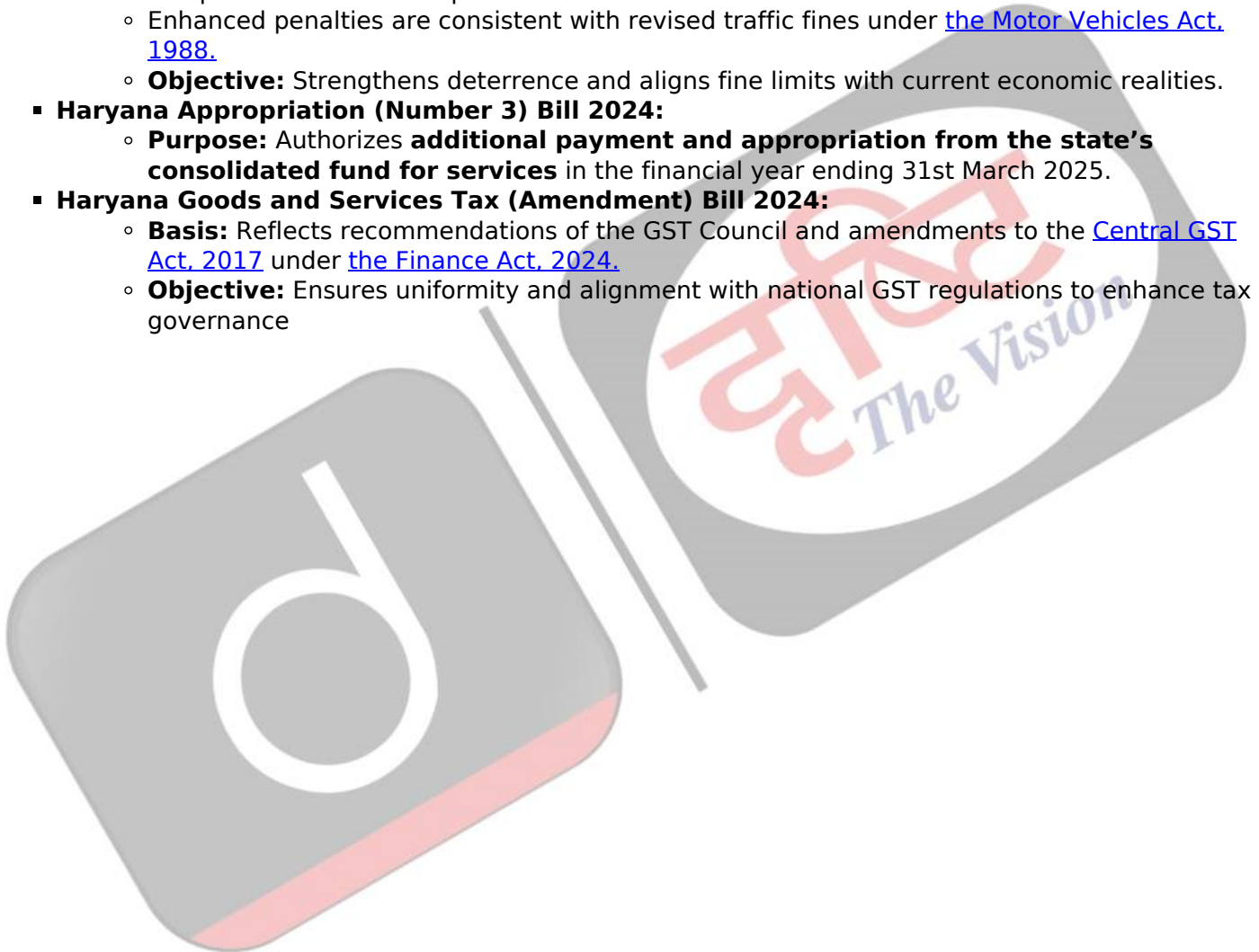
Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Assembly has passed various bills including **Haryana lease of agricultural land Bill 2024**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Haryana amendment) Bill 2024**, **Haryana Appropriation (number 3) Bill 2024**, **Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024**.

Key Points

- **Haryana Lease of Agricultural Land Bill 2024:**
 - **Objective:** Establishes a **framework for legalizing agricultural land leases to protect landowners' rights** and optimize land use.
 - **Issues:**
 - Landowners **avoid written lease agreements due to fears of lessees demanding occupancy rights.**

- **Non-written leases prevent lessees from accessing relief** during natural calamities or securing crop loans.
- **Expected Impact:**
 - Encourages **formal lease agreements** to benefit both landowners and lessees.
 - **Aims to boost agricultural productivity** by reducing barren land.
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Haryana Amendment) Bill 2024:**
 - **Amendments to Section 23:**
 - **Section 23 of the [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita \(BNSS\), 2023](#) outlines the sentencing authority of different magistrates.**
 - It specifies the types and limits of sentences that can be imposed by first-class, second-class, and Chief Judicial Magistrates.
 - Increased maximum fine for first-class magistrates from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh under **Section 23(2)**.
 - Raised fine limit under Section 23(3) from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh.
 - Higher fines align with cases under Acts like [the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881](#) where cheque amounts exceed previous limits.
 - Enhanced penalties are consistent with revised traffic fines under [the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988](#).
 - **Objective:** Strengthens deterrence and aligns fine limits with current economic realities.
- **Haryana Appropriation (Number 3) Bill 2024:**
 - **Purpose:** Authorizes **additional payment and appropriation from the state's consolidated fund for services** in the financial year ending 31st March 2025.
- **Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024:**
 - **Basis:** Reflects recommendations of the GST Council and amendments to the [Central GST Act, 2017](#) under [the Finance Act, 2024](#).
 - **Objective:** Ensures uniformity and alignment with national GST regulations to enhance tax governance



BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA (BNSS), 2023

BNSS replaces CrPC 1973 and consists of 531 sections with 177 sections revised, 9 new sections added, and 14 sections repealed.

Key Provisions

- **Hierarchy of Courts:** Eliminated distinction and role of Metropolitan Magistrates
- **Mandated Use of Electronic Mode:** At stages of investigation, inquiry, and trial
- **Detention of Undertrials:** Restriction on release on personal bond for accused persons (a) charged with life imprisonment or (b) facing multiple proceedings
- **Alternative to Arrest:** An accused doesn't have to be arrested; instead, the police can take a security bond for their appearance before a Judicial Magistrate
- **Community Service Defined:** 'Work which the Court may order a convict to perform as a form of punishment that benefits the community, for which he shall not be entitled to any remuneration'
- **Substitution of Terminology:** "Mental illness" replaced by "unsoundness of mind" in majority of provisions
- **Documentation Protocols:** Searches with/without warrants require mandatory audio-video documentation with recorded material promptly submitted to Magistrate
- **Timelines for Procedures:** Prescribes timelines for various procedures
 - E.g. Issuing verdict within 30 days post-argument
- **Medical Examination:** Can be requested by any police officer in certain cases
- **Sample Collection:** Magistrate can compel individuals to submit signature specimens, handwriting samples etc. even if they haven't been arrested
- **Forensic Investigation:** Mandated for offences punishable with ≥ 7 years of imprisonment
- **New Procedures w.r.t. FIR Registration:**
 - After filing a **Zero FIR**, relevant police station must transfer it to the jurisdictionally appropriate station for further investigation
 - **FIRs can be electronically registered**, and the information will be officially recorded upon the person's signature within 3 days
- **Rights of Victim/Informant:**
 - Police after filing charge sheet obligated to supply police report and other documents to victim
 - Witness protection scheme to be laid down by State Governments

Key Issues

- **Permitted 15 days of police custody** within initial 40 or 60 days
- **Doesn't mandate investigating officer to provide reasons** when seeking police custody
- **Allows use of handcuffs during arrests**, contradicting SC rulings and NHRC guidelines
- Scope of **mandatory bail limited** in case of multiple charges
- **Limits plea bargaining in India** to sentence bargaining
- Restricting bail, and limiting scope for plea bargaining could **deter decongesting of prisons**
- **Power to seize property expanded** to immovable property apart from movable property
- Several provisions **overlap** with existing laws
- **BNSS retains CrPC provisions** related to public order, raising the question of whether laws governing trial procedure and public order maintenance should be unified or treated separately, considering their distinct functions



Drishti IAS

Gurugram AQI Recorded 402 | Haryana | 20 Nov 2024

Why in News?

According to the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#), the [Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#) in Gurugram district reached the '**severe**' category registering 402.

Key Points

- Other places like Sonapat (390), Dharuhera (377), Jind (358), Charkhi Dadri (351), Bahadurgarh (347), Manesar (345), Faridabad (320), Hisar (317), Narnaul (310), Sirsa (309) and Panipat (303) were in the '**very poor**' category.
- **Air Quality Index:**
 - AQI is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand.
 - [Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR](#) has been prepared for implementation under different AQI categories.
 - AQI has been developed for **eight pollutants** viz. [PM2.5](#), [PM10](#), [Ammonia](#), [Lead](#), [nitrogen oxides](#), [sulfur dioxide](#), [ozone](#), and [carbon monoxide](#).

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It was **constituted in 1974** under the [Water \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1974](#).
- CPCB was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the [Air \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1981](#).
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the **Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate change** of the provisions of the [Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#)



Air Pollutants

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

Impact: Causes respiratory problems.

Ozone (O₃)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO_x and VOC) under the action of the sun.

Impact: Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

Impact: Chronic lung disease.

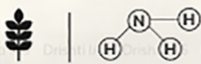
Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

Impact: Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

Ammonia (NH₃)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

Impact: Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

Impact: Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

Particulate Matter (PM)



PM10: Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

PM2.5: Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

Source: Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

Impact: Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



