



Chinar Boat Race | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the famous **Chinar boat race 2024** was organised in Jammu and Kashmir's [Dal Lake](#) by the Indian Army.

Key Points

- **About the Race:**
 - The [Indian Army](#), in collaboration with **White Globe NGO** and the [Lake Conservation and Management Authority \(LCMA\)](#), successfully organised the **Chinar Boat Race 2024**.
 - A total of **60 boats competed enthusiastically**, reflecting the vibrant cultural traditions of Kashmir.
- **Winners and Awards:**
 - **First Prize:** Cash prize of Rs 10,000 and a trophy.
 - **Second Prize:** Rs 7,500.
 - **Third Prize:** Rs 5,000.
 - **Consolation Prizes:** Distributed to the top 20 participants to recognise their efforts.
- **Purpose and Message:**
 - The event celebrated the **rich culture and tradition of Kashmir**.
 - It highlighted the **importance of protecting Kashmir's water bodies**, especially **Dal Lake**.
 - Fostered a **sense of community through traditional sports**, promoting ecological health.
- **Army's Role in J&K:**
 - The Indian Army continues to organise sports and cultural events to **strengthen ties with the local population**.
 - These efforts **enable the Army to serve the community effectively** during [natural disasters](#) like [earthquakes](#) and [floods](#).
 - Such events **inspire local youth to pursue honourable professions**, including joining the Army.

Dal Lake

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- It is a lake in **Srinagar, the capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).**
- It is one of the **world's largest natural lakes and the second largest lake in J&K.**
- It is integral **to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”.**
- It is also **an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.**
- It covers an **area of 18 square kilometres and is part of a natural wetland including its floating gardens.**
 - The **floating gardens**, known as **“Raad”** in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August.

Chinar Tree

- **About:**
 - The Chinar, also known as the **Oriental plane**, is a **large, deciduous tree** that is native to the **Western Himalayas and is a symbol of Kashmir.**
 - It is an important part of **Kashmiri culture and tradition.** There is a Chinar tree in almost every village in Kashmir, and the **oldest Chinar in Kashmir is over 600 years old.**
- **Appearance:**
 - The Chinar tree has **maple-like leaves** that are **deep green in the summer and change to red, amber, and yellow in the fall.** It has a spreading crown and flaking bark.
- **Uses:**
 - The leaves and bark of Chinar are used for **medicinal purposes.**
 - The wood, also known as lacewood, is used to make **fine furniture.**
 - Twigs and roots are used to make **fabric dye.**

Public Durbar in Kathua | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions](#) conducted a "Public Durbar" in block Marheen, **district Kathua of Jammu and Kashmir**.

- It is part of his outreach initiative, in which he **directly engaged with the public to address their issues and concerns**.

Key Points

- **Outcomes of the Public Durbar:**
 - Several **issues raised by individual citizens and delegations** were **resolved on the spot**.
 - Instructions for immediate action in several other cases were issued.
 - **This marked the third Public Durbar held in different parts of Kathua district** in recent months, showcasing sustained public engagement.
- **Commitment to Public Service:**
 - It was emphasized that **elected leaders must address genuine public needs** while reassuring citizens that their concerns are valued and heard.
 - Such events **bridge the gap between the public and administration**, fulfilling the government's promise to serve citizens effectively.
- **Focus of the Government:**
 - **Serving** common citizens.
 - Reducing public inconvenience.
 - **Delivering services at citizens' doorsteps** to enhance their ease of living.
 - **Rising above narrow considerations** of politics, caste, creed, and region.
- Guided by the motto of **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**, Public Durbars are used as a **platform to connect with citizens**, ensuring their issues are addressed comprehensively.

Hemant Soren to Take Oath as Jharkhand CM | Jharkhand | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader **Hemant Soren** will take oath as the [new Chief Minister of Jharkhand](#) on 28th November 2024.

Key Points

- **Governor's Decision:**
 - The **Governor** accepted Hemant Soren's resignation and appointed him as the nominated Chief Minister, asking him to continue until the new government is formed.
- **Governor's Role (Now LG)**
 - Under [Article 164](#), the Governor plays a key role in inviting the leader of the majority party or coalition to form the government.
 - **The governor ensures the formation of a government** that enjoys majority support in the legislature.
- **Oath of Office**
 - As per [Article 164\(3\)](#), the **Governor** of a state must **administer the oaths of office**

- **and secrecy to a Minister** before they take office.
- The oath signifies allegiance to the Constitution and the discharge of duties in accordance with the law.

Appointment of Chief Minister

- **Article 164** of the Constitution envisages that the **Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.**
 - A **leader of the party that has got the majority share of votes in the assembly elections**, is appointed as the Chief Minister of the state.
 - The **Governor is the nominal executive authority, but real executive authority rests with the Chief Minister.**
 - However, the **discretionary powers enjoyed by the governor reduces to some extent the power, authority, influence, prestige and role of the Chief Minister in the state administration.**
- **A person who is not a member of the state legislature can be appointed as Chief Minister for six months**, within which time, he should be elected to the state legislature, failing which he ceases to be the Chief Minister.

Compressed Biogas Plant in Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **India's first modern and self-sufficient gaushala** with a state-of-the-art **Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant** was launched in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- **Location and Management:**
 - The CBG plant is located at **Adarsh Gaushala**, the **largest cowshed in Gwalior, managed by the Gwalior Municipal Corporation.** It houses over **10,000 cattle.**
- **Unique Achievement:**
 - **Madhya Pradesh's first CBG plant** producing **biogas from cattle dung and organic waste** like vegetable and fruit waste collected from local mandis and homes.
 - **Technology and Output:**
 - **Produces 2-3 tons of Bio-CNG daily** from 100 tons of cattle dung.
 - **Generates 10-15 tons of dry bio-manure daily**, supporting organic farming.
 - Incorporates **windrow composting** for additional organic waste processing.
 - **Windrow composting** is a method of composting organic waste that involves **stacking the waste into long, narrow piles called windrows** and regularly turning them.
 - It is considered to be a **cost-effective method of composting**, but it can also produce the most emissions.
- **Environmental Benefits:**
 - Converts cow dung and organic waste into **Bio-CNG and organic manure, reducing carbon emissions** significantly.
 - Provides a **cleaner, eco-friendly alternative to fossil fuels**, contributing to **climate change mitigation.**
 - Transforms underutilized resources like cow dung into valuable energy and

fertilizer, promoting [circular economy](#) practices.

- **Economic and Social Impact:**

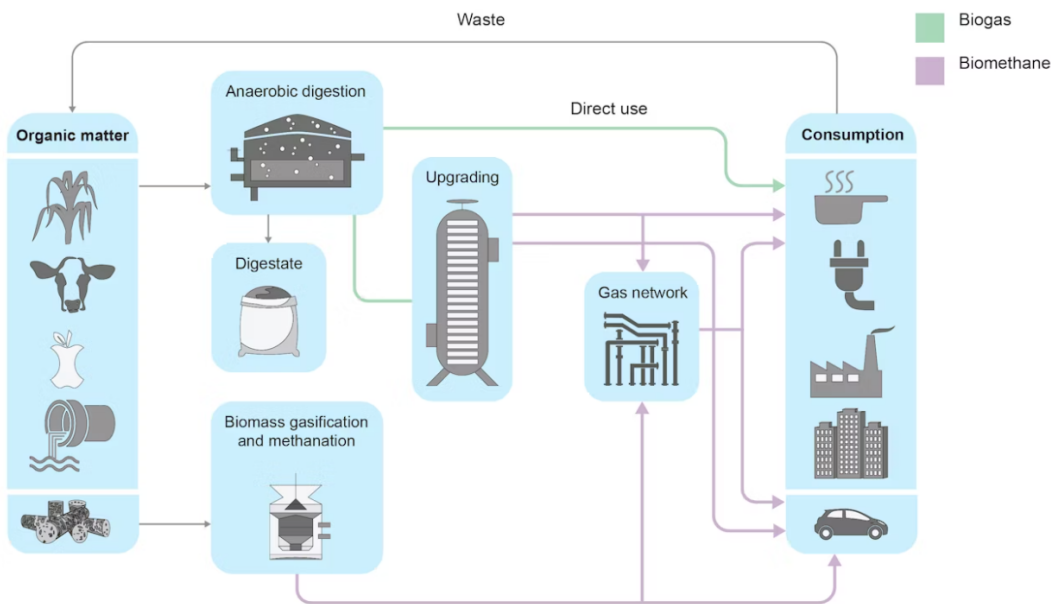
- **Creates jobs for locals, boosting the economy** while promoting green energy skills.
- Provides affordable **bio-manure to farmers** in nearby districts, encouraging organic farming practices.

- **Model for Sustainable Development:**

- As **India's first self-reliant gaushala**, the Laltipara plant serves as a **pioneering model for other regions to adopt.**

Biogas

- Biogas is a renewable energy source that's produced when organic matter breaks down in the absence of oxygen. This process is called **anaerobic digestion**.
- Biogas is also known as **renewable natural gas (RNG) or biomethane**. It's made up of mostly **methane (CH₄)** and **carbon dioxide (CO₂)**.



Good Governance Conference in Raipur | Chhattisgarh | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, At the 2-day Conference on [Good Governance](#) in **Raipur**, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology emphasized that the **governance reforms** initiated under Prime Minister **prioritize "ease of living" and transparency.**

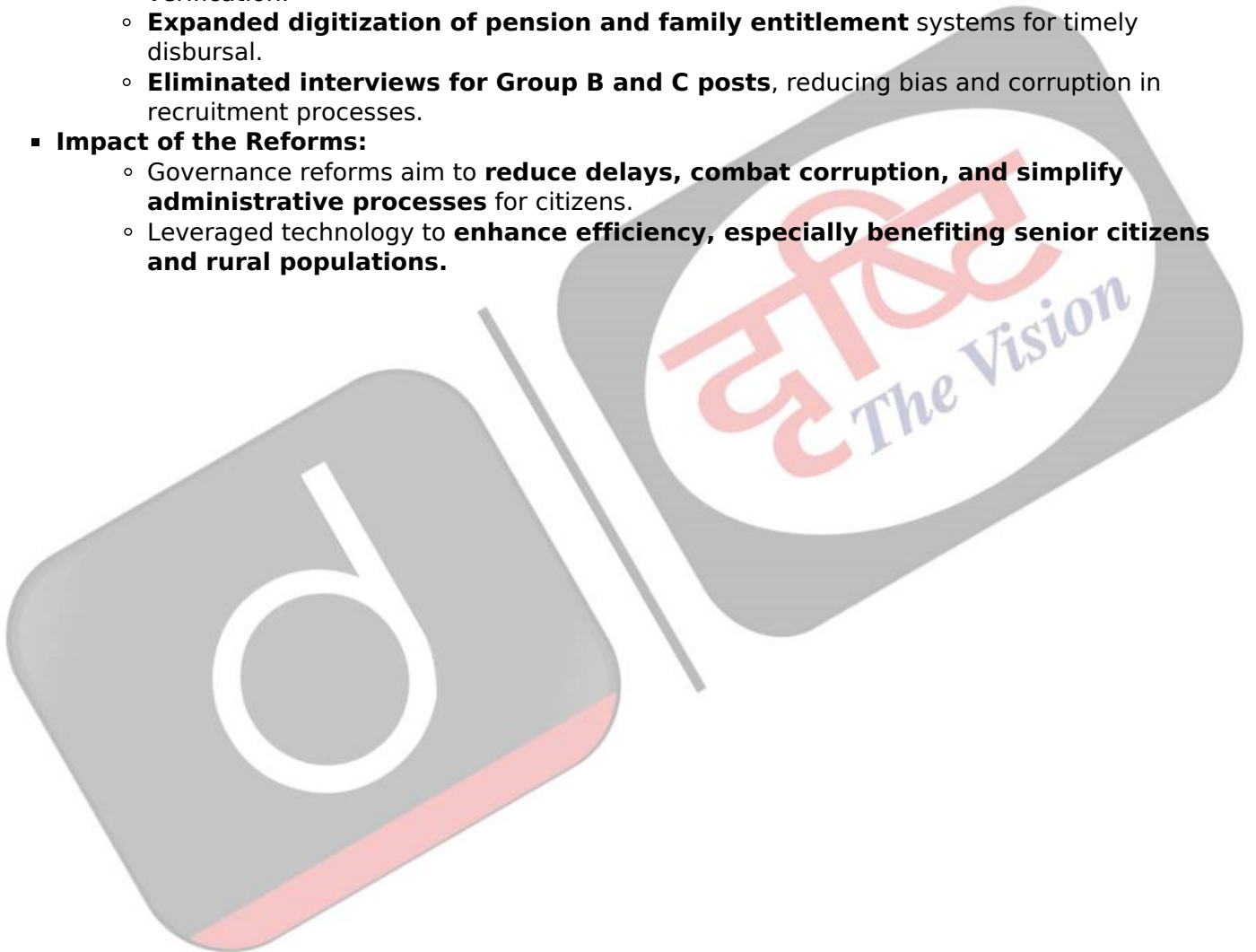
Key Points

- **Event Details:**

- Organized jointly by the [Department of Administrative Reforms & Grievance](#)

Redressal (DARPG) and the Government of Chhattisgarh.

- Brought together **policymakers, bureaucrats, and experts** to discuss public service delivery reforms.
- **Decentralizing Governance Discussions:**
 - The significance of moving **governance discussions beyond central halls of power was emphasized.**
 - Conferences held across states ensure solutions **tailored to regional needs and foster collaboration between the Centre and States.**
 - Similar events have been conducted in J&K, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and others, reflecting nationwide outreach.
- **Landmark Governance Reforms:**
 - Over 2,000 **obsolete rules have been removed to reduce bureaucratic red tape.**
 - **Simplified administrative procedures** by scrapping the requirement for attested documents, reinforcing trust in citizens.
 - Introduced face-recognition technology for pensioners, eliminating the need for physical verification.
 - **Expanded digitization of pension and family entitlement** systems for timely disbursement.
 - **Eliminated interviews for Group B and C posts**, reducing bias and corruption in recruitment processes.
- **Impact of the Reforms:**
 - Governance reforms aim to **reduce delays, combat corruption, and simplify administrative processes** for citizens.
 - Leveraged technology to **enhance efficiency, especially benefiting senior citizens and rural populations.**



GOOD GOVERNANCE

As per World Bank, Good Governance is the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.

References:

- Bhagavad Gita
- Kautilya's Arthashastra: Welfare of people considered paramount in the role of King
- Mahatma Gandhi emphasised "su-raj" (good governance)
- SDG 16: Improvement in governance, inclusion, participation, rights, and security

Key Attributes (as per Human Rights Council)

- ↳ Transparency
- ↳ Responsibility
- ↳ Accountability
- ↳ Participation
- ↳ Responsiveness (to the needs of the people)

8 Principles Given By UN



Good Governance in India - Initiatives

National Good Governance Day: 25th December (coincides with birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee)

■ Transparency & Accountability

- ↳ Right to Information (**Article 19 (1)**) and RTI Act, 2005
- ↳ E-Governance (Min. Govt. - Max. Governance); Digital India Program
- ↳ Central Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)

■ Decentralisation and Local Governance

- ↳ NITI Aayog (Cooperative Federalism)
- ↳ 73rd and 74th Const. Amendments

■ Citizen Participation and Empowerment

- ↳ Make in India Initiative, MyGov Platform, RTE Act, 2009

■ Legal Reforms

- ↳ Model Police Act (2015), e-FIRs, eCourts Project, SUPACE portal

■ Good Governance Index (Prepared by DARPG)

Related Challenges

- ↳ **Corruption:** India ranked 93/180 on Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2023
- ↳ **Inequality and Social Exclusion:** India's wealth inequality is at a 60-year high (in 2024) (top 1% owning 40.1% of wealth)
- ↳ **Inadequate Judicial Infrastructure:** 5 cr+ cases pending in various courts, (~80,000 in the SC alone)

Suggestions

- ↳ Need to create a secure data platform to engage citizens in policy decisions
- ↳ AI-powered Grievance Redressal
- ↳ **Sevottam Model:** Proposed by 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) for public service delivery



Drishti IAS

Core Cold Wave Zone | Rajasthan | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

The [National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health \(NPCCHH\)](#), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has a public advisory on [cold wave conditions](#) for **Rajasthan and 16 other**

states and Union Territories.

Key Points

- **Cold Wave Season and Core Cold Wave Zone:**
 - A cold wave is a rapid fall in temperature **within 24 hours to a level requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture**, industry, commerce, and social activities.
 - The **cold wave season spans from November to March**, with **December and January** experiencing the most **extreme cold events**.
- **Affected Regions:**
 - Telangana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha.
- **Vulnerable Groups:**
 - The advisory identifies the following **populations as particularly at risk**:
 - Homeless individuals
 - Elderly people
 - Economically disadvantaged individuals
 - Pregnant and lactating women
 - Children
 - Outdoor workers and farmers
 - Managers of night shelters
- **Definition of a Cold Wave:**
 - According to **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** Standards:
 - For **plains**, a cold wave occurs when the minimum temperature is $\leq 10^{\circ}\text{C}$.
 - For **hilly regions**, it is defined as a minimum temperature of $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- **Potential Health Issues:**
 - **Hypothermia** is caused by prolonged exposure to very low temperatures.
 - **Frostbite** is damage to skin and tissues due to freezing temperatures.
 - **Non-freezing Cold Injuries** are conditions like **Immersion Foot**, resulting from prolonged exposure to cold and wet conditions.
 - In severe cases, cold exposure can lead to fatalities if precautions are not taken.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**.
- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India**.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.