UP Foundation Day 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 25 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh, **celebrating 75 years as a state**, was renamed from the **United Provinces** in 1950 and plays a pivotal role in India's politics and economy.

- The state has grown in **political and economic prominence**, setting ambitious goals like becoming a **trillion-dollar economy**.

Key Points

- **Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day 2025:**
  - **The theme** for Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day 2025 is **"Development and Heritage: Uttar Pradesh on the Path to Progress".**
  - The state government will confer the **'Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman' award** on **six individuals** from the fields of **music, agriculture** and **education** during the **state foundation day.**
- **Historical Significance:**
  - Uttar Pradesh, formerly known as **United Provinces**, was renamed on **24 January, 1950,** by the **governor general of India** through the **United Provinces (Alteration of Name) Order, 1950**.
  - The state began celebrating 24 January as **UP Foundation Day** in **2018**, following a suggestion by governor **Ram Naik**.
- **Political Importance:**
  - The state contributes **80 Members of Parliament** to the **Lok Sabha**, giving it considerable influence in national politics.
  - It has produced **nine Prime Ministers**, including the current **PM, Narendra Modi**, who represents **Varanasi** in Parliament.
- **Economic Aspirations:**
  - Uttar Pradesh strives to move beyond its **BIMARU (economically underdeveloped)** tag and achieve a **trillion-dollar economy** status.
    - **BIMARU:** Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
- **Introduction of ODOP Scheme:**
  - The **One District One Product (ODOP) scheme** was launched during the **first Foundation Day** celebrations in **2018** to promote local industries and crafts.
    - The occasion is aimed to launch new schemes and initiatives aimed at boosting the state's development and welfare.

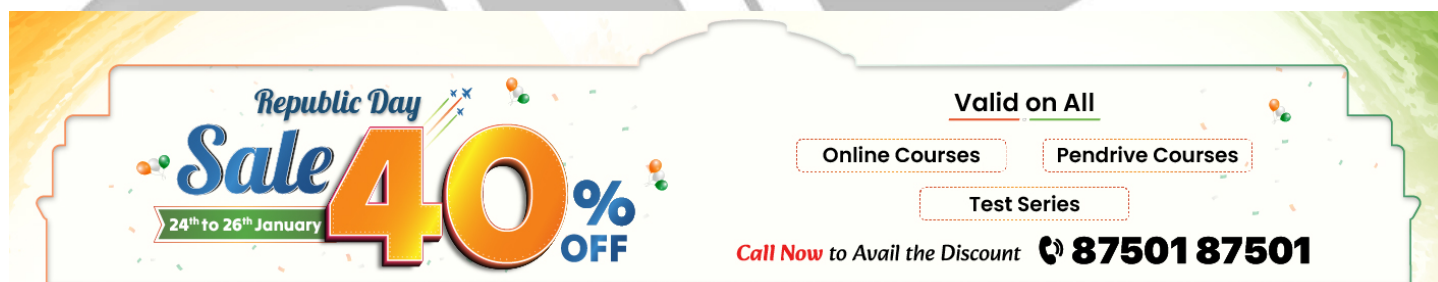# Uttar Pradesh's First Double-Decker Bus Restaurant | Uttar Pradesh | 25 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh's **first double-decker bus restaurant**, named **Pumpkin**, has been inaugurated at the Media Centre in the **Maha Kumbh Mela** area, Prayagraj.

Key Points

- The restaurant serves exclusively **vegetarian** and **satvic food**, catering to the religious atmosphere of the **Kumbh Mela.**
- Designed to be affordable, it aims to accommodate the budgets of common devotees.
- Founder of the **Pumpkin brand** announced plans to expand the **brand** to other religious destinations such as **Kashi, Mathura**, and **Ayodhya.**

Maha Kumbh

- **Kumbh Mela** comes under **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
  - It takes place on the banks of the **Godavari river** in **Nashik**, the **Shipra river** in **Ujjain,** the **Ganges** **in Haridwar,** and the confluence of the **Ganges, Yamuna,** and the **mythical Saraswati river** in **Prayagraj**. The confluence is referred to as the **'Sangam'.**
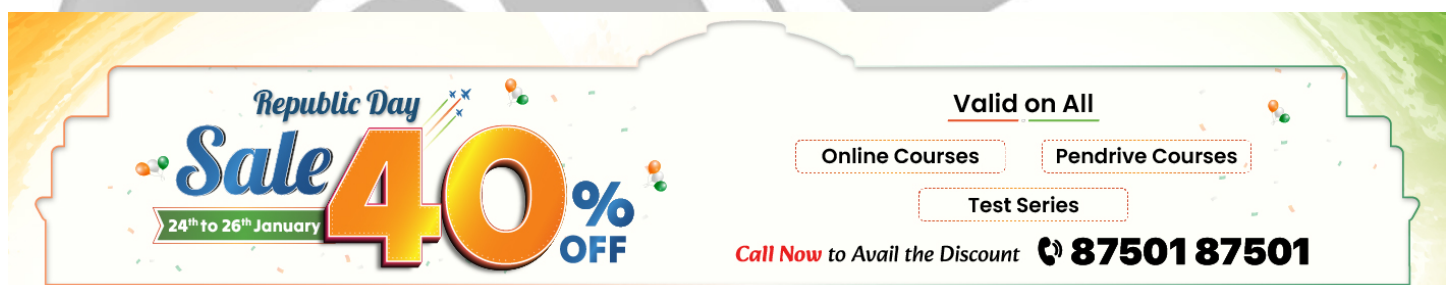
Haryana Cabinet Approves Clean Air Project | Haryana | 25 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The Haryana Cabinet has approved the **Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development (HCAPSD),** a **₹3,647 crore** initiative aimed at **improving air quality** and reducing emissions across the

Key Points

- **Haryana Clean Air Project (HCAPSD):**
    - The project is supported by the **World Bank** to improve air quality and reduce emissions in **Haryana** and the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**.
    - It aims to implement **air pollution control technologies** and coordinate efforts with other states to reduce **cross-border emissions**.
    - The project will also work on enhancing the **ease of living** for citizens through cleaner air.
- **Project Implementation and Governance:**
    - The project will be led by the **Haryana Department of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change,** in collaboration with several other departments, including **agriculture**, **transport**, and **industries**.
    - A three-tier governing structure will oversee progress, with the **chief secretary** chairing the top-tier committee.
- **Clean Air Ambassadors Program:**
    - A state-wide fellowship program will be launched, including **24 "clean air ambassadors"** at the district level to drive implementation.
- **Other Steps Taken by the State Government:**
    - **Women's Empowerment Scheme - Lado Lakshmi Yojana:**
        - Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that a framework for the **Lado Lakshmi Yojana** for women will be presented in the upcoming state budget.
            - The **Haryana government** has launched the **Lado Lakshmi Yojana** to support **economically disadvantaged women** in the state. Through this program, **women living below the poverty line** will receive **₹2,100 per month**.
    - **Civil Judges' Departmental Exams:**
        - The Cabinet amended the rules for **civil judges'** departmental exams, now to be conducted by the high court or a nominated authority.
    - **Relief for Ex-Employees:**
        - The state government has waived recoverable amounts from ex-employees of **Haryana Minerals Limited (HML),** and **Handloom and Export Corporation**.
        - A fixed monthly honorarium, ranging from ₹36,000 to ₹20,000, will be provided to these ex-employees, effective from October 2020.
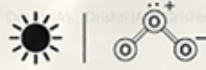
Air Pollutants

Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

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 (O_3)

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

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

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.
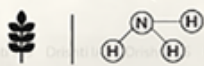
Impact: Chronic lung disease.

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 (NH_3)

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.
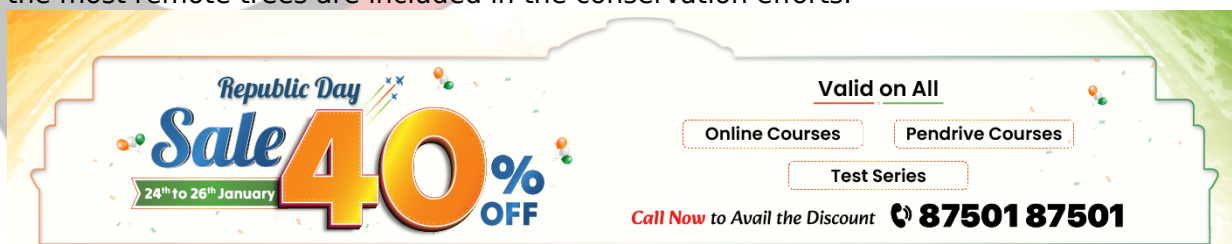
Drishti IAS

Chinar Trees | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **J&K Forest Department,** in partnership with the **J&K Forest Research Institute (JKFI),** has introduced a **unique initiative by assigning Tree Aadhaar numbers** to thousands of **Chinar trees** throughout the region to conserve the iconic **Chinar trees of Jammu and Kashmir**.

Key Points

- **The Chinar Tree's Heritage Significance:**
    - The **Chinar tree**, also known locally as *boonyi***,** is a **symbol of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and natural heritage.**
    - These majestic deciduous trees are characterized by their height (up to 30 meters) and vibrant golden-red leaves during winter.
    - The number of Chinar trees has **significantly decreased in recent decades**.
- **The Tree Aadhaar Project:**
    - Under this project, over 28,560 Chinar trees have been **geo-tagged** to create a comprehensive database.
    - The trees are assigned **unique Tree Aadhaar numbers**, and a **QR code** attached to a **digital plate** allows anyone to scan and access critical details, including the tree's location, height, girth, canopy, health status, ecological threats, and pest presence.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
    - The initiative is part of a larger effort to conserve these trees, whose numbers have been dwindling due to various factors.
    - A total of 28,000 trees have been geo-tagged and assigned their Tree Aadhaar IDs between 2021 and 2023.
- **Further Plans:**
    - In addition to this innovative documentation, the J&K Forest Department plans to create a **Chinar Atlas,** a comprehensive catalog of all Chinar trees across the region.
    - The initiative **also focuses on geo-tagging trees in restricted areas**, ensuring even the most remote trees are included in the conservation efforts.