



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

MADHYA PRADESH

**JANUARY
2024**

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Earthquake in Singrauli


Why in News?

According to [the National Centre of Seismology \(NCS\)](#), an [earthquake](#) of **3.6 magnitude** was recorded in the **Singrauli district** of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- The NCS comes under **the Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- The earthquake events are scaled either according to the magnitude or intensity of the shock. The magnitude scale is known as the **Richter scale**.
 - The magnitude relates to the energy released during the quake and is **expressed in absolute numbers, i.e., 0-10**.

EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- ▣ Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating **seismic waves in all directions**

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

- ▣ **Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - **P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - **S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- ▣ **Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - **Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - **Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane

CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- ▣ **Release of energy along a Fault/Fault Zones** (break in the crustal rocks)
- ▣ Movement of **tectonic plates (most common)**
- ▣ **Volcanic eruption** (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- ▣ **Human activities** (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

- ▣ **Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- ▣ **Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released; range: 0-10)
- ▣ **Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage; range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

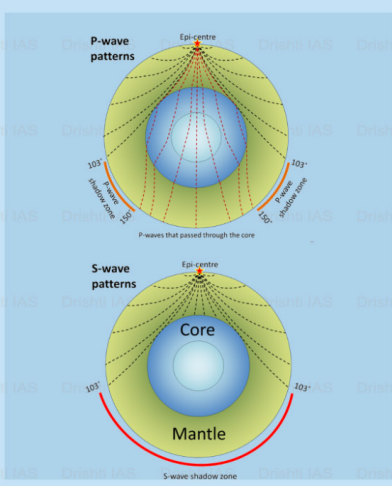
- ▣ **Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- ▣ **Alpide Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- ▣ **Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater

HYPOCENTER

- ▣ Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

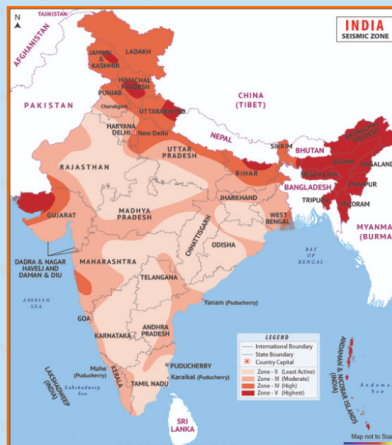
EPICENTER


- ▣ Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)



EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

- ▣ India is **one of the highly earthquake affected countries** due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- ▣ India has been divided into **4 seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)**





Note:

Jal Mahotsav 2023

Why in News?

The annual Jal Mahotsav 2023 festival took place from **December 2023 to January 2024**, against the captivating backdrop of **Hanuwantiya Tent City** situated on the shores of the **Indira Sagar Dam** in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- Taking place in Khandwa District, Madhya Pradesh, the Jal Mahotsav is a vibrant **show of the local culture**, with folk performances and traditional rituals celebrating the profound **connection between water and India's rich heritage**.
 - It is a platform for **raising awareness about critical issues** such as water conservation and sustainable practices. It **promotes responsible water usage** and advocates for various environmental initiatives.
- Spanning across 10 acres, this year's Tent City will feature 100 luxurious tents and other amenities such as, a dining hall serving exquisite meals, relaxing sit-out gazebos, and indoor sports room.
 - A bustling food bazaar, **crafts market**, and a rejuvenating wellness centre is being set up. Additionally, **each day will showcase captivating cultural performances**.
- **Regional cuisines** are showcased extensively at the venue, with Local chefs showcasing their expertise and presenting delightful feasts.

Extreme Weather and Human Casualty

Why in News?

As per the preliminary reports of the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, Madhya Pradesh has reported the **highest number of casualties** due to extreme weather events in 2023.

Key Points

- Witnessing over **2,376 casualties** due to extreme weather events, the year 2023 was the warmest on record since 1901 as per the IMD.
- The annual mean **land surface air temperature** averaging over India during 2023 was 0.65 degree Celsius above the long-term average (1981-2010 period), making it the second warmest year on record since 1901.
- Globally, the year **2023 was the "warmest year on record"** with the global mean temperature around

1.40 (± 0.12) degree Celsius above the pre-industrial level (1850 - 1900 average) till October.

- **Final figures will be released later by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** considering the global average temperatures of November and December.
- The significant rise in global temperatures, as well as in India, could be attributed to **El-Nino conditions** (warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that impacts monsoon negatively).
 - The WMO has already identified that **the warming El Nino event is likely to "contribute to the heat in 2024"**.
- **Thunderstorms and lightning**, put together, were the **biggest killers** in the country followed by **floods and heavy rain**.

Cheetah Cubs in Kuno National Park

Why in News?

According to the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, a **Namibian cheetah** named Aasha has given birth to three cubs in **Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park**.

- This development is termed as **"a roaring success for Project Cheetah"**.

Key Points

- Kuno National Park which is located in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district is home to several **cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa**.
- Project Cheetah in India formally commenced on **September 17, 2022**, to restore **the population of cheetahs**, which were declared **extinct in the country in 1952**.
- Government of India has started many **Wildlife conservation** projects such as:
 - **Project Tiger**
 - **Project Elephant**
 - **Project Rhinoceros**
 - **Project Crocodile Conservation**
 - **Project Vulture**
 - **Project Red Panda**
 - **Project Gangetic River Dolphin**
 - **Project Snow Leopard**
 - **Project Great Indian Bustard**

Note:

Healthy Food Street 'Prasadam' at Ujjain

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the country's first healthy and hygienic food street, 'Prasadam', that will serve traditional healthy food and delicacies made of **coarse grains** at **Mahakal Lok in Ujjain**.

Key Points

- **Prasadam will have 17 shops** that will offer dishes made from rajgira, sanwa, kuttu, ragi, dal-baffle and other famous traditional dishes of the state, built at a cost of Rs 175 lakh.
- The food street will be **fully operational from the first week of February, 2024** and junk foods and plastic are prohibited in the premises.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** will give food handling training to vendors while the **Food Safety on Wheels** vehicle will come **once a week** to inspect the food and train vendors.
 - **100 healthy and hygienic street food hubs** will come up at different locations **in the country**.
- **The Chief Minister also launched 'Manhit' App focused on mental health.** Mental health screening app "Manhit" developed by the Mental Health Unit of National Health Mission Madhya Pradesh.
 - It is **mainly divided into three sections:** Mental health self-assessment, awareness materials/videos and contact with mental health facilities.

Coarse Grains

- Coarse grains are **traditionally grown** in resource **poor agro-climatic regions** of the country. They are **also called nutri-grains**.
 - Agro-climatic zone is a land unit in terms of major climates suitable for a certain range of crops and cultivars.
- **Examples of Coarse grains** are Sorghum, pearl millet, maize, barley, finger millet and several small millets such as kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, proso millet and barnyard millet.

- **Coarse cereals producing states include** Karnataka, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc.

Indore: Cleanest City for Seventh Consecutive Time

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav received the award from President of India Droupadi Murmu at the **Swachh Survekshan Award 2023** ceremony held in New Delhi.

- **Indore became the cleanest city of the country for the seventh consecutive time.**

Key Points

- Indore has **shared the title** of cleanest city with **Surat**.
- Like every year in the Swachh Survekshan-2022 conducted by the Government of India, **Madhya Pradesh once again set records of cleanliness.**
- **Achievements of the State in Swachh Bharat Mission:**
 - **Garbage collection** is being done in **100% urban areas of the state**. For this, **motorized vehicles** have been provided to the urban bodies. Global Positioning System (GPS) systems have been installed in these vehicles.
 - Home composting is being encouraged for processing and execution of wet waste. **Compost of wet waste** stored in **centralized composting units of bodies** is made. This compost is used as manure in rural areas adjoining urban areas.

Swachh Survekshan 2023

- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in **2016** as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.
- Over the years, Swachh Survekshan has emerged as the largest Urban sanitation survey in the world.

Note:



CM Mega Health Camp in Alirajpur

Why in News?

Recently, Chief Minister Free Mega Health Camp was held at the **Eklavya Adarsh Residential School (EMRS)** in Umral, Alirajpur district in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- **EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to Scheduled Tribes children** in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
 - **Grants were given for construction of schools and recurring expenses** to the State Governments under **Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution**.
- From 2022 onwards, **every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.**
- Eklavya schools **will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalaya and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture** besides providing training in sports and skill development.

Concerns Over River Interlinking Project

Why in News?

According to a report, a major dam project in Madhya Pradesh, part of the ambitious **river interlinking project**, has been found to be in violation of environmental clearances by a central government's expert committee.

Key Points

- The dam project under the scanner is the **Lower Orr dam** which began in 2019. It is part of the **Ken-Betwa river interlinking project**.
- The **national interlinking of rivers (ILR)** is the idea that rivers should be inter-connected, so that water from the surplus rivers and regions could be transferred

to deficient regions and rivers to address the issue of **water scarcity**.

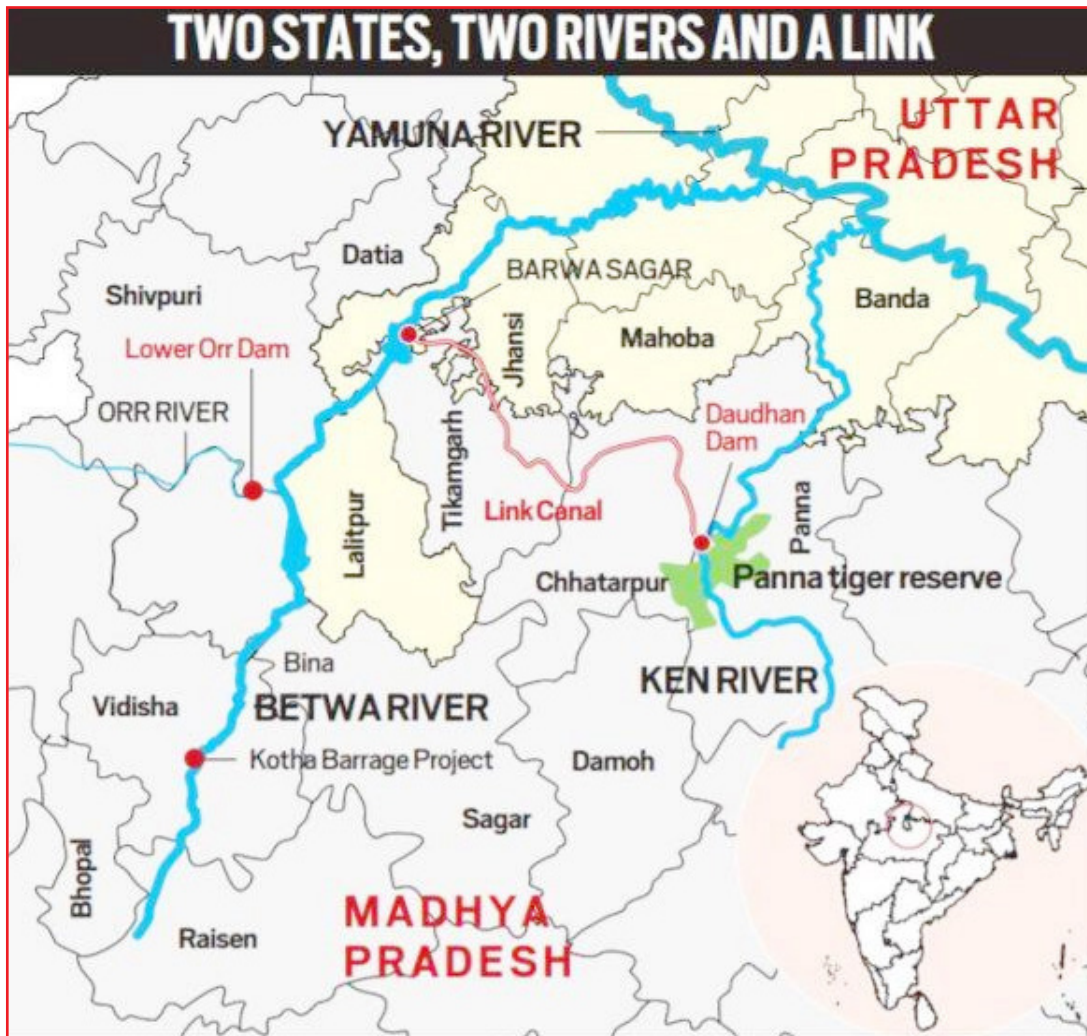
- This led to the setup of the **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** in 1982.
- There are four major projects for which detailed project reports (DPRs) have been prepared are: **Ken-Betwa link, Damanganga-Pinjal link, Par-Tapi-Narmada link, and Mahanadi-Godavari link**.
- The criticism of interlinking of rivers ranges from ecological consequences, displacement of natives, to the flawed premise of the exercise.
- The Lower Orr project under the scanner involves the construction of a dam and a canal network.
- As of 2022, when the alleged irregularities came to the light, around 82% of the dam and 33.5% of the canal network had been completed without a clearance from the Union **Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, as per the findings of the **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)**.

Ken-Betwa River Link Project (KBLP)

- It is the **first project under the National Perspective Plan for the interlinking of rivers**, which aims to transfer surplus water from one river basin to another to address water scarcity and enhance irrigation.
- The KBLP **involves transferring water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa River in Uttar Pradesh**, both of which are tributaries of the Yamuna River.
- The project has two phases, with mainly four components:
 - **Phase I will involve one of the components-** the Daudhan Dam complex and its subsidiary units such as the Low-Level Tunnel, High-Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and powerhouses.
 - **Phase II will involve three components:** The Lower Orr Dam across the Orr River, a tributary of the Betwa, the Bina Complex Project, and the Kotha Barrage.

Note:





Cheetah Dies at Kuno National Park

Why in News?

Recently, another Namibian cheetah dies in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park.

- This is the tenth death among cheetahs brought from South Africa's Namibia in 2022.

Key Points

- Cheetahs have been extinct in India for around 70 years. Project Cheetah is an initiative to reintroduce the species into the country.
- According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), this is the first intercontinental reintroduction of a wild, large carnivore species.

- The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), a non-profit organisation in Namibia, was invited by the government of India to participate in a programme to reintroduce cheetahs to India.
- The then MoEF shared the first overview of Project Cheetah in September 2010.
 - This outlined the current status of cheetahs around the world, the benefits and complexities of reintroducing cheetahs into India, and areas where they may be reintroduced, along with information about the task force.
 - In January 2020, the Supreme Court approved the pilot programme to reintroduce cheetahs into the country.
 - In July 2020, India and the Republic of Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), where the Namibian government agreed to donate the eight felines to the programme.

Note:



Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)

Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable

African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered

Asiatic Cheetah

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- Five female and three male Southeast African cheetahs between the ages of four and six were brought to India and kept in quarantine in Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh.

Note:

- In February 2023, 12 more cheetahs were brought from South Africa to expand on the project. The MoEFCC further planned “to translocate a further 12 annually for the next eight to 10 years,”

Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

- The CCF is a research and lobby institution in Namibia concerned with the study and sustenance of the country’s cheetah population, the largest and healthiest in the world.
- Its Research and Education Centre, located east of Otjiwarongo.
- The CCF was founded in 1990 by conservation biologist Laurie Marker who won the 2010 Tyler Prize for her efforts in Namibia.

Kuno National Park

- Kuno National Park which is located in Madhya Pradesh’s Sheopur district is home to several cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa.
- Project Cheetah in India formally commenced on September 17, 2022, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952.

Madhya Pradesh Government Fund Crisis

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh government has put 370 schemes on hold due to the fund crisis. This includes schemes concerning schools, IT industry, farm loans, metro rail and [Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana](#).

Key Points

- Officials have stated that none of the projects have been closed, but the funds are being held securely. Additionally, approval from the finance department is required before withdrawing funds for any schemes.
- The new government inherited a debt of Rs 3.5 lakh crore, and in less than a month, it has taken a fresh loan of Rs 2,000 crore.
- In the first supplementary budget of Rs 26,816.6 crore passed in the assembly in July 2023, Rs 762 crore was set aside to pay the interest of the new market loans taken by the government. The second supplementary budget will be passed in the assembly.

- Among the major financial responsibilities of the government is the [Ladli Behna scheme](#), which needs nearly Rs 1,600 crore every month.

IN WAIT MODE

Some of the schemes named in Dec 8 order where funds are in cold storage



- Mukhya Mantri Rin Samadhan Yojana
- Metro Railway 
- Model schools
- Tantya Bhil temple
- Setting up IT parks 
- Job fairs & career counselling
- Teerth Yatra Yojana
- Khelo India MP
- Ek Jila Ek Utpad
- Development of air strips
- Road renovation under PM Sadak Yojana

Tiger Found Dead in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, a young tiger was found dead in the [Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve \(BTR\)](#) in Madhya Pradesh’s Umaria district.

Key Points

- The carcass of the sub-adult tiger, aged between 12 months and 18 months, was spotted in a trench in Dhamokhar range of the BTR.

Note:



- The carcass was disposed of as per guidelines of [the National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) after an autopsy.
 - On **January 9**, the carcass of a young tiger, aged between 15 months and 18 months, was found lying in a trench in the Pator range of BTR.
- **Madhya Pradesh** retained the “tiger State” status in the recent census (2022), with the number of big cats in the State rising to **785** from **526** in 2018.
- As per the report ‘**Status of Tigers: Co-predators & Prey in India-2022**’, released by the [NTCA](#) and [Wildlife Institute of India](#) in July 2023, **Madhya Pradesh (785)** has the highest number of tigers in the country, followed by **Karnataka (563)** and **Uttarakhand (560)**.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR)

- It is located in the **Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh** and is spread over the Vindhya hills.
- In 1968, it was notified as a national park and in 1993 was declared a tiger reserve- under the Project Tiger Network at the neighbouring Panpatha Sanctuary.
- It derives its name from the most prominent hillock of the area, which was said to be given by **Hindu Lord Rama** to his brother Lakshmana to keep a watch on Lanka. Hence the name Bandhavgarh.
- It is known for the **Royal Bengal Tigers**. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India as well as in the world.
- The whole park is filled with more than **20 streams out of which some of the most important streams are** Johilla, Janadh, Charanganga, Damnar, Banbei, Ambanala and Andhiyari Jhiria.
 - These streams then merge into the **Son river** (an important southern tributary to the river Ganga).
- The important prey species consists of chital, sambhar, barking deer, nilgai, chinkara, wild pig, chowsingha, langur and rhesus macaque.
- Dependent upon them are the major predators like tiger, **leopard**, wild dog, wolf and jackal.

Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It was established in **1982**.
- It is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.

Status of Pulse Lentil Production in India

Why in News?

As per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India is set to become the world's largest producer of lentils (**masoor**) during the 2023-24 crop year on account of higher acreage.

- The **Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh** is considered a lentil bowl which contributes nearly **25% to the total lentil production in the country**.

Key Points

- Lentil production is estimated to touch an all-time high of 1.6 million tonnes in the 2023-24 rabi season on higher acreage.
- India is the **largest producer (25% of global production), consumer (27% of world consumption) and importer (14%) of pulses in the world**.
 - Pulses account for around **20% of the area under food grains** and contribute around **7-10% of the total foodgrains production** in the country.
 - Gram is the most dominant pulse having a share of around **40 % in the total production** followed by **Tur/Arhar at 15 to 20 % and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at around 8-10 % each**.
 - Though pulses are grown in both **Kharif and Rabi seasons, Rabi pulses contribute more than 60% of the total production**.
 - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are the top five pulses-producing states.
- The policy prescription for ensuring reasonable prices to the farmers largely centres around procuring the pulses by providing **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** to the farmers through **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** and more recently through **Small Farmers Agri Consortium (SFAC)**.

Lentils

- **About:**
 - Lentil is a **bushy annual herbaceous plant of the legume family**.
 - These are edible legumes, known for their lens-shaped, flat disced seed.

Note:

- Lentil plants are **typically short, and bear self-pollinated flowers**.
- Lentil grains are **excellent sources of energy, carbohydrates, protein, fat, fibers, phosphorus, iron, zinc, carotene, vitamins, and antioxidants**.
- **Climatic Condition:**
 - Lentil is **primarily grown as a rainfed crop**.
 - It requires cold temperature during its vegetative growth and warm temperature at the time of maturity.
 - Lentil is **grown during rabi season**.
- **Soil Types:**
 - Lentils **can grow on various soil types**, from sand to clay loam, growing best in deep sandy loam soils with moderate fertility.
 - A soil **pH around 7 would be the best**. Lentils do not tolerate flooding or water-logged conditions.

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav flags off Mahakal laddoos to Ayodhya

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief minister flagged-off 'Prasad Raths' (trucks) carrying 5 lakh laddoos for Ayodhya from Tulsi Manas Mandir.

Key Points

- The CM performed pooja of Lord Rama in **Shri Siddh Raghunath Temple at Manas Pratishtan**. He also released a **book on Ayodhya authored by Ramgopal Soni**.
- The **idol of Lord Ram** is being consecrated as the **embodiment of love, faith, and devotion to Lord Ram**.
- He underlined the importance of **Ujjain and Ayodhya** having a **common cultural and religious relationship**. Historical and mythological events display knowledge of technology.

Places Linked with Lord Ram to be Developed as Tourist Spots

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister announced that

places connected with Ram Lalla in the state will be developed as popular tourist spots.

- He watched the consecration ceremony virtually from the **Ram Raja Temple in Orchha town in Niwari district**.

Key Points

- The **Ram temple idol consecration ceremony** was a **historic event**.
 - Nearly **142 crore people stood by the government** and demonstrated an example of **communal harmony**.

Ram Raja Temple



- The Ram Raja Temple is a **temple in Orchha, Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is a sacred Hindu pilgrimage and receives devotees in large numbers regularly and is also **commonly known as Orchha Temple**.
- The Idols which were supposed to be installed in the magnificent Chaturbhuji Temple were kept on the ground where this temple now stands.
 - But once kept on the ground, **the idols could not be budged**.
 - This **marked the place holy and a temple was constructed where the idols were kept**.
- Ram Raja Temple has a **serene architecture, adorned with a marble courtyard and colorful walls**.

Bhopal Ranks 5th in Swachh Survekshan 2023

Why in News?

Bhopal has ascended from the 6th position in 2022 to secure the 5th spot among cities with a population exceeding 1 lakh. The city **has achieved a notable 5-star Garbage Free City (GFC) rating**, solidifying its status as the cleanest State capital in the nation.

Note:

- Furthermore, Bhopal holds the 5th position in the cleanliness rankings among cities with a population exceeding one million.

Swachh Survekshan awards 2023



Indore and Surat were declared the joint cleanest cities of India as part of the Swachh Survekshan Awards. A look at the highlights

TOP 10 CITIES

Rank Urban local body, State

- 1 Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 1 Surat, Gujarat
- 3 Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 4 Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 5 Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- 6 Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh
- 7 New Delhi (NDMC), Delhi
- 8 Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
- 9 Greater Hyderabad, Telangana
- 10 Pune, Maharashtra

BOTTOM 3

Rank ULB, State

- 1 Kolkata, West Bengal
- 2 Asansol, West Bengal
- 3 Haora, West Bengal

TOP STATES

Rank State No of ULBs

- 1 Maharashtra 411
- 2 Madhya Pradesh 378
- 3 Chhattisgarh 169

THE MOST IMPROVED

PANAJI, GOA

Fastest moving city with population of over 100,000

NOWROZABAD, MP

Fastest moving city with population less than 100,000

Key Points

- To ensure the effective processing and disposal of waste, a well-organized segregation system has been implemented at all 12 Transfer Stations in Bhopal. Currently, the city has 6 Material Recovery Facility (MRF).
- The transformation of the Bhanpur dumpsite into a green area underscores the State's commitment to **sustainable urban planning**.

Note:



drishti

- Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) has **shifted from traditional waste treatment and utilizes hazardous waste as a valuable source of fuel.**
 - The city has collaborated with Hazargo Industry Pithampur, **marking the establishment of the first preprocessing plant** in Bhopal to scientifically manage the hazardous waste released from homes, offices, and factories.
 - A common **Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) to effectively process the bio-medical waste has been established** in the city.
 - This facility **oversees the comprehensive handling, transportation, storage, and treatment of medical waste** from various healthcare facilities in the surrounding areas.
- As part of the ongoing projects, **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** has **signed an agreement with BMC** for setting up of 400 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) dry Municipal Solid Waste to torrefied charcoal plant. The **torrefied charcoal produced will be used as a by-product in the thermal power plants** of NTPC.
- Going forward Bhopal MC **plans to continue its upward journey towards a garbage-free city**, setting benchmarks for others to follow.

Swachh Survekshan

- **About:**
 - Swachh Survekshan, **conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) since 2016**, is the world's largest **urban sanitation and cleanliness survey**.
 - It has been **instrumental in fostering a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities** to improve their service delivery to citizens and towards creating cleaner cities.
- **Some of the Highlights of Swachh Survekshan of 2023:**
 - Madhya Pradesh **secured the second position in state cleanliness rankings.**
 - **Bottom Five States:** Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Nagaland, and Tripura were ranked as the bottom five states in cleanliness.
 - **Chandigarh received the Safaimitra Surakshit Shehar award** for the city with the best safety standards for sanitation workers.
 - **Varanasi was recognized as the cleanest Ganga town.**

MP Lokayukta Probes Scam in State Board

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh secondary education board is under scanner of the **state Lokayukta organisation** in connection with allegations of **irregularities in purchase of computers amounting to nearly Rs 100 crore.**

Key Points

- A complaint has been filed with the Lokayukta organization, citing major discrepancies in the purchase of **computer desktops, photocopiers, and UPS.**
 - The cost of each computer desktop was reported to be Rs 1,39,350, resulting in a total expenditure of approximately Rs 96.70 crore.
 - The department procured hardware for 4,519 cooperative societies, encompassing five devices per pack – desktop, multi-function device (photocopy, scan, print), UPS, VPN, and biometric. The total expenditure for this purchase amounted to about Rs 55 crore.
- It asserts that there is an evident financial irregularity of around Rs 45 crore in the hardware purchase.
- It highlights the inflated rates of the secondary education board's desktops, which were Rs 82,000 more per unit compared to the cooperative department's purchase.

Lokayukta Organisation

- The Lokayukta is the **Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman**, executed into power, through and for, each of the State Governments of India.
- It is an **anti-corruption authority**. The objective of the Lokayukta system in a state is to investigate grievances, allegations against public servants.
- The origin of the Lokayukta can be drawn to the **Ombudsman in Scandinavian countries.**
- In India, the **Administrative Reforms Commission, (1966-70)**, had recommended the creation of the Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta in the states.
 - **Maharashtra** was first in this respect with its **Lokayukta body established in 1971.**

Note:

Merger of Public Health and Medical Education Departments

Why in News?

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the proposal of merger of the Medical Education department and the Public Health department.

- Currently, hospitals come under the purview of the Public Health department while medical colleges and associated facilities fall in the domain of the Medical Education department.

Key Points

- With the merger, **medical colleges will be able to focus on critical and specialised treatments and medical education** instead of routine medical services and it **will become easier to affiliate district hospitals with medical colleges.**
- The **cabinet also approved** the following:
 - The **proposal to Parliament seeking amendments to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. The proposed amendments include the removal of minor violations related to water pollution from the category of crime.
 - Amendments to **Madhya Pradesh Ayurvigyan Vishwavidyalaya Adhiniyam, 2011**.
 - A proposal to set up **Pradhan Mantri College of Excellence in all 55 districts** under the **National Education Policy**.
 - Creation of **1845 academic and 387 non-academic posts** at these institutes.

The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

- This Act was enacted for the **prevention and control of water pollution and maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water**. The Central and State Pollution Control Boards have been **constituted under section 3 and 4 of the Act** respectively.
- The Act was **amended in 1978 and 1988** to clarify certain ambiguities and to vest more **powers in the Pollution Control Board**.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- The **NEP 2020** aims at making **“India a global knowledge superpower”**.
- It is only the **3rd major revamp** of the framework of education in India since independence.
 - The **two earlier** education policies were brought in **1968 and 1986**.

One of the Largest Dinosaur Hatcheries in the World Uncovered

Why in News?

According to recent discoveries by paleontologists, **Madhya Pradesh, is home to one of the largest dinosaur hatcheries in the world.**

Key Points

- The state’s **Narmada Valley**, which spans several districts, has yielded hundreds of **fossilised dinosaur eggs and nests**, belonging to the **herbivorous Titanosaurs**, one of the largest known dinosaurs.
- The most recent discovery was made in the **Lameta Formation of the Dhar district**, where a team of paleontologists from various institutes found **92 closely located dinosaur nests and 256 eggs with each clutch containing between one and twenty eggs, dating back to about 66 million years ago.**
 - The eggs ranged from **15 to 17 cm in diameter**, and **each nest contained one to 20 eggs**. Some of the eggs showed evidence of hatching, while others did not.
- The Lameta Formation is of **Maastrichtian age (Late Cretaceous)**, and is also found in **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.**
 - It is notable for its **diversity of dinosaur genera**, including the **titanosaur sauropod Isisaurus and the abelisaurus Indosaurus, Indosuchus, Laevisuchus, and Rajasaurus.**
 - The Lameta Formation also **contains fossils of mammals, snakes, and other animals.**
 - The prehistoric structure represents the last phase of dinosaur evolution in India, before their **extinction** at the **end of the Cretaceous period.**

Note:



- The team, led by the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Delhi**, published their findings in the **scientific journal PLOS ONE**.
 - They concluded that the **Narmada Valley was a dinosaur hatchery zone**, where the Titanosaurs either came specifically to lay eggs or also hatched them.
 - They also suggested that the area had a **warm and humid climate**, with abundant **vegetation and water sources, suitable for the dinosaurs' survival**.
 - Previous studies have also reported similar findings in the **Jabalpur district and the Gujarat town of Balasinor**.
- Some of the **fossilized eggs found in the Dhar district** were not recognized as such by the **local villagers**, who **had been worshiping them as sacred stones for generations**.
 - These palm-sized objects, known as '**Kakar Bhairav' or the lord of the land**, were believed to be the **protective deities of farms and livestock**.
- The discovery of dinosaur fossils and eggs in Madhya Pradesh has **not only enriched the scientific knowledge of the region's palaeontological history**, but also opened up **new avenues for tourism and education**.

- The state government has **plans to develop the sites as tourist attractions**, and to **create awareness among the public about the state's rich dinosaur heritage**.

Lameta Formation

- The Lameta Formation, also known as the **Infratrappean Beds** (not to be confused with the contemporaneous Intertrappean Beds), is a **sedimentary geological formation found in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, India, associated with the Deccan Traps**.
 - The Intertrappean Beds are a **Late Cretaceous and Early Paleocene geologic formation** in India. The beds are found as interbeds between **Deccan Traps layers**, including the more diverse Lameta Formation.

Maastrichtian age (Late Cretaceous)

- The Maastrichtian is, in the **ICS geologic time scale**, the latest age (uppermost stage) of the Late Cretaceous Epoch or Upper Cretaceous Series, the Cretaceous Period or System, and of the Mesozoic Era or Erathem. It spanned the interval **from 72.1 to 66 million years ago**.

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