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### Mobile Phone Distribution Campaign

#### Why in News

On December 31, 2021, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 80,000 mobile phone distribution campaign at the Asha Sisters' Conference held at the Indira Gandhi Foundation.

#### **Key Points**

- > The Chief Minister announced an additional honorarium of Rs 500 per month from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2022 to the Asha sisters and Asha relatives who are doing good work in the prevention of Kovid.
- > 2000 rupees per month were provided to ASHA and ASHA associates by the central government and 750 rupees per month by the state government. Apart from this, incentive money was also provided to them through various programs. In this way, he could get an honorarium of about Rs 5,300.
- The State Government has decided that the monthly incentive amount received by the State Government to ASHA and ASHA associates should be increased from Rs 750 to Rs 1500. This will at least provide them the prescribed amount up to Rs.6,000.
- The Chief Minister said that in the State Health Index 2019-20 report recently released by the Government of India, Uttar Pradesh has got the first place in the incremental ranking among 19 big states of the country. Out of the 12 indicators of health outcome promenade, Uttar Pradesh has excelled in 06.

### Major Dhyan **Chand Sports University**

#### Why in News

On January 2, 2022, Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Major Dhyanchand Sports University in Meerut district. A short film focusing on Major Dhyan Chand Sports University was also screened on the occasion.

#### **Key Points**

➤ The university will be built on an area of 91.38 acres at a cost of Rs 700 crore.

- The Prime Minister also visited the exhibition focused on the model of Major Dhyanchand Sports University and sports goods produced in Meerut district. During this, he was also saw using an exercise machine at a stall.
- Congratulating the youth of the state for the first sports university in the state, the Prime Minister said that this modern university would be the best sports university in the world. Here youth will get international facilities related to sports.
- Training and research work will be conducted in this university along with various courses in sports, sports science and sports technology.
- This university builds skills to adopt sports as a career. Every year more than a thousand sons and daughters will emerge as excellent players.
- In the year 2018, the country's first National Sports University was established in Manipur.

### **Inauguration of Covid** Vaccination of Adolescent Children of 15 to 18 years in the State

#### Why in News

On January 3, 2022, the Kovid vaccination campaign has started for the children of 15 to 18 years in Uttar Pradesh. In order to motivate the children of 15 to 18 years for vaccination, the Chief Minister directed that these children should be allowed leave from school on the day of vaccination and the next day.

#### **Key Points**

- > The Chief Minister said that the number of children in the age group of 15 to 18 years is about 1 crore 40 lakh in the state. The process of vaccination for this age group has started at 2,150 booths in the state from today. Vaccines are being given to children of 15 to 18 years at 39 centers in the capital Lucknow.
- Significantly, more than 20 crore 25 lakh vaccine doses have been given so far in Uttar Pradesh under the age group of 18 years. 12 crore 84 lakh 94 thousand 516 people have taken the first dose of vaccine and 7 crore 40 lakh 93 thousand 819 people have taken both the doses.



> The Chief Minister said that so far 8 cases of Omicron have been reported in the state, out of which 3 cases have already turned negative. The rest are in home isolation. There are currently 2,261 active cases of Covid-19 in the state. Of these, more than 2,100 are in home isolation.

## Chief Minister Released the Books Published by the Legislature Library

#### Why in News

On January 3, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath released 'Karmayoddha Ram Nai', 'Hriday Narayan Dixit Rachnavali' and other books published by the Legislature Library under the guidance of the Speaker, in a program organized at Lok Bhawan.

#### **Key Points**

- Earlier, he unveiled oil paintings of President Mahatma Gandhi, Babasaheb Dr. BR Ambedkar and former President Dr. Rajendra Prasad in Rajarshi Purushottamdas Tandon Hall of Vidhan Bhavan and also inaugurated the Legislature Publications Vendor.
- Legislature Library, books based on the compilation of speeches of 5 Chief Ministers were released. These include a compilation of speeches given by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly- 'Sankalp and Sanjalp: Dialogues of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly' including 'Rajnath Singh in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly', 'Kalyan Singh in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly', 'Ram Prakash in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly' and 'Chowdhary Charan Singh's speech in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly' are included.
- Along with this, the books published by the Legislature Library include 'Speeches of elected members from Uttar Pradesh in the Constituent Assembly', 'Representation of Women in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Participation in the Council of Ministers', 'Parliamentary Privileges in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly', 'Of Uttar Pradesh Books were also released on 'Speeches of the Hon'ble

- Governors', 'Seeings of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and the presence of honorable members in them'.
- The Chief Minister said that a book 'Karmayoddha Ram Naik' based on various memoirs of Charaiveti Charaiveti, the autobiography of former Governor Ram Naik, has been released. Charaiveti Charaiveti Book has been translated into about 11 languages. This book provides positive energy to each and every person in different areas of life. The book Karmayoddha Ram Naik expresses the vitality and activism of former Governor Ram Naik, his deep penetration on every aspect of Uttar Pradesh and society.
- The books released here will be a large collection for the Legislature Library, which have been stored as separate book sizes. These books will be informative for the prosperity of the library as well as for the new assembly members, those interested in politics, research scholars and people keeping an eye on the social and economic activities related to Uttar Pradesh in public life.
- He said that a book related to the speech of elected members from Uttar Pradesh in the Constituent Assembly and representation of women in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and their participation in the council has been released here. This book will be interesting and inspirational for future generations.

# Laying of Foundation Stone of new Unit of AntiTerrorism Squad (ATS)

#### Why in News

On January 4, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath laid the foundation stone of the new unit of Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) building 'Commando Training Center' in Deoband of Saharanpur district and the fire stations of different districts of the state. Launched.

#### **Key Points**

The Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the. foundation stone of 112 development projects worth Rs 199 crore in Saharanpur district. These include the inauguration



- of 61 projects worth Rs 162.98 crore and foundation stone laying of 51 projects worth Rs 45.86 crore. Also, on this occasion, the Chief Minister presented tablets and smartphones to the students.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that free of cost tablets and smartphones are being provided to 1 crore students by the state government for the memory of the country and the state. On the other hand, ATS center is being built for security.
- In view of the global pandemic like Corona, the state government has decided to connect the youth energy with tablets and smartphones for the preparation of online education, online exams and competitions.
- The youth who will get tablets and smartphones will include students from medical, nursing, paramedical, pharmacy, engineering, polytechnic, ITI, universities and colleges.
- ATS 56 commandos will always be stationed in the center for security. This Anti-Terrorist Squad will be effective in stopping terrorist activities in western Uttar Pradesh. Along with this, he will work for the security of the citizens of the country and the state.

# Digital Launch and Foundation Stone of Various Projects of Urban Development

#### Why in News

On January 4, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a program organized at Lok Bhawan, Lucknow, online transfer of more than 500 crore rupees of first, second and third installment in the bank accounts of 58,903 beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). Including digital inauguration and foundation stone of various projects worth Rs 3,800 crore for urban development.

#### **Key Points**

- In these projects, about Rs 909 crore projects of Smart City Mission were inaugurated and foundation stone was laid.
- Also, 28 solid waste processing plants costing more than Rs 627 crore, 13 legacy waste remediation, 1

- waste to energy plant in Agra district and 1100 public toilets/pink toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam Urban Under the AMRUT Mission and state sector projects worth more than Rs 926 crore were inaugurated and foundation stone laid.
- Apart from these, the foundation stone of the office building of the Municipal Corporation Ayodhya and Mathura-Vrindavan and the projects worth Rs 506 crore of the Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad were inaugurated and the foundation stone was laid for 1000 pre-wi-fi zone projects in 651 municipal bodies of the state.
- On this occasion, a tripartite MoU was also signed between the State Government, Municipal Corporation Kanpur and German agency GIZ to prevent plastic waste from entering the river system for environmental protection and for organic management of garbage. Additional Chief Secretary Urban Development Dr. Rajneesh Dubey and Project Head, GIZ Ms. Vaishali Nandan exchanged the MoU.
- During the program, short films focusing on Waste Management in Agra Municipal Corporation and innovations of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation were screened.
- > Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the State Government has expanded the limits of 61 municipal bodies in the last five years along with formation of 3 new municipal corporations, 3 new municipalities, 84 new nagar panchayats. At present there are 734 municipal bodies in the state.
- On this occasion electric bus service and electric bus depot facility were started in 7 cities- Meerut, Agra, Mathura-Vrindavan, Aligarh, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur and Moradabad.

## Inauguration and Foundation Stone laying of 572 km Long National Highway Projects in the State

#### Why In News

On January 6, 2022, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced a 572 km project in Kaushambi, Ayodhya and Basti in Uttar



Pradesh at a cost of Rs.12981 crore. Inaugurated and laid foundation stones for long National Highway (NH) projects.

#### **Key Points**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Minister Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 6 NH projects in Kaushambi costing Rs.2659 crore and 3 NH projects in Basti costing Rs.1,624 crore.
- ➤ He laid the foundation stone of 6 NH projects in Ayodhya costing Rs.8,698 crore.
- With the construction of 84 Kosi Parikrama Marg in Ayodhya, devotees will get a lot of convenience and religious tourism will get a boost. With the construction of Ayodhya Ring Road, the problem of traffic jams will be solved.
- With the construction of NH-233, the birthplace of Lord Buddha at Lumbini will be connected to Varanasi and Sarnath.
- ➤ A day earlier on January 5, Nitin Gadkari had inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 821 km of national highways in Uttar Pradesh costing Rs 26778 crore.
- He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 8 National Highway projects worth Rs.14199 crores in Kanpur, 16 National Highways projects worth Rs.7409 crores in Lucknow and 4 National Highways projects worth Rs.5169 crores at Shringverpur Dham in Prayagraj.
- With these projects, important pilgrimage sites like Prayagraj, Chitrakoot and Shringverpur Dham will be linked with the construction plan of Shri Ram Van Gaman Marg.
- These projects will also help in the development of leather, glass and bangle industry in Kanpur and nearby areas, as well as increase investment and industrial development in the state.

# World's Most Advanced Artificial Heart

#### Why in News

Recently, IIT Kanpur Deputy Director Prof. Ganesh said that IIT will prepare the world's most advanced type of artificial heart.

#### **Key Points**

- The Hriday Yantra program has been prepared for this exercise by the School of Medical Research and Technology operating in the IIT campus. In this, experts from the medical and technology world of the country and the world will join, as well as the graduate students studying from any class will also be given the opportunity to learn a lot along with the challenge.
- Experts from Indian Council of Medical Research will also assist IIT Kanpur in this programme.
- Pro. s. Ganesh said that the Left Ventricular Assist Device will be developed to prepare the artificial heart.
- With the help of leading hospitals, this program will promote the vision of 'Made in India' for the world. The artificial heart that is used now is very expensive. If it is ready at IIT Kanpur, it will be considered a milestone. This will be the first such device in the country, which will be developed here.
- ➤ It is noteworthy that LVAD or artificial heart is such a pump, which is used in the last stage of heart failure patients. Apart from this, it is used as a bridge awaiting heart transplant or as destination therapy for people unable to be transplanted.
- This is an implantable battery-operated mechanical pump that helps the left ventricle (the main pumping chamber of the heart) pump blood to the rest of the body.
- The Hriday Yantra program will not only enrich the health ecosystem of the country, but will also pave the way for interdisciplinary biomedical research and innovation.

# Uttar Pradesh Won First Prize in Water Awards

#### Why in News

On January 7, 2022, Uttar Pradesh bagged the first prize in the 'Best State Category' of the Union Ministry of Water Affairs' National Water Awards 2020. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu bagged the second and third prizes respectively in the Best State (General) category.



#### **Key Points**

- > This is the **third edition of the award** given for adopting a holistic approach towards water resource management in India.
- ➤ A total of 57 awards were announced in 11 categories, including Best State, District, Panchayat and Best Industry.
- This year in the district category North Zone, the award was given to Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh, while Balua of Varanasi won the award for 'Best Gram Panchayat-North Zone'.
- To meet the objective of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of rivers, water quality in major rivers including Ganga has improved significantly in Uttar Pradesh. The State Government has set up 104 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a capacity of 3,298.84 MLD (Million Liters Daily) in the State.
- Due to this the streams of the rivers have become uninterrupted and pure and the drains found in the rivers have been closed. Under 'Namami Gange', not only the Ganga, but the condition of all the major rivers including Gomti, Saryu, Yamuna, Rapti have improved due to intensive cleanliness drives.
- The Rural Water Supply Department of the State Government has completed preparations to connect more than 18 lakh families with water supply in the first phase of Har Ghar Nal Yojana under the Jal Jeevan Mission and the Namami Gange program of the Central Government.
- ➤ In 2018, the National Water Awards were instituted to recognize and encourage the exemplary work and efforts done by states, districts, individuals and organizations in achieving the vision of a water-rich Indian government across the country.

# Uttar Pradesh Gets Five Prestigious e-Governance Awards

#### Why in News

Recently, in recognition of the achievements of Uttar Pradesh in digitization and e-governance at the national level, the state has received five prestigious awards in various fields of e-governance, out of which two have been received by the Higher Education Department.

#### **Key Points**

- > These awards will be presented at a function on 23rd January at MNNIT, Prayagraj.
- The UP-DARPAN Dashboard has been selected for the Excellence Award for Chief Minister. It is a portal facilitating quick and efficient redressal of grievances of citizens. It is being widely used by the people and has provided relief to thousands of complainants.
- The Higher Education Department has received the CSI SIG e-Governance Award 2021 in recognition of its commendable work in two efforts - Digital Library Project and Online NOC and Affiliation System for opening a new college/course.
- So far in the academic session 2021-22, 487 undergraduate NOCs, 431 postgraduate NOCs and 138 affiliations have been given online by the online NOC affiliation portal.
- Two other e-governance portals that are recognized at the national level are 'Mine Mitra' and 'Seva Mitra'. Mine Mitra is an online platform to facilitate online mineral management, online transit pass, online citizen and farmer services like online license, permit, lease and registration etc. to prevent illegal mining and encourage legal mining.
- It also facilitates integrated surveillance and enforcement systems such as automatic check gates, RFID handheld machines for m-checks, minetags, etc. These services and facilities are very useful for the general public, farmers, lessee holders, stockists and transporters.
- > Seva Mitra is an online platform to act as a bridge between citizens and skilled workers in both rural and urban areas on a geo-location basis.

## Senior Journalist Kamal Khan Passes Away

#### Why in News

On January 14, 2022, senior Uttar Pradesh journalist Kamal Khan passed away due to a heart attack. He was 61 years old.



#### **Key Points**

- Kamal Khan was the Executive Editor of NDTV's Uttar Pradesh Bureau. Kamal Khan was in journalism for two decades. After a long stay in print media, he started his TV career with NDTV and was associated with the channel till the end.
- Kamal Khan was recognized as a flamboyant journalist. He was very popular for his distinctive style and language of presenting news.
- He received the Ramnath Goenka Award and the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award at the hands of the President for his outstanding contribution to journalism.
- Kathak Dance Emperor Pandit Birju Maharaj Passes Away

# Kathak Dance Emperor Pandit Birju Maharaj Passes Away

#### Why in News

On January 17, 2022, the famous Kathak dancer Birju Maharaj, who took the traditional Indian dance form 'Kathak' to the world stage and was honored with countless honors like Padma Vibhushan, Nritya Shiromani, Sangeet Natak Akademi, passed away.

#### **Key Points**

- Brij Mohan Nath Mishra (popularly known as Pandit Birju Maharaj), one of India's most famous and favorite artists, belonged to the Kalka-Bindadin gharana of Lucknow, a classical Kathak dance form. He was born on February 4, 1938 in Lucknow.
- Birju Maharaj's father and guru Achhan Maharaj, uncle Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj were also famous Kathak dancers.
- The artistic personality of Pandit Birju Maharaj has been such, which is considered to be beyond logic. He was a guru, dancer, choreographer, singer and composer. He used to play percussion, write poetry and paint. His disciples are well-known artists and have spread all over the world.

- Awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1983, Birju Maharaj also choreographed dance in several Bollywood films, including Umrao Jaan, Dedh Ishqiya, Bajirao Mastani. Apart from Padma Vibhushan, he has also received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Kalidas Samman.
- ➤ In 2012, he was awarded the National Film Award for choreography in the film Vishwaroopam. Apart from this, he received the Filmfare Award in the year 2016 for the choreography of the song 'Mohe Rang Do Laal' by Bajirao Mastani.
- Along with this, he also received honorary doctorates from Banaras Hindu University and Khairagarh University.

# MNIT Got National Level Lawn Tennis and Basketball Court

#### Why in News

On January 16, 2022, the National Level Synthetic Lawn Tennis and Basketball Court was inaugurated by Prof. Rajeev Tripathi, Director of the Institute at Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), Prayagraj.

#### **Key Points**

- Along with this he also inaugurated a gym. With this, while on one hand the students have got the facility to play lawn tennis and basketball in the campus itself, on the other hand a high-end gym has also been found to exercise.
- ➤ Both these courts and the gym have been built with donations made by the 1987 batch. 32 lakh rupees were spent in its construction.
- With the establishment of this court, students studying in the institute and interested in sports will get an opportunity to play. This will not only help in physical fitness, but will also help in stress management.
- On this occasion, Raj Dubey, a 1987 Mechanical batch alumnus and Executive Director, Indian Oil Corporation Limited also unveiled the logo of MAA designed by Mridula Bhadra, Research Scholar, Department of Biotechnology.



# Nitin Agarwal Resigns from SP and Vidhansabha

#### Why in News

On January 19, 2022, Deputy Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Nitin Agarwal resigned from the House and the membership of the Samajwadi Party.

#### **Key Points**

- Samajwadi Party's rebel MLA Nitin Agarwal was elected Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on October 18, 2021. He was a minister of state during the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party government.
- Nitin Agarwal, who was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 2017 on a Samajwadi Party ticket, had joined the ruling party ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- ➤ It is noteworthy that Speaker Hriday Narayan Dixit had rejected a petition by the Samajwadi Party seeking his disqualification. The Speaker had technically allowed the BJP to justify its decision to field Nitin Agarwal for the deputy speaker's post, traditionally reserved for the single largest opposition party.

### Agra Master Plan-2031

#### Why in News

Recently the 'Agra Master Plan - 2031' has been made public by the Agra Development Authority. In this the proposal of Taj Heritage area from Taj Mahal and Mahtab Bagh to Rambagh has been included. Under this, many new rules have been made.

#### **Key Points**

- For the first time in Agra Master Plan-2031, the authority has constituted the Taj Heritage Area, in which three rules have been included. Apart from the Taj, no construction will be allowed within 100 meters from the monuments in the Taj Heritage Area, which extends on both sides of the Yamuna till Rambagh.
- Under the rule, buildings with one storey or 3.75 meters high and two storeys i.e. more than 7.50 meters will not be allowed on the approval of the

- Archeological Department from 100 to 300 meters, i.e. between Taj to Rambagh, two storeys high on both sides. Buildings cannot be built. With this, malls, apartments, multi-storey buildings will not be constructed on the banks of Yamuna.
- The authority has made the order of the Supreme Court a part of the master plan, under which no construction can be done within 500 meters of the Taj Mahal. After this, not more than one storey building will be built from 500 meters to 750 meters and two-storey buildings from 750 meters to one kilometer away. There shall be no such constructions, towers and reconstructions which would impair the view of the Taj's background from the southern gate platform.
- Industrial units operating in residential areas of the proposed Taj Heritage Area on either side of the Yamuna river from Taj to Rambagh will be shifted. Industrial units including chain factories are running on the banks of river Yamuna in the colonies near Balkeshwar, Katra Wazir Khan, Rambagh.
- In the Agra Master Plan-2031, the units operating in the entire Taj Heritage area will be shifted to the industrial areas proposed in the master plan. Along with this, it is also proposed to take out the wholesale markets running in the city. Parking and other services will be provided on the vacant land of the mandis which will be shifted out of the city and only retail shops will be developed.

# Banaras is the Third Most Polluted City in the Country

#### Why in News

According to the list of top-10 polluted cities across the country released on January 22, 2022, Banaras was the third most polluted city in the country. Nine cities of the state are included in the list of top ten polluted cities.

#### **Key Points**

Jaunpur was the second most polluted city in the country. The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Jaunpur was recorded at 325 and that of Banaras was recorded at 282. While Jaunpur is at number two, Banaras is third.



- According to the data released by IQAir, Banaras is in the Orange Zone with 282 AQI. The most polluted areas in the city were from Balabhadra Colony, Ramnagar, Saket Nagar, Jangambari, Nati Tamarind Road, Fish Market and Lanka.
- The top ten polluted cities are- 1. Ghatampur-333, 2. Jaunpur-325, 3. Varanasi-282, 4. Sitapur-264, 5. Madiyahun-258, 6. Unnao-236, 7. Nanpara-227, 8. Patna-222, 9. Akbarpur-219, 10. Kanpur-204

## 8 children of Uttar Pradesh honored with Prime Minister's National Child Award

#### Why in News

On the occasion of National Girl Child Day on January 24, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored 61 children of the country with the Prime Minister's National Children's Award for the year 2021 and 2022 in a virtual ceremony as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsay, in which 8 children are from Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Key Points**

- ➤ This year's awardees include 15 boys and 14 girls from 21 states and union territories. These children have been selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in the categories of Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Educational (1), Sports (8), Art and Culture (6) and Gallantry (3).
- Similarly, among the award winners for the year 2021, 32 children from 21 states/UTs in innovation (9), art and culture (7), sports (7), educational (5), gallantry (3) and social service (1) categories have chosen.
- PMRBP awardees participate in the Republic Day Parade every year. Each awardee is presented with a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate.
- There are three children of Uttar Pradesh honored with the Prime Minister's National Children Award
   2022 Abhinav Kumar Chaudhary (Social Service),
   Chandhari Singh Choudhary and Jiya Rai (Sports).
- Similarly, there are 5 children of Uttar Pradesh who have been awarded the Prime Minister's National Children Award - 2021 - Vyom Ahuja (Arts and Culture),

- Kunwar Divyansh Singh (Gallantry), Chirag Bhansali (Innovation), Mohammad Shoaib (Educational) and Mohammad Rafi (Sports).
- The awardees of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 along with their parents and district magistrates of their respective districts attended the program from the respective district headquarters.
- During the ceremony, the Prime Minister presented digital certificates to 61 winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using blockchain powered technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the National Blockchain Project.

### Padma Awards to 14 Persons from Uttar Pradesh

#### Why in News

On January 25, 2022, on the eve of the 73rd Republic Day, the President announced 128 Padma Awards for the year 2022. 14 persons from Uttar Pradesh are included in the list of these awards.

#### **Key Points**

- Padma award is the highest civilian honor of the country. It is provided in three categories. These three categories include Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- 'Padma Vibhushan' for exceptional and distinguished service, 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- These awards are given in various disciplines/fields, viz., arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- > These awards are announced by the President every year on the occasion of 'Republic Day' and usually in March/April, these awards are given in formal functions held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ➤ This year the President has approved the conferment of 128 Padma Awards, including 2 Jodi Awards (the award given to a pair counts as one award). The list includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri awards.



- Among the recipients of Padma awards, 34 are women and 10 persons in this list fall under Foreign/NRI/ PIO/OCI category and 13 persons have been given the award posthumously.
- The following persons from Uttar Pradesh are included in the list of Padma Awards announced for the year 2022-
  - Radheshyam Khemka (posthumously) and Kalyan Singh (posthumously) have been selected for the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honor in the fields of literature and education and public affairs, respectively.
  - Rashid Khan has been selected for 'Padma Bhushan' for his outstanding contribution in the field of arts and Vashisht Tripathi in the field of literature and education.
  - Similarly Ms. Kamalini Asthana and Ms. Nalini Asthana (Arts), Sheeshram (Arts), Seth Pal Singh (Agriculture), Ms. Vidya Vindu Singh (Literature and Education), Sivananda (Yoga), Ajay Kumar Sonkar (Science and Engineering), Ms. Ajita Srivastava (Arts), Dr Kamalakar Tripathi (Medicine) and Shivnath Mishra (Arts) have been selected for the Padma Shri award.

# Gallantry Medal/Service Medal to 79 Policemen of Uttar Pradesh

#### Why in News

On the occasion of Republic Day on 26 January 2022, a total of 939 policemen of the country were awarded gallantry medals/seva medals, including 79 policemen from Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Key Points**

- Every year on the occasion of Republic Day, the gallantry award is awarded to the brave soldiers who made supreme sacrifice by displaying indomitable courage in the security of the country.
- The Police Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs deals with matters relating to meritorious/distinguished service and President's Police Medal awards for gallantry etc.

- > The policemen of Uttar Pradesh who received gallantry medal for the year 2022 are-
  - The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) was awarded to Prashant Kumar, ADG Law and Order, Uttar Pradesh.
  - President's Police Medal for distinguished service was given to five policemen of Uttar Pradesh- Vijay Prakash, Shripati Mishra, Sushil Pandey, Mishri Lal Shukla and Krishna Chandra Mishra.
  - Similarly, 73 policemen of the state were awarded Police Medals for meritorious service.

## Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council Elections

#### Why in News

On January 28, the Election Commission of India announced the election schedule for 35 seats in the local body area of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council.

#### **Key Points**

- According to the Election Commission, elections will be held in two phases for 35 seats in the local body area of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. In the first phase, polling will be held for 29 seats on March 3 and in the second phase on March 7 for 6 seats.
- ➤ It is worth mentioning that just as there are two houses of Parliament, similarly according to Article 169 of the Constitution, there can be a Legislative Council in addition to the Legislative Assembly in the states.
- At present there are Legislative Councils in six states-Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- There are a total of 100 members in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, who are elected as follows-
  - One-third of the MLCs are elected by the state legislators.
  - o In addition, 1/3 of the members are elected by local bodies, such as municipal and district boards, etc.
  - 1/12 members are elected by the people who have been teaching for 3 years and 1/12 members are elected by graduates living in the state for 3 years.



 The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from amongst those who have special knowledge and practical experience of literature, knowledge, art, cooperative movement and social service.

# Kashi will Become Cultural and Tourism Capital of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

#### Why in News

On January 28, 2022, Varanasi Commissioner Deepak Agarwal informed that a smart city dossier would be prepared to declare Kashi as cultural and tourism capital of SCO.

#### **Key Points**

- The year-long events, major venues, catering and other things will be prominently mentioned in the dossier.
- The purpose of the dossier is to present Kashi as a nomination for the cultural and tourism capital of the SCO at the upcoming summit of the Heads of State of the SCO.
- Significantly, there is a provision of making one city of the member country as cultural and tourism capital every year by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, under which India has been selected for the period from September 2022 to September 2023.
- ➤ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an eight-member economic, political and security alliance, established in 2001. It includes China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It was signed by India and Pakistan on 9 June 2017.



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