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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Content

● Ayodhya Dham Junction	3
● UP Outpaces Gujarat in Registered Investors.....	3
● Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Birth Anniversary.....	4
● First All-girls Sainik School	5
● Trial Essential to Define ‘Religious Character of Place of Worship’: Allahabad HC	5
● UP’s Economic Growth	5
● Rahat Vani Center for Early Warning of Disaster	6
● Tulsidas’s Birthplace	6
● Uttar Pradesh’s Ganga Expressway	6
● Rise of Spiritual Tourism in Ayodhya	7
● Solar Energy Hub in Uttar Pradesh	7
● Penalties For Parents Allowing Minors To Drive	8
● Uttar Pradesh’s Semiconductor Policy	8
● Moradabad’s Brassware Industry.....	9
● Uttar Pradesh Among Top Three States for MSMEs.....	10
● Swachh Survekshan 2023	10
● Pharma Park in Uttar Pradesh	10
● Uttar Pradesh to Enter USD 1 Trillion Club.....	11
● Varied Progress in Clean Air Target	12
● Uttar Pradesh to have 5 more Airports	12
● PMI Delivers 50 e-buses to Uttar Pradesh.....	12
● Uttar Pradesh’s Priority Sector Jump.....	13
● ‘Divya Ayodhya’ App.....	14
● UP Lead in Pulling People Out of Poverty.....	14
● Uttar Pradesh: Favourable for Semiconductor Manufacturing Units.....	15
● Helicopter Services to Ayodhya.....	15
● UP Government Funds for Expansion of YEIDA, UPSIDA, UPEIDA.....	16
● Ex-Ayutthaya and Indo-Thai CORPAT	16
● Ayodhya Ram Mandir	17
● Opportunity to Introduce Uttar Pradesh with its Hospitality Culture	18
● Ram Temple Consecration: States that Declared a Holiday	18
● Uttar Pradesh Approves Rs 16,000 Crore for Rapid Rail Corridor	19
● BHISHM Cube in Ayodhya.....	19
● Super Specialty Block at GSVM Medical College in Kanpur	19
● Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day 2024	20
● Khelo Uttar Pradesh Centre.....	20

Ayodhya Dham Junction

Why in News?

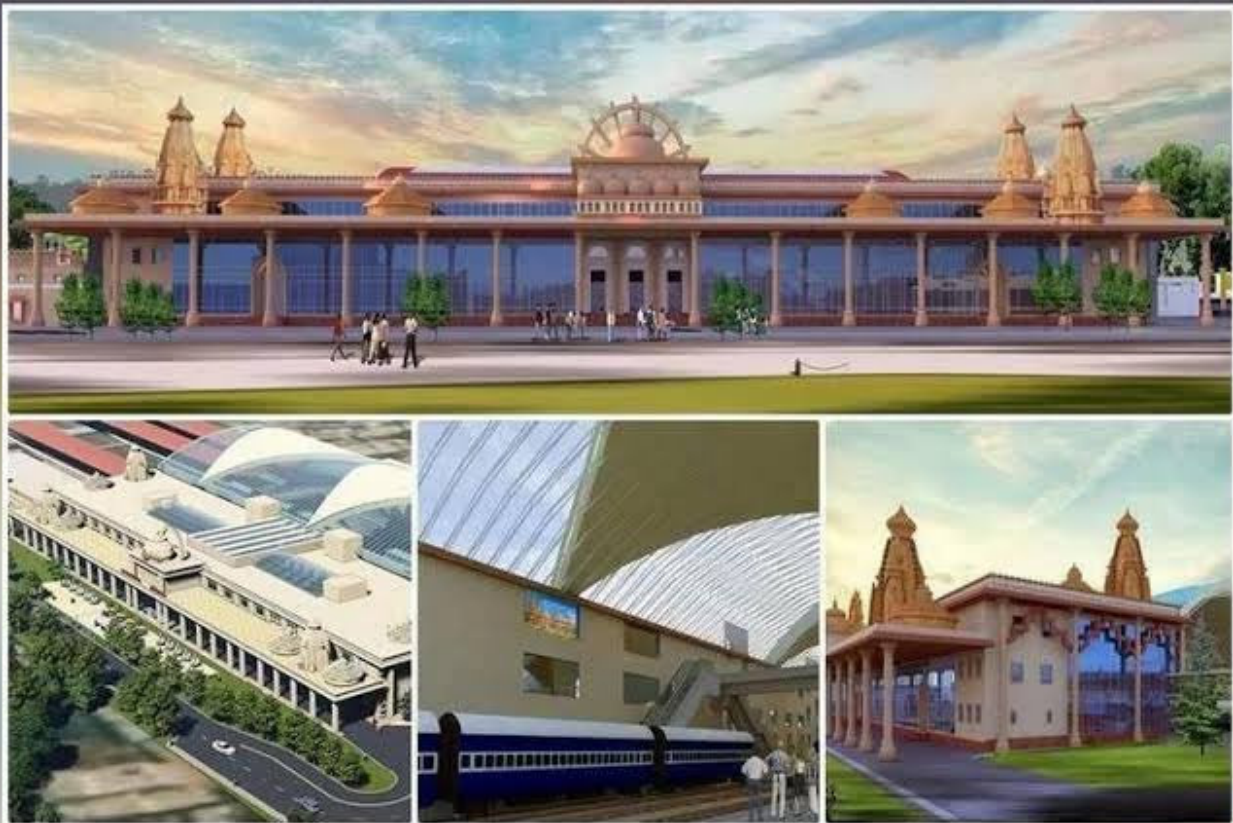
Ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the city's **Ayodhya Junction railway station has been renamed Ayodhya Dham Junction.**

- The preparations are underway for the inaugural ceremony of the **Ayodhya Ram temple on 22 January 2024.**

Key Points

- On 30th December, the grand railway station and airport **will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

- The railway station will comprise lifts, a tourist information center, and medical facilities. This railway station is **said to have mythological importance as much as it is modern.**
 - With refurbished platforms, new signboards, escalators, and murals of Lord Ram painted on the walls, it is **built to resemble a grand temple from the outside and is equipped with equally modern facilities** on the inside.
- The building's frontage has a **colonnade having a concrete core with a cladding of sandstone**, with tall round pillars on the side ends having a cladding of sandstone to add a traditional look.



UP Outpaces Gujarat in Registered Investors

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh has taken the lead over Gujarat in terms of the number of registered investors, marking a significant shift in India's equity landscape.

- States with the highest number of registered investors are **Maharashtra, UP and then Gujarat.**

Key Points

- With a market capital of around 4.5 trillion dollars, **India is the fourth largest market** in terms of market capitalization in the world, **followed by the US, China, and Japan.**

Note:

- India's market capitalisation in relation to its **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** has witnessed 10% increase in the current calendar year.
- India continues to dominate the global derivatives market, with a staggering 74% share in equity derivatives and a 61% share across various asset classes.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Birth Anniversary

Why in News?

On the 162nd birth anniversary of **Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya** on 25th December 2023, the Prime

Minister is **scheduled to release the first series of the 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.'**

Key Points

- The bilingual (English and Hindi) work features writings, speeches, unpublished letters, and other works of Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- Madan Mohan Malaviya (25th December 1861 - 2nd November 1946) **was an Indian scholar, politician, and educational reformer.**
 - He was a **leader in the Indian independence movement and served as president of the Indian National Congress** four times. He was also the founder of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha and the **Banaras Hindu University**.

Pt. MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA

25th December 1861- 2nd November, 1946

Educationist, Journalist, Politician and Freedom Activist
Title of '**Mahamana**' by Mahatma Gandhi and '**Karmayogi**' by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

ROLE IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

- ⦿ He was **midway between the Moderates and the Extremists**
- ⦿ Took part in **Salt Satyagraha** and the **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930)**
- ⦿ Elected President of the Indian National Congress for four sessions (1909, 1913, 1919, and 1932)

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- ⦿ Ending the Indian Indenture system (bonded labour)
- ⦿ Setting up the **Ganga Mahasabha** in 1905
- ⦿ Member of the Imperial Legislative Council for 11 years
- ⦿ Popularised the term '**Satyamev Jayate**'
- ⦿ Introduction of Devnagri in British-Indian Courts
- ⦿ Helped establish the **Hindu Mahasabha** in 1915
- ⦿ Founded the **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** in 1916



JOURNALISM

- ⦿ **Abhyudaya** (Hindi weekly) and **Maryada** (Hindi monthly)
- ⦿ Chairman of the Board of Directors of the **Hindustan Times**

HONOURS

- ⦿ **Bharat Ratna (2014)**
- ⦿ **Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Express (2016)**



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Note:

First All-girls Sainik School

Why in News?

On the 1st January, 2024, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 'Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School' in Vrindavan, Mathura.

Key Points

- It is the **first all-girls Sainik School**, with a strength of approximately **870 students**.
- It is made under the initiative of establishing **100 new Sainik Schools** in partnership mode with **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)**/Private/State Government Schools in all State/Union Territories.
 - 42 of these schools have already been set up.
- It is described as a ray of hope for girls who aspire to join the Armed Forces.
 - In **2019**, Rajnath Singh had **approved admission of girl children to Sainik schools** in a phased manner, following the success of the pilot project in **Sainik School Chhingchip in Mizoram**.
- The **vision of setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools** aims to provide quality education to the students in tune with the **National Education Policy 2020** and provide better career opportunities, including joining the Armed Forces.

Trial Essential to Define 'Religious Character of Place of Worship': Allahabad HC

Why in News?

The Allahabad High Court's recent stance in the **Gyanvapi case** suggests that the **Places of Worship Act, 1991** does not clarify "religious character of any place of worship" and can only be determined in a trial, based on documentary and oral evidence, on a case-to-case basis.

Key Points

- The Places of Worship Act, 1991 **bars the conversion of religious sites into places of worship for a different religion or sect**.
 - It also **mandates preserving the religious identity**

of any place of worship as it stood on 15th August, 1947.

- The Gyanvapi case is a **legal battle concerning the ownership and religious identity of Varanasi's Gyanvapi complex**, housing both a mosque and a temple.
 - Hindu plaintiffs **argue that the entire area, including the mosque site, was originally a temple** dedicated to Swayambhu Lord Adi Vishweshwar.
 - They claim that this temple, once on the Gyanvapi plot, was **demolished by Emperor Aurangzeb in 1669**.
- **Neither the government nor the Supreme Court has presented a clear stance on this issue to date.**

UP's Economic Growth

Why in News?

In **Ease of Doing Business** ranking, the state has **jumped to the 2nd spot in the country** in 2018 from the 14th rank in 2017. This **underscores the state government's commitment in making Uttar Pradesh a preferred investment destination** in the country.

Key Points

- The state government has set a target of becoming a **trillion-dollar economy** and serious efforts in that direction were seen when **UP Global Investors Summit (GIS)** was held in February 2023 which received total investment proposals over Rs 38 lakh crores.
- Organising MotoGP in Greater Noida **was a great way to boost tourism and hence investments into the state**.
- The first international trade show, held in Greater Noida, provided a global platform for entrepreneurs, manufacturers and exporters from diverse sectors such as Information Technology and its Enabled Services; Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; education; agriculture; health; **tourism**, etc.
- Apart from the 25 sectoral policies that have been implemented to ensure ease of doing business, a **lucrative FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) policy was rolled out offering incentives** such as front-end land subsidy upto 80%, capital subsidy upto 35% and Net SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) reimbursement.
 - Japanese company Fuji Silverttech Concrete Pvt Ltd **became the first company to get subsidy under**

Note:

the policy. The entire process of providing subsidy was completed in a record time of three days.

- A single window clearance system – **Nivesh Mitra** – **provides necessary permits and certifications.** It has over 8.8 lakh registered users, offering services related to more than 454 licenses across over 37 departments.
 - The portal has processed over 13 lakh applications for NOC/licenses in the last four years, with a remarkable 97% success rate.
 - It has a grievance redressal rate of 93%.
- **Nivesh Sarathi** is an investor relationship management system enabling investors and entrepreneurs in the state to revert to the incentives online.

Rahat Vani Center for Early Warning of Disaster

Why in News?

Recently, the state chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated '**Rahat Vani Center**' (RVC), a **disaster early warning center** as a part of an effort to deal with multi-hazard scenarios in the state.

Key Points

- The RVC's function would be to **prepare and predict warnings**, timely delivery of relief so that compensation to employees could be streamlined.
- The RVC will be **Setup at Lalbagh area in Lucknow**, with a team of **six personnel**.
- It will coordinate with **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, Lucknow; **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune; **ISRO's National remote sensing applications**; **Indian Institute of Information Technology**, Lucknow; **National Disaster Management Authority** and **National Institute of Disaster Management** to develop a unified disaster risk management stack and efficient technological environment.
- The idea behind RVC is to **alert the general mass about possible natural disasters**, within 30 minutes to one hour prior to its effect. The information will be disseminated at community level **via SMS alert, mobile notification** and other ways.
 - Currently **68 Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs)** and **132 Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG)** stations of IMD provide weather related alerts in the state.

- To further strengthen the early warning system, the state government and IMD, are installing five **doppler radars** (long-range weather forecasting and surveillance), 450 AWSs and 2000 (ARG) stations.

Tulsidas's Birthplace

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to develop **Rajapur village of Chitrakoot district.**

- It is the **birthplace** of saint and poet **Goswami Tulsidas** who authored **Ramcharitmanas** in the 16th century.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh tourism and culture minister Jaiveer Singh emphasized the significance of Ramcharitmanas as well as its writer whose birthplace is visited by people in large numbers to pay their obeisance.
 - The Ramcharitmanas or Tulsī Ramayana is a **retelling of the epic Ramayana, by Tulsidas in Awadhi language.**
- **Tourism facilities would be developed**, including accommodation and various other provisions to enable digital availability of the Ramcharitmanas.
 - With an expenditure of ₹21 crore, about two-and-a-half acres area near Tulsī Memorial in Rajapur village will go through beautification.
- A park with medicinal plants, dormitory, digital library and interpretation center will be built as well.
- At present, **Uttar Pradesh tops the country in terms of domestic tourism.** Tourist facilities are being continuously developed in the state.

Uttar Pradesh's Ganga Expressway

Why in News?

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the **Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)** to expedite the construction of the '**Ganga Expressway**,' aiming for completion by the end of 2024.

- Uttar Pradesh **has four expressways in the top 10 in India by length.** With the Ganga Expressway, **it will have five in the top 10.**

Note:

Key Points

- This Ganga Expressway project is a significant development poised to reshape Uttar Pradesh's infrastructure and a strategic initiative ahead of the **Mahakumbh in 2025**.
- The Ganga Expressway is the **second-longest expressway** in the country following the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway.
 - It is an ambitious undertaking with a projected **length of 594 kilometers**.
 - It is poised to redefine travel efficiency and stimulate economic growth across its vast corridor.
- **Ganga Expressway Features:**
 - This expressway, **connecting the state from east to west**, will traverse 518 villages across 12 districts, significantly **reducing travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj**.
 - It is designed to accommodate **six lanes initially, expandable to eight lanes**, boasting a **maximum speed of 120 kilometers per hour**.
 - Another important feature includes **two long bridges** spanning the Ganga and Ramganga rivers, allowing even big planes to land. A **3.50-kilometer airstrip near Jalalabad tehsil in Shahjahanpur** adds to the project's versatility.
 - To enhance public convenience, **nine public amenities complexes** are planned along the expressway, with **main toll plazas at Meerut and Prayagraj, and ramp toll plazas at 15 locations**.
- The Ganga Expressway is not merely a transportation link but a **testament to Uttar Pradesh's commitment to modernising its connectivity landscape**.

Rise of Spiritual Tourism in Ayodhya

Why in News?

After the construction and development works of the Ram temple in Ayodhya are completed in 2024, **tourism is likely to increase tenfold in the city**.

- The inauguration of Ram temple is expected to draw 7,000 people. After the temple opens, the Ayodhya Development Authority is expecting 300,000- 500,000 visitors every day for the next month (February).

Key Points

- India is focused on the much-anticipated '**pran pratishtha'** (consecration ceremony) of **Lord Ram idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on 22nd January, 2024**.
- The city has undergone major improvements in preparation for the temple's inauguration:
 - **Ayodhya's Spiritual Tourism Boom:** Prior to the Ram temple's opening, **hotel rates** in Ayodhya reportedly **increased and many are already booked**.
 - **Trains to Temple Town:** **Amrit Bharat trains** are a new kind of superfast passenger train that uses push-pull technology to improve both passenger comfort and speed.
 - **Vande Bharat Express** will connect two prominent temples in Uttar Pradesh - Ram Janmabhoomi and Gorakhnath.
 - **New Ayodhya Airport:** Airlines intend to provide service to and from major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Ahmedabad in order to accommodate the lakhs of people expected to visit the Ram Temple each day following the sacred event.
- The construction of the Ram Temple has already **helped the economic condition** in Ayodhya. The increasing number of tourists visiting the district **creates new job opportunities for locals**.
 - A number of **new businesses** have sprouted near the temple, offering tourists a **variety of native handicrafts**.

Solar Energy Hub in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the **Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)**, **125 projects with an estimated outlay of Rs 1 lakh crore in pipeline** in the field of **clean energy** in Uttar Pradesh.

- These projects are in line to achieve Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of meeting **40% of the energy requirement of the State through solar and alternate sources**.

Key Points

- In the first phases, four large **solar projects worth Rs 35000 crore will be set up in** different districts of **Bundelkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:



- The state government had received **investment proposals** to the tune of **Rs 40 lakh crore at the Global Investors Summit (GIS) held in 2023.**
- Solar power and other clean energy projects under the **'Akshay Urja' Scheme** accounted for a significant share of the total investment.
- The State **currently generates close to 2152 MW of solar energy**, out of which **372 MW is in open access.**
 - **Bundelkhand region** has witnessed the **maximum number of solar plants** amounting to nearly **60% of the total solar energy generated in the State.**
- The **State's solar energy** generation, which stood at close to 279 MW in 2017, has **witnessed a multi fold rise over the last six years** which includes incentives, rebates, concessions and promotions offered under the new Solar Policy of the state government.
- Under the **current investment pipeline**, **Sonhadra** in Eastern Uttar Pradesh will witness the setting up of an **off-stream close loop pump storage project by Greenko Group generating 3660 MW of electricity** at an estimated outlay of Rs 17,000 crore.
- The Uttar Pradesh government is set to establish a **50 MW floating solar plant in Bakhira Bird Sanctuary** in Eastern UP.
- Under the **Solar City program**, a **40 MW solar power plant is being established on 165 acres of land in Ayodhya by NTPC.** Part of the project has already commenced and the remaining is expected to be operational by March 2024.

Penalties For Parents Allowing Minors To Drive

Why in News?

To curb accidents caused by minors the Uttar Pradesh government is enforcing a **three-year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000 on parents or vehicle owners** who permit underage driving.

Key Points

- An **awareness campaign** has been initiated in **government secondary schools** in collaboration with the **Transport Department**, emphasizing road safety through various mediums.
- **Under Section 199 (A) of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019**, outlined that in **motor vehicle-related offenses** committed by **juveniles**, **only their guardian or the vehicle owner** would be held accountable.

- The **prescribed punishment includes** a three-year imprisonment and a Rs 25,000 fine.
- Experts from King George's Medical University and the Lohia Institute in Lucknow revealed that **40% of road accident fatalities involve minors.**
- The officials urged strict adherence to the law prohibiting driving by children below 18 and advocated for awareness campaigns in all educational institutions.

Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019

- The Act **hikes the penalties** for traffic violations, defective vehicles, juvenile driving, etc.
- It **provides for a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, which would provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India for certain types of accidents.
- It also **provides for a National Road Safety Board**, to be created by the Central Government.

Uttar Pradesh's Semiconductor Policy

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered officials to prepare the **state's semiconductor policy.**

- The decision came after taking cognizance of the **significant role** that semiconductors are playing in today's rapidly evolving **technology-driven global economy.**

Key Points

- According to estimates, the **global semiconductor ecosystem** is expected to have **generated revenues exceeding USD 950 billion in the fiscal year 2022.**
 - The semiconductor chip sector has announced an **investment of more than USD 500 billion for the last two years.**
- The Centre is giving **incentives for semiconductor manufacturing services like semiconductor fabs, display fabs, and compound semiconductors.**
 - In 2021, India announced its roughly USD 10 billion-dollar **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** to encourage semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country.

Note:

- For the semiconductor and display ecosystem, having **fabrication units, mixed semiconductors, outsourced semiconductors, assembly and test units, testing, and packaging units** creates a better ecosystem.
- There **should be a provision for the disbursement** of financial and non-financial incentives under Uttar Pradesh's policy **for attracting global semiconductor investors.**

Semiconductors

- Semiconductors are a **class of crystalline solids** intermediate in electrical conductivity **between a conductor and an insulator.**
- They are **employed in the manufacture of various kinds of electronic devices**, including diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits.
 - Such **devices have found wide application** because of their compactness, reliability, power efficiency, and low cost.

Moradabad's Brassware Industry

Why in News?

The construction of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh** has revived **Moradabad's brassware industry**, due to a surge in **demand for religious idols**, particularly those of Lord Ram.

Key Points

- Moradabad was established in **1600 by Murad**, the **son of the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan**, as a result, the city came to be known as Moradabad.
- It is renowned for **brass work** and has carved a niche for itself in the handicraft industry throughout the world.
 - The brassware is **exported to countries like the US, Britain, Canada, Germany, the Middle East and Asia.** Therefore **Moradabad is also called "Brass City" or Peetal Nagri.**
 - **Brass, an alloy of copper and zinc**, holds historical and enduring **significance due to its remarkable hardness and workability.**
- In the **1980s**, the industry diversified with the **introduction of various metal wares such as brass, iron, and aluminum.** This expansion brought **new technologies like Electroplating, lacquering, and powder coating** to Moradabad's art industry.

- **Moradabad Metal Craft (Word Mark)** has a **geographical indication (GI) tag.**
- Under **'One District One Product Programme' (ODOP)**, Uttar Pradesh government **encourages indigenous and specialized products and crafts.**

Main Objectives of One District One Product Programme' (ODOP) of UP

- **Preservation and development of local crafts / skills** and promotion of the art.
- **Increase in the incomes and local employment** (resulting in decline in migration for employment).
- Improvement in **product quality and skill development.**
- Transforming the products in an artistic way (through **packaging, branding**).
- To connect the production with **tourism** (Live demo and sales outlet – gifts and souvenir).
- To resolve the issues of economic difference and regional imbalance.
- To take the concept of **ODOP to national and international level** after successful implementation at State level.

List of ODOP Products in Uttar Pradesh

Sr. No.	Districts	Products
1	Agra	Leather Products and All Handmade Products Manufactured through Stone & Marble
2	Amroha	Musical Instruments and Readymade Garments
3	Baghpat	Home Furnishings
4	Bareilly	Zari-Zardozi and Bamboo Products & Goldsmith Industry
5	Gorakhpur	Terracotta and Readymade Garments
6	Lucknow	Chikankari & Zari Zardozi
7	Mahoba	Gaura Stone Craft
8	Mirzapur	Carpets and Brass Industry
9	Siddharthnagar	Kala Namak Rice
10	Varanasi	Banarasi Silk Saree

Note:

Uttar Pradesh Among Top Three States for MSMEs

Why in News?

According to a report by realty consulting firm CBRE South Asia and real estate developers association CREDAI, Uttar Pradesh has emerged among the top three states as a significant contributor to the **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector**, with a **9% share in total registered MSMEs** in the country.

- Sector-wise, the report highlighted that the **construction sector**, contributing approximately **8% to the GDP**, is a strategic opportunity for Indian MSMEs.

Key Points

- According to the official data from the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, **2.21 crore MSMEs are registered** (excluding registrations via the **Udyam Assist Portal**) under the ministry.
 - Several cities in Uttar Pradesh have emerged as **MSME clusters**, with **Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow, Meerut and Ghaziabad** leading in enrolling for the Udyam scheme.
- Out of which **38.09 lakh with a 17.2% share were from Maharashtra** followed by **22.32 lakh with a 10% share from Tamil Nadu** and **20.95 lakh with a 9.4% share from Uttar Pradesh**.
 - **Rajasthan with 16 lakh and Gujarat with 15.96 lakh MSMEs** were the other top destinations for registered units in the country.
- Collaborative efforts between the government, industry stakeholders, and financial institutions can help create a **robust support system, ensuring that the MSMEs receive the necessary resources and guidance** to navigate the evolving economic landscape.

Udyam Portal

- It is an online system for **registering MSMEs, launched by the Union MSME ministry on 1st July, 2020**.
- It is **linked to the databases of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)**.
 - **GSTN is a unique and intricate IT enterprise** that establishes a channel of communication and interaction between taxpayers, the central and various state governments, and other stakeholders.
- It is **fully online**, does not require any documentation, and is a step towards **Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs**.

Swachh Survekshan 2023

Why in News?

Prayagraj and Varanasi will get the **prestigious President's Award** in the **Swachh Survekshan 2023** – the cleanliness survey awards in New Delhi.

Key Points

- Eight cities, including **Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Jhansi, and Firozabad**, have earned a **3-star rating** while **Noida** has earned a **five-star rating**.
- About **648 cities** of the state have achieved the **Open Defecation Free (ODF) status**. **65 cities** secured the 'Garbage Free City' status.
- Swachh Survekshan's 2023 results reveal that **129 cities** in Uttar Pradesh have achieved **ODF++ status**, reflecting adherence to open defecation-free standards and sustainable **waste management** practices.
- **435 cities** in the state have attained **ODF+ status**, showcasing the commitment of the government towards cleanliness in the state.
- **Many cities** in Uttar Pradesh are now **moving towards a 7-star rating**.
 - **Continuous efforts** are being made by the government to elevate more cities to achieve **5-star and 3-star ratings**.

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**.

Pharma Park in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the **Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)**, the Uttar Pradesh government is setting up a **pharma park in Lalitpur, Bundelkhand**, covering **1,472-acre** across five villages.

Note:

- The establishment of the Pharma park and the acceleration of associated projects mark a **strategic move by the Uttar Pradesh government towards fostering industrial growth and economic development.**

Key Points

- The plan will unfold in two phases, with an initial focus on immediate development efforts covering 300 acres of land.
 - The **villages identified for the survey include** Saidpur, Gadolikala, Largan, Karounda, and Rampur.
- **Surveying techniques include oil testing, contour mapping and topographical investigation.**
 - The utilisation of modern surveying techniques **underscores a commitment to precision and efficiency in the planning and execution of these initiatives.**
- UPSIDA is also taking steps to expedite development projects at site-1 and site-2 in Orai, along with the **Plastic City project in Dibiyaapur.**
 - The **plastic park**, spread across 274.4 acres, **encompasses industrial units, residential areas, and basic infrastructure.**

Uttar Pradesh to Enter USD 1 Trillion Club

Why in News?

According to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, **Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the second largest economy in the country** and the state was **on course to achieve the \$1 trillion economy target.**

Key Points

- Due to the planned efforts of the last six and a half years, UP's economy is in the best condition today.
- The **state's total Gross State Domestic Product**, which stood at **₹16.45 lakh crore in 2021-22**, has **now surged to over ₹22.58 lakh crore in 2022-23.**
 - With a **9.2% contribution to the national income**, UP has emerged as the second-largest economy in the country, playing a pivotal role as the growth engine of the country.

- **UP's growth rate** in current and constant prices in **2021-22** was **20.1% and 9.8%** against the **country's growth rate of 18.4% and 9.1%** respectively.
- Similarly, in **2022-23**, the **national growth rate** of constant prices was recorded at **7.2%**, against the **state's growth rate of 9.8%** while the **state's growth rate** of current prices was recorded at **14.3%** during the period.
- **Digital technology** has been incorporated to improve the primary segment of the economy, with initiatives such as digital crop surveys being successfully implemented.
 - The area of cultivation and **production of sugarcane increased by 26.8%** in **2021-22**, while **horticultural crop production** saw a substantial rise of **31.9%**.
 - **State-sponsored schemes aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds** in UP are yielding favorable results. However, there is a need to further enhance crop diversification and improve supply chain management.
- The state has secured the **top position in milk production**. Additionally, it **ranks third** in terms of progress in **egg production** achieving an **annual growth rate of 12.80%**.
- UP achieved **rapid growth in the tertiary sector** with growth in the hotels/restaurants, transport, communication, real estate, professional services, public services, defense, and other services. There has been an unprecedented development in services related to the **tourism sector**.
 - According to the **Government of India report in 2023**, **UP** got the distinction of having the **highest number of tourist arrivals in 2022**. In the financial year 2022-23, the state welcomed over 31.8 crore tourists, with **Varanasi, Mathura, and Ayodhya emerging as major centers.**
 - In addition to catering to domestic tourists, it is imperative to develop a **comprehensive action plan to attract foreign tourists** and for this, potential countries need to be identified and proper policies formulated.
- The principal secretary, planning department and representatives from the **financial consulting company Deloitte** presented detailed information about the

Note:

current economic environment of the state. They elaborated on the present situation and **potential future outcomes**, industry expectations, and other relevant details sector-wise.

- To reach the **USD 1 trillion target by 2027** it is imperative that **all departments escalate their efforts**. Enhanced planning and coordination are essential.

Varied Progress in Clean Air Target

Why in News?

Recently, the **Climate Trends and Respirer Living Sciences** have conducted a study, revealing that the majority of cities are far from the clean air targets of India's **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**.

Key Points

- Among **49 cities** with consistent **PM2.5 data over five years**, only **27 cities showed a decline in PM2.5 levels**, while merely four cities met or surpassed the targeted decline as per NCAP Goals.
 - The amount of PM2.5 in the air is a key indicator of air quality.
 - PM stands for particulate matter, and the 2.5 refers to the size of the matter.
- While some cities like **Varanasi, Agra, and Jodhpur** exhibited **significant reductions in PM2.5 levels**, others, including Delhi, reported marginal declines (only 5.9%) or even increased pollution loads.
 - **Varanasi showed the most substantial reduction with a 72% average decrease in PM2.5 levels and a 69% reduction in PM10 levels from 2019 to 2023.**

National Clean Air Programme

- It was **launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019**.
- It is the **first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target**.
- The **NCAP's goal is to reduce average Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations by 40% by 2026 in 131 cities**. Initially aimed for a 20-40% reduction by 2024, the target was **later extended to 2026**.

Uttar Pradesh to have 5 more Airports

Why in News?

According to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, **five new airports** will be **inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

- The airports at **Azamgarh, Aligarh, Moradabad, Chitrakoot and Shravasti** will come up in the State that will take the **total number of airports in the state to 19**.
- **Ayodhya airport will be expanded** and the runway will be **extended to allow landing of bigger aircraft and operation of international flights**.
 - Its **second phase expansion** will start soon and more flights will be connecting the city.
 - The **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport** in Ayodhya was **inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 30, 2023**.

PMI Delivers 50 e-buses to Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

PMI Electro Mobility, a leading electric bus manufacturer has delivered **50 e-buses to Uttar Pradesh**, which will ply in Ayodhya.

Key Points

- The buses were flagged off by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath as **part of the zero-carbon public mobility initiative from Ayodhya Dham bus stand**.
- This will **facilitate visiting dignitaries, pilgrims, and local citizens with the sustainable, and comfortable modes of public transport complementing the green transport mission** at Ayodhya to reduce **air pollution**.

Net-Zero Target

- India, at the **26th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26)** in November, 2021, announced its target to achieve net zero by 2070.

Note:



- India's long-term low-carbon development strategy is based on the principles of equity and climate justice and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.
- Government has taken several actions to address the rapidly growing environmental problems in the country namely:
 - The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** has launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** in January, 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders.
 - PRANA, a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.
 - The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** in NCR and Adjoining Area has come out with a policy to curb air pollution in NCR, along with a standard list of approved fuels for NCR for industrial and other applications.

- The state is also promoting **startups for job creation**. The **Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)** of UP partnered with **Bharat Startup & Innovation Society (BSIS)**, a charitable society that works on nurturing and mentoring the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- The Chief General Manager of NABARD, UP, has referred to the state as the "growth engine" of India, with an estimated growth rate of 19.2%.
 - In terms of **ease of doing business**, the state has moved to the **2nd position** from 14th in 2017.
- The State Focus Paper aggregates the credit potential at the ground level for all the **75 districts**.
 - Based on the paper, the **annual credit plan for 2024-25 will be finalised by the state level bankers' committee (SLBC) in UP**.
- The state is taking steps to boost farm exports by improving the harvest quality.
 - UP accounts for **20% of total millet production of India**, but the exports were only 1%.

Uttar Pradesh's Priority Sector Jump

Why in News?

According to the **State Focus Paper 2024-25 for UP**, prepared by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, credit flow into UP's priority sectors is estimated to touch **Rs 5.73 trillion in 2024-25**.

- **Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, and services sector are identified as priority sectors by the government.

Key Points

- To achieve the **USD1-trillion economy target**, the state would need a **growth rate of 250% in agriculture, 300% in MSME, and 450% in services sectors**.
 - Underscoring the importance of credit as the catalyst for growth, the UP government has nudged bankers to improve the **state's credit deposit (CD) ratio**.
 - A state delegation is participating in the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** at Davos, Switzerland to showcase UP as a leading investment destination.

The World Economic Forum (WEF)

- It is a **Swiss nonprofit foundation established in 1971**, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Recognized by the Swiss authorities as the **international institution for public-private cooperation**.
- **Committed to improving the state of the world** by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- NABARD is a **development bank focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country**. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.
 - Its **headquarter is located in Mumbai**, the country's financial capital.
- It is **responsible for the development of the small industries, cottage industries, and any other such village or rural projects**.
- It is a statutory body established in 1982 under the Parliamentary act-**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.

Note:

'Divya Ayodhya' App

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Divya Ayodhya', a mobile app centered on **tourism**, designed to enhance the navigational experience for devotees and tourists visiting Ayodhya.

- The 'Divya Ayodhya' app, by **combining technology with cultural experiences** and highlighting rural homestays, is poised to **transform the way tourists connect** with the sacred city, offering a more **immersive and enriching experience** for all.

Key Points

- This all-in-one platform addresses various needs, ranging from **itinerary planning and exploration of hidden gems** to immersing in Ayodhya's cultural richness.
 - It would also help in **exploring key landmarks, temples, monasteries, and historical sites**, all accompanied by **detailed descriptions and timetables**.
 - The app facilitates the **booking of e-cars and e-buses**, offering real-time tracking of their routes and convenient boarding and deboarding options.
 - Users can also reserve **homestays, hotels, or tent cities through the app**, which connects them with locally trained tourist guides.

- Additionally, the app provides the **option to book wheelchairs and golf carts** for seamless sightseeing.
- According to reports, the UP government is in the process of identifying locations on the **outskirts of Ayodhya to introduce rural homestay options**.
- People visiting Ayodhya can now **rent a portion of a house in Daulatpur village** for a **unique farm stay experience**.
- These initiatives not only aim to **boost tourism** but also **contribute to the local economy** while promoting sustainable tourism practices.
- The state government is also set to enhance facilities for tourists and pilgrims visiting key destinations such as Ram Janmabhoomi and temples in Ayodhya. The introduction of **electric buses on the 'Dharma Path' and 'Ram Path'** is part of these efforts, aiming to provide essential services.

UP Lead in Pulling People Out of Poverty

Why in News?

According to 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06', a paper issued by the **NITI Aayog**, Uttar Pradesh maintained its **lead among states in pulling the maximum number of people out of multidimensional poverty (MDP)** in the past nine years.

- The organisation flagged that **5.94 crore people in UP had emerged from MDP**.



Key Points

- In the paper, it had pointed out that from **37.68% in 2015-16**, the **number of multi-dimensional poor in UP came down to 22.95% in 2019-21**.
- In the NITI Aayog's paper, it states that in **2022-23**, this **figure is reduced to 17.40%**.

- NITI Aayog **considered 12 indicators aligned with sustainable development goals** to measure multidimensional poverty.
- **Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, also contributed to the paper.

Note:

- According to the report, **multidimensional poverty** in India was found to have **declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23** with 24.82 crore people escaping poverty during this period.

NITI Aayog

- The **Planning Commission was replaced by a new institution – NITI Aayog** on 1st January, 2015 with emphasis on 'Bottom –Up' approach to envisage the vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, echoing the spirit of 'Cooperative Federalism'.
- **It has two Hubs:**
 - Team India Hub acts as an interface between States and Centre.
 - Knowledge and Innovation Hub builds the think-tank acumen of NITI Aayog.

Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

- OPHI is an economic research and policy centre within the Oxford Department of International Development at the University of Oxford. **It was established in 2007.**
- It aims to build and advance a more systematic methodological and economic framework for reducing multidimensional poverty, grounded in people's experiences and values.

Uttar Pradesh: Favourable for Semiconductor Manufacturing Units

Why in News?

In a meeting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the presentation based on the state's proposed **Semiconductor Policy 2024** and issued **necessary guidelines** to the officials.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister stated that **semiconductor manufacturing is crucial for advancement in industries** as well as efficiency expansion in devices like **smartphones, computers, and medical equipment.**
 - It also promotes innovation in **Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, and Quantum Computing.**
- It would **contribute to the state's economic growth** and innovation and also create substantial employment

opportunities enhancing self-reliance in strategically important areas.

- For **training the youth in semiconductor manufacturing**, the Chief Minister proposed incorporating such courses in **technical institutes, including the two IITs in the state.**
 - Arrangements should be made for **two years of training for the youth** under the **CM Internship Program in semiconductor industries.**
- The **semiconductor chip sector has announced plans to invest more than \$500 billion** in the last two years.
 - To attract investment in the semiconductor sector, **the Government of India has decided to provide an incentive outlay of 10 billion US dollars.**
- The **CM suggests** that the policy should include provisions for the **disbursement of financial and non-financial incentives to attract global semiconductor investors.**
 - **Uttar Pradesh will be the fourth state** in the country to do so.
- The new policy should include **additional capital infusions** in addition to those approved by the Government of India.
 - There should also be a provision for **exemption in stamp duty on purchase/lease of land.**
- **Clear provisions should be made in the policy** for exemption in electricity duty, dual power grid network transmission, and wheeling charges, skill development and training, patents, water supply, power banking, and research and development assistance.

Helicopter Services to Ayodhya

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to offer **helicopter services to Ayodhya from Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, and Mathura.**

Key Points

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will **inaugurate the helicopter service from Lucknow on January 19.**
 - The government has also set the fares for helicopter services and plans are underway to extend this to other districts in the state in the near future.

Note:

- The state government is also introducing an **aerial darshan of Ayodhya city and the Ram Temple for devotees**. The **tourism department** has been assigned responsibility for this initiative.
 - The **helicopter rides will take off** from the helipad near the **Tourism Guest House** along the **banks of the Saryu river**.
 - Devotees will enjoy an aerial tour covering renowned tourist destinations, including **Ram Mandir, Hanumangarhi, and Saryu Ghat**.
 - Helicopter services from **Namo Ghat in Varanasi, from Ramabai in Lucknow from the helipad near the Tourism Guest House in Prayagraj** are available.
 - Devotees can opt for helicopter services from the helipad near **Govardhan Parikrama in Barsana, Mathura, and the helipad near Agra Expressway in Agra**.
 - These longer routes, spanning 456 km and 440 km respectively, take 135 minutes to complete, with a fixed fare of Rs 35,399 per devotee.

Saryu River

- The Saryu is a river **that flows through Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh**.
- This river is of **ancient significance** as it is mentioned in the **Vedas and the Ramayana**.
- The river is **formed at the confluence of rivers Karnali and Mahakali**. It is a tributary of River Ganges.
- On **Ram Navami**, the festival that celebrates the birthday of Lord Rama, **thousands of people take a dip in the Saryu River at Ayodhya**.

UP Government Funds for Expansion of YEIDA, UPSIDA, UPEIDA

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government approved **Rs 2,940 crore** in funds for industrial bodies **the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), the UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) and UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)**.

Key Points

- The newly formed **Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority** has earlier been **granted Rs 3,000 crore for land acquisition**.

- In the financial year 2023-24, **Rs 8,000 crore** was set aside for **industrial expansion** in the state. **Of the remaining Rs 5,000 crore, Rs 1,000 crore** has been approved for **UPEIDA, Rs 1,500 crore for YEIDA and Rs 440 crore for UPSIDA**.
- A total of **Rs 7,042.67 crore** has been approved for the **expansion of all industrial development authorities**.
- The state government is committed to attract investment and make Uttar Pradesh a leading investment destination in the country.

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)

- It has been **created under the UP Industrial Development Act, 1976** for the systematic development of their respective notified areas abutting Delhi, which if not planned, would have been prone to unauthorized urban growth.

The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)

- It is an **authority set up in 2007 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to develop expressway projects in the state**.
- The headquarters of UPEIDA is **located at Paryatan Bhawan in Gomti Nagar, Lucknow**.

Ex-Ayutthaya and Indo-Thai CORPAT

Why in News?

The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden bilateral exercise, named **'Ex-Ayutthaya'** and the **36th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** was also conducted along with the maiden bilateral exercise.

Key Points

- The **'Ex-Ayutthaya'** translates to **'The Invincible One' or 'Undefeatable'**.
- It symbolizes the significance of two of the oldest cities, **Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand**.
- The historic legacies, rich cultural ties and shared historical narratives dating back to several centuries.
- It is an ancient city of India and the **birthplace of Bhagwan Shri Ram**.
- It is the **setting of the great epic Ramayana**. It is also used to be the capital of the ancient Kosala Kingdom.

Note:

Ayodhya Ram Mandir

Why in News?

The Pran Pratishtha or consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol will begin with Vishnu Puja and gau daan at the Saryu embankment.

Key Points

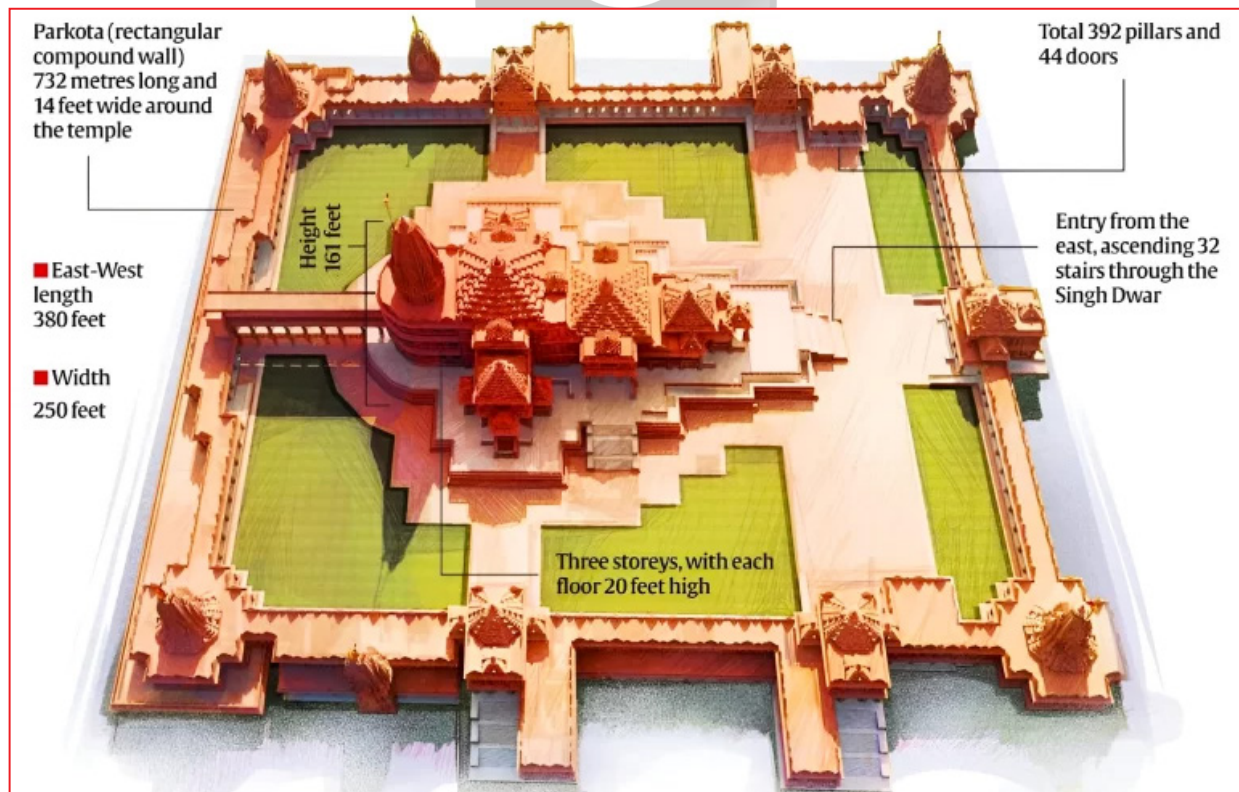
- **Layout of Ayodhya Ram Mandir:**
 - The Temple is built over **three 20-foot high floors** each with a **total of 392 pillars and 44 doors**.
 - **Makrana Marble and Pink sandstone, granite stone, and colored Marble** are used in the construction.
 - Foundation of the temple is built of a **14-metre-thick layer of roller-compacted concrete**. And a **21-foot-high granite plinth** has been placed to protect against ground moisture.
 - **Iron has not been used anywhere in the construction.**
- The Architectural style of the temple is **Nagara style** with **Sanctum Sanctorum (garbhagriha), Mandaps (halls), and Mandirs.**
- At each corner of the **compound will be dedicated to Surya, Bhagwati, Ganesh, Shiv.** On the northern and

southern arms, temples to Annapurna and Hanuman will be built respectively.

- Temples of Maharshi Valmiki, Vashishtha, Vishwamitra, Agastya, Nishad Raj, Shabri etc have also been proposed.

Nagara Style of Temple Architecture

- It was **first developed in North India during the Gupta period** in the 5th century AD, this style is popular in Northern, Western and Eastern India (except the Bengal region), especially in the regions around Malwa, Rajputana and Kalinga.
- It is **built on a simple stone platform with steps leading up to the temple.**
- **Its features include:**
 - **Sikharas:** The garbhagriha is always located directly below the highest Sikhara. There is also a Kalash (Amalaka) installed on Shikhara.
 - **Types of Shikaras:** Rekha-Prasad or Latina (The Sri Jagannath Temple of Odisha), Shekari (The Khajuraho Kandariya Mahadev Temple), Valabhi (Teli ka Mandir), Phamsana (The Jagmohan of Konark Temple).
- **Absence of boundary walls or gateways.**
- They are Orissa school, Chandel school and Solanki school.



Note:



Opportunity to Introduce Uttar Pradesh with its Hospitality Culture

Why in News?

Emphasising the importance of the upcoming Pran Pratishtha programme of Ram Mandir on January 22, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that this long-awaited ceremony is an opportunity to introduce Uttar Pradesh with its hospitality culture.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister instructed officials the following:
 - This long-awaited ceremony of Pran Pratishtha of the child-like idol of Ram Lalla is an opportunity to **introduce Uttar Pradesh with its hospitality culture**.
 - Efforts should be made to make Shri Ayodhya Dham free from **single-use plastic**.
 - In the Pran Pratishtha event, there is a programme of showering flowers on the **'Navya-Divya-Bhavya temple**.
 - Guests from India and abroad are arriving for the much-awaited program of Pran Pratishtha of the child-like idol of Ram Lalla.
 - There will be the presence of **saints, religious leaders and dignitaries from all the provinces** of India.
 - Strong arrangements should be made for the security and respect of the dignitaries coming to participate in this occasion. A liaison officer should be deployed with every VVIP.
 - Such people should be deployed in it who are familiar with the mythological, historical and geographical importance of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagya and Ayodhya Ji.
 - There should be **adequate parking arrangements** on the major roads connecting Ayodhya ji with different districts.
 - There should be adequate availability of electric buses for the transportation of visitors.

Ram Temple Consecration: States that Declared a Holiday

Why in News?

To commemorate the **consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22**, several **States declared a public holiday**, or gave a **half day off to Government employees**.

Key Points

- All **Central government offices remained shut till 2.30 p.m.** Several **States also declared January 22 as a 'dry day'**.
- Central government establishments, **Public Sector Banks**, insurance companies, financial institutions and **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** across the country remained closed for a half day.
- **Central educational institutes** such as Jamia Millia Islamia and its schools along with Delhi University also remained closed for half day till 2.30 p.m.
- **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** also observed a trading holiday on January 22.

Ayodhya Ram Temple

- The **3-storey temple, built in the traditional Nagara style**.
- **Makrana Marble and Pink sandstone, granite stone, and colored Marble** are used in the construction.
- **Iron has not been used** anywhere in the construction.
- The **main Garbh Griha holds the idols of Ram Lalla**, accompanied by multiple mandaps, including Rang Mandap & Nriya Mandap.

National Stock Exchange

- The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) is **India's largest financial market**.
- **Incorporated in 1992**, the NSE has developed into a sophisticated, electronic market, which ranked fourth in the world by equity trading volume.
- NSE was the **first exchange in India to provide modern, fully automated electronic trading**.
 - The NSE is the **largest private wide-area network in India**.
- The **NIFTY 50 is the flagship index on the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE)**.

Note:

Uttar Pradesh Approves Rs 16,000 Crore for Rapid Rail Corridor

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved a **Rs 16,000 crore rapid rail corridor project**, aimed at seamlessly **connecting multiple airports in the region**.

- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** is preparing a detailed project report for this corridor, expected to be finalized by March 2024.

Key Points

- Once initiated, the project, with an estimated completion time of four years, **will link two major airports and various parts of Delhi**.
- This is expected to help the upcoming **Noida airport** to capture the overflow of passenger traffic from the Delhi Airport.
- The proposed Noida airport link will stem from the **Ghaziabad station, acting as an interchange point** for the Delhi Meerut Rapid Rail Transport.
- Passengers will also have the **option to connect to the in-progress Delhi-Alwar Rapid Rail through Sarai Kale Khan**, the starting station of the **Delhi-Meerut Rail**.
- The Delhi-Alwar rail, expected to conclude by mid-2025, will **include a station at Indira Gandhi International Airport and Aerocity**.
- Noida airport authorities are also working on developing other public transportation modes, including high-speed bus corridors, to establish a comprehensive **multi-modal transport connectivity network with Delhi and Gurgaon**.

BHISHM Cube in Ayodhya

Why in News?

Recently, the **BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri) Cube**, a state-of-the-art **indigenous mobile hospital**, was deployed in Ayodhya. It is part of **Project Arogya Maitri**.

- It emerged as a crucial lifesaver during a **medical emergency** at the Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya.

Key Points

- The Aarogya Maitri project involves India supplying vital medical resources to any **developing nation facing the impact of natural disasters or humanitarian crises**.
- BHISHM cube is tailored to treat up to 200 casualties, emphasizing rapid response and comprehensive care.
 - The Aid Cube is **equipped with several innovative tools** designed to enhance disaster response and medical support during emergencies.
- It integrates **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics to facilitate effective coordination**, real-time monitoring, and efficient management of medical services in the field.
- The success of BHISHM Cube underscores the importance of **mobile hospital units in delivering immediate and effective medical assistance** during emergencies.

Super Specialty Block at GSVM Medical College in Kanpur

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** virtually inaugurated a **Super Specialty Block** at Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (GSVM) Medical College in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

- He also **laid the foundation stone for an All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) Satellite Centre** in Kanpur.

Key Points

- The Super Specialty Block **offers 12 specialized healthcare services** and aims to provide these services locally, saving time and resources for the people.
 - The block is **constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.
- The AIISH Centre in Kanpur is the **first state-of-the-art center in North India**. It not only trains doctors but also provides care to the people.
 - The **Centre handles four distinctive divisions including** speech-language pathology, audiology, prevention of communication disorder, tele-assessment, and rehabilitation.

Note:



- The number of AIIMS in India has increased from 6 to 23., the total number of medical colleges has almost doubled, reaching 710, **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** have increased to more than 10,000 and **over 1.60 lakh Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs have been established under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.**
 - **Uttar Pradesh is the only state with two AIIMS.** Moreover, the number of medical colleges in the state has doubled in the last 10 years.
- The government has **expanded the scope of quality care and treatment in both public and private hospitals.**
 - 55 crore people are entitled to benefit from **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana** and 50 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID cards have been created.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

- The scheme was **launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in March 2006.**
- It **aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities** in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular.
- **It has two components:**
 - Setting up of AIIMS like institutions.
 - Upgradation of Government medical college institutions.

Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day 2024

Why in News?

On **24th January 2024**, Uttar Pradesh celebrates its **75th Foundation Day**. This day is known as **Uttar Pradesh Diwas** or UP Diwas in Hindi.

Key Points

- The state was called the Brahmrisi Desh or the Madhya Desh in the Vedic period.
 - During the Mughal period, its territory was divided under governors.
- **On 24 January 1950**, the **United Provinces was renamed as Uttar Pradesh.**

- From 1947 to 1950, India continued to adhere to British principles, leading to **Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari serving as the Governor General** during this time. As a result, Uttar Pradesh was **established as a state under his leadership.**
- The initiative to celebrate 'Uttar Pradesh Day' was taken by the then **Governor Ram Naik** and this event has been celebrated **for three days every year since 2018.**
- Several **programs will be organised from January 24 to February 4, 2024, in Lucknow, Delhi and Noida.**
 - Several products will be exhibited under **One District One Product (ODOP)**, along with **Shilpotsav** in all the districts, like Awadh Shilpgram in Lucknow, Noida Haat Sector-32 and Kharak Singh Marg in Delhi's Connaught Place.
 - Shilpotsav is the **annual fair of artisans from across the country**, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
 - Products of craftsmen from different states and cultural programs of the states were organised under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.**

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- This programme **aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding** between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.
- The **states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connection** in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

Khelo Uttar Pradesh Centre

Why in News?

According to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, '**Khelo Uttar Pradesh Centre**' will be established in every block of the state on the lines of the '**Khelo India Centre**' being established in every district by the Government of India.

Key Points

- The Union Sports Minister honoured the medal winners and participants in the **19th Asian Games-2022**, **4th Para Asian Games-2022** and **37th National**

Note:

Games-2023 at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow's Gomti Nagar.

- **Prize money worth Rs 62 crore** was distributed to 189 outstanding players of the state.
- Along with this, **appointment letters** were also given to **seven medal winning players** as the **Deputy Superintendent of Police, District Youth Welfare Officer and Passenger/Goods Tax Officer.**
- **The players**, who can give their time after the games, will be **appointed coaches** at the 'Khelo UP Centre' on a fixed honorarium.
- Uttar Pradesh is the home of 16% of the country's population and **UP players have won 25% of the Asian Games medals.**

Khelo India Programme

- The Khelo India Scheme **aims to encourage sports all over the country**, thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development.
- Under the Scheme, talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels are **provided annual financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.**

KHELO INDIA PROGRAMME



AIM

- Mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports
- Revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level

12 VERTICALS OF KHELO INDIA



1. Play Field Development
2. Community Coaching Development
3. State Level Khelo India Centres
4. Annual Sports Competitions
5. Talent Search and Development
6. Utilization and Creation/Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure
7. Support of National/Regional/State Sports Academies
8. Physical Fitness of school children
9. Sports for Women
10. Promotion of Sports amongst disabilities
11. Sports for Peace and Development
12. Promotion of rural and tribal areas/ tribal games

GAMES UNDER KHELO INDIA

- **Khelo India Youth Games** (aka Khelo India School Games till 2019)
 - 1st edition - New Delhi (2018)
 - Age limit - 18
 - KIYG 2023 host - MP (Bhopal)
- **Khelo India University Games**
 - 1st edition - Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Odisha (2020)
 - KIUG 2023 host - UP (Lucknow, Varanasi, G.Noida and Gorakhpur)
- **Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)**
 - 3 editions held since 2020 (in Leh, Ladakh and Gulmarg (Kashmir))

SELECTION AND ASSISTANCE

- 1000 kids elected yearly for a scholarship program, trained to become medal winners
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines are provided Rs. 5 Lakh p.a. for 8 years.

NODAL MINISTRY

- Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs

HQ

- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (New Delhi)



Note:

