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MoU between NGEL and UP Rajya Vidyut **Utpadan Nigam Limited**

Why In News?

According to the information received from the Press Information Bureau of the Government of India on 1 June 2023, Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) and NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Lucknow with the objective of collaborating in the development of renewable energy parks & projects and transforming the energy sector.

Key Points:

- > The MoU was signed by the CEO of NGEL Mohit Bhargava and UPRVUNL Director (Finance) Nidhi Kumar Narang & Managing Director P. Guruprasad.
- Under the MoU, the two organisations are planning to undertake a solar PV project dedicated to the Rihand reservoir, other water areas and any available vacant land, solar PV project for solar electrification of Ayodhya City. Wherever land will be made available, both organisations will work together for the development of renewable energy parks and projects.
- Both NGEL and UPRVUNL will work together to form a Joint Venture Company (JVC) to carry out tasks such as renewable energy generation responsibility, and flexibility in the production & scheduling of thermal/ hydro power stations by combining renewable energy& energy storage.
- It is worth mentioning that the NTPC is India's largest power generation company. Its total installed capacity (including joint ventures and affiliates) is around 72 GW.
- To expand the renewable energy business, a whollyowned subsidiary NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) has been formed which will work on a range of projects including renewable energy parks and green hydrogen, energy storage technology & round-theclock development work in the renewable energy power sector.
- It is known that UPRVUNL was formed to set up and operate power generation stations in Uttar Pradesh. At present, UPRVUNL has four thermal power stations with an installed capacity of 5,820 MW and one thermal power station with an installed capacity of 1,320 MW is in a joint venture with NTPC.

- UPRVUNL is in the process of raising another 3,300 MW capacity with supercritical technology on its own. In addition, the central government is in the process of raising another 1,980 MW capacity through joint ventures with public sector undertakings.
- At present, UPRVUNL is also focusing on renewable energy and the energy storage sector.





10 Thousand Rupees will be Given for Youth **Tourism Activities in Government Schools**

Why In News?

On May 30, 2023, Tourism and Culture Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Jaiveer Singh told that in every district of the state, tourism-related activities will be started in Government Intermediate Schools, Government Degree College, Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kendriya School, Shramik School (Atal) and Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya etc. Financial assistance of Rs 10,000 will be provided for its operation.



key points

- Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said that in the new tourism policy-2022, this strategy has been made to connect youth with tourism and conduct tourism activities through them.
- He informed that financial assistance would be provided to an educational institution only once a year. This amount will be given to a maximum of 10 such clubs in a circle in a year on the recommendation of the District Magistrate of the concerned district.
- To promote youth tourism in the state, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, National Service Scheme, NCC, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Yuvak Mangal Dal and Mahila Mangal Dal, etc. organise youth tourism activities by organizing youth tourism activities. Will be done.
- Youth tourism clubs have been identified to develop responsible tourism, which has been planned to develop an understanding of tourism and culture in children and youth from the beginning.
- With this initiative, youth will be made aware of Indian culture and heritage by developing an understanding of the state's cultural diversity through tourism. Youth clubs will also work to promote the importance of travel and tourism in educational institutions of different districts.

18 Districts of UP including Noida-Ghaziabad will be Safe Cities

Why In News?

On 1 June 2023, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told a workshop of mayors and presidents in Lucknow that the state government would make 17 municipal corporations & 18 cities, including Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, safe cities in six months to ensure a safe environment for women in cities.

Key Points:

- After this, within a year, each body of all 75 districts of the state will be made a safe city.
- The Safe City will get the following facilities:
- > City buses will have cameras and panic buttons.
- As soon as the women press the panic button, the control room will get information immediately.

- Pink toilets will be built in major intersections and markets.
- Women police personnel will patrol the city on pink scooty.
- Schools and colleges will have more vigilance.
- In the first phase, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Agra, Jhansi, Firozabad, Mathura-Vrindavan, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Meerut, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Aligarh, Kanpur and Ayodhya will be covered.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also announced the launch of an incentive scheme for the bodies to provide better facilities in the cities. For this, five parameters have been set like cleanliness, pure drinking water, good roads, safe city and self-reliance.
- An additional Rs 1 crore will be given to Nagar Panchayat, Rs 2 crore to the municipality and Rs 10 crore to the municipal corporation.

Anti-Mine Infantry Boots

Why In News?

On 1 June 2023, Dr. Mayank Dwivedi, director of DMSRDE (Defence Material Stores and Research & Development Establishment), told that the scientists of the institute have prepared special shoes for the infantry battalion of the army, which will keep the soldiers safe when mines explode.

Kev Points:

- This special type of boots will greatly reduce the effect of the pressure on the mines. There will be an explosion after falling on it, but there will not be much damage.
- The biggest challenge of the infantry battalion of the Indian Army is to protect the soldiers from mines. Often the legs of soldiers get seriously injured due to the explosion of mines laid by the enemies. For this, the army had sought help from the scientists of DMSRDE. After about two-three years of research, scientists have succeeded in making it.
- The Anti Mine Infantry Boots are made from a hybrid blend of several types of lightweight ceramic porous and aramid. Because of this, despite weighing three kilograms, there is no pressure from the shoe.



The Anti Mine Infantry Boots have been tested several times. During testing in M-14 mines, it was observed

that these boots reduced the pressure by more than 160 times. Due to this, the mines exploded, but there was no damage.



'Uttar Pradesh Mathrubhumi Scheme'

Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on 2 June 2023, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the proposed 'Uttar Pradesh Mathrubhumi Yojana' of the Panchayati Raj Department.

Key Points:

- Under the 'Uttar Pradesh Mathrubhumi Yojana', residents of Uttar Pradesh settled abroad will now be able to get community centres, Baraat Ghars and other such construction works done in their native villages in the memory of their relatives and forefathers.
- It is known that a large number of people from Uttar Pradesh have left the rural environment who are living and working in different cities & states of the country and even abroad. Such people want to provide cooperation in the development of their native village of Uttar Pradesh, but due to the lack of any system in the past, they were not able to provide desired cooperation.
- Under the scheme, if a person, a private organization wants to get development work done in a Gram Panchayat, development of infrastructure facilities & work permitted under Section 15 of the Panchayati Raj Act, and is willing to bear a minimum of 60 percent of the cost of the work as a donation. If so, the state government will bear the remaining 40% cost.
- After the completion of the work, a plaque of the size and type prescribed by the state government will be installed on the top of the said building or infrastructure facility or according to the proposal of the person or institution that has cooperated.

Khelo India University Games-2022 concludes in Varanasi

Why in News?

On 3 June 2023, the 3rd Khelo India University Games (KIUG)-2022 concluded at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus in Varanasi-the Spiritual Capital of India, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:

- Panjab University, Chandigarh (PUC) was declared the overall champion with 26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals.
- Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (GNDU) stood 2nd with 24 gold, 27 silver, 17 bronze and Jain University, Karnataka stood 3rd with 16 gold, 10 silver, 6 bronze medals.
- ➤ It is worth mentioning that this year the 3rd edition of the Khelo India University Games was organized in Uttar Pradesh from May 25 to June 3. These competitions were organized in Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Gautam Buddha Nagar.
- The Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2022 saw over 4000 athletes from over 200 universities competing in 21 sports across 12 competition days.
- The mascot for the third edition of the Khelo India University Games was named Jeetu, representing the state animal of Uttar Pradesh, the Swamp Deer (Reindeer).
- It is worth mentioning that the 1st edition of the Khehjkjlo India University Games was held in Odisha in the year 2020 and the 2nd edition was held in Bangalore, Karnataka in the year 2022 (shifted from 2021 to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

India Rankings-2023: BHU ranks 5th in Top University Rank

Why in News?

On 5 June 2023, Minister of State for Education & External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh released the India Rankings -2023, in which Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has been ranked fifth in the Top University Rank, while Aligarh Muslim University has been ranked ninth.



- The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has been ranked first in the top university rankings in the India Rankings- 2023, while Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia University have been ranked second and third respectively.
- ➤ In the overall ranking in India Rankings- 2023, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has been ranked first, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore second and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has been ranked third. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has been ranked fifth and Banaras Hindu University has been ranked eleventh.
- The India Rankings 2023, released by The Minister of State for Education & External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) prepared by the Ministry of Education in 2015 for the purpose of ranking various institutions.
- > It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Education had taken the commendable step of drafting the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2015, which defines multi-dimensional parameters to assess the quality & excellence of the country's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in various categories & subject areas and ranks them on the basis of total marks obtained on these parameters.
- Minister of State for Education & External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh said that the India Rankings serve as a valuable tool for students in identifying different universities based on their relative position in terms of different categories and subjects among the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) of the country.
- The rankings have also helped universities to identify areas in need of improvement in teaching, research, resources and infrastructure.
- This is the eighth consecutive edition of the India rankings of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the country. The three specific aspects included in the 2023 edition of the India rankings are as follows:
 - Inclusion of a new theme called Agriculture & Allied Sector
 - o Integration of the 'Innovation' rankings previously executed by the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) in the India rankings with an aim to reduce the burden of different institutions of providing the same data to two different agencies.

- Expansion of scope of 'Architecture' to 'Architecture & Planning' to include institutions offering courses in Urban and Town Planning.
- With the expansion of a new category (Innovation) & new subjects (Agriculture & Allied Sectors) and from 'architecture' to 'Architecture & Planning', the existing portfolio of India rankings has grown to 13 categories and subjects that have been ranked in the India Rankings- 2023.
- During the first year of India Rankings -2016, rankings were announced for universities as well as three sector-specific rankings i.e. Engineering, Management and Pharmacy Institutions. Over a period of eight years, four new categories and five new subjects have been added, classifying the entire list into five categories i.e. Overall, Universities, Colleges, Research Institutes & Innovations and eight subjects i.e. Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Architecture & Planning, Medicine, Law, Dentistry and Agriculture & Allied Sectors.
- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), launched by the Ministry of Education in November 2015, was used for this edition as well as the previous seven editions of the India Rankings released for the years 2016 to 2023. Five broad categories of parameters have been identified in NIRF.
- Key Features of India Rankings 2023:
 - The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained its first position in the overall category for the fifth consecutive year i.e. from 2019 to 2023 and in the engineering category for the eighth consecutive year, i.e. from 2016 to 2023.
 - The top 100 in the overall category includes 44 CFTIs/CFU INIs, 24 state universities, 13 honorary universities, 18 private universities, 4 agriculture & allied sector institutions and 3 management institutes.
 - The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore topped the universities category for the eighth consecutive year from 2016 to 2023. It ranked first in the category of research institutes for the third consecutive year i.e. from 2021 to 2023.
 - O IIM Ahmedabad has retained its first position in the subject of management for the fourth consecutive year i.e. from 2020 to 2023. In the management of India rankings, it was ranked in the top two from 2016 to 2019.



- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has been at the top position in medicine for the sixth consecutive year i.e. from 2018 to 2023.
- The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Hyderabad, has topped the pharmacy rankings for the first time, pushing Jamia Hamdard to the second position. Jamia Hamdard was ranked first for four consecutive years i.e. from 2019 to 2022.
- Miranda House has retained the first position in the category of colleges for the seventh consecutive year i.e. from 2017 to 2023.
- IIT Roorkee has been ranked first in architecture for the third consecutive year i.e. from 2021 to 2023.
- The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru has retained its first position in the law category for the sixth consecutive year i.e. from 2018 to 2023.
- Out of the top 10 colleges in the ranking of colleges, five colleges from Delhi have maintained their dominance.
- The Savita Institute of Medical & Technical Sciences has secured the top spot for the second consecutive year.
- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is at the top position in the category of Agriculture & Allied Sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur is at the top position in the innovation category.



Sainik Schools to be opened at all Commissionerates in UP

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on 5 June 2023, the Ministry of Defense has given its consent to the proposal to open Sainik Schools on PPP i.e. Public Private Partnership basis at all the commissionerate of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:

- ➤ It is known that the state government had sent a request letter to the Ministry of Defense four years ago to open a Sainik School in every division, to which the Ministry of Defense has given its consent.
- On the basis of the letter received by the State Government from the Sainik School Society of the Ministry of Defense, the government has sent a letter to the District Magistrates of all the 16 districts of the state where new Sainik Schools are to be opened.
- In a letter sent to the DMs of the concerned districts on behalf of the Additional Chief Secretary of Basic & Secondary Education Deepak Kumar, it has been said that they can request to convert suitable government or aided or interested private or NGO-run schools in their districts into Sainik Schools.
- All these schools will be opened on PPP (Private Public Partnership) basis in Agra, Aligarh, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Basti, Bareilly, Moradabad, Banda, Jhansi, Devipatan, Ayodhya, Kanpur Nagar, Meerut, Saharanpur, Mirzapur and Varanasi.
- Significantly, there are 25 Sainik Schools of the Ministry of Defense in the country, while three Sainik Schools are being run by the Ministry of Defense in the state, which are in Amethi, Jhansi, and Mainpuri. Apart from this, a provision of Rs 90 crore has been made by the state government for the construction of a Sainik School in Gorakhpur. The UP Sainik School is being run in Lucknow which is run by the state government.

Mission Nand Baba

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on 6 June 2023, with the aim to increase the income of milk-producing farmers of Uttar Pradesh and ensure the facility of selling milk at a reasonable price in villages through dairy co-operatives, the Cabinet Minister,



Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Dharampal Singh unveiled the logo of 'Mission Nand Baba'.

Key Points:

- Under 'Mission Nand Baba', efforts will be made to increase the income of milk-producing farmers in Uttar Pradesh. For this, the state government will spend Rs 1000 crore in the next five years on Nand Baba Milk Scheme.
- Under this mission, milk producers in villages will provide milk products in their villages through dairy co-operatives.
- The milk trade is an additional source of income in rural areas. Under this mission, there is a plan to set up five Dairy Farmer Producer Organizations in five districts as a pilot project in the financial year 2023-24, in which women will be given an important role.
- Under this mission, farmers will be given incentives from the government for subsidies in the purchase of indigenous cows of advanced breeds. Grants will also be given to those who make fodder and animal feed for cows.
- Committees have been formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary at the state level and DM at the district level to ensure that the work of Mission Nand Baba runs properly. Through the mission, the government will also create a database of cow breeders in the entire state.
- Additional Chief Secretary of Livestock and Dairy Development Rajneesh Dubey said that there is immense potential for investment in new industries within the dairy sector in the state. For this, the government has made the Uttar Pradesh Dairy Development & Milk Products Promotion Policy- 2022. This policy will be aligned with Mission Nand Baba.
- > This mission will help in the annual growth of more than 25 percent in the field of milk production.



Yogi cabinet's decision regarding Power of Attorney

Why in News?

On 6 June 2023, in a cabinet meeting chaired by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, it was decided that the power of attorney would be validated only with blood relations to prevent stamp theft in the state.

Key Points:

- It is known that it used to cost only 50 rupees to give power of attorney, but now it will have to pay stamp duty like the registry. That is, as the property will be, the registry fee will have to be paid.
- Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said that through power of attorney, a person can authorize someone to do his work on his behalf.
- It is not mandatory to register the affidavit on the basis of the provision provided in the Registration Act, 1908. Even after this, there is a tendency among the general public to register it and every year the number of registrations on this basis is increasing.
- It is known that in the last five years, the number of registrations done on the basis of registered affidavits in the registry offices of the state has 102486.
- That is why the state government has decided to validate the blood-related seal to prevent stamp theft. Apart from this, those who register on the *Mukhtarnama* will have to pay the whole stamp duty.
- Blood relatives can be registered on a stamp of Rs 5000. Father, mother, husband, son, daughter-in-law, daughter, son-in-law, brother, sister, grandson, and granddaughter will come in blood relatives.





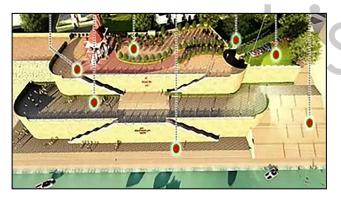
A Concrete Ghat to be built on the banks of the Ganges in Chandravati

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on June 7, 2023, Chandravati, the birthplace of Jain Tirthankar Chandra Mahaprabhu in Varanasi, will be developed in terms of tourism under a project approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Uttar Pradesh. A concrete Ghat will be constructed here on the banks of the Ganges.

Key Points:

- > Tourism facilities will be increased here. For this, the government has approved a project worth Rs 20 crore. Along with this, a sanction of Rs 1.50 crore has also been issued as the first instalment.
- Chandravati, the birthplace of Jain Tirthankar Chandra Mahaprabhu, is a sacred place for Jain followers. Being located on the banks of the Ganges, it holds an important place in terms of tourism. For a long time, there was a demand for constructing a Concrete Ghat in this pilgrimage area.
- With the construction of Concrete Ghat in Chandravati, the tourism industry on the banks of the Ganga will get a boost. Along with this, new employment opportunities will also be available.



10% Discount for passengers in City Buses of UP

Why in News?

On 8 June 2023, in the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Dedicated Urban Transport Fund Management Committee, chaired by Amrit Abhijat, Chief Secretary, Urban Development, Uttar Pradesh, it was informed that the schemes to be implemented by the ETM supplier and HDFC to promote digital payments in the state. There will be a 10% discount on bus fares on payment of fare through the National Common Mobility Card.

Key Points:

- Similarly, in order to bring uniformity in the fare applicable for different vehicles, a proposal was passed to levy a uniform surcharge of Re 1 per passenger on the tickets of passengers travelling in city buses. Through this, the existing fare has been rounded off.
- In the meeting, the proposal to operate 1525 airconditioned electric buses through Convergence Energy Services Limited at GCC Mod was approved.
- GPS, panic buttons, CCTV cameras and seats will be reserved for women in the buses and unfit, without permits, illegal, overloaded, dilapidated and dilapidated buses will not be allowed to operate in any area of the state. Strict action will be taken against speeding and overloading of vehicles.
- Purchased under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), currently operating 664 buses (CNG/Diesel), 40 air-conditioned electric buses allocated for Lucknow city, for reimbursement of salary, fuel, motor parts expenses Rs.9953.39 were Sanctioned.
- Including other expenses, a total amount of Rs 25890.81 lakh was approved for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- Similarly, there is no budget yet, to operate 300 electric buses at GCC turn. An expenditure burden of Rs 65.00 crore was approved for the possible annual operation of these buses and Rs 21.20 crore for the new maintenance depot.
- 447.48 crore will be required in the financial year 2023-24, for this the necessary amount will be demanded from the Finance Department.





Foundation Stone of 10 NH Projects worth over Rs 8000 crore laid in Pratapgarh & Deoria

Why in News?

On June 12, 2023, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of 5 NH projects worth Rs 2,200 crore in Pratapgarh region and 5 NH projects worth Rs 6,215 crore in Deoria in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Key Points:

- Union Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the widening of 43 km of National Highway-330 from Pratapgarh to Sultanpur, being built at a cost of Rs 1290 crore, will reduce the time taken to travel from Prayagraj to Pratapgarh via Ayodhya.
- He said that the construction work of the proposed 14 km bypass at Pratapgarh in the state at a cost of Rs 309 crore would also start soon. Road safety work will be done for streetlights, bus shelters etc. on NH-31 at a cost of Rs 27 crore.
- The construction of Pratapgarh-Musafirkhana section will accelerate the development of cement plant, gas plant, bottling plant and dairy milk factory industries. All these projects will encourage investment in Uttar Pradesh and create new employment opportunities.
- > The construction of 22 km 4-lane bypass at Deoria at a cost of Rs 1750 crore will be inaugurated in August 2023.
- These projects will benefit the backward areas of Deoria & Gorakhpur and will also improve connectivity with Bihar.



Super State Highway will be Built in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

On June 13, 2023, Uttar Pradesh PWD Minister Jitin Prasada said that Super State Highways (SSH) will be built in view of the increasing traffic in the state. For this, an MoU is set to be signed between UP PWD and NHAI soon.

Key Points:

- Minister Jitin Prasada said that at present there is a ban on giving National Highway Status to new roads. Therefore, it has been decided to develop SSH as per the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. For this, the consent of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has also been received.
- These projects will be constructed with the help of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Looking at the traffic, their total width will be 4-6 lanes. The toll will also be charged on super state highways.
- A part of the income from this will be spent on the development of rural roads. That is, on the implementation of this scheme, adequate funds will also be available for rural roads. In the first phase, 1000-1500 km of state highways will be included in this scheme.
- PWD department heads have been instructed to identify state highways which can be given SSH status. In terms of traffic, these roads will be divided into two categories. One, where the PCU (passenger car unit) is between 20-30 thousand and two, where the PCU is more than 30 thousand.
- The state government will take up the responsibility of providing land as well as utility shifting and making roads encroachment-free. NHAI will arrange for the construction of these in HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model) or EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) mode. In HAM mode, NHAI pays 40% of the total cost, while in EPC, the entire cost is paid by NHAI.
- After construction, this road will remain under NHAI for 25 years and after that, it will be handed over to the Uttar Pradesh government. NHAI will collect tolls for the first 25 years.
- According to the MoU, the amount that will be left after deducting the necessary service & financial charges will be deposited in the account of UP PWD.



- This amount will be used only for the development of rural roads in the state.
- ➢ It is worth mentioning that PWD has a 276042 km long road network in the state. These include 109.01 km of State Highways, 67.49 km of Major District Roads (MDRs), 542.44 km of Other District Roads (ODRs) and 204148 km of Rural Roads. With the implementation of the SSH system, the PWD will be able to arrange a substantial part of the required budget for more than 2 lakh km of rural roads from its own resources.



Green Field Highway will be Built from Aligarh to Palwal

Why in News?

On June 14, 2023, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Project Director PK Kaushik told that a green field highway will be built for the convenience of the people along with reducing the load of vehicles on the Aligarh-Palwal highway connecting Aligarh, the city of tala-training in Uttar Pradesh, to Haryana and NCR.

Key Points:

- It is known that action has been started to prepare the DPR of the highway at the NHAI level. The Aligarh-Palwal highway was constructed by the PWD provincial section. The road has been constructed at a cost of Rs 552 crore.
- It took about five years to build this 67 km long highway. In March 2022, the PWD handed over the highway construction work to NHAI. Now NHAI is doing the maintenance, repair, etc. of the highway.
- The Aligarh-Palwal highway connects the three states. This highway also connects the Uttar Pradesh border to Delhi-NCR. At the same time, the border of Haryana is also connected.

- The proposal to construct this highway has been made by NHAI considering the number of vehicles per day on the PTA route and the possibility of obstacles in its six-lane in the future.
- At present, due to lack of bypass in Khair-Jattari, there is a long jam for hours every day in both the towns. Speeding vehicles on the four-lane PTA route stop in these two towns. About a 10-10 km (about 6.21 mi) long bypass is to be constructed in both the towns.
- Along with this, NHAI has prepared a proposal to build a green field highway from Aligarh to Palwal on par with the PTA route. This highway will be six lanes.
- NHAI has already conducted a traffic survey of PTA Marg, in which 25 thousand vehicles have been reported passing daily, which is more than the number of vehicles passing on four lanes.
- It is not easy to convert this route into six lanes due to high settlement on both sides of the PTA Highway.
 Apart from this, the non-availability of land is also a major reason, due to which a proposal to build a green field highway has been prepared.

First Heritage Park and Rail Coach Restaurant will open in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on June 14, 2023, Uttar Pradesh's first rail heritage park and rail coach restaurant is going to open in Agra.

Key Points:

- In the park and restaurant located on Agra Cantt Station Road in the state, people of Agra will get information about railway heritage as well as delicious food. The work of the park and restaurant, which is going to start in July, is going on at a rapid pace.
- North Central Railway & Uttar Pradesh's first rail coach restaurant and heritage park have started taking shape on vacant railway land at the intersection leading to Agra Cantt Railway Station Road Idgah Bus Stand.
- Last year, the Railways had decided to set up a rail coach restaurant on 2,000 square meters of land. The decision to build a heritage park along with the restaurant was taken later. A train coach has been



- erected on the rail track by laying a rail track for the rail coach restaurant.
- Chetan Agarwal, who designed the coach, said that the train coach is being given a look like heritage and Maharaja train. Antique lights are being installed in it. Heritage and Merecan tiles are being installed in it. The platform of the coach restaurant is being built from red stone.
- The rail coach restaurant will have a seating capacity of about 72 people. In this, 36 people will be able to sit inside the coach, and 36 people will be able to enjoy delicious dishes sitting on the platform outside.
- Apart from this, there will be about 10 shops in the heritage park. Food and drink will also be available here. The first coach restaurant will start in Heritage Park. There will also be a tourist guide Kiosk. Tourists will also have the facility of information about trains and online booking. There will also be a children's park.
- Agra Railway Division PRO Prashasti Srivastava said that the railway has given the land on a five-year lease. With this, the railways will get a revenue of 80 lakhs.
- Hilton Group has taken the tender to build a heritage park and run a coach restaurant. Railways and Hilton Group have signed an agreement to maintain the heritage park and operate rail coach restaurants for five years.
- The PRO said that a rail museum will also be built along with a coach restaurant in the Rail Heritage Park. In this, old signals and box tickets and other goods of the railways will be kept. In this, visitors will get information about the history of railways.

Open Jail will open in the State

Why in News?

On June 15, 2023, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during a review of the Prisons Department, said that prisons should be set up as 'Penitentiary'. At the same time, he also directed to prepare a formal proposal for the establishment of open jail.

Key Points:

The Chief Minister said that the establishment of open jail can be useful. At present, a semi-open jail is operational in Lucknow. Prepare a formal proposal for the establishment of an open jail.

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to make strict punishment rules for the use of mobile phones in jails. At the same time, he has instructed to set up high-security barracks for intensive monitoring of notorious terrorists and vicious criminals.
- The Chief Minister said that a new Prison Act should be prepared and implemented in the state. Presently the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prisoners Act, 1900 are in vogue since pre-independence. There is a need to implement a new act in view of the future.
- He said that the Government of India has recently prepared the Model Prison Act, 2023. It is very useful from the point of view of reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners. According to this, a new Prison Act of the state should be prepared.
- The cabinet has recently approved the new jail manual. Arrangements like security assessment of prisoners, grievance redressal, Prison Development Board, change in behaviour towards prisoners and provision of separate accommodation for women prisoners & transgender etc. should be implemented.
- He said that in order to encourage good conduct in jail, the prisoners should get the benefit of legal aid, parole and premature release. There should be a provision for this in the new act.
- The Chief Minister said that the entry and exit of prisoners are being done through e-prison. Prisoners' Information Management System, Visitor Management System, E-custody Certificate, and Police Intelligence System are also implemented. There are more than 4200 CCTVs installed in the jails, which are monitored through video walls installed at the headquarters. He said that monitoring should be done by integrating drone cameras with video walls.





Gita Press, Gorakhpur to be Awarded Gandhi Peace Prize for the Year 2021

Why in News?

According to the information given by the Press Information Bureau, Government of India on June 18, 2023, the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021 will be awarded to Gita Press, Gorakhpur.

Key Points:

- The jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unanimously selected Gita Press, Gorakhpur for the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021.
- > The award is being given to Gita Press, Gorakhpur for its outstanding contribution to bringing about social, economic & political change through non-violence and other Gandhian ideals.
- It is known that Gita Press, established in the year 1923, is one of the largest publishers in the world. It has published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore Shrimad Bhagavad Gita books.
- This institution never took advertisements for its publications for revenue generation. Gita Press along with its affiliated organizations strives for the progressive development of life and welfare of the public.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the award of The Gandhi Peace Prize to Gita Press on the completion of its 100th anniversary is a recognition of the work done by the institute in community service.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the award of the Gandhi Peace Prize to Gita Press on the completion of 100 years of its establishment is to appreciate the work done by the institution in community service.
- It is worth mentioning that the Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India. The award was instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to his ideals.
- > The award is open to all individuals without distinction of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an outstanding traditional handicraft/ handloom distinguished work.

- Former awardees include organisations like ISRO, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra (Kanyakumari), Akshaya Patra (Bengaluru), Ekal Abhiyan Trust (India) and Sulabh International (New Delhi).
- Among the distinguished personalities who received this award are the late Dr. Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, Dr. Julius Nyererere, former President of Tanzania, Dr. A. T. Ariaratne, Founder President of Sarvodaya Shramdaan Movement of Sri



Lanka, Dr. Gerhard Fischer of the Federal Republic of Germany, Baba Amte, Dr. John Hume of Ireland, former President of Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel, former President of Czechoslovakia, Dr. Nelson Mandela, former President of Tanzania, Dr. A.T. Ariaratne, founder president of Sarvodaya Shramdaan Movement of Sri Lanka, Dr. Gerhard Fischer of the Federal Republic of Germany, Baba Amte, Dr. John

Hume of Ireland, former President of Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel, Archbishops Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Yohei



Sasakawa of Japan are among them.

In recent years, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman in 2019 and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh in 2020 have been awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize.

esting labs to be built in Agricultural Universities

Why in News?

On June 19, 2023, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Agricultural Produce Market Council held in Lucknow, directed to set up testing labs in the state's agricultural universities, in which organic and natural products will be verified.



- The Chief Minister said that the Tissue Culture laboratory should be established in Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Kumarganj (Ayodhya). This laboratory should be established in a large campus of at least 3 hectares. Funds for this will be arranged by the Mandi Council.
- He said that agriculture & technology university, Banda, Aligarh Muslim University, Rani Laxmibai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, Bundelkhand University, Jhansi and 37 other colleges will also be included in the 'Chief Minister Farmer Scholarship Scheme'.
- Outlets of organic and natural products in the state are currently established at the divisional headquarters. These need to be extended to the district headquarters. Outlets should also be opened in mandi committees and organic & natural markets should be set up.
- Lab testing is necessary for the verification, and branding of organic/natural products of the farmers of the state. Although laboratories are operated by the Food Safety and Drug Administration in Lucknow, Meerut, Banaras and Jhansi, there are no labs in the agricultural universities of the state. In such a situation, testing labs will be set up in all 44 agricultural universities of the state by the Mandi Council.
- The Chief Minister said that new haat penetration and farmer mandis should be constructed according to regional needs and track traders should be accommodated here. The construction work of hostels in agricultural universities with the help of Mandi Council will be inspected by the Agriculture Minister.



U.P. Pollution Control Board's Report revealed: Ganga most polluted in Kanpur

Why in News?

On June 21, 2023, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board released a report of all the rivers of the state, including the Ganga and Yamuna, in which it has been informed that Ganga is the most polluted in the industrial city of Kanpur.

Key Points:

- A report by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board has revealed that the BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) in the Ganga near downstream Jana village in the industrial city of Kanpur is 4.60 mg per litre. Here in the Ganges, a total of 20 thousand coliforms and fecal coliforms have been found to be 17 thousand.
- ➤ In the Sangam area of Prayagraj, the BOD of Ganga was found to be a maximum of 2.90 mg per litre, which can be considered satisfactory.
- In the report, the pollution of the Varuna River that meets the Ganges has been described at an alarming level. Varuna's BOD was found to be 12.40 mg per litre before it joins the Ganga in Varanasi.
- According to the board's report, Varuna's water has also become very dangerous for aquatic organisms. Varuna's DO (Dissolved Oxygen) is 3.30 mg per litre before it joins the Ganga.
- Yamuna is very polluted from Agra to Hamirpur. In Etawah, the BOD of Yamuna is 16.80 mg per litre, while DO was found to be 5.80 mg per litre.
- ➤ The water of the Kali river, which flows in many districts of western Uttar Pradesh, was found to be extremely dangerous. In the report of the Pollution Control Board, the BOD of the Hindon river in Bulandshahr was found to be 54 mg per litre.
- There is no possibility of the survival of aquatic organisms due to the discovery of zero DO in the river. This is the condition of the river in Muzaffarnagar.
- The Hindon river, the most infamous in terms of pollution, is more polluted than the Kali from Saharanpur to Noida. The Gomati river from Sitapur to Barabanki is in a similar situation. In Unnao and Jaunpur, Sai's pollution was found to be higher than normal.
- Pollution standards in river water



Pollution Factor	Quantity
BOD	3 milligrams per litre maximum
DO	5 milligrams per litre minimum

> The Regional Officer of Pollution Control Board R.K. Singh told that the headquarters issues the report after a month-long investigation of the rivers.



U.P. Govt. implemented LADCS system

Why in News?

On June 22, 2023, the Uttar Pradesh government implemented the 'Legal Aid Defense Counseling System (LADCS)' for two years under the Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority to provide free legal aid to the people of the state and settle small disputes on the basis of agreement.

Key Points:

- In the LADCS system, legal aid will be provided to the general public through the services of Chief, Deputy and Assistant Council.
- Legal aid can be provided to the general public on the lines of the public protection system in criminal cases.
- The objective of implementing LADCS is to strengthen court-based legal services to provide effective and efficient legal services to the backward and weaker sections of the society.
- ➤ It will provide qualitative and competent legal services in criminal cases to eligible persons.
- > The victim will be able to take direct advantage of the illegal trade being done by a person. Members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can take advantage of this.

- > Eligibility to take advantage of LADCS-
 - O Women, daughters and children of the victims.
 - People suffering from blindness, leprosy, deafness, mental weakness etc. and nomadic persons.
 - Persons suffering from mass disaster, ethnic violence, class atrocities, floods, famine, earthquake or industrial disaster.
 - Industrial workers.
 - Juvenile delinquent means a child up to the age of 18 years.
 - Person detained in custody.
 - Mentally ill persons admitted in protection homes, mental hospitals or nursing homes.
 - A person whose annual income is less than Rs.3,00,000.

'Shakti Didi' campaign

Why in News?

On June 22, 2023, 'Shakti Didi' campaign has been launched under Mission Shakti for women's safety under the leadership of Gautam Budh Nagar Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh.

Key Points:

- The 'Shakti Didi' campaign has been launched with an aim to reduce crime against women.
- It is known that women living in high rise societies are often deprived of the state government's scheme. The benefits of government schemes for women will also be provided to women under 'Shakti Didi'.
- Under Mission Shakti, 'Shakti Didi' campaign has been started, in which women of all classes of cities, villages and societies will be connected.

C3i ties up with IIT Kanpur

Why in News?

According to media information received on June 25, 2023, C3i Hub, the Hi-tech Cyber security lab of IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has entered into an agreement with the Telangana Police. Under this, C3i Hub will help the police from arresting to punishing criminals who commit cyber crimes.



- Kanpur-based IIT has developed artificial intelligencebased tools that will not only be a tool to catch criminals but will also guide the police in convicting them. Telangana will first get the benefit of this technology.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) scientists are constantly developing systems or tools based on new technology to protect the country from cyber-attacks.
- Special Al-based systems (tools) have been developed for Telangana Police under the supervision of Prof. Manindra Agarwal, Project Manager, C3I Hub.
- > This system has a database of all the patterns of cyber crimes, on the basis of which it will automatically divide the crime into different categories.
- Also, if such a crime has happened in the past, then its complete information and full details of the criminal who committed the crime will be told. This will make it easier for the police to interrogate or investigate. This will also provide necessary suggestions to the police.
- This system will give a complete analysis based on current crime and old records. With the help of tools, cyber-crime can be prevented to a great extent. Soon this technology will also be shared with other states.
- > This is how cyber crime happens -
 - Hacking social media and sending objectionable messages.
 - o Hack the bank account and withdraw the money.
 - Hacking the email ID asking for money or sending objectionable messages.
 - O WhatsApp or Facebook hackers asking for money.
 - Hacking accounts to steal databases.
 - O Hack Aadhaar card and withdraw money.



Gopal Das Neeraj Smriti Samman to 5 Young Poets of UP

Why In News?

On June 26, 2023, according to the information received from the media Uttar Pradesh Bhasha Sansthan announced Gopal Das Neeraj Smriti Samman to five young poets of the state.

Key Points:

- Among the award-winning poets are satirist-poet Pankaj Prasoon and young poetess Nisha Singh from capital Lucknow, Dr. Prabhanshu Kumar from Prayagraj, Krishna Kumar 'Kanak' from Firozabad and Ved Mitra Shukla from Bahraich.
- > All these poets will be given a prize of one lakh rupees each for their creations.
- ➤ Born on January 4, 1925, in Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, the style of noted poet and lyricist Padma Bhushan Gopal Das 'Neeraj' has been easy to understand and of high quality. He has also written many evergreen songs composed by SD Burman and picturized heroes like Raj Kapoor, Dharmendra, Rajesh Khanna.
- In the eyes of the public, he was the best singer of human love. He has given a new twist to Hindi poetry by his touching poetry and simple language.
- It is known that in the year 2018, on the death of Gopal Das 'Neeraj', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had announced an award of one lakh rupees each to five budding poets every year in his memory.
- Poet and his works selected for Gopal Das Neeraj Smriti Samman
 - O Pankaj Prasoon Tab Giton ne Sath Nibhaya.
 - Nisha Singh Nawal Mein Nisha hu.
 - Dr. Prabhanshu Kumar Dr. Prabhanshu Ki Kalam se Kavya Sangrah.
 - o Krishna Kumar Kanak Uljhata Chhavijal Tumhara.
 - O Ved Mitra Shukla Ek Samandar Gehra Bhitar





Solar Boat to be operated to encourage Water Transport & Tourism in the state

Why in News?

On June 27, 2023, an MoU was signed between the UP New & Renewable Energy Development Agency and the UP State Tourism Development Limited for the operation of solar-powered boats, under which Solar Boats will be operated in rivers and lakes to promote water transport & tourism in the state.

Key Points:

- It has been decided to operate solar boats in rivers and lakes located at 17 places in different municipal corporations.
- In the first phase, it will run at 5 religious places including Ayodhya, Kashi, and Mathura. It will start from Ayodhya. Uttar Pradesh is the first state to do such an experiment.
- 30 state-of-the-art solar boats will be started operating in the Saryu river of Ayodhya. The boat will enable devotees to visit the Saryu river and also promote water tourism. The boat, which costs around Rs 1 crore, will be able to seat 12 to 15 people at a time.
- After Ayodhya, solar boats will be started in Kashi, Mathura, Prayagraj and Garhmukteshwar. After this, in the next session, this facility will be provided in Chitrakoot, Agra, Gorakhpur, Jaunpur and other riverside cities.
- Initially, the solar boat will be operated by UP NEDA on an experimental basis for six months through a supplier firm. After this, regular operation of solar boats will be done by tourism development corporations through private entrepreneurs by selecting an experienced institution.

A total of 23 Proposals were approved in the U.P. Cabinet Meeting

Why in News?

On June 28, 2023, the Cabinet meeting held at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow under the chairmanship of Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved a total of 23 proposals, including passing the proposal regarding the state's new township establishment policy.

Key Points:

- In the meeting, approval was given for establishing Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Ramayana University in Ayodhya under the Uttar Pradesh Private University Act-2019.
- Other vital proposals in the meeting, which have been approved-
 - Small colonies will be set up in small cities with the help of the private sector.
 - Proposal to celebrate Traders' Welfare Day on June 29.
 - Mahatma Buddha University of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Kushinagar proposed.
 - O Jagat Guru Ram Bhadracharya Handicapped University, Chitrakoot proposed to be converted into Uttar Pradesh Jagat Guru Ram Bhadracharya Handicapped State University. Vice-Chancellor Jagadguru Rambhadracharya will be the Chancellor for life and the Governor will be the Chancellor after him.
 - Proposal regarding health facilities based on Viability Cap Fund in 6 districts.
 - Proposal for land transfer for the establishment of Intro Israel Excellence of Food in the Kaushambi district.
 - Chief Minister proposes micro-entrepreneur accident insurance. Under this, financial services up to Rs 5 lakh will be available. For this, entrepreneurs of 18 to 60 years can apply.
 - O Helicopter service proposed in Agra and Mathura.
 - o Mathura sugar mill proposed to be restarted.
 - It is proposed to plant 35 crore trees in the state in the plantation campaign 2023.





IMS BHU prepared Herbal Antibiotic

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on June 28, 2023, the Faculty of Ayurveda of The IMS, BHU, Banaras, Uttar Pradesh, has prepared herbal antibiotics in place of ineffective antibiotics to protect against severe infections.

Key Points:

- The herbal antibiotic has been prepared by the entire team led by Dr. Priya Mohan along with Prof. Anand Chaudhary in the Department of Chemistry and Pharmacology of the Faculty of Ayurveda, BHU.
- It has been tested on bacteria in the lab of the Microbiology Department. It has been more effective on 'Gram Negative' bacteria. After this, two phases of the trial are still pending. If it is successful, the herbal antibiotic will prove to be a lifeline for the whole world.
- Two types of bacteria have been taken in BHU's Microbiology lab. Its effect was seen differently on Gram Positive (thick cell) and Gram Negative (thin cell). Scientists found that Gram Negative had more effect.
- Gram-negative bacteria are more resistant to antibodies. The effect of herbal medicines on this has raised great hope.
- ➤ It is known that Silver Silorac is considered an antibiotic. In addition to Silver Base in herbal antibiotics, there are Neem, Vat, Giloy, and Krishna Tulsi.
- Prof. Anand Chaudhary said that it will be done in two phases. It is expected that in a year it will be given a final touchup. After this, the patent will be sent to the Facilitating Center (PFC) for the patent.
- Senior physician Dr. Manoj Srivastava said that people start treatment on their own when there is a problem of respiratory tract infection, cold, sore throat, sinus, pneumonia as well as ear, and chest pain. People take antibiotic tablets from medical stores and swallow them. They do not know that their health has worsened due to the virus, which will be fine only by taking their time.
- It acts as a 'poison' when eating antibiotics for viral infections. It also destroys the good bacteria that fight infection in the body. This gives dangerous bacteria a

- chance to dominate the body. Also, the bad bacteria get ready to survive the antibiotics. Then there is no effect of medicines on the body.
- According to Professor Dheeraj Kishore of the Department of Medicine at IMS BHU, antibiotics are used in the treatment of bacterial infections. Antibiotic is made up of two words 'anti' and 'bios', which means 'anti-life'.
- That is, these medicines destroy bacteria and prevent them from growing, but bacteria are not the cause of every disease. In such a situation, people take medicines on their own when they are sick. And in rural areas, Quack Doctors also recommend antibiotics for viral infections, which is completely wrong.
- > Some important information-
 - According to the medical journal 'The Lancet', in 2019, there were 12.70 lakh deaths in the world due to reduced antibiotic effects.
 - According to the World Health Organization, antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security and development.
 - According to the World Health Organization, the increasing number of infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and salmonellosis are becoming increasingly difficult to treat as the antibiotics

used to treat them become less effective.

A senior scientist of the Indian Council of Medical



Research (ICMR) has claimed that if steps are not taken to improve it in India soon, anti-microbial resistance can take the form of an epidemic in the near future. This resistance is increasing at the rate of five to 10% every year.

Country's 1st Canine Centre for Research on Dogs to be built in Bareilly

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on June 26, 2023, the country's first Canine Centre will soon be built at IVRI in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, to study the behaviour of dogs and various diseases related to them.



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Delhi has approved this Advanced Research



Centre for Canine Project.

- ➤ It is known that dog bites are often reported in different parts of the country including Bareilly. Many times pet dogs become aggressive towards their owner. In such a situation, the need was felt for a research centre on dogs, in which research on their behaviour and diseases could be done.
- IVRI Bareilly prepared a DPR and sent it to ICAR Delhi, which has been approved. In the next two months, the construction and other works for this project will start at IVRI Bareilly.
- ➤ Dr. Amar Pal, in-charge of the referral polyclinic of IVRI Bareilly, said that detailed research will be done on the internal and external structure of dogs in the canine centre. Also, there will be research on diseases like cancer in dogs.
- The canine centre will have facilities for CT scan, MRI, tumour, radiotherapy, Hi-tech pathology etc. The main centre of the centre will be IVRI and three sub-centres will also be set up.
- Director of IVRI Bareilly, Dr. Triveni Dutt said that this centre will be equipped with all the facilities. The work will be done on dogs' breed, their diseases and vaccines etc. here.

2 Start-Ups won Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Dialogue 2022

Why in News?

On June 27, 2023, 2 start-ups from Uttar Pradesh working in Ed-Tech and Biodiversity were declared winners at the 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Dialogue India.

Key Points:

Twelve top start-ups from 9 Indian states working in agriculture, ed-tech, women's livelihood, circular economy and biodiversity were declared winners in

- the 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab National Innovation Dialogue India.
- Under the theme 'Developing Fintech solutions focused on Biodiversity Conservation', Aman Kumar's startup 'Natti Village – Managing Farm to Create Organic Value Chain in Peanuts' was declared the winner.
- Similarly, under the theme 'Practical Suggestions for Life', Sandeep Kumar from Uttar Pradesh 'Digi Swasthya - Telemedicine for Rural India' was declared the winner.
- ➤ Winners from each thematic area received a seed grant of \$5,000; The runner-up received \$3,000. This funding will help the winners to mold their ideas into tangible products or services.
- Youth Co:Lab India 2022-23 has focused on 6 thematic areas digital and financial literacy for youth, gender equality and economic empowerment of women, developing fintech solutions focused on biodiversity conservation, promoting biodiversity-friendly lifestyles through solutions to technologies in finance, accelerating circular economy through upcycling innovations and focusing on life-friendly lifestyle s Focused.
- Youth Co:Lab was launched in India in 2019 in partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). The 2022-23 edition received 378 applications from 28 states across the country.
- Out of the applications, 47 selected start-ups were given direct expert consultation and capacity-building sessions for two months through the Youth Co/Lab Springboard Programme, a start-up support platform for SDG innovators. These start-ups then presented their ideas before an eminent jury in May 2023, from which 12 winners were selected.
- > About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):
- AIM is the Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, including self-employment and talent utilisation (SETU).
- ➤ It aims to act as a platform to promote world-class innovation hubs, big challenges, start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, especially in technology-driven sectors.
- About UNDP India:
 - O UNDP has worked in almost all areas of human development in India since 1951, ranging from system and institutional strengthening to inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods as well as sustainable energy, environment and resilience.



- UNDP's programmes fully integrate the global vision of catalytic transformation with India's national priorities. With over 30 projects in almost every state, UNDP India works to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by adapting traditional models to develop differently
- > About Citi Foundation:
 - The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve people's lives in low-income communities around the world. They invest in efforts that enhance financial inclusion, catalyze employment opportunities for youth and envision new approaches to building economically vibrant communities.
- Citi Foundation's 'More than Philanthropy' approach leverages the abundant expertise of The City and its people to accomplish the mission and advance thought, leadership and innovation.
- About Youth Co:Lab:
 - O Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, the Youth Co-Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youth to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship.







Key Points	Details
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Summary	

Key Points	Details
Summary	
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