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Brihad Loan Mela

Why in News?

- On June 30, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Brihad Loan Mela at a function held at Lok Bhawan.

Key Points

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister handed over symbolic checks of loans given to 9 handicraftsmen, artisans and entrepreneurs.
- Under this program of mega loan fair organized in all 75 districts, 1 lakh 90 thousand beneficiary handicraftsmen of 'Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme', 'Prime Minister Mudra Yojana', 'Chief Minister Youth Self Employment Scheme', 'One District One Product Financing Scheme' etc. 16 thousand crore loans were disbursed to artisans and entrepreneurs.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister released the Annual Loan Scheme of Rs.2.95 lakh crore for the year 2022-23 and inaugurated the Common Facility Centers set up in 5 districts- Agra, Ambedkarnagar, Sitapur, Azamgarh, Siddharth Nagar under 'One District One Product Scheme' during the program.
- With the establishment of Common Facility Center, handicraftsmen, artisans, entrepreneurs of 'One District One Product Scheme' will get an opportunity to connect with modern technology. This will improve the quality of the products and increase the income.
- An MoU was exchanged between Additional Chief Secretary MSME Navneet Sehgal and Amazon VP Policy Chetan Krishna Swamy during the program before the Chief Minister. Under this, Amazon will help small units in exporting their products. Amazon is working to digitize small units. For this, a digital centre is being set up by Amazon in Kanpur. This will be the second centre set up by Amazon in the country after Surat in the state of Gujarat.
- It is known that Amazon's digital center has been launched in Kanpur. Through this center, MSME handicraftsmen, artisans, entrepreneurs will be facilitated in marketing their products in the country and abroad.
- Apart from this, self-help centres have been started in 35 districts of the state in collaboration with SIDBI. These centres will do the work of hand holding of new entrepreneurs. In future, these centres will be established in all the districts of the state.

- Addressing the program, the Chief Minister said that the program of the Brihad Loan Fair is part of the 100-day action plan of the MSME department. The availability of credit to MSME entrepreneurs will accelerate economic activities. This will give employment to the youth. Also, the C.D. ratio of banks will also increase.
- It may be mentioned that on January 24, 2018, 'One District One Product Scheme' was implemented. At present, the scheme is giving a new identity by making Uttar Pradesh a hub of exports. In the year 2016, the exports from the state used to be about 80 thousand crore rupees, which has now increased to 1. 56 lakh crores. At present, the state's unemployment rate is less than 3 percent.
- The MSME Minister said that a loan of Rs 2 lakh 12 thousand 934 crore has been disbursed by the state government under the Annual Credit Scheme 2020-21 . Credit of Rs 83,061 crore has been disbursed to the MSME sector, which is 11.5 percent relative to the annual target. Under the Annual Credit Scheme 2022-23, a loan disbursement target of Rs 2.95 lakh crore has been set.

Uttar Pradesh Commission for SCs and STs

Why in News?

- On July 1, 2022, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has given Asim Arun, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Social Welfare, the charge/responsibility of the Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission with immediate effect. Notification in this regard was issued on June 29, 2022.

Key Points

- The state government has assigned the post to Arun Yadav till he is appointed as the regular chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- Aseem Arun is a 1994 batch IPS officer. He formed the SWAT team for the first time in Aligarh in 2009. Aseem Arun has served in Hathras, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Agra, Aligarh and Gorakhpur.
- He was the first Commissioner of Police of Kanpur. Prior to the Uttar Pradesh elections, he had quit his IPS job and joined the BJP.

Note:



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- The BJP declared him as its candidate from Kannauj Sadar seat. From here, Aseem Arun won by defeating three consecutive Samajwadi Party MLA Anil Dohre.
- Mar 25, 2022 Asim Arun was sworn in as minister of state for independent charge in the Yogi cabinet and on March 28, he was given the responsibility of social welfare, SC and ST affairs.

Communicable Disease Control and Dastak Campaign

Why in News?

- On July 1, 2022 Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Communicable Disease Control and Dastak campaign from BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur. He also flagged off the rally of special communication campaign.

Key Points

- The communicable disease control campaign will run from July 1 to 31 and the door-to-door Dastak campaign in the state from July 16 to 31 to prevent the spread of Encephalitis, Malaria, Dengue, Filariasis and Chikungunya .
- Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that 95 percent of the deaths due to Encephalitis in the state have been controlled and the remaining 5 percent will be controlled and the disease will be completely eradicated from the state.
- The Chief Minister said that under the campaign, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, employees of several departments including the health department and people of various organizations will go door-to-door and make people aware and if anyone is found to be sick, they will arrange for treatment and provide a medical kit.

Uttar Pradesh Plastic Waste Management Conclave, 2022

Why in News?

- Uttar Pradesh Plastic Waste Management Conclave, 2022 was organized at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on International Plastic Carry Bag Free Day in Lucknow on 3rd July 2022.

Key Points

- The theme of this conclave is '3R' (Reuse, Recycle and Reduce).
- Agra Municipal Commissioner Nikhil Tikaram was felicitated by the State Urban Development and Energy Minister on the occasion.
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of notified single-use plastics, including polystyrene and extended polystyrene, have been banned with effect from July 1, 2022.

Under-19 Badminton Tournament

Why in News?

- Noida's Neer Nehwal and Noida's Chirag Sethi became the champions in the men's singles category in the Under-19 of the Vijay Sharma Memorial UP East Zone Selection Badminton Tournament in Agra on July 3, 2022.

Key Points

- In the under-19 final match at the Eklavya Sports Stadium, Noida's Neer Nehwal defeated Harshit Tomar of Noida 21-19, 21-10 to clinch the championship.
- Chirag Sethi of Noida won the final match of men's singles by defeating Prateek Srivastava of Prayagraj 21-11, 21-08. In the men's doubles final match, the pair of Siddharth Salar and Siddharth Mishra won the title by defeating the pair of Chandra Bhushan Tripathi and Kapil Chaudhary of Saharanpur.
- It may be recalled that the Vijay Sharma Memorial East Zone Selection, the biggest tournament in Uttar Pradesh, was organized by the Badminton Association Agra from June 30 to July 3 at the Eklavya Sports Stadium .
- In the girls' U-19 doubles, Shivangi Singh and Tanisha Singh of Basti defeated the duo of Aditya Yadav and Nehal Neeru Mittal of Gorakhpur and Lucknow 21-17, 21-13 to clinch the title.
- In Women's Open category, Samridhi Singh of Lucknow and Sonali Singh of Noida defeated Mahi Naresh and Mayuri Yadav of Ghaziabad and Prayagraj 21-13, 21-15 to claim the trophy.
- A prize of one lakh rupees was distributed among the winning players in this tournament.

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- In the Under-19 doubles competition of the tournament, Daksh Gautam of Agra and Ujjwal of Meerut defeated the pair of Shashank of Muzaffarnagar and Ujjwal Tomar of Bareilly by 21-17, 21-18 to win the tournament.
- In the Mix Doubles Under-19 final, Daksh Gautam of Agra and Shivangi Singh of Basti defeated the pair of Shivam Srivastava and Aditya Yadav of Gorakhpur 21-19, 21-17.

Uttar Pradesh Leader in Startup Ecosystem Ranking

Why in News?

- Uttar Pradesh has been included in the leader category in the third edition of Startup Ecosystem Rankings released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on July 4, 2022.

Key Points

- Based on 7 sectors related to startup reforms, the report divides the states into 5 categories-
 - The best performers
 - Top performers
 - Leaders
 - Aspiring leaders
 - Emerging startup ecosystem.
- According to the report, Gujarat and Karnataka are the best performing states at the forefront of the startup ecosystem. Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana have been included in the top performing states.
- On the other hand, states like Uttarakhand, Punjab, Assam and Tamil Nadu have been included in the Leaders category, while Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi etc. have been selected in the Aspirational Leaders category.
- The emerging startup ecosystem category includes Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Van Mahotsav Campaign

Why in News?

- On July 5, 2022, in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started the Van Mahotsav campaign by planting Harishankari saplings in Kodand forest area located in Sehrin village, the ashram of Maharishi Valmiki.

Key Points

- On this occasion, he said that natural farming and horticulture would be promoted in Bundelkhand. This experiment has been successful in the districts along the banks of the Ganges. The problem of Anna cattle will be solved. Along with this, pesticides will be prepared from cow dung and cow urine, which will be used in agriculture.
- It may be mentioned that under this campaign, the target is to plant 35 crore saplings in the state. In this, 25 crore saplings were planted in a day (July 5) and on August 15, 5 crore saplings will be planted.
- 7 lakh drumstick plants will be planted in front of PM and CM residences free of cost in the state. It is known that Tiger Reserve Park is being built in Chitrakoot, where Tigers will be brought.
- The Chief Minister directed the forest department officials to displace the villages in the forest area by giving them NOC at the earliest and take up the work of connecting the village with the city. If there are NOC or dispute cases for development works, dispose of them on priority.

Fellowship in Blocks to Visionary Youth

Why in News?

- On July 5, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the officials of the Housing Department to make rules for taking the services of Visionary Youth to accelerate the pace of development in the blocks of the state.

Key Points

- Under this, Visionary Youth will get an opportunity for the development of development blocks through a special fellowship of 2 years.
- The Chief Minister has ordered the appointment of a town planner in each municipal corporation to plan ahead. They will get a 2-year fellowship.
- Along with this, in the case of transfer of property or gift deed in the name of heir, now only Rs 5 thousand and Rs 10 thousand will have to be paid on the filing and rejection respectively.
- The Chief Minister said that for the larger public interest, it is necessary to simplify the process of

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mutation of property in development authorities. At present, the mutation fee of the total value of the property is being charged one percent. It needs to be reduced. The present process is also quite complex, it should be made practical with the help of technology.

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to start a special fellowship programme for proper development of aspirational development blocks. This fellowship will be for two years. In this, the youth with technical, management degree will be deployed.
- In this, the selection of youth should be done through a transparent system. Good monthly amount will be given. They should also be given technical equipment like tablets, smartphones, etc.
- The Chief Minister directed the officers that the rates of water and transport charges should be fixed every year. For this, the Income Tax Department's Cost Inflation Index should be made the basis.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said a maximum mutation fee of Rs 10,000 should be charged based on the value of the property to be given or free hold. In case of lease property, one percent mutation fee can be charged.
- The Chief Minister directed those arrangements should be made by the development authorities to collect water charges from the residents. Water charges are not being charged in most of the development authorities. Water charges are being charged by Lucknow and Varanasi Development Authority on the prescribed fee at their level. Rules should be made for this.
- The Chief Minister directed to start the work of Lucknow Green Corridor within two months. The scheme will give an attractive look to Lucknow. There are some slums on both banks of the Gomti river and around the Naimisharanya Guest House. They should be marked and the inhabitants here should be settled elsewhere.
- The Chief Minister directed that The Butler Lake be developed as Amrit Sarovar. Development authorities, civic bodies, administration and police should ensure that illegal settlements and residential colonies are not allowed to come up under any circumstances.
- The Chief Minister said that block-wise information on the selected indicators should be collected at the end of the current month considering May 2022 as the baseline. Thereafter, fresh progress details may be fed by the concerned districts by the 15th of

every month. This should also be confirmed by the concerned departments. Its progress should also be linked to the CM Dashboard.

Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival-2022

Why in News?

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on July 4, 2022, launched the four-day 'Uttar Pradesh Aam Mahotsav-2022' at Awadh Shilp Gram, Lucknow. The festival will be held till July 7, 2022.

Key Points

- All dimensions of increase in production, processing, marketing, export and quality of mangoes through the Mango Festival will be communicated to them by the concerned Departments/Officers/Scientists in consultation with the mango growers.
- Processed mango products and plants will also be available for sale at the festival.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister directed the officials of the Horticulture Department to organize a mango festival from 1st to 7th July every year and invite and felicitate mango gardeners from different states of the country.
- At the event, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the creation of a mega cluster of mangoes in Lucknow. The project will be completed in the next five years. An amount of Rs 100 crore has been sanctioned from the Centre for this project.
- He said that now the mango of Mal in Lucknow, Malihabad and Kakori Phalpatti will be sent in the name of Kakori Mango in the country and abroad. Lucknow mangoes will be branded with the same name. It is worth noting that in the year 2005, the then government had branded the mango of Lucknow in the name of Nawab Mango.

Purohit Welfare Board and Integrated Temple Information System

Why in News?

- On July 6, 2022, chief minister Yogi Adityanath directed

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the concerned departments regarding the formation of Purohit Welfare Board and introduction of an Integrated Temple Information System.

Key Points

- According to the announcement of Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra-2022, Purohit Welfare Board will be constituted for the welfare of elderly saints and priests.
- Under this board, including the clerics, the identification and verification of saints and priests of all religions will be done soon.
- In order to promote religious tourism, an integrated temple information system will be introduced, in which detailed information will be provided about the shrines belonging to religious sects like Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh etc.
- Similarly, a dedicated portal will also be created about mosques, which will later be linked to the Integrated Temple Information System.

'State Ranking Index for NFSA'

Why in News?

- In the first edition of the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' released on July 5, 2022, Uttar Pradesh is ranked second in the entire country. Odisha is at the first position in this index.

Key Points

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal released the first edition of the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'.
- Among the general category states, Odisha topped the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' with a score of 0.836, while Uttar Pradesh is second with a score of 0.797 and Andhra Pradesh is third with a score of 0.794.
- Tripura ranks first among special category states/UTs with a score of 0.788. It is followed by Himachal Pradesh with a score of 0.758 and Sikkim at the third position with a score of 0.710.
- Also, among the three union territories, where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is cash driven, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu topped the list with a score of 0.802.
- The index seeks to document the status and progress

of the implementation of NFSA across the country and various reform initiatives after consultation with the states.

- It highlights the reforms undertaken by the States and Union Territories and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all the States and Union Territories.
- The current index is largely focused on NFSA distribution and will include future buyouts, PMGKAY distributions.
- The index for ranking of States and UTs is built on three key pillars, which cover end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS. These pillars are- i) NFSA-coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, ii) delivery platforms, and iii) nutrition initiatives.

Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying of Development Projects

Why in News?

- On July 7, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects worth more than Rs 1800 crore in a program organized at Dr. Sampurnanand Sports Stadium in Sriga, Varanasi.

Key Points

- During the event, the Prime Minister inaugurated projects worth over Rs 590 crore. These include several initiatives under Varanasi Smart City and Urban Projects.
- Similarly, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of projects worth more than Rs 1200 crore. These include various projects related to road infrastructure. These projects will go a long way in reducing the traffic load on city and rural roads.
- With a view to promote tourism in the region, the Prime Minister undertook the World Bank-aided 'Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project', development work of Sarnath Buddhist Circuit, construction of wind path for Ashtavinayak, Dwadash Jyotirling Yatra, Ashtabhairav, Navgauri. He laid the foundation stone of various projects including tourism development work of five stops in the Yatra, Panchkosi Parikrama Yatra route and tourism development work in various wards in Old Kashi.

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- Apart from this, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the first phase of redevelopment works of the Sports Stadium at Sriga.

Unique River Art Gallery to be Built in Prayagraj

Why in News?

- On July 8, 2022, NHAI Project Director Nusratullah informed that River Art Gallery will be built on the six-lane bridge tower under construction on the banks of Ganga in Prayagraj on the lines of Eiffel Tower. Its proposal has been sent to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Key Points

- This will be the only such river gallery in the country, where tourists from all over the country and the world will be able to have a direct interview with the colors of the culture of Kumbh and Prayagraj. Apart from Prayagraj, the color of Kumbh in Nashik, Ujjain and Haridwar will also be shown in this river gallery.
- Before entering Prayagraj, tourists will be able to come to this gallery and get a glimpse of the culture and heritage of the spiritual city as well as art. Tourists will also be able to get acquainted with the paintings of Shankaracharyas and Naga sannyasis of the Akharas and their devotion and meditation etc.
- 10 km under construction at Phaphamau at a cost of 2,000 crore rupees. The construction of the long six-lane bridge will be completed before the Mahakumbh to be held in the year 2025.
- Capsule lifts will be installed on both sides to reach this river art gallery. It is also proposed to build a revolving restaurant on the other side of the gallery.

Biggest Mall of North India

Why in News?

- On July 10, 2022, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated North India's largest 'Lulu Mall' in Lucknow at a cost of Rs 2 thousand crores.

Key Points

- The mall has been constructed in about 22 lakh square feet on Shaheed Path in Sushant Golf City.

Its main attraction is not the largest hyper market and gaming zone of the state built here. Apart from this, the wedding arena for wedding shopping and the 11-screen superplex for entertainment have also been prepared here.

- Here, with international standards and facilities, the purchase of brand goods from India and abroad can be done. Inside the mall there are also 15 restaurants, 25 outlets along with a food court built with a seating capacity of 1600 people. It has a parking capacity of 3,000 vehicles. 50,000 people can shop together.
- The company is also considering to provide shuttle service to tourists. From groceries to fashion and electronics, home decoration items are also available here.
- This is the fifth shopping mall of the Lulu Group. The company is also working on new shopping malls in Prayagraj and Varanasi. Apart from retail projects, Lulu Group has also announced a food processing hub, which is under construction in Greater Noida with an investment of around Rs 500 crore.

Prayagraj Division of Railway

Why in News?

- Recently, railway officials said that Prayagraj Division of North-Central Railway (NCR) has become the first division in the country, where the maximum speed of 272 of 338 mail-express trains operated has now reached 130 kmph. This figure is the highest among all 68 railway divisions of Indian Railways.

Key Points

- Railway officials claim that before the Kumbh Mela to be held in 2025, the speed of all trains running in Prayagraj division will be 160 kilometers per hour.
- It may be recalled that a few years ago, Prayagraj Division was infamous for the delay of trains due to the slow pace of operation of trains beyond the capacity and improvement of railway infrastructure.
- With the closure of passenger trains in the lockdown during the first wave of Covid, work was done to improve the infrastructure in the three divisions of the NCR. During this time, while on the one hand, the remodelling of Aligarh, Etawah, Khurja, Tundla, Juhi Kanpur Yard etc., on the other hand, automatic signaling work was also done at a fast pace.

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- New tracks were laid in place of the old railway tracks. Meanwhile, many trains in the zone were also fitted with Link Hoffman Bush (LHB) coaches. In the financial year 2021-22, automatic signaling in seven sections of Prayagraj division alone and electronic interlocking at 14 stations were completed. It also improved the delay of trains.
- The maximum speed of 520 Mail-Express trains running in Prayagraj division as well as NCR zone has reached 130 kmph. In the first quarter of this financial year, the maximum speed of 14 more trains has increased to 130 kmph.
- 160 kms in Prayagraj division. A wall is also being built on both sides of the railway track from Ghaziabad to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay station to run the train at an hourly speed, so that cattle etc. cannot come on the railway track, because of their being hit by the train. The route gets interrupted. This wall will also be completely ready by the year 2024.

Anti-Malarial Plant Cultivation

Why in News?

- On July 13, 2022 Prabodh Kumar Trivedi, director of the Lucknow-based Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CMAP), informed that recently the Uttar Pradesh government has drafted a new policy for contract farming of CIM-Sanjeevani, a new species of anti-malarial plant Artemisia, and sent it to the Central Government.

Key Points

- CMAP has tied up with Chennai-based company Sattav Vaid Natures Global Pvt. Ltd. for contract farming of CIM-Sanjeevani, a new species of anti-malarial plant Artemisia across the country, including Uttar Pradesh.
- The company will do the contract farming of Artemisia. At the same time it will contribute to the development of technology related to processing. The company will deliver the finished plants from the farmer to the pharmaceutical companies. This will give the farmers the price of their produce in the field itself.
- On the one hand, raw materials will not have to be ordered from abroad to make malaria medicine, on the other hand, the farmers will also get the benefit.
- Director Prabodh Kumar Trivedi said that the new species has been developed after many years of research. This already running variety is developed

from the poly cross between survival and CIM Arogya. The Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has also considered this plant to be suitable for anti-malarial medicine in its research.

- The target is to eliminate Malaria in the state by 2027. For this, the Health Department is continuously campaigning. In many districts, the rate of API (Annual Parasite Incidence) has been found to be below one since last year. Till June 2022, more than 26 lac 77 thousand samples have been tested, out of which 1077 have tested positive.
- It is noteworthy that an element called Artemisinin is found in the Artemisia plant, from which Malaria medicine is prepared. Artemisinin kills the Malarial Pathogen Plasmodium Falciparum. This plant is commonly found in China. From there, new species are being prepared by bringing it to India. Experiments have been carried out on this by several institutions including the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Banaras Hindu University.
- CIMAP scientists found artemisinin content 1.2% higher in CIM-Sanjeevani, a new species of Artemisia. In this species, along with meningitis, there are also more elements used in making medicines used in other diseases including cancer. Food pills and injections are prepared from it.
- The report, published in the Journal of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Sciences, states that CIM-Sanjeevani is also beneficial for farmers and the farming industry. The report said that the company that manufactures the drug from this plant can reduce the cost by about 20 percent.
- The report also said that the cultivation of Artemisia can benefit farmers by about 65 thousand rupees per hectare in a period of about four months. This is the reason why Indian companies are coming forward to get contract farming done with this plant.

Apparel Park to be Built in Noida

Why in News?

- On July 15, 2022 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister of Uttar Pradesh Rakesh Sachan said that an Apparel Park would be set up in Noida at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore.

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Key Points

- In this, 115 textile units will be set up and 2 lac people will get employment.
- At a press conference held at Lok Bhawan, highlighting the achievements of the MSME department for 100 days, Rakesh Sachan said that a new scheme called 'Mukhyamantri Bunkar Saur Urja Yojana' will be launched to encourage power loom operations from solar energy in the state.
- This will reduce the consumption of conventional electrical energy. With the reduction in pollution, the cost of textile production will also come down and the weavers will get economic benefits.
- The draft Textile Policy-2022 incorporating innovation in the Textile Policy-2017 has been prepared and sent to the Government. The new policy will further increase investment in the textile sector in the state and create official employment opportunities.
- It may be mentioned that in the Mega Loan Fair held on June 30, 2022 a loan of Rs.16,000 crore was disbursed to 1.90 lac beneficiaries. Under the MSME Act, 73 enterprises have been set up in 100 days. So far, 7202 enterprises have been established under the Act.

PM Inaugurates Bundelkhand Expressway

Why in News?

- On July 16, 2022 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bundelkhand Expressway originating from Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- With this, Bundelkhand region has been connected to Lucknow through Lucknow-Agra Expressway and Delhi through Yamuna Expressway.
- More than 250 minor bridges, more than 15 flyovers, 6 toll plazas and more than 12 major bridges and 4 rail bridges have been constructed on this expressway. 24-hour police patrolling and ambulance facility will also be provided.
- This is the fourth expressway project in the state, which has been completed in a record 28 months. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the project on February 29, 2020.

- This 296 km four-lane expressway has been constructed under the aegis of Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (**UPEIDA**) at a cost of about Rs 14,850 crore. Later this can also be expanded to six lanes.
- The Bundelkhand Expressway starts from **NH-35** in Gonda village near Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district and extends to Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it joins the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.
- It passes through seven districts- Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah.
- Along with improving connectivity in the region, Bundelkhand expressway will also boost economic development, resulting in creation of thousands of jobs for the local people.

Minimum Age for Admission in Madrasahs

Why in News?

- On July 16, 2022 Minister of State for Minority Welfare of Uttar Pradesh, Danish Azad Ansari said that a committee would be formed to determine the minimum age limit for admission in Madrasahs of the state, on the basis of which the decision regarding age determination would be taken.

Key Points

- Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari said the state government will fix a minimum age limit for admission to Madrasahs in the state on the lines of various education councils, including the Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (**CISCE**).
- At the same time, he dismissed speculations that the maximum age limit of students would be considered, saying that the government has no idea of fixing the maximum age for admission to Madrasahs.
- Diwan Saheb Zaman Khan, general secretary of the Teachers' Association Madaris Arabia Uttar Pradesh, an organisation of Madarsa teachers of the state, said that the minimum age of students for admission to class one in Madrasahs of the state is five years and the minimum age for admission to class 10 is already fixed at 14 years.

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- There are 16,461 Madrasahs in Uttar Pradesh, of which 560 receive government grants. Under the grant, salaries and allowances are paid to teachers and non-teaching staff of Madrasahs.
- It may be recalled that in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in May 2022, it was decided on a proposal moved by the minority welfare department that new Madrasahs in the state will no longer get government grants.

Storks and Stuff Wild Animal Museum in Zoological Park for Crane

Why in News?

- On July 20, 2022, in the meeting of the **Shaheed Ashfaq Ulla Khan Zoological Park Committee** held under the chairmanship of Manoj Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department of Uttar Pradesh, the park was to be constructed for the **state's state bird Crane and Stuff Wild Animal Museum** in the park. The decision was taken.

Key Points

- In the Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Zoological Park, an enclosure will be built for the state's state bird Crane with Rs 25 lakh. The rescued cranes will be kept in the zoo.
- Apart from this, the meeting also approved the development of an intervention center at a cost of Rs.25 lakh, where a stuff wild animal museum will be constructed, among other works.
- In the meeting, **Dr.H. Raja Mohan, Director of Zoological Park**, said that permission would be sought by sending a letter to the Central Zoological Park Authority about building a crane enclosure.
- Built over an area of **121 acres, 387 wild animals of 58 species** have been kept in this zoological park. Enclosures and caves have been built here for animals like Babbar Lions, Gharials, Deer, Bears, Vultures, Leopards, various types of monkeys, etc. Aquariums have also been built for fish.
- Apart from this, houses have also been built in the zoological park for colorful butterflies coming from different countries of Asia. This is the first time that a butterfly house has been built in a zoological park.

- It is noteworthy that on March 27, 2021, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the only zoological park of Purvanchal '**Ashfaq Ulla Khan Zoological Park**' in Gorakhpur district.

India Innovation Index, 2021

Why In News?

- Uttar Pradesh has been ranked 7th in the category of 17 major states in the India Innovation Index-2021 released by **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Beri** on July 21, 2022.

Key points

- In Niti Aayog's 3rd India Innovation Index, states and union territories were classified into the category of **17 major states, 10 north-eastern and hilly states and 9 union territories and city-states** for effective comparison of their performance.
- In the category of 17 major states, Karnataka is at the top spot with 18.01 points, while Telangana (17.66 points) is second and Haryana (16.35 points) is third.
- In the category of major states, **Uttar Pradesh is at 7th position** with 14.22 points, Odisha is 16th with 11.42 points and Chhattisgarh is 17th (last) with 10.97 points.
- **Manipur topped the northeastern and hill states category** with 19.37 points. Uttarakhand (17.67 points) is at the second spot in this category, while Nagaland (11.00 points) is at the bottom. On the other hand, in the Union Territories and city-states category, Chandigarh (27.88 points) has got the top position, while Ladakh (5.91 points) has got the last position.
- It may be mentioned that the India Innovation Index prepared by NITI Aayog and the Institute of Competitiveness is a medium for evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem. It puts states and Union Territories in order to showcase their innovation, so that there is healthy competition between them.
- This Innovation Index has been prepared on the lines of the Global Innovation Index. In previous versions, the analysis was done on the basis of 36 indicators, but this time 66 indicators were used. The first and second innovation indices were released in October 2019 and January 2021 respectively.

Note:

'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme'

Why In News?

- On July 21, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the '**Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme**', in a move in the interest of all government employees of the state. Now all the government employees of the state will be able to avail the benefit of the system of cashless treatment.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to implement this scheme. Now 22 lakh serving and retired government employees of Uttar Pradesh will not have to make rounds of officials to pay their medical expenses
- Apart from the government employees of the state, the government has started this system for pensioners and their dependents as well, that is, about 75 lakh people will be benefited from this scheme.
- Under this scheme, apart from state employees and pensioners, their families will get free treatment up to five lakh rupees per annum in all private hospitals registered under Ayushman Yojana.
- Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said that through the State Health Card, state employees, pensioners and their dependents will get medical facilities in all medical colleges, government hospitals and private hospitals registered in Ayushman Bharat.

Emphasis on Exports to make Uttar Pradesh a 1 Trillion Dollar Economy

Why In News?

- On July 24, 2022, an official spokesperson of the Uttar Pradesh government said that the emphasis is on increasing exports towards making the state a \$1 trillion economy and work has been started by formulating an action plan under it.

Key Points

- The spokesperson said that exports have increased by 30 per cent to Rs 1.56 lakh crore from Rs 1.21 lakh crore last year. The government's target is to increase this figure to Rs 2 lakh crore in the next three years.
- He said that an effort has been made to identify which products have export potential, which are the major products in which district etc. 15 such sectors have been selected at the state level. Apart from the products which have been exported, those products have also been identified which can be made exportable with little more effort.
- District Export Scheme is being worked on in every district. Along with this, District Export Committees have also been constituted under the chairmanship of DM. There will be a meeting every month and the department will be apprised of the problems being faced by the exporters at the local level.
- Dr. Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary, MSME Department said that exporters are being directly linked with foreign buyers. Apart from this, information about fairs and exhibitions organized abroad is also being collected. A plan has also been made to send the exporters of the state to the fairs and exhibitions held abroad.
- The MSME department deals with electronic equipment, machinery, vehicle and vehicle equipment, gems and jewellery, organic chemicals, iron and steel articles, apparel (including sarees), furniture, leather and leather products, sports goods, glass and glassware, perfumes, ceramics, carpets and handicrafts sector.
- The spokesman said that the project 'One District One Product (ODOP)' is going to play a major role in exports. ODOP will be branded by the government in embassies of other countries also. ODOP products will also be displayed at Embassies. The products will also be made available on e-commerce platforms to increase exports.
- It is worth noting that the Chief Minister has doubled the budget of 'Uttar Pradesh Export Infrastructure Development Scheme' this year to promote exports. An amount of Rs 7 crore has been allocated for this scheme. Similarly, this year the budget for giving subsidy under the 'Accelerated Export Development Promotion Scheme' has been increased more than double to Rs 25 crore.

Note:



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31 Ancient Forts to be Developed as Tourist Centers in Bundelkhand

Why In News?

- On July 23, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the officials to prepare an action plan to develop 31 ancient forts located in the Bundelkhand region as new tourist centres.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister said that the entire region of Bundelkhand is endowed with historical and cultural heritage. The new generation needs to be made aware of its importance. Many forts in this area have huge complexes and these can be transformed into great hotels.
- Referring to Kalinjar Fort, the Chief Minister said that Kalinjar Fort is situated in a vast area of 542 hectares. He asked the officials to arrange light and sound shows, camping, trekking, rock-climbing and facade lighting with private participation.
- He directed the officials to revive the dilapidated forts and plan to take up water sports and adventure tourism activities for the lake located at Talbehat Fort and Barua Sagar Sarovar.
- He asked the officials to adopt a public-private partnership (PPP) funding model for restoration work. He said the corporate social responsibility (CSR) model can also be useful and the state government will also fund the project as per the need.

Uttar Pradesh tops in Custodial Deaths

Why In New?

- On July 27, 2022, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha that Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of custodial deaths in all states and Union Territories in the last two years.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh recorded 451 deaths in police custody in 2020-21, while the number rose to 501 in 2021-22.

There were 955 custodial deaths in Uttar Pradesh during 2020-22.

- The total number of custodial deaths in India has increased from 1,940 in 2020-21 to 2,544 in 2021-22, according to government data.
- Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai gave the data while presenting the data in response to a question by Indian Union Muslim League MP Abdussamad Samdani.
- West Bengal accounted for the highest number of custodial deaths after Uttar Pradesh. The state recorded 185 deaths in 2020-21 and 257 deaths in 2021-22.
- According to the data, a total of 396 deaths have been reported in police custody in Bihar, 364 in Madhya Pradesh and 340 in Maharashtra in the last two years.
- Jammu and Kashmir Police topped the list of cases registered in cases related to deaths in encounters with 45 cases in 2021-22. Second on the list is Chhattisgarh, with 30 deaths in police encounters followed by Uttar Pradesh with 27 people killed in encounters.
- A total of 151 and 82 cases related to deaths in police encounters have been registered in 2021-22 and 2020-21 across the country.

Stationery Free for Primary School Children

Why In New?

- Recently, in the Uttar Pradesh cabinet meeting, an important proposal related to increasing the amount given for school dress and stationery for children was approved.

Key Points

- In the cabinet meeting, it was decided to increase the amount to be given to the parents of children of classes one to eight of primary schools. This time, from Rs 1100 to Rs 1200 will be increased through DBT.
- With this amount, all students of classes one to eight in primary and upper primary schools run by Uttar Pradesh Basic Shiksha Parishad and non-government aided primary and pre-secondary schools will also be able to buy uniforms, sweaters, school bags, shoes and socks along with stationery in the current academic session.

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- The stationery consists of four copies, two pencils, two pens, four rubbers and four sharpeners.
- Against the enrolment target of two crore children in the current academic session, 1.91 crore children have been enrolled so far. Sending an amount of Rs 1,200 to the bank accounts of parents of enrolled children will cost a total of Rs 2,225.6 crore.
- The Cabinet has also approved a proposal to issue advance financial sanction of the entire amount of uniform, sweaters, bags, shoes and stationery to the children without waiting for them to receive the central share in each year. This will enable the money to be transferred to the accounts of parents through DBT in time.
- While both the central and state governments provide budgets for uniforms, the cost of sweaters, bags, shoes and socks is borne by the state government from its own resources.

'One Tehsil One Product' scheme

Why In News?

- Recently, after the success of 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to launch the 'One Tehsil One Product' scheme, through which the youth will get new jobs as soon as the product is promoted at the tehsil level.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the MSME department is working in this regard. In the first phase, the district will meet the local administration to prepare a list of special products tehsil-wise.
- It is worth mentioning that most of the tehsils of Uttar Pradesh or any of their particular towns have a product, such as raw bananas from Ramchaura of Campianganj in Gorakhpur, green peas of Farenda Maharajanj, laddu of Sandila of Hardoi, turmeric cultivation in Dudahi block of Kushinagar, etc.
- It is likely that on the lines of ODOP, if the facilities of packaging, designing, branding, marketing, availability of capital as per the need and training to hone the skills of the people associated with them, etc., are provided, then their chances will increase like ODOP (One District One Product).

- With the passage of time, through these products, the brand UP will become stronger in the country and the world. In a way, it will be an extension of 'one district, one product'.
- It is noteworthy that in his first term, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had launched the ODOP scheme on January 24, 2018, marking the first foundation day of Uttar Pradesh, which got a good response. That is why the state government has decided to work on the 'One Tehsil One Product' scheme.

Mukhya Mantri Nagar Srajan Yojana

Why In News?

- Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to launch the 'Mukhya Mantri Nagar Nirman Yojana' for new civic bodies. For this, he reviewed the development works of the newly formed body areas.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister directed the officials to prepare to launch the 'Mukhya Mantri Nagar Nirman Yojana' for development of basic civic amenities in the newly created, expanded or upgraded civic bodies.
- The scheme will be useful for sewerage, drinking water, parking, sanitation, beautification of intersections, street lighting, community centres, road construction, setting up of schools and anganwadi centres in these new urban areas.
- The Chief Minister said that the works being done under this scheme should be closely monitored. There should be complete transparency and quality in this work. Innovation pre-fab/pre cost concrete construction technology should be used in construction and development works.

MoU between Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion Department and Micro Blogging App 'Ku'

Why In News?

- On July 27, 2022, the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion,

Note:



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Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed an MoU with the micro blogging app 'Koo', under which the state government's ambitious scheme 'One District One Product' (ODOP) Now complete information about the connected product will also be available in 10 Indian languages.

Key Points

- Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion and Aprameya Radhakrishna, Co-Founder and CEO of KOO, signed the MoU.
- Under the agreement, 'Koo' will provide a platform to disseminate ODOP related content and products in 10 languages to raise awareness among its users. Apart from this, 'Koo' will also buy ODOP products for gifting in the corporate sector.
- The agreement will give access to programmes and schemes related to ODOP for non-English speaking artisans and people. At the same time, more large markets will be available with the local artisans of the state. This will help them grow the business.
- The 'One District, One Product (ODOP)' scheme will also be branded in embassies of other countries. The products of ODOP will also be displayed in the embassies and the display will also give information about the e-commerce platform, so that people can import from there as well. This will also increase the export of ODOP's products abroad.
- The goal has been divided into many parts by the mission to achieve this larger goal. For this, the groups have been divided into six months, one year, two years and five years.
- On the completion of this goal, a large section of women in rural households will start contributing directly to the household as well as the economy of the village and the state. A group consists of a minimum of 10 to 14 women. If we consider 12 women per group, then 66 lakh 10 thousand 416 women will be directly connected to the new groups that will be formed in five years.
- At present, there are 4 lakh 81 thousand 793 Self Help Groups working in rural areas in the State. Out of these, 3 lakh 54 thousand 489 groups have been given Rs 531.73 crore as revolving fund in a phased manner so far to start group activities.
- 2 lakh 85 thousand 913 groups have been provided community investment funds and women belonging to these groups have been linked to livelihood related activities. Apart from RF and CIF, one lakh 81 thousand 82 groups have also been given loans from banks at low interest.
- Mission Director Bhanu Chandra Goswami said that in order to provide strength to the economic activities of the women of the groups, the state government has recently worked to connect the groups with several important schemes.
- These schemes include Allotment of Fair Price Shops, Management of Community Toilets, Electricity Bill Collection, Ojas (Solar Products), Livelihood Grameen Express Scheme, Participation in MGNREGA, Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme, Distribution of Dry Ration, There are women farmers empowerment projects, farm value chains, etc.

Five-year roadmap ready in Uttar Pradesh, state government to connect 66 lakh women with employment

Why in News?

- Recently, the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission has prepared a five-year roadmap for women's empowerment under which about **66 lakh women in rural areas will be connected to new groups and employment in the next five years.**

Key Point

- Under the roadmap prepared, 5 lakh 50 thousand 868 new livelihood clusters will be formed in the state within five years.

MoU signed between Uttar Pradesh Culture Department and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Why in news?

- On July 29, 2022, an Agreement (MoU) was signed between the **Department of Culture of Uttar Pradesh** and the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts**

Note:



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under 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Cultural Exchange Scheme'.

Key Point

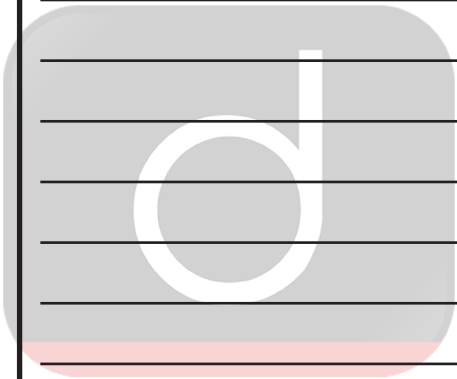
- Director of Ayodhya Research Institute of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Lavkush Dwivedi and member secretary on behalf of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi. Director Priyanka Mishra signed the MoU as a representative of Sachchidanand Joshi.
- The MoU has paved the way for educational and cultural exchanges between all its institutions in the country, including the headquarters of The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
- In this MoU it has been first agreed by the Gujarat unit of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts to send the Ramlila of Gujarat to the Deepotsav to be held in Ayodhya.



Note:

Key Points

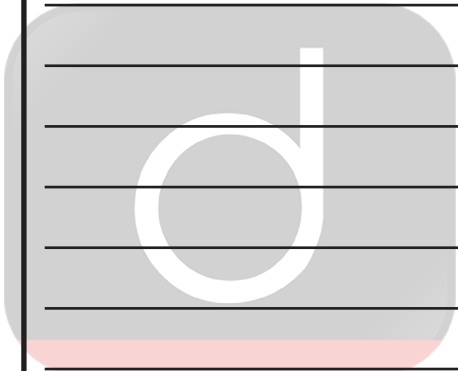
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Summary

Key Points

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Summary