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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Content

● Satpura National Park Became the Best Wildlife Destination	3
● Madhya Pradesh Budget 2023-24	3
● Formation of Greater Panna Landscape Council	4
● Three Women of Madhya Pradesh got Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman	5
● Sanchi will Become the First Solar City of the State	5
● Many Important Decisions Taken for the Upliftment and Welfare of Women	6
● Establishment of Dharampal National Honors and Awards	6
● ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship will be held in the Country's First Indoor Range Located in Bhopal	7
● Madikheda Hydroelectric Powerhouse made Record of Maximum Power Generation	7
● Five Women of the State Got 'Ahilya Samman- 2023'	7
● 696 Services of 48 Departments are Now under the Purview of the Guarantee Act for Provision of Public Services.....	8
● Animal Ambulance Service Will Start in the State from April 1.....	8
● Reconstitution of the Distribution Reforms Committee Headed by The Chief Secretary	9
● Power Generating Company Made Record of Maximum Thermal Power Generation in History	9
● Jageshwar Nath Teerth Kshetra in Damoh District as Holy Site	10
● President Confers Padma Shri Award on Baiga Painter Jodhaiya Bai Baiga	11
● Sanjay Sarovar irrigation Project Approved.....	11
● Eat Right Challenge Contest Result Released	12
● 11 Districts of the State Awarded for Reducing TB Cases	12
● Sundarja mango of Rewa and Gajak of Morena got GI tag	12
● Female Cheetah 'Sasha' Brought from Namibia, Passes Away	13
● Agriculture Minister Handed Over the Award to the Chief Minister.....	14
● Forest Biomass Mapping Work Started by MAPCAST and Forest Department.....	14
● Chantikheda, Dauri and Bahuti Canal Project Got Approval	14
● Khajuraho's Shilpgram Honoured in Best Craft Haat Category	15
● Smart Cities of Madhya Pradesh got 7 out of 16 Awards at Smart City Expo	15

Satpura National Park Became the Best Wildlife Destination

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department on March 1, 2023, Satpura National Park has received India Today's Editor's Choice Award in the Best Wildlife Destination category.

Key points

- According to information, the Union Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal presented the award at the India Today Tourism Summit and Awards ceremony in New Delhi. Field Director L. Krishnamurthy and Assistant Manager Tourism Board Dr Neelam Rawat received the award on behalf of Madhya Pradesh.
- This award will act as an inspiration to develop more facilities for tourists in Satpura National Park.
- Significantly, the Satpura National Park, also known as the Satpura Tiger Reserve, is in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. Famous as a tiger conservation center, this area is also rich in wildlife and plant diversity.
- Apart from the tiger, various wildlife including leopard, Indian bison, Indian giant squirrel, sambar, chital, deer, nilgai, langur, bear, wild boar are found here.
- The park has more than 300 years of historical and archaeological importance. 210 km from Bhopal, 240 km from Jabalpur, 250 km from Nagpur. And 85 km from Chhindwara. It is easy to reach the sanctuary by road.



Note:

- 52 km from the sanctuary. Pipariya is the nearest railway station and Itarsi is the nearest rail junction. Pachmarhi is also the nearest bus stand and the gateway to the sanctuary.

Madhya Pradesh Budget 2023-24

Why In News?

On March 1, 2023, Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Deora presented the budget for the year 2023-24 in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Key points

- To make India's economy \$ 5 trillion, a provision of about 20 percent of the total budget has been made by the state to promote capital expenditure, which is 4 percent of the gross domestic product.
- **'Self-reliant Madhya Pradesh'-Budget- 2023-24** Keeping in view the self-reliant Madhya Pradesh, various schemes have been prepared in mission mode in the budget.
- **'Budget of the people'**- In order to prepare the budget, an effort has been made to include the suggestions of the public in the budget.
- The budget for the year 2023-24 was presented for the first time in the form of e-budget.
- The total investment amounts to Rs.3,14,024,84 crore, which is 12% more than the previous year. Total net expenditure provision of Rs.2,81,553.62 crore.
- Revenue surplus Rs 412.76 crore.
- Fiscal deficit estimated at 4.02% of the Gross State Domestic Product.
- The estimated revenue receipts are Rs 2,25,709.90 crore, in which the state's own tax amount is Rs 86,499.98 crore, the state's share in central taxes is Rs 80,183.67 crore, non-tax revenue Rs 14,913.10 crore and grants-in-aid received from the center Rs 44,113.15 crore.
- State own tax revenue is expected to increase by 11% in the year 2023-24 as compared to the revised estimate of 2022-23.
- Estimated increase of 11% in revenue expenditure in the year 2023-24 as compared to the revised estimate of the year 2022-22.

- In the year 2023-24, an increase of about 15% in the capital outlay is estimated as compared to the revised estimate of the year 2022-23.
- Estimated capital outlay in the year 2023-24 estimated at 4% of the state's GDP.
- Revenue surplus in 2023-24 of the state's GDP is 0.03%.
- In the year 2023-24, interest payment will be 10% of the total revenue receipts.
- Some key points of the budget
- 36,950.16 crore for Scheduled Tribes (sub-scheme).
- 260 for SC (sub-scheme), Rs.86.81 crore.
- 11406 crores for the establishment of government primary schools.
- 8000 crores for Prime Minister's Housing Scheme.
- 8000 crores for Chief Minister Ladli Bahna Yojana.
- 7332 crores for Jal Jeevan Mission National Rural Drinking Water Mission.
- 6935 crores to assist in carrying out required reforms as per 15th Finance Commission.
- 5520 crores for Atal Krishi Jyoti Yojana.
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- 4775 crores in reimbursement for free electricity supply by MPVIM to 5 HP agricultural pumps/threshers and one light connection.
- 4641 crores for government high/higher secondary schools.
- 4176 crores for grants to local bodies as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission.
- 4039 crores for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- 3996 crores for National Health Mission (NUHM/NRHM).
- 3526 crores for Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
- 3500 crores for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- 3500 crores for Atal Griha Jyoti Yojana.
- 3230 crores for CM Rise.
- 3230 crores for the Chief Minister's Farmers Welfare Scheme.
- 2800 crores for housing for all.
- 2001 crore for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- 1916 crore for social security and welfare.
- 1826 crore for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- 1356 crore for solar energy for irrigation and drinking water schemes.

- 1272 crore for Minimum Requirement Programme Special Nutrition Diet Scheme.
- 1250 crore for Investment Promotion Scheme.
- 1144 crore for Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension.
- 1131 crore for formulation of Disaster Management Plans.
- 1020 crore for the construction/upgradation of rural roads and other district roads.
- 1000 crore rupees for the Chief Minister's Farmers Crop Procurement Assistance Scheme.
- 1000 crore for the Chief Minister's Skill Apprenticeship Scheme.

Formation of Greater Panna Landscape Council

Why In News?

Brihattar Panna under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh with members of all stakeholders to ensure systematic and time-bound implementation of Brihattar Panna Landscape Management Plan as per the information given by Public Relations Department, Government of India on March 01, 2023, Land Viewing Council (GPLC) has been constituted.

Key points

- A comprehensive integrated landscape management plan for conservation of wildlife and biodiversity in Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) and surrounding areas under the transformative Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) for the socio-economic prosperity of the drought-prone Bundelkhand region (ILMP) has been prepared.
- Adequate financial provisions have been earmarked for implementation of Environment Management Plan and Integrated Landscape Management Plan under Ken-Betwa Link Project. This model will be a blueprint for future development with the motto of 'development too, environment too'.
- The goal of the GPL and the Council is to ensure 'beneficial' conditions for conservation through integration with the development process based on a balanced approach and consider diversified participation.
- Its broad objective is to enable the betterment of habitat, conservation and management for key species

Note:

such as the tiger, vulture and gharial; Strengthening landscape for holistic biodiversity conservation through spatial prioritization and well-being of forest dependent communities; and providing species-specific and site-specific monitoring strategies under integrated landscape management in the context of feedback loops and adaptive management options.

- The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), the first river interlinking project under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) taken up for implementation, is aimed at socio-economic prosperity of the Bundelkhand region which faces frequent drought conditions. Will prove to be a transformative step.
- The objective of the project is not only to provide water security in Bundelkhand but also to ensure the overall conservation of the region and especially the species dependent on the landscape like tiger, vulture and gharial.
- Apart from taking measures as per the approved Environment Management Plan, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has prepared a comprehensive Integrated Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) for conservation of wildlife and biodiversity not only in Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) but also in the surrounding areas. has been prepared.
- The Integrated Landscape Management Plan in Greater Emerald Landscape (GPL) is one of the major and unique conservation measures being undertaken in the conservation history of India.

Three Women of Madhya Pradesh got Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman

Why In News?

On March 4, 2023, Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, at the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti' Award ceremony held at President Draupadi Murmu honoured two water warriors from Madhya Pradesh Anita Chaudhary and Ganga Rajput with the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman-2023 for their outstanding contribution to water conservation. Apart from these, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat honoured village sarpanch Neetu Parihar with Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman-2023 for exemplary performance in the field of cleanliness.

Key points

- Anita Chaudhary, a water vendor from Chhindwara district, was awarded in the operations and maintenance category of piped water supply in the Jal Jeevan Mission. Due to his efforts, the village of Garhmau of the district has been declared Har-Ghar-Jal Gram.
- Ganga Rajput, the water warrior of Chhatarpur district, has been awarded under the National Water Mission. With his untiring efforts, he made a special contribution in making the women of village Bhojra aware and dispelling folk misconceptions and bringing alive the Chandel Pond.
- Sarpanch Neetu Parihar of Gwalior district was awarded under Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. He has made extraordinary contribution in making Gram Panchayat Pura Banwar ODF plus Adarsh Gram.
- A total of 18 awards were given in different categories in the program under Jal Jeevan Mission, National Water Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin.



Sanchi will Become the First Solar City of the State

Why In News?

On March 4, 2023, Dr. Prabhuram Chaudhary, Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare of Madhya Pradesh, performed land to make Sanchi city a solar city in village Nagauri of Sanchi development block of Raisen district of the state.

Key points

- Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Prabhuram Chaudhary said that Sanchi is world famous for stupas and Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Now Sanchi

Note:

is being developed as the second solar city of the country and the first solar city of the state to meet the power requirements and make it self-reliant in power supply.

- He informed that electricity will be produced using solar energy for Sanchi city and surrounding rural areas. A 3 MW solar plant is being set up in Nagauri and 5 MW in Gulgaon.
- Dr. Prabhuram Chaudhary said that with the formation of solar city, the power requirement of Sanchi will be fulfilled by solar energy. Apart from this, solar streetlights, garden lights, studs, high-tight lights, solar drinking water kiosks, battery moving e-rickshaws, charging stations, renewable energy-based plant wind turbines and pijo electric generators will be installed.

Many Important Decisions Taken for the Upliftment and Welfare of Women

Why In News?

On March 8, 2023, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted on International Women's Day and said that many important decisions have been taken for the upliftment and welfare of all women of the state.

Key points

- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that on International Women's Day, women employees will be given additional casual leave of 7 days, which they can use as per their requirement.
- He told that after class 10th, daughters will be taught lessons for financial literacy in higher, secondary and college, which will be women oriented.
- The Chief Minister informed that special training and job fairs will be organized for the purpose of providing employment to the girl students studying in technical educational institutions of the state. Apart from this, 60 to 80 hours of training will be given to girl students in digital and financial literacy, English, communication and work readiness.
- He said that skill training will also be arranged for girls, which will include training in handloom, embroidery, traditional folk arts.

- Women handloom and handicraft artisans of the state will be provided training in modern designs and advanced technology through NID and NIFT institutes.

Establishment of Dharampal National Honors and Awards

Why In News?

On March 7, 2023, Madhya Pradesh Culture, Tourism and Religious Trust and Religious Trust and Religious Affairs Minister Usha Thakur informed that the State Culture Department is establishing one Dharampal National Award of Rs 5 lakh and three Dharampal National Awards for Rs 2 lakh each under Dharampal Shodh peeth under the Directorate of Swaraj Sansthan.

Key points

- It is noteworthy that this decision has been taken on the birth centenary year of renowned thinker, historian and thinker Dharampal under the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.
- State's Culture, Tourism and Religious Affairs Minister Usha Thakur said that a person/institution will be honoured for the remarkable work and contribution made for the presentation of Indian history, education and thoughts of Dharmapala in Dharmapala National Award.
- Apart from this, individuals active in the field of fundamental work on the political, social and economic history of modern India, conservation of historical documents, preservation, documentation, translation, propagation and implementation of Indian ideas like Gram Swaraj, rural development, social concern and Swadeshi And institutions can be rewarded with Dharampal National Awards.
- Usha Thakur said that in the year 2022-23, 5 senior fellowships of Rs 6 lakh and seven junior fellowships of Rs 4 lakh 32 thousand have also been announced.
- Proposals invited for five Senior Fellowships include 18th Century India, India and Europe, Historicity of India's International Relations, Society and Polity in the Indian Tradition, Freedom from Colonialism and Indian Independence, Social Structure, Interrelationships and Community Cultures of India, History of India's Panchayati system, district education system of India, pastoral-culture (cow culture) and Indian economy, life-culture of nomadic (liberated and semi-nomadic) communities, etc. are included.

Note:

- Proposals invited for seven Junior Fellowships include: Spatial Storytelling Traditions and Oral Histories of Central India, Science and Technological Skill Traditions in Central India, Language Families of Central India and Their Identity, Ethnic Skills in Central India: Arts, Crafts, Science, Local medicinal and medical knowledge tradition in central India, indigenous medicinal knowledge wealth of central India, contribution of nomadic communities in nation-building, forest life-culture and heritage of central India, etc. have been included.

ISSF World Cup Shooting Championship will be held in the Country's First Indoor Range Located in Bhopal

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department on March 9, 2023, the country's first 83m × 27m The ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Shooting Championship will be held from March 20 to 27 in an air-conditioned indoor range.

Key points

- The ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Shooting Championship will feature 325 players and 75 officials from 33 countries.
- It is worth mentioning that recently the Khelo India Youth Games were organized in Madhya Pradesh, in which players from different states participated.
- The ISSF World Cup is being organised in technical collaboration with the National Rifle Federation of India (NRAI), New Delhi. Also, 4 experts from SIUS Switzerland will also come to Bhopal for technical cooperation.
- The final range has been constructed as per the prescribed standards at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy for the championship, which will have the finals of all the events of rifle and pistol. State-of-the-art have been installed in the final range of 10m, 25m and scoreboards and targets 50m. A seating arrangement of about 375 spectators has been made in the final range.
- It is worth mentioning that the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy, built in an area of 37 acres in Bishankhedhi, is the most modern shooting academy

in the country. A hostel has also been built in the academy premises, which has accommodation for about 240 players. The hostel also has facilities like library, mini gym, dining area, meditation hall, entertainment zone etc.

Madikheda Hydroelectric Powerhouse made Record of Maximum Power Generation

Why In News?

On March 9, 2023, Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Company Limited's 60 MW installed capacity Madikheda Hydro Power Station located in Shivpuri district has set a record of generating the highest power generation since its inception by generating 166.30 million units of electricity.

Key points

- It may be noted that earlier Madikheda Hydroelectric Power Station had generated 165.86 million units of electricity in the financial year 2011-12.
- Madikheda Hydroelectric Powerhouse has three units of 20 MW installed capacity each. Its first unit was commissioned on August 28, 2006, second unit on September 9, 2006, and third unit on August 19, 2007.
- This hydroelectric powerhouse is built on the Kali Sindh River in Shivpuri district. In the annual function of the company, in the year 2020 and in the year 2021, Madikheda Hydro Powerhouse has received the award for the best hydro powerhouse.

Five Women of the State Got 'Ahilya Samman- 2023'

Why In News?

On March 11, 2023, on the occasion of International Women's Day, the Center for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP) conferred 'Ahilya Samman-2023' to five women of the state.

Key points

- Awardees included cricketer Soumya Tiwari, Bharatanatyam dancer and theatre artist Tanishka

Note:

Hatwalane, TV actress Shubhangi Atre, Gondi mural artist Nankusia Shyam and actress and singer Vibha Srivastava. Shubhangi Atre could not attend the programme.

➤ Introduction of women honoured with 'Ahilya Samman- 2023'

- Indian women's cricket team's Under-19 cricketer Soumya Tiwari has recently been the top scorer of the T20 World Cup final.
- Bharatanatyam dancer Tanishka Hatwalne has represented the country at many international forums.
- TV actress Shubhangi Atre is a well-known face of the small screen.
- Shubhangi, famous for the serial 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain', struggled and made a place in the world of acting.
- Nankusia Shyam has made the country proud in the world along with Madhya Pradesh through Gondi murals.
- Actress and singer Vibha Srivastava has acted in more than 60 plays.
- It is noteworthy that, the National Devi Ahilya Samman was established by the Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh in the year 1996 to honour women artists in the field of tribal folk and traditional arts.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a citation.
- Devi Ahilya Samman is given based on creative, excellence, long spiritual practice and current creative activism of the artist. At the time of award, it is mandatory to activate the creation of the chosen artist.



696 Services of 48 Departments are Now under the Purview of the Guarantee Act for Provision of Public Services

Why In News?

On March 13, 2023, in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Department held in the Vidhan Sabha premises under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Singh Bhadoria, Minister of Public Service Management and Cooperatives of Madhya Pradesh, it was told that 696 services of 48 departments were given in the Guarantee Act for the provision of Public Services.

Key points

- Minister of Public Service Management and Cooperation Arvind Singh Bhadoria, said that the applications made by the citizens on the CM helpline are being resolved. More than one crore 22 lakh persons have been benefited from the CM helpline.
- Out of 2 crore complaints registered in the CM Helpline, 98 percent have been resolved. Through the CM helpline, citizens are also being given the facility to inform about the status of complaints and schemes lodged through WhatsApp.
- In CM Public Service, the services of public service guarantee act are being provided to the citizens in daily life. These include income, domicile certificates and copies of the current Khasra-Khatauni, map and land rights booklet being supplied on the call received on CM helpline number 181.
- State Public Service Agency Executive Director Abhijit Agarwal said that in the last 6 months, remarkable work has been done by the Public Service Management Department to provide better services to the citizens. Aadhaar registration is being made from 230 public service centre and Ayushman cards are being made from 430 centre in the state.

Animal Ambulance Service Will Start in the State from April 1

Why In News?

On March 15, 2023, in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Animal Husbandry Department held

Note:

under the chairmanship of State Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister Prem Singh Patel, it was informed that animal ambulance service would start in the state from April 1, 2023.

Key points

- The Animal Husbandry Department has added employment to doctor, a compounder, including a call-center people for 1238 a driver in the ambulance. The ambulance will have all the necessary facilities.
- Minister Prem Singh Patel said that in Gram Sabhas where cow shelters are not being run systematically, this responsibility should be given to NGOs.
- The minister said that instead of separate and small Cow-Shalas in the block, destitute cows should be kept in one big Cow-Shala. Due to this good care of cows, their self-reliance will also increase due to more cow dung and urine. He said that a Go-Vansh Van Vihar should be made by connecting 10 Cow-Shalas.
- In the meeting, the updated status of various central and state schemes of animal husbandry, cow-buffalo, goat, poultry-rearing etc. was also discussed. In goat rearing, 60 percent subsidy is given to the beneficiary by the government. There is a provision of giving a subsidy of Rs 2 crore in the Rs 4 crore cow-rearing scheme of the central government. Along with this, a loan of up to Rs 10 lakh is given for 5 cows in the state's Acharya Vidyasagar Yojana.
- As a pilot project, 'Dairy Plus Scheme' has been implemented in Vidisha, Raisen and Sehore. In this, 75 percent grant is given to the Scheduled Caste-Tribe and 50 percent to the general. There is a provision of 90 percent grant to the special backward tribes Baiga, Baharia, Sahariya.
- The Animal Husbandry Minister said that free vaccines will be provided at the block level to increase the number of high breed calves in the state. This will lead to the birth of 90 per cent of the calves and will not unnecessarily increase the number of male calves. Apart from this, the number of good cows is also being increased by **Embryo Transplantation** of high breed cows with more milking cows.
- MPCDC distributes 7 lakh Sanchi milk packets daily in the state. Milk and its products collected from about 6 thousand 800 societies reach door to door through 1100 milk parlours, 513 milk booths and 5400 private agencies in the state.

- It was informed in the meeting that despite the death of about 70 thousand cows due to lumpy disease in the neighbouring state of Rajasthan, only 696 deaths were registered in Madhya Pradesh due to vigilance. More than 37 lakh 13 thousand vaccines given to cows to prevent lumpy disease have a big contribution in this.

Reconstitution of the Distribution Reforms Committee Headed by The Chief Secretary

Why In News?

On March 16, 2023, the state government has reconstituted the 'Distribution Reforms Committee' under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, as per the instructions of the Union Ministry of Power, related to the result-based distribution sector scheme.

Key points

- Additional Chief Secretary Forest, Panchayat and Rural, Water-Resources, Finance, Principal Secretary, Energy, Urban Development and Housing, Revenue and Environment Member and Managing Director MP Power Management Company Member and Convener and Managing Director MP East/Central/West Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Limited has been made a permanent invitee.
- The committee will recommend the physical and financial progress of the scheme at the state level, review the quality and recommendation to the State Council of Ministers and the detailed project report for approval of the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Union Ministry of Power.

Power Generating Company Made Record of Maximum Thermal Power Generation in History

Why In News

According to the information given by the Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department on March 20, 2023,

Note:

the thermal power plants of Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Company Limited produced 26326.7 million units of electricity till March 19 in the financial year 2022-23, the highest thermal power in the history of the power generating company. A new production record has been created.

Key Points

- This is the highest ever power generation by the company's thermal stations in a single financial year. Earlier, 26295.86 million units of electricity was generated by the power generating company Thermal Power Stations in the financial year 2018-19.
- The specific oil consumption of the company's thermal power units was 0.69 ml per unit till February 23, which is the lowest ever. The heat rate of thermal power units till the month of February were 2486 Kcal per unit, which is the lowest so far.
- The company's 12 thermal power units have set a record of being continuously responsible for 2022-23 in the financial year 100 days or more.

Jageshwar Nath Teerth Kshetra in Damoh District as Holy Site

Why in News?

In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 21 March 2023, it was decided to declare Kundalpur Siddha Kshetra and Shri Jageshwar Nath Teerth Kshetra of district Damoh as holy.

Key Points

- Gram Panchayat Kundalpur for Kundalpur Siddha Kshetra and Gram Panchayat Bandakpur for Shri Jageshwar Nath Teerth Kshetra have been declared as holy areas.
- Apart from this, many other important decisions were taken in the meeting of the Council of Ministers-
 - The cabinet gave approval to spend Rs 10 crore and plan for cultural activities of the students under the scheme 'Anugunj' for arts-enriched education.
 - Seeing the effect of 'Anugunj', it was decided to organise it at state level, district level and high and higher secondary schools.

- It is noteworthy that in the year 2019, the draft National Education Policy was released by the Government of India. In this, a lot of emphasis has been laid on the quality of education and extra-curricular activities.
- A high quality cultural and theatre programme 'Anugunj' was organised at Bhopal level in the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 with the aim of enriching education through the medium of STEAM education system (Way Forward).
- The cabinet decided to give a grant of Rs 7 crore to Madhya Bhartiya Hindi Sahitya Sabha through Collector Gwalior by the Culture Department for the construction work of Hindi Bhavan. Under the first supplementary estimate of the financial year 2022-23, a budgetary provision of Rs 2 crore will be given to the Central Indian Hindi Sahitya Sabha for the new scheme '9904- Assistance for the construction of Hindi building'.
- The cabinet approved creation of a new subdivision Prithvipur in district Niwari. The new section will include the entire area of Tehsil Prithvipur. Along with this, the entire area of Tehsil Niwari and Tehsil Orchha will be included in the original subdivision Niwari.
- The cabinet decided to constitute a new tehsil Amayan in district Bhind. A new tehsil will be formed by excluding 64 villages of the existing tehsil Mehgaon and including them in the new proposed tehsil Amayan.
- The cabinet decided to constitute a new tehsil Dudhmaniya in district Singrauli. A total of 34 patwari circles of tehsil Chitrangi will be included in the new tehsil.
- The cabinet approved the formation of new tehsil Bandri in district Sagar. A total of 28 Halkas of Tehsil Malthone will be included in the new Tehsil.
- With the aim of improving health services in the state, the cabinet approved the establishment/upgradation of 184 health institutions (10 civil hospitals, 6 community health centres, 11 primary health centres, 157 sub-health centres).
- The cabinet has given approval for formation of 9 new project implementation units by Madhya Pradesh Jal Nigam. Along with this, various posts were also approved for 15 currently working and 9 new project implementation units to be formed.

Note:

President Confers Padma Shri Award on Baiga Painter Jodhaiya Bai Baiga

Why in News?

On 22 March 2023, President Smt. Draupadi Murmu honoured Madhya Pradesh's famous Baiga painter Jodhaiya Bai Baiga with the Padma Shri Award for the year 2023 for her special contribution in the field of arts.

Key Points

- The award was given in the first phase of the Civil Investiture Ceremony of Padma Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Baiga tribal artist Jodhaiya Bai of Umaria has been awarded the Padma Shri award in the field of art for preserving tribal art and giving it international recognition. Jodhaiya Bai Baiga has been popularising the traditional Baiga tribal culture and philosophy through her paintings for decades.
- Significantly, on International Women's Day on 8 March 2022, the then President Ramnath Kovind honoured Jodhaiya Bai Baiga with the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for her extraordinary work towards women empowerment.
- It is noteworthy that on 25 January 2023, on the eve of Republic Day, the country's highest civilian awards 'Padma Awards' for the year 2023 were announced. Among these, four personalities of the state including Jodhaiya Bai Baiga were selected for the Padma Shri award.
- It is known that the Padma Award is included in the country's highest civilian awards. Padma Awards are given in three categories - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The awards are announced every year on Republic Day.
- These awards are given in various disciplines/fields of activities such as arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service etc.
- 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

- These awards are presented by the President of India at formal functions usually held at Rashtrapati Bhavan around March/April every year.



Sanjay Sarovar irrigation Project Approved

Why in News?

According to the information provided by the Public Relations Department of Madhya Pradesh on 23 March 2023, the Central Water Commission has approved the first phase of proposals for the ambitious Sanjay Sarovar irrigation project related to Balaghat and Seoni districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Water Commission has approved the feasibility of the project.

Key Points

- With the approval of the first phase, about 300 villages of Balaghat and Seoni districts will be benefited. Of these, there are 117 villages in Balaghat district. Along with this, 11 thousand hectares of additional land in both the districts will be irrigated.
- Rs 357 crore has been approved for the Sanjay Sarovar Irrigation Scheme. With this, works related to cementation, strengthening and modernization of canals will be done.
- It is notable that the left bank canal system of the Parswara assembly constituency of the state is a part of the Sanjay Sarovar project. This canal system was constructed from the year 1998 to the year 2005. At present, the main canal, distribution canals and sub-distribution canals of this canal system have been damaged so far, they will be repaired.

Note:

Eat Right Challenge Contest Result Released

Why in News?

According to the information given by the Public Relations Department of Madhya Pradesh on 23 March 2023, the result of the Eat Right Challenge competition run by the Central Government in the country last year has been published, in which Bhopal has got the second position among the 260 districts involved from across the country.

Key Points

- 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh are among the first 50 districts in the list of Eat Right Challenge competition. In this, Gwalior is fifth and Ujjain is eighth.
- On coming 7th June, the nodal officers of the leading districts of the competition will be awarded by the Union Health Minister.
- It is worth mentioning that due to the 'Milawat se Mukti Abhiyan' (Freedom from Adulteration Campaign), large numbers of sample collection, organising camps for increasing the number of food licences, awareness campaigns for food safety are being done continuously in the state, as a result of which the districts have made commendable achievements in the Eat Right Challenge competition.
- It is known that various activities of the nationwide Eat Right Challenge were conducted from 1 May, 2022 to 15 November, 2022, with the aim of promoting a positive change in the eating habits of the common man and promoting self-compliance in food establishments.
- In the competition, separate marks were awarded for increasing the number of licence/registration, sample collection, millet recipe and fortification demonstration, Eat Right campus/station certification, enjoyment certification, hygiene rating and innovative activities.
- Under the challenge, innovations like 'News paper mein de khana, to bolo na-na', 'Done mein do na' of Ujjain district, started by the Collector of Bhopal, were appreciated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, New Delhi.
- During this, the first Eat Right Millet Fair in the country was also organised in Bhopal. Millet fairs are being organised at many places in the state during the International Millet (Shri Anna) year.

11 Districts of the State Awarded for Reducing TB Cases

Why in News?

According to the information given by Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department on 24 March 2023, 11 districts of the state got awarded at One World T.B. summit in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh due to reduction in cases of T.B.

Key Points

- In these 11 districts of the state, Dhar, Mandasaur and Neemuch districts were awarded gold medals for achieving the target of reducing TB by more than 60 percent, Shajapur, Betul, Indore and Dewas districts were awarded, T.B. Silver medals were awarded for reducing cases by 40 percent and Narsinghpur, Morena, Hoshangabad and Mandla districts were awarded bronze medals for reducing cases by 20 percent.
- It is noteworthy that for the year 2022-23, 30 districts from the state were nominated.
- It is known that the Central Government has set a target of eradicating tuberculosis by the year 2025 and considering the year 2015 as the base year, T.B. the process of certification has been started to reward the States and Union Territories with certificates, medals and incentives in various categories, which have brought about a commendable reduction in the number of cases.

Sundarja mango of Rewa and Gajak of Morena got GI tag

Why in News?

On 26 March 2023, Union Minister Piyush Goyal shared information on social media that **Sundarja mangoes of Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh and Gajak of Morena have been given GI tag.**

Key Points:

- Significantly, the Sundarja mango is found in abundance in Govindgarh town of Rewa district of Madhya

Note:

Pradesh. This is a special species of mango, the king of fruits. Sundarja is not only the choice of the people of India but it is also discussed in foreign countries. The speciality of Sundarja mango is that it is **fiber-free and the type of sugar found in it is such that it can be consumed even by sugar patients.**

- Sundarja mango, considered the pride of Vindhya region, was earlier produced in the gardens of Govindgarh fort in Rewa district, but later it is cultivated in abundance in Govindgarh area as well as Kuthulia fruit research center adjacent to Rewa city.
- However, the Sundarja mango grown in the Govindgarh orchards is light white in color while the Sundarja mango produced in the Kuthulia Fruit Research Center in Rewa is light green.
- The popularity of Sundarja mango can also be gauged from the fact that in the year 1968 a postal stamp was issued in the name of this mango.
- Whereas, Morena's Gajak is a type of sweet. If Morena's name is associated with Gajak, then people consider it best for quality and taste. That's why the taste of Morena's Gajak is famous all over the country.
- Gajak making is the main industry of Morena. In a small district like Morena, there are more than a thousand Gajak shops. When it comes to sweets made of jaggery and sesame, Gajak is considered the best. People use this gajak throughout the year, but in winter it is considered beneficial.
- It is known that in the recent food festival organized at Pragati Maidan in Delhi, Morena's Gajak was very much liked by the delegates from Italy, Dubai, Britain.
- Significantly, the regional product of any region gives the identity of that region. When the fame of that product spreads in the country and the world, there is a process to certify it, which is called 'GI Tag' i.e. Geographical Indicator (Geographical Indicator). The process of certification of a specific product of a sector was started in the year 2003. That's why GI tag was started in 2003. The first GI tag in India was given to **Darjeeling Tea** of West Bengal in 2004.
- GI tag is given to the special item of any area which cannot be found anywhere else except that area. The GI tag is issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, which operates under the Ministry of Commerce.

- It is notable that along with Sundarja Mango and Gajak of Morena, Nagari Dubraj rice of Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh has also got GI tag.

Female Cheetah 'Sasha' Brought from Namibia, Passes Away

Why in News?

On March 27, 2023, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife J.S. Chauhan told that the **female cheetah 'Sasha' released from Namibia in Kuno National Park has died due to kidney infection.** Infection in the kidneys of this female cheetah was already there before coming to India.

Key Points

- Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Wildlife J.S. Chauhan said that the need for treatment was found in the health test of the female cheetah by the veterinarian deputed to look after the health of the cheetah. As a result, he was brought to the Quarantine enclosure on the same day.
- Cheetah's health test was done in the lab located in Van Vihar National Park with modern machines. A blood sample test revealed that Sasha had a kidney infection.
- JS Chauhan said that after receiving the treatment history of 'Sasha' from Cheetah Conservation Foundation, Namibia by senior scientists of Wildlife Conservation of India Dehradun and Coono National Park Management, it was known that the last blood sample in Namibia was on August 15, 2022. His creatinine level was also found to be more than 400, which confirmed that Sasha had kidney disease before coming to India.
- From January 22, 2023 until the time of 'Sasha's' death, treatment was done continuously day and night by all the wildlife doctors of Kuno National Park and Namibian expert Dr. Ilai Walker.
- The remaining 7 cheetahs brought from Namibia, in which 3 males and 1 female have been released in the open forest area for free movement, are hunting completely healthy and active. All 12 cheetahs brought from South Africa are currently healthy and active in quarantine enclosures.

Note:



- It is known that on September 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight cheetahs brought from Namibia at Kuno National Park in Sheopur.

Agriculture Minister Handed Over the Award to the Chief Minister

Why in News?

On March 28, 2023, Madhya Pradesh's Farmers-Welfare and Agriculture Development Minister Kamal Patel handed over the award received by Madhya Pradesh for the Farm Gate App in Delhi to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Key points

- It is noteworthy that Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the 20th CSI-SIG e-Governance Award-2022 by the Computer Society of India for the Farm Gate app in the project category of state governments.
- This app is an Android based application. It can be downloaded by the farmer on his Android mobile for free. With this, the farmer has been able to sell his produce from his house, barn, warehouse as per his wish.
- Farmers have got the freedom to bring their produce to the market and sell it at their own price as well as sitting at home. Madhya Pradesh is the only state in the country to do so. The said system has been highly appreciated by the Government of India.
- The M.P Farm Gate App, operated in the Agricultural Produce Market Committees of Madhya Pradesh, was started in 8 mandis of the state, Bhopal, Harda, Indore, Dewas, Guna, Sagar, Jabalpur and Satna, as a pilot from August 1, 2022, through an Android app. Also, Ujjain Mandi has been included in the pilot scheme from September 27, 2022. MP. Farm Gate App is being operated in all the 259 Agricultural Produce Market Committees of Madhya Pradesh.
- 64 lakh quintals of various agricultural produce have been sold by 12981 farmers using the MP Farm Gate app. Direct purchase from farmers from farm gate was earlier done in April 2021 through Souda-Patrick portal. Gradually this app is being used by most of the farmers. So far, up to 16 percent arrivals have been made in the market premises by using this app.

Forest Biomass Mapping Work Started by MAPCAST and Forest Department

Why in News?

On March 28, 2023, Dr. GD Bairagi, Senior Principal Scientist, Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (MAPCAST) informed that setting a record in the field of science, MAPCAST, in collaboration with the Forest Department, has mapped forest biomass in order to innovate. has started the work.

Key points

- The special thing is that the results from this mapping done by MAPCAST will be calibrated and validation (Milan) from NISAR satellite data launched in January 2024. This satellite is part of the NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) project launched under the joint auspices of NASA and ISRO.
- Senior Principal Scientist Dr. GD Bairagi said that mainly two bands L and S are being sent to the satellite. The data obtained from a one-hectare plot will be matched through the L band sensor of the satellite. It will be useful for forest biomass assessment for Madhya Pradesh. Now the mapping of biomass will also be able to be checked through satellite.
- Dr. Bairagi said that this work is being done by the team of Mapcast and ISRO. Narmadapuram district has been identified for mapping of forest biomass. Here mapping work will be done permanently on 10 plots of one hectare. Physical biomass mapping will be done once in a year on permanent plots. In this, biomass will be extracted by measuring the height, thickness, count of branches etc. of the tree.
- Dr. Bairagi said that the result obtained from this project will enable mapping of forest biomass through satellite, which will be used for forest and environment protection.

Chantikheda, Dauri and Bahuti Canal Project Got Approval

Why in News?

On March 28, 2023, the Chantikheda Major Irrigation Project of the Water Resources Department was approved

Note:

in the meeting of the Madhya Pradesh Council of Ministers. At the same time, in the 119th meeting of the Major Project Control Board, approval was given for the remaining construction work of Dauri Sagar Medium Project and Bahuti Canal Project.

Key points

- The Water Resources Department's Chantikheda, Dauri and Bahuti canal projects will create irrigation potential in 80-thousand-hectare area in the state.
- **Chantikheda Mega Irrigation Project:** The estimated cost of The Chantikheda Mega Irrigation Project in Sheopur district is Rs. 539 crores. Under the scheme, 67.88 MCM earthen dam construction and pipe canal are to be constructed. The project will 15 thousand irrigate 300-hectare area.
- **Dauri Sagar Medium Project:** The estimated cost of the proposed Dauri Sagar Medium Project in Satna is Rs 175 crore. Reservoir construction and pipe canal system will be constructed under the project. Irrigation facility will be available in about 7200-hectare area of Satna district from the project which will be completed in a period of 36 months.
- **Bahuti Canal Project:** The remaining construction work of Many Canals Project in Satna district is to be done. The many canal systems originate from the Bansagar reservoir, which will irrigate of area of Rewa and Satna districts 65 thousand hectares. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 351 crore 48 lakh 80 thousand.

Khajuraho's Shilpgram Honoured in Best Craft Haat Category

Why in News?

According to the information given by **Madhya Pradesh Public Relations Department** on 29 March 2023, the 'Shilpgram' built in Khajuraho for the purpose of **conservation and promotion of folk arts and crafts** of the state has been **honoured by the Union Ministry of Tourism**.

Key Points:

- According to the information, Shilpgram has been selected as the runner up in the Best Craft Haat/

Souvenir Shop category in the 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana'.

- The citation was given to Vivek Shrotriya, Additional Managing Director of the Tourist Board by Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy in Meditation Camp at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi
- Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture Shiv Shekhar Shukla said that '**Shilpgram**' is being established as a major centre for conservation of culture, folk-arts and crafts and promotion of craftsmen. Appreciation of Shilpgram by the Ministry of Tourism will inspire us to make continuous innovations for the promotion and protection of art and culture.



Smart Cities of Madhya Pradesh got 7 out of 16 Awards at Smart City Expo

Why in News?

In the 8th Smart City, India-2023 Expo held in New Delhi from 27 to 29 March 2023, out of a total of 16 categories, smart cities of Madhya Pradesh have received awards in 7 categories.

Key Points:

- State's Urban Administration and Development Commissioner Bharat Yadav said that Smart City Indore and Jabalpur got 2 awards each and Bhopal, Sagar and Ujjain got one award each.
- Smart City Indore has received the award in Best Startup & Best Water Management category, Jabalpur in Governance & Economy (311 Apps) and City Leader (Best Smart City CEO) category.

Note:

- Similarly, Smart City Bhopal has received a special award for Smart Parking Category, Sagar for Clean City Category and Ujjain for Ujjain Mahakal Mahalok.
- It is notable that nominations were taken from January to February 2023 in 16 categories for the award.
- Nomination categories include the Governance and Economy Award, Smart Urban Mobility, Best Water Management, Best City Leader, Best Health Care Initiative, Clean City, Digital City, Public-Private Partnership, Safe City, Smart City of the Year, Smart Energy Project, Smart Waste Disposal, Special Category,

Best Startup Initiative, Smart Parking Initiative and PPP Initiative Categories.



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Note:

