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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Gonda's 5 Railway Stations will get facilities like Airport

Why in News?

On 31 March 2023, Mahesh Gupta, Public Relations Officer of Northeastern Railway Lucknow Division told that under the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme', five railway stations in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh - Mankapur, Katra, Babhnan, Colonelganj and Chhapia will now get airport-like facilities.

Key Points

- Preparations are underway to provide high-end and modern facilities of shopping complexes, hotels, and parking at the five junctions selected under the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme'. Modern entrances, circulating area, waiting hall and the retiring room will be made in the selected station. The passenger waiting room will be extended and connected to other waiting rooms.
- Roads will be widened, dedicated walkways, well-planned parking areas, and better lighting arrangements will be made for the station. Wi-Fi facilities will be provided free of cost to railway passengers while increasing the number of special toilets for women and differently-abled.
- At least two LED boards will be installed with the name of the station and the length of their platform will be increased. Keeping in mind the requirement of each station, one station, one product, a better passenger information system, executive lounge, and special places for business meetings will be made.
- The buildings of the green railway station will also attract visitors from far away. Along with this, by beautifying the local art and culture through message-oriented design painting, people will also feel the specialty of that area when they reach the station.
- An idol of Lord Swami Narayan will be installed at Chhapia station and paintings related to it will be done. Mankapur, Katra, Babhnan, and Colonelganj railway stations will be developed and beautified giving a feel of their specialty.
- At all stations a minimum of two stalls for 'one station one product', a better cafeteria and a 5G internet facility will be available.

Varanasi's 7 Govt. Schools will be Hi-Tech from Project Alankar

Why in News?

On 2 April 2023, Girish Kumar Singh, Inspector of Schools of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, said that under 'Project Alankar', facilities like corporate schools will be provided in 7 government high schools and intermediate schools of Varanasi district. For this, the process of signing an MoU with the executive agency has also been completed.

Key Points

- An amount of ₹2 crores has been released by the Board of Secondary Education for these government high schools and intermediate schools in the Varanasi district. Soon after the completion of the tender process, the work of renovation and renovating of the schools will start.
- The dilapidated school buildings will be improved and equipped with modern facilities.
- 12 points have been included for beautifying government schools by Project Alankar. These mainly include the facilities like clean drinking water, separate classrooms for boys and girls, a laboratory, a sports ground, a badminton court, a volleyball court, a multipurpose hall with an open gym, a smart class, a library, a solar plant with laboratory and rainwater harvesting etc.

Banarasi Paan, Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal) and Chandauli's Adamchini Rice got GI Tag

Why in News?

On 3 April 2023, GI expert Padmashri Dr. Rajinikanth said that Banarasi Paan, Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal) and Chandauli's Adamchini Rice along with other 7 products from Uttar Pradesh have got GI certificate.

Note:

Key Points

- Significantly, a GI tag i.e., Geographical Indication Tag is a type of label, in which the Special Geographical Identity is given to a product whose characteristic or name depends exclusively on nature and human factors.
- Religious and tourist city Kashi has emerged as a GI hub. Special Banarasi Langda Mango, Banarasi Paan, Ramnagar's Bhanta (White Big Round Brinjal) and Adamchini Rice (District Chandauli) have got the Geographical Indications and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) tag.
- The GI expert said that with the cooperation of NABARD and the Uttar Pradesh government, 11 products of the state have received GI tag this year, including 7 products included in ODOP (One District One Product) and 4 products related to agriculture and horticulture from Kashi region. Their total number has now increased to 45.
- 9 more products are expected to get GI tags by the end of this month.



Mangalayatan University got NAAC A+ grade

Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on 04 April 2023, Mangalayatan University, Aligarh has been awarded A Plus (NAAC A+) grading by the National Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Key Points

- It is known that a five-member team of NAAC inspected the university from 22 to 24 February. The team also evaluated the academic & research

quality of the university along with administrative & infrastructural arrangements. The team also took feedback after meeting and discussing with the students, alumni and parents as well as the staff.

- University Vice-Chancellor Professor PK Dashora said that in October 2022 the Self-Assessment Report (SSR) was submitted to NAAC.
- It is noteworthy that NAAC evaluation is done to check the quality of any university. An institute has to apply for NAAC grading, and after applying, the NAAC team inspects the institute. The team prepares reports based on arrangements for academic facilities, research, infrastructure etc. Grades are given based on these parameters.
- Its work is to test the quality of universities, higher educational institutions, and private institutions across the country and give them ratings. NAAC grading helps the students to have a better option for the system of education, research, and infrastructure in selecting the institute.



'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme'

Why in News?

On 5 April 2023, in the cabinet meeting chaired by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state's 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme' was approved. 400 crore will be spent on this scheme.

Key Points

- Under the 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Electricity Flat Rate Scheme', the government has given a big

Note:



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relief to the power-loom weavers of the state and provided a flat rate facility on the electricity bill. Powerloom connection holders with five-kilowatt connections in cities will have to pay Rs 400 for half horsepower and Rs 800 for one horsepower. In rural areas, it will be Rs.300 and Rs.600 respectively.

- The benefit of this scheme will be given from 1 April 2023. At the same time, up to 80 per cent subsidy will be given on handloom and 60 per cent on the installation of power-loom.
- Powerloom connection holders with a load of more than five kilowatts will be given a subsidy of Rs 700 per horsepower, a maximum of Rs 9100 per month. This grant will be reduced in the bill.
- At the same time, the cabinet approved the proposal brought by the Micro, Small Enterprises Export Promotion and Khadi Village Industries Handloom and Textiles Department. The 'Jhalkari Bai Kori Handloom and Powerloom Development Scheme' has been launched to link the unemployed with employment opportunities. Weavers will be given a grant of Rs 50,000 and Rs 80,000 on two estimated prices of handlooms.
- Employers who do not give bonuses to employees in the private sector will no longer be jailed. Under this proposal, while approving the amendment in the Payment of Bonus Act-1965, the provision of punishment for six months has been abolished.
- Under the new provision, the amount of the fine which was one thousand rupees has been increased to ten thousand rupees. In this too, a system of mitigation has been given.
- It is known that till now there was a provision of imposing six months imprisonment or a fine of Rs 1000 or both punishment and fine on the employer for not giving a bonus to the employees.



Mulayam Singh Yadav Posthumously awarded Padma Vibhushan

Why in News?

On 5 April 2023, President Draupadi Murmu posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan to Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav of Uttar Pradesh at the Padma Awards (second edition) held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. This honour was received by his son Akhilesh Yadav on his behalf.

Key Points

- It is known that Mulayam Singh Yadav died in October last year after a long illness. Mulayam Singh was the Lok Sabha MP from the Mainpuri seat at that time. His daughter-in-law Dimple Yadav has reached the Lok Sabha after getting elected in the election held after this seat was vacant.
- Notably, Mulayam Singh Yadav's political career was very long. He was CM of Uttar Pradesh thrice and MLA nine times. In his political career, he also got important responsibilities in the Defense Ministry.
- In 2023, apart from Mulayam Singh Yadav, former Karnataka CM SM Krishna, Manipur BJP President Thounaojam Chouba Singh and deceased leader of Tripura Narendra Chandra Debbarma were also given Padma Vibhushan.
- It is known that the names of the Padma awardees were announced on the eve of Republic Day. One of them was the name of Late. Mulayam Singh Yadav, former CM of Uttar Pradesh.
- Significantly, the Padma Vibhushan honour is the second highest civilian honour given by the Government of India. A total of 106 people have been awarded the Padma Awards this year, including 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Samman.



Note:

Chief Minister Yogi Gave a Gift of 1000 Crore Rupees to Gorakhpur

Why In News?

On April 9, 2023, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave a gift of more than 1000 crore rupees to Gorakhpur on the third day of his tour. He laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 258 development works costing about Rs 1046 crore on the grounds of Hindustan Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (Fertilizer Factory).

Key Points

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated 56 development works worth Rs 333.85 crore and laid the foundation stone of 202 development works worth Rs 711.81 crore.
- It may be noted that a day earlier on April 8, the Chief Minister performed Bhoomi Poojan and foundation stone of M/s Varun Beverages, a franchisee of MNC PepsiCo, in Sector 27 of Gida, an industrial corridor near Gorakhpur Link Expressway, with an investment of Rs.1071 crore.
- By supplying fruits like mango, guava, litchi and milk at the Varun Beverages plant, farmers and livestock farmers will be able to increase their income manifold.
- The Gorakhpur plant will provide employment to 1,500 youth and ten thousand villagers will be connected to an additional source of income.

RLD Stripped of State Party Status by Election Commission

Why in News?

On 10 April 2023, the Election Commission of India issued an order stripping the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), which won eight seats in the assembly elections, as a state-level party in Uttar Pradesh. After this order, now RLD has become a registered unrecognized political party.

Key Points

- According to the commission, a party participating in the assembly elections can be recognized as a

state-level party if it secures at least 6% of the total votes. RLD won eight seats in the 2022 assembly elections, although it got only 2.85 percent of the votes. Similarly, in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, RLD did not get any seats and got only 1.69 percent votes.

- Currently, the National President of the Rashtriya Lok Dal Party is Jayant Chowdhary, while the National General Secretary of the party is Girish Chowdhary. This party was founded by former Union Minister Chaudhary Ajit Singh, son of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- It is known that in the year 2022, the Rashtriya Lok Dal Party formed an alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) and contested 33 seats, out of which it won eight seats.
- Significantly, the Election Commission has withdrawn the regional party status from Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) in Andhra Pradesh and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas the Revolutionary Socialist Party has been declared invalid as a state party in West Bengal.
- Also, the Election Commission has given the status of the national party to Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is recognized as a state party in Nagaland, the Tripura Motha Party in Tripura and the Voice of the People Party in Meghalaya.
- In fact, the Election Commission itself reviews the status of recognized national and state political parties, which is an ongoing process under the Symbols Order, of 1968. Since 2019, the Election Commission has upgraded the status of 16 political parties and withdrawn the current status of 9 national/state political parties.
- It is noteworthy that all political parties in India have to register with the Election Commission. Anyone can contest elections in this country and form their political party. At present, all the political parties in the country have been divided into 3 categories-
 - **National Party:** Those who have been given the status of National Party by the Election Commission. There are currently 6 national parties in India.
 - **Regional Party:** Those who have got the status of the state-level party from the Election Commission. There are now more than 50 regional parties in India.

Note:

- **Unrecognized Party:** Parties that are registered with the Election Commission, but not recognized, either because they are too new or because they have not secured enough votes to be given regional party status. Now RLD has also come in this category.



Uttar Pradesh Government Approves Wheat Procurement Policy

Why in News?

On 11 April 2023, the Uttar Pradesh state government gave the green signal to the wheat procurement policy. This approval has been given through the cabinet-by-circulation. Under this, wheat will be procured at the rate of Rs 2125 per quintal.

Key Point

- This purchase will be done through 6000 centers of the Food Department, Mandi Parishad, PCF, UP Cooperative Union, Consumer Cooperative Union, State Food & Essential Commodities Corporation and Food Corporation of India.
- A total procurement target of 60 lakh metric tonnes has been set. It will be mandatory for the farmers to register on the portal of the Food Department for the sale of wheat.
- It is known that the procurement of wheat has been started in the state from the 1st of April. However, the arrival of wheat at government procurement centers is still very less.
- Rice Research Center Varanasi, which is working on rice, will now be given additional land. For this, a cabinet-by-circulation proposal was approved.

- Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi said that Rice Research Center Varanasi is doing good work on rice. The research done on Kala Namak Rice and its work was commendable. In such a situation, a proposal has been brought to develop it further. Now 0.97-hectare of land will be given to this institute.

E-Charging Facilities will be available at All Necessary Places in the Cities

Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on 12 April 2023, on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, work has been started to make the state a leader in the field of electric vehicles. E-charging facilities will be available at all important places in the cities.

Key Points

- The aim of the state government is not only to promote EV manufacturing but also to provide proper charging facilities at all necessary places to the citizens using it.
- Its responsibility has been given to the Urban Development Department. It has also decided the process of allotting the land on a need basis to service providers for e-charging facilities.
- In the first phase, the Electric Mobility Plan (CEMP) will be implemented in 17 municipal corporation cities under the Smart Cities Mission. A working group has also been constituted for the fast-track development of charging infrastructure.
- Principal Secretary of Urban Development Amrit Abhijat said that the land will be given on lease for 10 years to government institutions for charging. The construction of charging infrastructure will be done on a revenue-sharing model as per the norms of the Ministry of Power.
- The lease period, revenue sharing rate and other prescribed norms will be revised from time to time. The institutions will be selected under the tender process. Preference will be given to those who provide charging facilities to the consumers at minimum charges.

Note:

IT, Medicity, Education City and Sports City will come up in the state

Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on 12 April 2023, the state government is going to set up an IT city on the lines of Bangalore and a medical city on the lines of Maharashtra. Education City and Sports City will also be set up for better education.

Key Points

- According to the information, its responsibility has been given to the Housing Department. Along with making arrangements in the building development bye-laws, it is going to bring a policy for this. This scheme is expected to provide employment to 50 thousand youths of the state.
- The state government has a plan to develop such a place for renowned pharmaceutical companies of the country and the world, where all facilities are available, for this there is a plan to set up a medical city on the lines of Maharashtra. For this, at least 200 to 300 acres of land will be arranged.
- All major cities will be developed as education hubs, in which big colleges and universities will be invited to open.
- Along with this, a blueprint is being drawn to set up an IT city on the lines of Bangalore. It is known that IT City was established in Lucknow during the Samajwadi Party government, but it is not sufficient as per the requirement. That's why special arrangements will be made for this in the state capital region.
- With the help of Medical City and IT City, a target has been set to provide employment to 50 thousand people every year. At present, the maximum number of jobs in the IT sector in the country are in Bangalore and Pune.
- The state government wants that the youth of Uttar Pradesh should get good education as well as employment resources in the state itself. That is why work is being started in the direction of opening IT City. The doors of employment will open in the medical city in the area related to it.
- It is known that in the year 2016 IT City was started in Lucknow. IT City has been established on 100 acres on

Lucknow-Sultanpur road. HCL is working here. About 5000 people have got employment through IT City.

- It may be noted that the country's first medical city is being set up on 300 acres in Indrayani, Maharashtra. It consists of hospitals, research centres, pharmaceutical factories, wellness and physiotherapy centres, etc.

NMNH and State Museum, Lucknow signed an MoU for Environmental Education & Conservation

Why in News?

On 12 April 2023, the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi and the State Museum, Lucknow signed an MoU to work together towards Environmental Protection and Environmental Education among the public.

Key Points

- The MoU was signed by Naaz Rizvi, Director, the National Museum of Natural History and Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Director, the State Museum, Lucknow at Paryatan Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.
- Under this MoU, multidimensional efforts will be made to organize programs for school and college students to create awareness about nature.
- **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH):**
 - It was established as one of the national level institutions during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of India's independence to depict and promote awareness on the country's natural heritage.
 - Dedicated to environmental education, the institute is primarily theme-based exhibition galleries, and experiential resource centers such as Discovery Rooms, and Activity Rooms and is endowed with educational and outreach activities.
 - It aims to portray the rich natural heritage and natural history (Geology, Botany and Biology) of the country.
 - The main objective of the National Museum of Natural History is to promote environmental education at the national level.

Note:

- As a national institution, the National Museum of Natural History is mandated to create environmental awareness and promote conservation education throughout the country.
- To achieve this objective, NMNH has expanded its services and its vision to have a nationwide outreach through its four Regional Museums in the Southern, Central, Eastern and Western regions of the country. An upcoming regional center will be set up in the north-eastern region.
- **State Museum, Lucknow**
 - The state has one of the prestigious and oldest multi-purpose museums, which houses a wonderful collection of artefacts related to archaeology, natural history, decoration, arts and numismatics.
 - Along with the conservation, display, research and publication of artefacts, the museum organizes temporary/permanent exhibition galleries, workshops for technical officers/staff, seminars for intellectuals/researchers, art appreciation courses and other educational programs from time to time.
 - State Museum, Lucknow works in collaboration with other museums of India, with the aim of spreading awareness in different regions of the country regarding the rich heritage of the country and the world.



2 Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh got the National Panchayat Award 2023

Why in News?

On 17 April 2023, President Smt. Draupadi Murmu presented the National Panchayat Award-2023 to 2 Gram

Panchayats of Uttar Pradesh at the National Conference on Promotion of Panchayats in New Delhi.

Key Points

- Gram Panchayat Hansudi Ausanpur of Bhanwapur block in Siddharthnagar district was honoured with the Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sustainable Development Award 2023 at the national level.
- Gram Panchayat Hansudi Ausanpur has been awarded in the category of 'Child-Friendly Panchayat'.
- Milak Amavati, Gram Panchayat of Dilari block in Moradabad district was awarded Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (NDSPSP) for overall performance under all 9 LSDG themes and special categories related to green initiatives.
- National Panchayat Awards were presented to the Panchayats selected in the following different categories-
 - Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (DDUPSP) for performance under individual LSDG themes
 - Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (NDSPSVP) for overall performance under all 9 LSDG themes and specific categories related to green initiatives
 - Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Award
 - Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Award.

PM Mitra Mega Textiles Park inaugurated in Lucknow and Hardoi districts

Why in News?

On 18 April 2023, Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal inaugurated PM Mitra Park in Lucknow and Hardoi of the state in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Key Points

- The MoU was signed in Lucknow in the presence of Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal for setting up of Textile Parks in Lucknow and Hardoi under 'PM MITRA Yojana'.

Note:

- PM Mitra Park Lucknow will be developed in public private partnership mode through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will be owned by the central and state government. The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) / Master Developer will not only develop the Industrial Park but will also maintain it during the concession period.
- PM Mitra Park Lucknow will have a total area of 1,000 acres, with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore and is expected to provide direct employment to one lakh people & indirect employment to two lakh people.
- PM Mitra Park is being developed at Attari village in Maliha bad block of Lucknow district, which is very well connected to major cities of the country by road, rail and air connectivity. The nearest dedicated freight corridor and inland container depot to the park is Kanpur, which is at a distance of 95 kilometers (about 59.03 mi) from the park.
- PM Mitra Park Lucknow will have an incubation center, common processing house, a common effluent treatment plant, design center, testing center and other textile related facilities.
- Under this scheme, the central government will provide an assistance of Rs 500 crore to PM Mitra Park Lucknow for the development of general infrastructure.
- PM Mitra Park will strengthen the value chain of the Lucknow textile sector to make it globally competitive.
- It is known that a successful Global Investors Summit was organized in Uttar Pradesh in February 2023, in which investment proposals of more than Rs 33 lakh 50 thousand crores were received. Out of this, an investment proposal of more than Rs 56,000 crore is for the textile sector.
- The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India will provide incentives to the manufacturing units to be set up in PM Mitra Park Lucknow on a 'First Come First Serve' basis.
- The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has made a provision of Rs 300 crore to encourage the manufacturing units to be set up in PM Mitra Park, Lucknow.
- This incentive amount will be three percent of the total annual turnover of the unit, the limit of which per company will be as follows-

- Investment of Rs 300 crore or more- 10 crore per annum on the total incentive for an Anchor Investing Company subject to a maximum limit of Rs.30 crore.
- Investment of Rs 100-300 crores- A cap of Rs.5 crore per annum on the total incentive for an investee company subject to a maximum limit of Rs.15 crore.
- Other investment companies and contractors- 1 crore per annum and a maximum limit of Rs 3 crore on the total incentive but they should have employment of 100 or more people.
- According to Uttar Pradesh Textile and Garmenting Policy 2022, additional incentive amount for manufacturing units established in PM Mitra Park Lucknow.
- Power tariff subsidy of Rs 2 per unit (up to Rs 60 lakh per annum) for five years for units established in PM Mitra Park and employing a minimum of 50 persons.
- 100% stamp duty exemption for manufacturing units set up in PM Mitra Park, Lucknow.
- Open permission to access power to the master developer.



State's 1st Women's University to be built in Gorakhpur

Why in News?

On 20 April 2023, Ravi Kumar NG, Divisional Commissioner Gorakhpur informed that the state's first Women's University will be set up in Gorakhpur under CSR. All the facilities of the International level will be available here.

Note:

Key Points

- Under CSR, the proposed women's university will be constructed in the Gorakhpur district at a cost of about Rs 700 crore.
- This university will have arrangements from primary to higher education. A consultancy firm has been given the responsibility to assess the facilities required for the upliftment of the girl child.
- The decision to establish the state's first women's university in Gorakhpur has been taken by the real estate company Shobha Developer, for which company officials had also visited Gorakhpur.
- 100 acre of land will be provided by the district administration for this women's university and it will also be operated by the company.
- It is known that there are already 4 universities operating in Gorakhpur, which include Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Madan Mohan Malviya University of Technology, Ayush University and Mahayogi Gorakhnath University. With the formation of a women's university, there will be 5 universities in Gorakhpur.
- The company's focus is on the upliftment of women intending to set up a women's university in Gorakhpur. There is a great need for facilities for the advancement of women in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. This university will prove to be very effective in removing the backwardness of Purvanchal.

Survey completed for Cruise Operations across Varanasi & Prayagraj

Why in News?

On 23 April 2023, the Director of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, L. K. Rajak informed that the Inland Waterways Authority of India has completed the survey between Varanasi-Prayagraj for the operation of cruise service under PM Gati Shakti Yojana.

Key Points

- L.K. Rajak said that preparations are on to start in July. If the trial is successful, the number of vessels on this route will be increased. Along with this, there is also a plan to operate cargo ships.

- The cruise plying between Varanasi and Prayagraj will take the tourists to Ganga Darshan as well as visit tourist places.
- In this survey, the obstacles to water transport have been identified in many places. Along with this, jetties will also be constructed at tourist places including Chunar, Vindhyachal, and Sitamarhi. After the success of this experiment, the Waterways Authority will also increase cruise services.
- To promote religious tourism, the Waterways Authority is engaged in preparing a new route connecting all the tourist places between Prayagraj and Varanasi. There is a plan to operate the one-way journey through PPP mode (Public Private Partnership), which will be completed from morning till evening.
- For this, many private companies have also shown interest in the scheme. In this, after the selection of the private company, a decision will be taken on the rent and other facilities. In this, by constructing jetties from Varanasi to Chunar, Vindhyachal, Sitamarhi and Prayagraj, arrangements will be made to stay here.
- The Waterways Authority will share its action plan with the local administration for the development of tourism facilities at these places. In fact, under the PM Gati Shakti Yojana, Ganga Ghats will also be developed to reach Chunar Fort, Maa Vindhyavasini Dham and the place where Sita resided, through new cruise operations between Varanasi and Prayagraj.
- Under the PM Gati Shakti Yojana, Varanasi is being made a new centre of waterways. There is a plan to connect Ramnagar Multimodal Terminal by road. The cargo vessel is already operating from Varanasi to Haldia. Varanasi has been connected to the world's longest river route through Ganga Vilas Cruise. Preparations are being made to develop Varanasi as a hub through cruise operations till Prayagraj.

International Cricket Stadium to be built in Varanasi

Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on 25 April 2023, a 32-acre International Cricket Stadium will be built at Ganjari in Rajatalab Tehsil of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The process of its construction has started.

Note:

Key Points

- This international cricket stadium to be built in Varanasi will be operated on a PPP model. Its construction will also be done along the same lines. The tender has also been issued by UPCA for the selection of a construction company for construction on the EPC model.
- The company will be selected for work on EPC i.e. Engineering, Procurement and Design (Engineering, Procurement of Goods and Design) mode.
- The company will be selected for work on EPC i.e. Engineering, Procurement and Design (Engineering, Procurement of Goods and Design) mode.
- In online tender, companies can bid online on UPCA's website. Bidding companies will have to deposit Rs 5 crore as a security deposit.
- The capacity of this stadium will be 30 thousand spectators. Around Rs 400 crore will be spent on the construction of the stadium.
- It is known that recently the experts along with BCCI Secretary Jai Shah and Vice President Rajeev Shukla had also inspected the proposed land.

Water Taxi to be operated in Kashi on the lines of Water Metro in Kerala

Why in News?

On 25 April 2023, Sanjay Bandhopadhyay, Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, said that on the lines of the country's first water metro in Kerala, water taxis between Namoo Ghat (Northernmost) to Assi Ghat (Southernmost) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, will be introduced in Indian inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and will be operated in collaboration with the Department of Tourism.

Key Points

- This taxi will ply from one end to the other of all the 80 Ghats of Varanasi. 4 stations will be built for this in between. The Waterways Authority will provide floating jetties at all ghats. This will make it easier for people to get on and off taxis.

- This water taxi will not only be used for transportation, but people will also be able to take a view of the beautiful Ghats of Banaras.
- It is to be known that at present cruise and cargo operations are going on in Varanasi. It is used only by tourists. But the people of Varanasi will also be able to use the water taxi to get rid of the jam on the road.
- It is worth mentioning that recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first water metro in Kerala.



2 Neuro Doctors of BHU have been honoured with AAN Award 2023

Why in News?

On 25 April 2023, two doctors from the Department of Neurology, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU were awarded the AAN Award 2023 by the American Academic Neurology.

Key Points

- The Associate Professors of IMS BHU Dr. Abhishek Pathak & Dr. Anand were awarded the AAN Award 2023 at the annual ceremony organized by American Academic Neurology in Boston.
- Head of the Neurology Department, Prof. Vijay Nath Mishra said that Dr. Abhishek Pathak had presented his research paper on the Causes, Prevention and Vigilance of Paralysis.
- On the other hand, this honour was given to Dr. Anand Kumar for his research work on the headache issues in patients coming from many states including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nepal.

Note:



Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on April 27, 2023, all the male staff currently working in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools operating across the state will be removed.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh Director General of School Education and State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Vijay Kiran Anand has issued a letter to all the District Magistrates of the state, ordering them not to renew teaching/non-teaching male personnel.
- This step of Uttar Pradesh school education has been taken in view of the safety of girl students studying in classes six to eight in Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools with residential facilities.
- It is known that in the Ministry of Education, the Joint Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy had written a letter on October 12, 2022, giving instructions to appoint only women personnel to all posts in Kasturba Gandhi Schools. In this sequence, instructions have been given not to renew the male staff in the 2023-24 academic session and to appoint only women to the vacant posts.

- In Kasturba Gandhi Schools, all the personnel from the warden to the watchman are hired on contract basis. Except Kanpur Nagar and Auraiya districts in the state, one Kasturba school is running in each development block of all the districts.
- More than one thousand male staff are expected to be affected by the order for renewal of only female personnel in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas.
- Most of the accountants and watchmen in 746 schools across the state are men. In some places the teachers are also men. In such a situation, even if we estimate two male personnel on each school, then around one and a half thousand staff will be affected.

Agreement Signed Between Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association and World Bank

Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on April 27, 2023, there is an agreement to establish a long-term relationship between the Sugar Mills Association of the state and the World Bank in line with a common vision and priorities on 'micro-irrigation' in a workshop organized in Lucknow for the larger benefit of sugarcane farmers.

Key Points

- The MoU was signed by Ajit Radhakrishnan on behalf of the World Bank and Deepak Gupta, General Secretary, on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association.
- 2030 WRG made a presentation about its pilot project 'Drip Irrigation' under the Uttar Pradesh Project. In the workshop, M/s. Gujarat Green Revolution Company (GGRC), Ahmedabad also presented the 'New Single Window Delivery Model' being developed for the Uttar Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project and shared their experience of working with the sugarcane farmers of Gujarat. A review of the works done revealed that sugarcane farmers in the state of Gujarat were successful in saving about 30 percent of water.
- The World Bank is working closely with its Water Resources Group and UPSMA to implement the 'UP Pragati Agri Water Accelerator'.

Note:



drishti

- The project synergizes the capabilities of the two organizations to develop a sustainable 'micro-irrigation model' for the overall benefit of the sugarcane farmers of the state. The program aspires to run a large-scale assistance program in more than 38 districts of the state based on the current priority criteria. This is expected to bring down the production cost of sugarcane farmers significantly.
- The project will primarily focus on the following-
 - Promotion of water efficient practices in sugarcane cultivation.
 - Promotion of mechanization of sugarcane cultivation.
 - De-carbonizing the sugar enrichment chain by promoting low carbon ergonomic operations.
- It is known that Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA) is a major organization of private sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. The main objective of UPSMA is to ensure the protection of the functioning and interests of the private sugar mills in the state through favorable and development-oriented policies of the government. UPSMA has been working since 1938 in the interest of sugarcane farmers and industry in the state.
- The 2030 Water Resources Group is a public, private, civil society multi-donor trust fund of the World Bank Group. WRG supports stakeholders in collective decision-making and co-designing out-of-the-box solutions that drive strong socio-economic development in all water-related sectors.



MoU Signed Between IIT Patna and ROI Net Solution

Why in News?

On April 27, 2023, IIT Patna signed an MoU with ROI Net Solution for Research and Development. Under this, IIT Patna will develop indigenous platforms like Zoom, WhatsApp and Google Pay.

Key Points

- Sameer Mathur, Managing Director, ROI Net Solution and T.N. Singh, Director Prof. of IIT Patna signed the MoU.
- Director Prof. T.N. Singh said that its aim is to develop state-of-the-art solutions and do better work in the direction of research.
- ROI Net Solution and IIT Patna will jointly undertake research projects over the next three years in the areas of digital payments, wealth management, cross-border payments, secure audio-video conferencing and application of advanced technologies. In which machine learning, artificial intelligence and data analytics are included.
- IIT Patna will develop indigenous platforms like Patna Zoom, WhatsApp and Google Pay. It will be named Forex Platform. In this, IIT Patna will work at the academic level while Roynet will work on the solution market.
- Dr. LIM Chon-Phung, director of ROI Net Solution, said that we will cooperate with IIT, Patna in every way, academic cooperation will be with IIT. IIT Patna is known for its research and academic excellence. This partnership will enable us to leverage the expertise of IIT Patna.
- It is known that IIT Patna has signed three different MoUs with RailTel, Applied Materials India and Roynet in the last three days. All the MoUs that have been signed will lead society towards new inventions and development.



Note:

